

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

Dec. 9-13, 2024

## Next week!

The virtue is **humility** – the ability to accurately view your talents and flaws without arrogance.

**Monday, Dec. 9 –**

- **Immaculate Conception / Late start (8:30am).**  
Please drop your students off no earlier than 8:15am.
- **All-School Mass**, 10:10am, Church. Please sign in at the back of church to attend.

**Wednesday, Dec. 11 –**

- **0-5ers Gym time**, 11:10am, Gym
- **K-4 Advent concert dress rehearsal**, 2:15pm, Church Lower Level
- **K-4 Advent concert**, 6pm, Church Lower Level

**Thursday, Dec. 12 – Board of Education meeting**, 6pm, Ministry Center

**Friday, Dec. 13 – 0-5ers Storytime**, 11:10am, Library

## Looking ahead!

Dec. 15 – Middle School Advent Concert

Dec. 17 – Uniform holiday

Dec. 17-19 – Middle School exams

Dec. 23 – Jan. 3 – Christmas break

Jan. 16 – Spelling Bee

Jan. 21-24 – All In Week!

Jan. 27-31 – Catholic Schools Week!

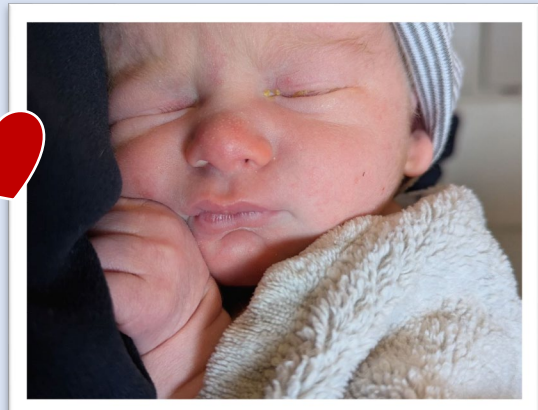
Jan. 28 – Education Foundation Breakfast

Jan. 29 – Preschool/Kindergarten Round Up!



## Welcome to our littlest Hornet!

We have an addition to our Saint Thomas community...Micah Thomas was born on Thursday, Nov. 21 to parents Kat and Dan. Proud siblings are Patrick (Grade 2) and Fiona (Kindergarten).



## School Lunch!

Here is our [December 2024](#) lunch menu.

## 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 deadline extended!

GRACEAC sign up for Winter 2 sports has been extended! 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/> ASAP! **THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS DEC. 8 (with a \$35 late fee).**

## Carlton Lofts Ribbon Cutting

Our neighbors, Carlton Lofts (1450 Fulton Street East, Grand Rapids, MI 49503), will be having their ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 2pm. The event will feature remarks from key project partners, followed by tours and refreshments. Please join us in supporting our neighbors! If you're unable to join for the ribbon cutting, please drop by during the open houses – Dec. 11 and Dec. 12 from 2-4pm! If none of these times work, please feel free to reach out to set up a tour!

## Home & School notes!

**Christmas Service Project:** Our Saint Thomas School community is sponsoring three families in need this Christmas season. If you are interested in helping, please select according to your child's grade:

- [Preschool-grade 1](#)
- [Grades 2-5](#)
- [Grades 6-8](#)

**Catholic Schools Week:** If you are interested in helping with Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 26-31), please contact Genevieve Boyle (773-610-6473).

**Christmas Cookie Trays:** Thanks to everyone who brought in cookies for our Faculty/Staff Cookie Trays! Many hands make light work! ♥

Saint Thomas Early Childhood Center

## Wish List



- Sandbox
- Tricycles, balance bikes and scooters
- Outdoor toy storage bins
- Indoor clear storage bins
- Utility cart
- Bean bags
- Color-changing light tables
- Sand toys
- Playhouse
- Mobile tables and chairs for events
- Collapsible tunnel
- Children's books (seasons, holidays and saints please!)
- Laminator
- Sensory table
- Sand bags
- Feeling generous? Parking Lot Resurfacing

Click the image to view our  
Catechesis of the Good  
Shepherd wishlist

Questions? Send an email to [veronicaperdue@stthomasgr.org](mailto:veronicaperdue@stthomasgr.org)



## Blackbaud Financial Aid!

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

## ECC Construction Update

As we end our week, here are a few of our accomplishments:

- Demo is complete.
- Floor has been cut open and sewer lines installed/inspected. Monday, we begin the installation of the water lines below grade. Concrete infill the following week and that will get us out of the floor.
- Footings started this morning. MTC-City inspection scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. Footings to be complete by EOD 12/10. Steel will be ordered 12/11.
- Duct work has been ordered.

## 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. To sign up, contact Veronica Perdue at [veronicaperdue@stthomasgr.org](mailto:veronicaperdue@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](mailto:joshs@oakmi.com)).

## Coding Camp

The Raspberry Pi advanced coding camp, run by The Pi Academy and Bravo LT computer scientists, is open to middle school students in West Michigan. Join us on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10am-3pm at the GRCC Calkins Science Center to ignite your passion for technology and programming! During this 5-hour camp, young coders will dive into a variety of coding challenges utilizing microcontrollers, sensors, drones, and more. Professional developers will be on hand to provide clues and insights, helping them enhance their coding skills. All campers will receive a camp t-shirt, a delicious lunch, and a Raspberry Pi kit to take home and continue their coding journey. [Register today!](#)