



BOBCAT BUZZ



January 2024

Happy New Year!
I can't believe we
are at the halfway
point for this
school year!

Students continue to grow
in mind, heart, and spirit each day!
Enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year
is coming up later this month. There are great
incentives for early enrollment! Don't forget
to enroll your SMCS
Bobcat! Happy New



Mrs. Halbardier



JANUARY
VIRTUE OF THE MONTH:
PRAYER

"Prayer is very important. Never forget to pray! Nobody can tell when we are praying on the bus or on the road. We pray in silence, with the heart, so let's take advantage of these opportunities to pray."
- POPE FRANCIS

FIRST SUNDAY MASS



Students who attend any
Mass in person wearing full
dress uniform will earn **free**
dress the following Monday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| Date | Time | Activity |
|------------------|------------|---|
| Jan. 15 | | MLK Day Holiday – No school |
| Jan. 16 | | Returning student reenrollment opens for 2024-25 school year |
| Jan. 26 | 12 noon | Early dismissal – <i>No aftercare</i> Parent/Teacher conferences |
| Jan. 27 -28 | All Masses | Catholic Schools Week kick-off – Students speak at all Masses |
| Jan. 29 - Feb. 2 | | Catholic Schools Week |
| Jan. 30 | | 100 th Day of School |
| Feb. 1 | | Move-Up Day |
| Feb. 3-4 | All Masses | First Weekend Masses |
| Feb. 5 | | New Student enrollment opens for 2024-25 school year |
| Feb. 9 | | FACTS Tuition Assistance Round 1 deadline |
| Feb. 10 | | Steps for Students |
| Feb. 13 | 2:00pm | Class Valentine's Day parties |
| Feb. 14 | 8:30am | Ash Wednesday Mass – <i>full dress</i> |

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Optional Parent/Teacher Conferences can be scheduled for the afternoon of January 26. If you would like to schedule your 15-minute block of time, please contact your child's teacher. Longer meetings will require a separate meeting.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week is January 29 – February 4. Join us in celebrating Catholic Schools at these fun events.

- January 27-28 Pulpit Talks by students at all Masses
- January 28 Spaghetti Dinner organized by 8th grade to support D.C. Trip
- January 30 Restaurant Night Out
- January 30 100th Day of School Celebration
- January 31 Family Night-Roller Skating
- February 1 Move Up Day-Students visit the next grade level



EARLY ENROLLMENT INCENTIVES

Enrollment for the SMCS 2024-2025 school year is open! Register early to earn incentives.



- Families will receive a \$175/student discount off their registration fees if they are paid by February 20. SMCS will pay the FACTS enrollment fee for families that create their FACTS 2024-2025 payment plans before February 20.
- Families will receive a \$100/student discount off their registration fees if they are paid by March 21. SMCS will pay the FACTS enrollment fee for families that create their FACTS 2024-2025 payment plans before March 21.
- Families will receive a \$75/student discount off their registration fees if they are paid by April 19. SMCS will pay the FACTS enrollment fee for families that create their FACTS 2024-2025 payment plans before April 19.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

St. Mary of the Expectation Church will host a golf tournament on Monday, March 18 at South Shore Harbor Golf Course to benefit St. Mary Catholic School. Check-in begins at 7:00am and there will be a shotgun start at 8:30am. All proceeds from the event will benefit the school. [Registration](#) deadline is March 15; [sponsorship](#) deadline is March 2.



TUITION ASSISTANCE

The FACTS Tuition Assistance Program is open. Applications for financial aid will not be considered complete and reviewed until all required documentation has been submitted. The first round of financial aid closes

February 9, 2024. Click here: [Tuition Assistance Program - Choose Catholic Schools - Houston, TX](#) for information.



FEBRUARY SPIRIT WEAR

Valentine's shirts may be worn for Spirit Day (Wednesdays) in the month of February.



SPORTS PHYSICALS

Sports physicals are required for all spring sports. Please have them ready before the Track and Field and Archery seasons begin. Find the physical form here. Contact Mr. Butler with any questions.



