



# THE MUSTANG *messenger*



*Where Faith and Knowledge Meet*  
www.stmichaelsharonville.org

Dear St. Michael Families and Friends,

August 30, 2017

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Curriculum Night for Grades 1-3 last night and I am looking forward to seeing most of you for Grades 4-8 tomorrow evening. Thank you to the many people from PTO and the Walk-A-Thon Committee who shared important information with us as well. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful community!

As with many of you, those affected by Hurricane Harvey are in our thoughts and prayers. As Catholics, we are "Called to Serve". Thanks to Mustangs Serve, we are partnering with Matthew 25 Ministries to help aid the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We want this to be a teachable moment for our students. We have asked them to do a few extra chores around the house to earn money, or use their own money to buy the items that will be passed along to M25M. Please consider donating any of the items in the picture. Donations can be sent to school. Please keep Houston in your prayers.

The beginning of the year is always a good time to bring to your attention some general rules: skirts/skorts are not to be more than 4 inches above the back of the knee; socks are to be only solid navy, black, or white; students in grades 6-8 must wear a black or brown belt with all shorts or pants. Students who bring electronic devices (cell phones, e-Readers, iPads, smartwatches, etc.) to school are responsible if they are lost, stolen, or damaged. These devices are not to be out or used during school hours without teacher permission.

**Volunteers and VIRTUS Requirements:** We love to have parents volunteer at our school. Please know that we cannot accept any volunteers who have not attended a VIRTUS Child Protection class. They must also complete a Fastrax background check. Both registration for the VIRTUS class and the background check can be found at [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org). The next VIRTUS class at St. Michael is September 27th at 6:30 p.m. Those who plan to attend must pre-register online. **There can be no walk up registrations.**

Volunteers who have already attended a class must read the monthly bulletins and answer the follow up question in order to remain compliant, therefore remaining eligible to volunteer. Anyone who is behind 3 or more bulletins becomes ineligible to volunteer and will have to take the class again. All of this information is according to Archdiocesan rules and regulations. For the safety of all of our children, we cannot make any exceptions.

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**Dismissal reminder:** In the afternoons, please be sure to follow the correct procedures for carpooling. Parents are to pick up their children by entering the parking lot on Oak Street, under the direction of the teachers on duty. Please be aware that many parents arrive early and are waiting/parking on our side streets waiting for the signal to begin the carpool procedure. Thank you for being courteous to those who are patiently waiting. For safety reasons, parents are not to pick up their children directly from the porch of the Library/Science Building or anywhere in the parking lot areas. Also, please refrain from dismissing your children as “walkers” and wait for them on a side street or side parking lot. If you need to pick up your child early for an appointment, please sign them out at the school office before the end of the school day. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this important safety procedure. I have always been impressed to watch the experienced parents run this “well-oiled machine” that is the St. Michael dismissal procedure. Thanks for all you do to keep our children safe!

Have a safe and fun-filled Labor Day Weekend!

Yours in Christ,

*Carolyn Murphy*

Principal

## School News

### Protecting Our Children

If you are planning on volunteering at St. Michael Parish School, you must be VIRTUS compliant, which means that you have attended a VIRTUS class, are current on your monthly training bulletins, and have passed a background check. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati requires that any adult having any contact with any student must be compliant. This includes chaperoning field trips, coaching any sports, and volunteering in the classroom, cafeteria, playground, and at Walk-a-Thon (September 22). St. Michael currently has a VIRTUS class scheduled for September 27 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. You must pre-register online for the class at [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org). If that date doesn't work for you, you can register to take the class at another parish. If you need a background check, please call the Parish Office at 563-6377 for a payment token.

#### Important Dates to Remember

Sept. 4 - No School—Labor Day  
Sept. 6 - Spirit Day / Penny Power  
Sept. 7 - PTO Meeting @ 7:15 p.m.  
Sept. 19 - First Reconciliation Parent Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.  
Sept. 20 - Fall Picture Day  
Sept. 22 - Walk-A-Thon  
Sept. 28 - Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.  
Oct. 1 - Spaghetti Dinner

### Cafeteria

If you feel that you qualify for free or reduced lunches, please see the eligibility guidelines and application on our website at <http://stmichaelsharonville.org/CURRENTFAMILIES/CafeteriaMenu.aspx>.

# Mustangs Serve News

## Mustangs Serve: Hurricane Harvey

Mustangs Serves is partnering with **Matthew 25 Ministries** in Blue Ash to help aid the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We are praising God that trucks filled with relief aid left M25M yesterday and are already on their way down south. But, this will be a long-term relief effort, so they will continue to accept donations of relief supplies for future shipments.

Father Tom had the great idea of turning this into a teachable moment for your kids. Please consider having your kids do a few chores (or even use their own money!) **to earn** the money to buy the items that will be passed along to M25M!

*“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35*

Please consider donating any of the items listed below. Donations can be sent to school, dropped off at Matthew 25 Ministries, or the home of Wendy Sauer (4083 Peachey Ct., Sharonville).

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, 100% of donations designated to Hurricane Harvey through Matthew 25 Ministries will be used for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. Click [HERE](#) to donate.



