Greetings St. Martha Families and Friends,

The day has finally arrived that I compose my last note for the Crusader News. The staff put together a scrap book for me of some of the pictures taken over the past eight years, and it brought back many memories of the growth of St. Martha Catholic School and the church. When I first came to SMCS, the school and parish were all on this same patch of real estate here at Woodland Hills and Oak Shores Drive. Father Borski would walk over to the school for a quick visit from his office in what is now the Faith Formation offices. Father Borski’s easy, comfortable stroll was as recognizable as his deep full bodied laugh coming across the campus. Fr. TJ’s sermons at the Wednesday school Masses in “the old church” often involved comparisons to Yao Ming from the Houston Rockets, and he also introduced his “Sermon Backpack” as he counted the days since his ordination. Fr. TJ and Derek created the first priest Steps for Students video challenge that Fr. Richard has now taken up. Looking back through other pictures I found of the last eight years, there were pictures of the first-ever volleyball team practicing on the pavilion, the first home baseball game with Fr. TJ and Fr. Borski throwing out the first pitch, the first softball team game, and the first drama club production held in the Family Life Center at lunch time.

I came across pictures of the pews being removed from the church and set outside for parishioners to purchase and take to their homes as a memento of their beloved church. Mr. Teets and his crew worked tirelessly to convert the church to the Activity Center for the entire summer of 2012. Fr. Alfonso helped with a teacher retreat in the Activity Center the first August the AC was available. The very first home basketball game played on our own court was a dream come true for many SMCS Crusaders from years past. The AC conversion has now become a venue that is in demand and hard to find available dates outside of school times. Our athletic coaches offer summer clinics now to allow students to improve skills on their own.

Our academics have remained strong in all subjects as we continue to witness students’ acceptance into honors programs in all high schools in the Houston area, whether Catholic, private, or public. The archdiocesan curriculum has always been a blend of the Texas standards and national standards. The archdiocese is moving to using the Texas standards only as the base, and each school will need to build in the Catholic identity and the goals to go above the Texas standards. Training for this will be accomplished through Catholic School Office teacher in-service trainings over the next few years.

The Catholic identity here at St. Martha School and parish is phenomenal. There are so many ministries available for parishioners and school parents to get involved with the faith. Many of the staff and school parents are involved in many parish groups, which creates a family atmosphere. The charism of St. Martha is to serve others and it has been a goal of the school to offer service opportunities each month to students and families. The support of these service projects helps students and families live the Gospel messages and become the Fruits of the Holy Spirit to others.

St. Martha Catholic School is truly a special place. I take with me many great, spiritual memories, and I have met many people I hope to have as friends for life. I pray that I have left SMCS a better place because of the guidance God has given me, and I have shared. I have always prayed, sought guidance, and made decisions that I discerned would be best for the school community overall. St. Martha Catholic School staff and families will always remain close to my heart. I will continue to keep you in my prayers.

Blessings,

Mrs. Tina Lewis
Principal
Congratulations to SMCS Alumna Abby Csengery ’13 who signed a letter of intent on National Signing day to play tennis for St. Mary’s University in San Antonio beginning in the fall of 2017. Abby is excited to be attending the Catholic university and to be playing with their conference winning tennis team! Abby attended Kingwood High School where she was the #1 player for four years and served as team captain during her senior year. She won at the district level and proceeded to regional for four years in a row and has been ranked as high as #20 player in Texas for her graduating class. Abby plans to major in biology at St. Mary and aspires to become a dentist. We are Crusader proud of Abby for her hard work, dedication, and commitment to her tennis, which earned her a scholarship, and to her academics which earned her a GPA of 4.4 - we wish her well in all her future tennis and academic endeavors!

SMCS alumna Lynsey Lucas ’13 is a 2017 Distinguished (top ten) Graduate of Incarnate Word Academy. At IWA, Lynsey was a member of the Campus Ministry Team, the Young Leaders Program, Falcon Ambassadors, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica, and participated in cross country, basketball and track. In our parish, she has served as an altar server, Vacation Bible School volunteer, Extraordinary Minister, EDGE Team leader, and LifeTeen leader. Lynsey has also participated in the SHINE Catholic Work camp for four summers and will be heading to Colombia in June on her second St. Martha parish international mission trip. Lynsey is deferring her acceptances to Texas A&M University and the University of Texas for one year to serve as a missionary with NET Ministries from August ‘17 through May ‘18. NET Ministries is a Catholic Program that leads retreats all over the US to set the hearts of youth on fire for Christ! We are Crusader proud of Lynsey for her dedication and commitment to her academics, faith, parish community, and for aspiring to be a bold servant leader wherever God is leading her during her mission year and beyond.