THANK YOU

- ... **Estaban's** for their fundraiser donating \$1,500 to our school
- ... **Mr. Felts and Mr. McCall** for being Watch Dogs
- ... **The Gidney family** for the use of their trailer for the League city Christmas Parade
- ... **The Arevallo and Shipley families** for decorating our float for the Christmas Parade
- ... **The Christmas parade walkers** who represented SMCS
- ... **The SMCS Christmas Shop volunteers**
- ... **The SMCS Advent Shop volunteers**
- ... **The Hatami family** for arranging the Santa Clause photo event
- ... **Lawn Tailors** for our new playground grass
- ... **Patricia Richards and Brenda Retif** for leading the Advent shop
- ... **The Christmas decoration volunteers** who decorated the classroom doors
- ... **The Kruse family** for donating umbrellas for car line
- ... **Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Panes, Mrs. Pate, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Little, Mrs. Smith and Mr. & Mrs. Ellison** for chaperoning our Jr. High social

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

The SMCS Parent-Staff Association (PSA) is looking for volunteers to help with school fundraisers and activities this year. All volunteers must be Safe Haven trained. Opportunities include:

- Carline Helpers
- Restaurant Fundraiser Team
- Room Parents
- Gala Planning

Contact [Patricia Richards](#) for more information.



SMCS PRAYER GROUP



Come join the SMCS Prayer Group! The group meets every Wednesday after car line. Contact [Mrs. Howes](#) for more information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

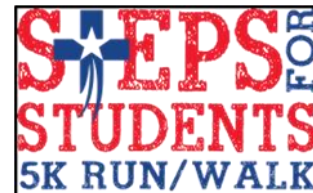
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|---------|---------------|
| Jan. 17 | Mrs. Ellison |
| Feb. 4 | Mrs. LaRocca |
| Feb. 15 | Mrs. Richards |



PRAYER AND MASS INFORMATION

| Week | Class Leading Morning Prayer | Class Serving as Gift Bearers | Class Serving as Minister of the Word |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Jan 1-5 | <i>Christmas Break</i> | <i>Christmas Break</i> | <i>Christmas Break</i> |
| Jan. 8-12 | Mrs. Wright and 8 th | Mrs. Parker | Mrs. Pate 8 th grade |
| Jan. 15-19 | Mrs. Thomas 7 th grade | Mrs. Castillo | Mrs. Thomas 7 th grade |
| Jan. 22-26 | Mrs. Little 6 th grade | No Mass | No Mass |
| Jan. 29-Feb. 2 | Mrs. Davila 5 th grade | Mrs. Ledderer | Mrs. Little 6 th grade |

STEPS FOR STUDENTS INCENTIVES



| <i>Student Incentives</i> | <i>Class/School Incentives</i> |
|---|--|
| Raise \$100 by Friday Dec 22nd = Movie and Pizza party Jan 8 th | The first class with 100% participation will win a breakfast taco party with Principal Halbardier! The class teacher will earn 5 duty-free lunches (dates of their choice). |
| Raise \$200 by Friday Jan 12nd = Breakfast with Principal & Pastor | The top FUNDRAISING class will earn an afternoon of OPEN GYM! The class teacher will earn 5 Jeans Passes. |
| Raise \$350 by Friday Feb 9th = Day trip to Space Center Houston | Every class with 100% participation will win a donut party! |
| Register to “run” or “snooze” by Friday Feb 9th = Color Run during our Feb 13 th Valentine’s Day Party | School-wide prize for reaching goal of \$25,000 —the entire school will win a free dress day with a movie and pizza party! |

Also...

The **top 15 fundraising families** and **students who raise \$500 or more** will be invited to a KIDS’ NIGHT OUT. Staff and volunteers will kid sit in Cargill Hall, while you enjoy a night out!

Top fundraising student 1st Place: Lunch and Board Games with Mrs. Halbardier and Fr. John... and Free Dress Pass every Spirit Day for the rest of the school year... and 4 Gala Tickets for Parents!

Top fundraising student 2nd Place: Lunch and Board Games with Mrs. Halbardier and Fr. John... and Free Dress Pass every Spirit Day for February, March, & April... and 2 Gala Tickets for Parents!

Top fundraising student 3rd Place: Lunch and Board Games with Mrs. Halbardier and Fr. John... and Free Dress Pass every Spirit Day for February and March... and 2 Gala Tickets for Parents!

And SMCS will bring back the incredibly popular **PENNY WAR** to support fundraising in honor of Steps for Students! Bring your spare change to SMCS the week of **Jan 29th through Feb 2nd** to help your homeroom earn points! The class with the most points

at the end of the week will win a prize. **Positive Points** are earned by adding pennies and paper money to your class jar.

Negative Points are given to other homerooms by adding dimes, nickels and quarters to other class jars.

