

UUAA 10.20.19

Up Up And Away - Notes from the Upper School Director

October 20, 2019

This week marks the Tucson Independent Athletic League (TIAL) playoffs for both the Co-ed Flag Football and Girls' Volleyball A teams (details below). It is the culmination of a season of hard work and hard-fought competitions.

St. Michael's believes deeply in the value of athletics for their emphasis on fitness, skill-building, camaraderie, and personal integrity. As impressed as I am by spectacular catches and dizzying digs, I am even more impressed by feats of sportsmanship: helping a fallen opponent up from the ground or comforting a disappointed teammate.

It is undeniable that student athletes take cues from their adult spectators, a fact to remember this week. Let's all offer unbridled positive support—and leave the coaching to the coaches, and the criticism of the referees to the Great Referee in the Sky. (Our policies about student and parent expectations at sporting events can be found on pages 37-38 of our [Parent-Student Handbook](#).)

This is, after all, not the Final Four or the World Series. And for the record, after intense reflection, I have decided to root for the Nationals (having lived in D.C. a few years before the team moved there from Montreal).

Please come cheer on our fantastic Eagles this week!

In Other News

Halloween is fast approaching. As your child may have already begun brainstorming costume options, it's a good time to review rules for that day at school. Upper School students are allowed to wear costumes on Halloween that otherwise follow relaxed dress rules (closed-toe shoes; no spaghetti straps, bare midriffs or short shorts or skirts; nothing offensive), and masks can only be worn briefly for pictures. The costumes can't get in the way of students' participation in normal classroom activities. On a related note, we will be

holding an Ugly Pumpkin Contest over the next two weeks, with each homeroom in Upper School decorating a provided pumpkin in a “creatively ugly” way. We will also minimize homework the night of Halloween to allow time for trick-or-treating!

Events This Week:

● As mentioned, the **TIAL playoffs** take place this week for our A teams. They are single-elimination. We will have a **pep rally** during lunch this Monday, Oct. 21, from about 12:20-12:30 p.m. in the Student Center to celebrate our squads.

Co-ed Flag Football (Playoffs - A Team only)

Tuesday, Oct. 22 - @ Desert Christian at 4:00 p.m. (release at 3:00 p.m.)

Girls' Volleyball (Playoffs - A Team only)

Monday, Oct. 21 - home vs. Desert Christian @ 4:00 p.m.

If the Volleyball team wins on Monday, the next game is Tuesday, Oct. 22, @ Leman Oro Valley at 5:00 p.m.

The semi-finals for both sports are Thursday, and the finals are Friday (locations and times TBA) if we make it through.

● **Picture re-takes** for any students who missed individual photos are scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 a.m. We need photos of all students, not just ones who have ordered portrait prints, for the Yearbook.

● Our annual **High School Night** is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 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. Eight different local high schools will be represented. The Step-Up Day for **University High School** is the next day, Thursday, Oct. 24, for 8th graders considering UHS.

● Please encourage your child to bring mass donations on Thursdays. Student Council has voted to donate our October and November mass collections to **Meals on Wheels**.

● Our big 8th grade **bake sale** will happen this Friday, Oct. 25, in front of the School Office, beginning at 7:30 a.m. We ask that each 8th grader bring a

dozen baked goods. Please bring packaged items to school Friday morning, or you can drop off your baked goods Thursday in the front office to be packaged.

● The first middle school (grades 6-8) **dance** of the year is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 25, from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Students must have turned in a signed Code of Conduct for the year as well as a dance permission slip in order to be allowed to attend. During the dance, 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. Let's appreciate our teacher-chaperones, who give up their Friday night to make the dance possible, and be prompt in picking up your child no later than 10:00.

Events Beyond This Week:

● Our beautiful **Día de los Muertos** chapel which will be held on Friday, Nov. 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the church. Don't miss this beautiful celebration, performed by our 8th graders and filled with song, poetry, and tributes to those who are no longer with us.

● The annual **Kindergarten Car Wash** is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, Nov. 2. It's pretty hilarious and adorable and raises money for the **Canned Food Drive**, which kicks off Monday, Nov. 4 and runs until Monday, Nov. 25. Non-perishable items collected during the Canned Food Drive are given to the St. Michael's Parish food program, and cash donations are sent to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

● This coming Friday, Oct. 25, will be the final meeting of first trimester **electives**. New elective choices will be shared with students the week of November 4-8.

● Our 7th and 8th graders will attend the Arizona Theatre Company's play "**Silent Sky**" at the Temple of Music & Art on Tuesday, Nov. 5. We will leave campus around 9:00 a.m. and return between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided via hired buses, not parents.

That's all for now...

Best wishes,

Alex Hawes
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Links of Note:

[Main School Website](#)
[School Facebook page](#)
[School Instagram page](#)
[PlusPortals](#)
[Eagle Express Blog](#)
[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](#)