

WHAT'S BUZZING AROUND THE HALLS OF SAINT THOMAS?

The BUZZ

DYNAMIC EDUCATION CENTERED IN CHRIST

a century of Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School • 1924-2024

Nov. 25-29, 2024

Next week!

The virtue is **gratitude** – the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

Sunday, Nov. 24 – Band concert at St. Cecilia

Monday, Nov. 25 –

- **P4 Gobble Gala**, 10:15am (P4 AM) and 2:30pm (P4 PM)
- **Grades 1-3 Mass**, 10:10am, Church. Please sign in to attend.

Tuesday, Nov. 26 –

- **Uniform holiday**
- **P3 Gobble Gala**, 10:30am. Please sign in to attend.

Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 27-29 – Thanksgiving break. Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy your break.

Looking ahead!

Dec. 1 – First deadline for Blackbaud Financial Aid

Dec. 9 – Immaculate Conception / Late start (8:30am)

Dec. 11 – K-4 Advent Concert

Dec. 15 – Middle School Advent Concert

Dec. 17 – Uniform holiday

Dec. 17-19 – Middle School exams

Dec. 23 – Jan. 3 – Christmas break

School lunch!

Here is our [November 2024](#) lunch menu. A message from our Lunch Program Director: Kraft Heinz Lunchables are being pulled from the National School Lunch Program. We have not and will not use these products. If you see a "Lunchable" on the menu, we are providing crackers, cheese and meat for your children. ~Mary Wieber, West Catholic Food Services Director

We want your feedback!

In December, the following surveys will be available to our community. We love to hear your feedback. You do not need to have critical comments – we are also looking for positive affirmations. If you are happy with a teacher or administrator, take a moment to share that in these feedback surveys. This data is used in staff mid-year evaluations. The more data we have, the more we can improve. Feedback Surveys:

- [Teacher](#)
- [Admin](#)
- [Principal](#)

Winter 2 GRACEAC sign up is open!

GRACEAC sign up for Winter 2 sports is open! If your child is interested in playing girls basketball (grades 3-8) or joining the ski team (grades 6-8), register at <https://graceac.com/winter-ii/>.

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS NOV. 30. THERE WILL BE A \$35 LATE FEE TO REGISTER AFTER NOV. 30.

Nov. 30



STA childcare drop-in rates!

We are pleased to announce a Drop In Child Care Program for our preschoolers. Students **currently enrolled** in P3 or P4 are eligible to drop in for childcare with 24-hour or more notice. This program runs from 11am-3:20pm, Monday-Friday. The daily drop-in rate is \$30 per day. Parents will be billed the first week of the following month for any drop-in days. This new program is available to parents beginning Monday, Dec. 2 – just time for holiday shopping! To sign up, contact Veronica Perdue at veronicaperdue@stthomasgr.com.

Home & School notes!

We will be using Home & School funds to buy snacks for the teachers, but there will be opportunities throughout the year to make donations to help defray this cost. If you'd like to make a donation, contact Genevieve Boyle at 773-610-6473. As in years past, we will be putting together Christmas cookie trays for all teachers and staff, and we will be asking parents to bake or buy cookies for these. Sign-up coming soon. We will also be sponsoring three local families for Christmas, and those gift lists will also be out soon. Thank you for helping with both of these holiday traditions.

Blackbaud Financial Aid!

The window to apply for financial assistance for the 2025-26 school year is open. **The first deadline is Dec. 1, 2024.** To get started, visit studentfinancialaid.blackbaud.school and check out the [2025-26 Blackbaud Financial Aid parent application guide](#) and the [2025-26 parent instructions](#) to help.

Notes from the Parish!

Thanksgiving Dinner: Saint Thomas will be hosting our Annual Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 28, from 12-2pm in the church lower level. All are invited to join in the celebration. Bring your family or invite friends! Sign up to RSVP and/or volunteer for the dinner in the back of church or on our parish website. Questions? Call Lori F. at (616) 459-4662.

Advent by Candlelight: Saint Thomas Parish invites all parish and school women to Advent by Candlelight 2024: An Evening of Reflection and Fellowship for Women Friday, December 6 at 7 pm beginning in the Church. RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 4 on the Parish website or by emailing Pam Strobel at pamstrobel@stthomasgr.org.

Cannonsburg Punch Card Program

Punch Card passes for the 2024 / 2025 Cannonsburg Ski Area ski season are available for purchase. Passes come in bundles of 6 or 10 discount lift tickets, as well as discounts on lessons and rentals. Use the following link: <https://cannonsburg.com/shop/> and list your sponsor school as Saint Thomas and your sponsor as Josh Szymanski. See this [Cannonsburg flyer](#) for details and contact Erin or Josh Szymanski with any questions (joshs@oakmi.com).