# Cub Scout News

## Adventure is Waiting!

**Cub Scouting is fun!** With fun and discovery at every turn, Cub Scouting, for boys in Grades 1-5, makes the most of right now. Cub Scouting is a blast! Cub Scouts camp, fish, build and race Pinewood Derby cars, and engage in lots of other fun activities with their friends! **Parents** of boys interested in joining Cub Scouts are invited to join members of Pack 96, the St. Michael Pack, for Scout Night on **Tuesday, September 5**, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. This meeting is designed for parents. For more information, please contact Packmaster Jeremy Helmes at 513-484-0257 or [jhelmes@gmail.com](mailto:jhelmes@gmail.com). Come see what scouting is all about, and start building an adventure today!



# Bible Study News

I would like to invite all of you to join us for child-friendly Bible study at my house presented by Fr. Tom. The Bible study is done in the style of Lectio Divina and focuses on the Sunday readings for the upcoming week. Generally we meet two Wednesdays a month at 9:45, but the dates are a little odd this time since Fr. Tom is traveling in September and October. The dates for the remainder of this year are:

- September 20, 27
- October 11, 18
- November 8
- December 13

This is a very child-friendly group and we all understand interruptions, disruptions, crying, and all the other challenges we face with young kids. This is a great way to make time for reading scripture, which often gets forgotten in our very busy lives. It is also an opportunity to share your faith in a small group format. Please email me if you are interested in joining us - [mary.heilers@gmail.com](mailto:mary.heilers@gmail.com).

# PTO News

## Walk-A-Thon

The 2017 Walk-A-Thon is right around the corner and will take place on **Friday, September 22nd** at Sharon Woods! The themed Walk-A-Thon is the largest and most important fundraiser that St. Michael School PTO sponsors, and it is 100% profit for the PTO. For those new to St. Michael School, Walk-A-Thon is a fun-filled day where students, faculty, and parents walk laps at Sharon Woods to raise money for the school. Parents are invited to donate small prizes to be awarded to students at a pep rally which will take place a few weeks after Walk-A-Thon. Students love winning movie certificates, gift cards for sporting goods, frozen yogurt, Sky Zone, etc. - no donation is too small! Information regarding fundraising, volunteering, and the day's activities will be coming home with students soon. **Please note that t-shirt order forms are due by September 11.** We hope you can join us to walk with your kids! If you have any questions about Walk-A-Thon, feel free to contact one of the committee members: Heather Willis ([trailrunn@yahoo.com](mailto:trailrunn@yahoo.com)), Jen Tierney ([jentierney314@gmail.com](mailto:jentierney314@gmail.com)), or Jen Snyder ([jensnyder22@gmail.com](mailto:jensnyder22@gmail.com)).

## PTO Meeting

Our first PTO Meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, September 7 at 7:15 p.m. in the cafeteria. We will be introducing our board and our teachers, presenting our budget, discussing Walk-A-Thon, and having some fun! As Babysitting will be provided. Stay tuned for more information!

## Service Hours

We are looking for a few junior high students to provide babysitting for parents at our PTO Meeting. This volunteer opportunity does count as service hours. As a reminder, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students need 15 hours of service as part of their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. If your student is interested, please contact PTO at [stmichaelpto@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelpto@gmail.com).

## Contact Us

Please feel free to contact us at [stmichaelpto@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelpto@gmail.com). We are happy to answer your questions, take feedback and offer our support in any way we can. We hope to see you at our first PTO meeting on Thursday, September 7 at 7:15 p.m. in the cafeteria!

# The Kate Update

## By Morgan Snyder and John Callahan

Welcome back to a new school year, everyone! After the summer break, it's time to catch you all up on Kate.

With the summer months, came lots of vacations for the Callahan family. In July, they took a trip to Maine with other St. Michael families to go to the beach. They also visited Florida and Michigan. Family visited from Texas, and Kate celebrated her cousin's first birthday with them.

We have nothing to report as far as Kate's medical status. No news is good news!

Thank you for reading and we hope you have a great school year. Kate sure will!

# High School News

## Test Prep Course: High School Placement Test

If you are considering taking the High School Placement Test (HSPT) this fall, let us help! The HSPT prep course takes place on four (4) Saturdays: October 21, 28, November 4 and 11 at Ursuline Academy. This course is designed to increase your confidence, let you familiarize yourself with the test content, and to teach you test-taking strategies. This course is open to any 8th grade student (girl or boy) who plans to take an entrance/placement test for one of the area Catholic high schools. There is a morning session (9am-noon) and afternoon session (1-4pm). You must sign up for either the morning session or the afternoon session. The practice test will take place for both sessions on November 11. The cost is \$180. This year, we are also offering an online test prep course and a practice test only! For more information or to register, visit <https://www.ursulineacademy.org/admissions/high-school-placement-test>. And don't forget to register for the High School Placement Test, which takes place on Saturday, November 18: <https://www.ursulineacademy.org/admissions/apply-to-ursuline>. Questions? Contact Josephine Kosmalski McKenrick '98, director of admissions, at 513-791-5791 x1116 or [jmckenrick@ursulineacademy.org](mailto:jmckenrick@ursulineacademy.org).

## News to Share?

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If you have any news that you would like to share with our St. Michael Parish School community, please email Kaylene Schwab at [kaylene@saintmichaelchurch.net](mailto:kaylene@saintmichaelchurch.net).