

UUAA 9.29.19

Up Up And Away - Notes from the Upper School Director

September 29, 2019

One of the highlights of my week is the moment during All-School Chapel on Monday when I get to pluck winning names from our piles of Upper School STAR Cards. STAR Cards, an acronym for **S**ervice, **T**eamwork, **A**ttitude, and **R**esponsibility, acknowledge actions and moments when our students fulfill the “fruits of the spirit” — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control— which we celebrate in song periodically during these chapels.

Examples of STAR Card-worthy feats would include deeds ranging from holding open the gate for a teacher or student, to turning in a dollar found on the ground, to inviting someone that seems sad or lonely to sit at one’s lunch table.

Each week I pick one card randomly per grade, even for teachers (for “stellar” deeds observed by their colleagues). Those selected get a free pizza lunch. Then all the cards, chosen or not, are piled together at the end of the month to determine winners of Free Dress passes, again one per grade. The following Star Card winners for September will have a free pizza lunch on Wednesday, October 2:

Izaiah Verdugo (5th), Anthony Son (5th), Deven Ramakumar (6th), Eric Pina-Loucks (6th), Addy Chue (6th), Claire Zeiller (6th), Jackie Peterson (7th), Katie Jennings (7th), Olivia Bruno (7th), Cesar Barra (8th)—whose name was chosen two weeks in a row!—Bobby Smith (8th), Ms. Sanders, Ms. Gould, and Señora Van Straalen

I will be drawing Free Dress pass winners in Chapel tomorrow. Congratulations to these individuals and to everyone else in our community demonstrating the fruits of the spirit on a daily basis!

In Other News

We are thrilled to announce that we have hired Tracy Smith, an instructor with more than fifteen years of teaching middle school science in Phoenix and

Tucson, mostly recently at Gridley Middle School. She will take over permanently the instruction of our Fifth and Sixth Grade Science classes and will join the Sixth Grade advisory team. Ms. Smith, a graduate of the selective Teach for Tucson program at the University of Arizona, has extensive experience in teaching various branches of science and engineering, including Science Fair. We are lucky to have found her. I would also like to thank Bob Smith (no relation) for stepping in during the interim and keeping our students on track! Ms. Smith begins this Tuesday.

Events This Week:

- In our efforts to build our alumni community, we are excited to hold the very first **St. Michael's Freshmen Fun Night** today, Sunday, September 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Student Center. The event will be an informal, fun-filled gathering for our Class of 2019 graduates to talk about how things are going in their first semester of high school. Ms. Gould is organizing this evening as part of her new duties in Alumni Engagement, and Mrs. Thiltges is returning to help co-host the event! We've invited a few of our older St. Michael's alums who are now seniors in high school to join in and share some advice on how to juggle successfully the demands of high school.
- Eighth Grade Community Service **Team Three** will be preparing a meal at Casa Maria Soup Kitchen the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 1.
- There's a **Chipotle fundraiser** scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at 6501 E. Grant Rd. to support 8th Grade graduation. Flyers were sent home in the most recent Eagle Express distribution, but you can also access them [here](#) in order for the school to get credit for your purchase.
- **Progress reports** will go home this week in Wednesday's Eagle Express envelope. (See last week's UUAA memo for further details.)
- Our **New Parent Welcome** event is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Smith Parish Center. We'd love to see many of our fabulous new families that night.
- Our weekly **Mass collection** is Thursday. Student Council will announce soon a new charity that it will support for the month of October.

● This Friday morning, Oct. 4, our third graders will be hosting a **bake sale** from 7:30-8:00 a.m. to raise money for the Community Food Bank.

● This week in sports:

Co-ed Flag Football

Tuesday, 10/1 - home vs. Lemn Oro Valley (A game at 4:00; B game at 5:00)

Thursday, 10/3 - away at Desert Christian (A team released at 3:00, game at 4:00; B team game at 5:00)

Girls' Volleyball

Tuesday, 10/1 - home vs. Casas (A game at 4:00; B game at 5:00)

Thursday, 10/3 - away at Lemn East (A team released at 3:00, game at 4:00; B team game at 5:00)

Intramurals (flag football) for 4th and 5th graders continue this week as well.

Events Beyond This Week:

● **Fall Break** is almost upon us: October 7-11.

● Our beloved **Grandparents' Day** event is scheduled for Fri. Oct. 18, from 8:00 - 10:30 a.m. That evening, the annual Upper School **Coffee Cabaret** musical performance will be held from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. so grandparents and other loved ones in town that day might catch both!

● Our annual **High School Night** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. While it is intended mainly for 7th and 8th grade families, any interested Upper School families are welcome to attend. Several local high schools will be represented.

● The first middle school (grades 6-8) **dance** of the year is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 25, from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. To clarify, there will be no slow song at the first dance to alleviate pressure, especially for the younger students, but we

will have one or two such songs in subsequent dances to allow students to navigate them in a safe space.

- During the dance on October 25th, 8th grade parents and guardians are invited to take part in a brief meeting with the **Graduation** Team, beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the Science Room.
- There will also be a **bake sale** on Friday, Oct. 25, during the school day to support the 8th grade graduation plans.

Best wishes,

Alex Hawes
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Links of Note:

[Main School Website](#)
[School Facebook page](#)
[School Instagram page](#)
[PlusPortals](#)
[Google Classroom](#)
[McGraw-Hill ConnectEd Textbook Login](#)

[School Uniforms](#)
[Hot Lunch Ordering](#)
[Student-Parent Handbook](#)
[SMA Volunteer Page](#)

[Main School Calendar](#)
[5th Grade Test Calendar](#)
[6th Grade Test Calendar](#)
[7th Grade Test Calendar](#)
[8th Grade Test Calendar](#)