

UUAA 11.24.19

Up Up And Away - Notes from the Upper School Director

November 24, 2019

Research cited in *The New York Times* today suggests that thankfulness contributes to improved relationships, honesty, self-satisfaction, and productivity. Students and staff at St. Michael's continue to share daily gratitudes in homeroom and chapel on topics like Favorite Book and Favorite Place. (For the record, *Lord of the Rings* and the National Parks, in my case.) I will offer a few additional thanksgivings with Turkey Day on the horizon:

I am thankful to my colleagues for their patience and dedication as we collaborate to make our students' experiences at school nurturing and challenging at the same time. I am thankful to our wonderful St. Michael's families for encouraging your children to persevere through obstacles and for offering them rich opportunities for learning, self-expression, and service. And I am especially thankful to our Upper School students for their kindness to one another—and for their sheer ridiculousness!

In Other News

A Thanksgiving tradition, our annual **Canned Food Drive** ends tomorrow (Monday 11/25). Cash donations will support the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, and non-perishable items will supply the church's food pantry program. Upper School grades that reach a total of more than 20 items on average per capita will be treated to an ice cream sundae party! The school entered the weekend with a collective tally of nearly five thousand dollars and canned items combined. Please support the drive, if you haven't already, in any way you can.

Events This Week:

● Our **Coed Soccer "A" Team** faces Lemay Mariana on Tuesday, November 26, with a 2:25 p.m. early release and game at 4:00 p.m.

● There is no school Wednesday, November 27 - Friday, November 29 for **Thanksgiving!**

Events Beyond This Week:

● Our second round of **Renaissance standardized testing** is scheduled for the week of December 2-6 for students in Upper School. The tests will be given during English/Language Arts and Math classes some time Tuesday through Thursday that week.

● The next group to miss school time for 8th grade community service is **Team Five**, who will be spending the morning of Tuesday, December 3, at Casa Maria.

● **Salpointe Step-Up Day** is Friday, December 6th. Eighth graders interested in attending must contact Salpointe to reserve their spot.

● The **Seventh Grade** is going to Playformance that morning (12/6).

● The **Fifth Grade** is responsible for bringing at least a dozen peeled hard-boiled eggs each that morning (12/6) for Casa Maria.

● The next middle school (gr. 6-8) **dance** is that evening, Friday, December 6th, from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

● The **Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel** will occur during Tuesday Chapel on the afternoon of December 10. It is another lovely event worth attending!

● The Upper School **Christmas program** is the evening of Friday, December 13, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

That afternoon is also the Lower School **St. Nick's Day** program from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Upper School students with siblings in Lower School are allowed to attend only with written permission in advance from parents and must sit with their families.

That's all for now...

Best wishes,

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Links of Note:

[Main School Website](#)

[School Facebook page](#)

[School Instagram page](#)

[St. Michael and All Angels Church](#)

[PlusPortals \(online grades\)](#)

[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](#)