

HOS Hot Topics - January

REMINDERS

Jan. 12 PTF Meeting, 8:30-9:30 AM - All are Welcome and Encouraged to attend

Jan. 15 - School Closed - Teacher In-Service Day

Jan. 24 - Community Open House, 8:00 AM - tell a friend

Jan. 25 - Community Open House, 5:30 PM - tell a friend



Financial Facts about St. George's School

In most years, the school raises tuition to stay competitive with salaries and inflation. Last year was the first significant tuition increase in several years, so this year's tuition increase (see link below) is higher than normal to stay on track with our strategic plan. This increase was voted on by the school's Board of Directors after extensive consideration and research. The strategic plan sent out last month indicates that one of our goals in the strategic area of faculty and staff is to have a highly qualified staff that is appropriately compensated.

To obtain this goal and retain staff, this price increase is necessary. The tuition increase last year went directly to staff compensation, but it only increased the average hourly rate to \$19, which was still below the average in other comparable schools.

The staff and faculty are what makes our school so unique, and we've been fortunate to retain such great staff so the children can experience the highest level of care and education. Even though the staff and faculty live so far from the school, they love the work environment, families, and of course, the children, so they are willing to make the commute.

I am sensitive to the impact this can have on our families, and I pray you will find the value in the level of expert care we provide. Many schools in Austin are faced with the same decisions and struggle with these tough decisions. I sit in on many educational advisory groups and have listened to their concerns about the rising cost of child care and what decisions they are making to keep up in the upcoming school year.

To close out this topic, I would like to remind everyone that the school does offer financial assistance. I am attaching the policy [here](#).

Upcoming Open Enrollment - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Open Enrollment for the '24-'25 school year begins the week of February 19. Here's what you need to know:

- Online enrollment is first come first serve and will be time-stamped
- Priority enrollment is as follows:
 - Monday, Feb. 19 - EB and/or FZ currently enrolled families
 - Tuesday, Feb. 20 - currently enrolled families
 - Wednesday, Feb. 21 - siblings of currently enrolled and church parishioners
 - Thursday, Feb. 22 - current wait-listed families
 - Friday, Feb. 23 - community at large
- Updated TUITION can be found [HERE](#)

Annual Fund Gratitude

The dragon is complete. We surpassed our goal of \$15,000 by \$1,550. This total amount of \$16,550 will go towards the cloud ceilings and 3 new sculptures.

Thank you all for your continued support of this wonderful little school.



WOHOO!!! Looks at who gets an in-house dance party:

Red Room
Rose Room
Purple Room
Orange Room

Why? you ask..... these are the classes with 100% Annual Fund Participation. Thanks to all, YOU, made this happen!



Jerri's Blog

For those who have children in Pre-K, the kindergarten decision is upon you. While you are contemplating this next step, take a moment and watch this video [Kindergarten Readiness](#). Hopefully, it will answer some questions you have and prepare you for the next teacher/parent conference. Your children still have 1/2 a year to grow and develop, so keep this in mind as you talk to others and make any final decisions.



A Word from Father Matt
"Grace for Lonely Dads"

Dear Parents of St. George's,

Happy New Year!

As we turn the page into 2024, I thought I'd share one of my favorite podcasts with you: "The Mockingcast." You can find it [here](#), and you can find the related website of Mockingbird Ministries [here](#).

Why am I talking to you about this stuff? Well, aside from the fact that it's just wicked smart and oh so engaging (cultural topics from a kind of "Christian perspective"), it's super encouraging.

Encouraging for anyone who's struggling.

Struggling, like the man on his deathbed whom I visited multiple times over the "Christmas break" actively dying of bone cancer.

Struggling, like this man's wife.

Struggling, like many folks on both sides of the Israeli-Palestine conflict, from Islamophobia as well as Anti-semitism.

Struggling, like so many trans kids in the state of Texas (and their parents & siblings).

Struggling ... like lots of men/dads who are, even if they don't always admit it, desperately lonely.

Speaking of dads who are lonely, [here's](#) an excellent (pretty short) article on the Mockingbird website. The sections of the article are the following:

- Parenting is the most challenging work of all.
- Loneliness begets extremism.
- I am a good dad.
- Men in Their Thirties Need Other Honest, Vulnerable Men in their Thirties.
- The True Grace of Children Is Not Their Innocence, But Their Radical Dependence.

To all dads out there, I hope you'll give it a read. I'd love to know what you think!

Oh, and speaking of podcasts, what are you guys listening to nowadays?

Happy New Year!
Faithfully,
Matt+

[Sneak Peek at the Church's Monthly Banner](#)