SMCS alumna Lauren Zammit ’13 is a 2017 Distinguished (top ten) Graduate of Incarnate Word Academy and will be attending the University of Dallas in the fall studying biology and theology with the hopes of becoming a physician assistant. Always an exceptional student-athlete, Lauren played basketball and ran cross country and track during her time at IWA, and will continue as a varsity athlete at the University of Dallas. Lauren was also a member of Student Council, Campus Ministry Team, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, and Falcon Ambassadors. Lauren dedicated many volunteer hours at her parish of St. Philip’s teaching Vacation Bible School and CCE classes to 2nd grade classes preparing for First Reconciliation and Communion. We are Crusader proud of Lauren for her dedication and commitment to her academics, faith, and parish community. We wish her great success at the University of Dallas and beyond.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SMCS ALUMNAE FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS RECOGNIZED AT THE INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY 2017 ACADEMIC AWARDS!

Lauren Zammit ’13
Graduate of Distinction
Top Scholar Athlete Award
Theology IV Course Award

Lynsey Lucas ’13
Graduate of Distinction
Charlene Barry Theology Award

Margaret Jardine ’13
Honors Spanish III Course Award
AP US Government Course Award

Ali Taliente ’14
AP Spanish IV Course Award

Julie Phillips ’13
Distinguished Leader Graduate

Grace Garwood ’16
Honors Biology Course Award

Libby Diamond ’14
2018 National Merit Scholarship Program Candidate
The Margaret Sheltz Scholarship
AP Biology Course Award
Honors Physics Course Award

Margaret Jardine ’13
AP US Government Course Award

Julie Phillips ’13
Distinguished Leader Graduate

Ali Taliente ’14
AP Spanish IV Course Award

Grace Garwood ’16
Honors Biology Course Award
Crusaders of the Month
Right Choice for May: Honesty

Congratulations to our SMCS Crusaders of the Month!

What makes a student a Crusader of the Month? The candidates for Crusader of the Month should exemplify the characteristics of the Right Choice Lesson for the month. Students should be hard workers in all aspects of academics and possess and demonstrate a positive attitude towards their classmates as well as their teachers. Students should be well-behaved in structured and non-structured settings and should show responsibility in their work as well as their actions.

Pre-K
Stephan Kreit
Pre-K
Olivia Holmes
Pre-K
Ava Achivida
Pre-K
Madelyn Simpson
K
Sydney Hirsch
K
Keagan Ferguson
1
Mikayla Cox
1
Addison Wasserman
2
Brooke Byrne
2
R.J. Wilson
3
Mathew Verret
3
Atticus Gillespie
4
Ella Valdez
5
Valeria Rondon
5
Avery Richter
6
Lilly Christiansen
6
Sophia Simmons
7
Elizabeth Drake
7
Oliver Jamieson

SMCS Front Office

As the auction winner of the SMCS Casino Night "Office Administrator for a Half Day," Abby worked alongside Mrs. Teets in the school office assisting with her many duties. She helped fill out tardy slips, paged students over the intercom, sent emails to the school staff, recorded attendance, and assisted parents and teachers with questions and requests. Abby received her own personalized school name badge on an SMCS lanyard, school spirit items, and a special school supply gift package from Mrs. Teets. She also enjoyed a delicious lunch from Mrs. Teets which was topped off with an ice cream treat!! It was a busy and fun morning for both Abby and Mrs. Teets, who said that Abby was so helpful that she wishes she could have been her assistant all day!

Pizza with the Priests

Abby was also the auction winner for Pizza with the Priests. Congratulations to Abby and her friends who had pizza with our priests on May 25. Pizza with the Priests and Office Administrator for Half a Day are both casino night auction items.
Congratulations to Miss Abigail Durham for being this year’s Sparkling Princess at the 2nd annual Daddy Daughter Dance. Abigail danced the night away with her daddy as she enjoyed a sparkling night of fun.

Next year’s Sparkling Princess and admission to the Daddy Daughter Dance can be purchased through our casino night auction. If you have any questions about Daddy Daughter Dance or the Sparkling Princess, please contact Christy Villarreal at villarealc@stmarthacs.org.

If you have any questions about casino night or would like to volunteer for this fun event, please email Cortney Waguespack at waguespackc@stmarthacs.org.
The SMCS Class of 2013 was honored at the first-ever SMCS Alumni Senior Reception on May 24 hosted by our eighth grade teachers, Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Koenig, and the SMCS Class of 2017! The seniors who were graduated from area Catholic and public high schools joined our eighth grade class for a sharing of their future plans, words of wisdom, and some refreshments for all! After the reception, the 15 seniors walked the hallways of SMCS where the PreK-Grade 7 students gave them rock star cheers and high fives to congratulate the seniors on their successes and graduation!!

Our SMCS graduates continue to succeed in high school and are accepted into numerous colleges throughout Texas and across the nation. The 2013 graduates who attended the reception will be heading off to the following colleges (and one missionary year) in the fall:

Abby Csengery (St. Mary’s University), Lauren Zammit (University of Dallas), Laura Beth Chapman (Texas A&M University), Amelie Hebert (Texas A&M University), Margaret Jardine (Texas A&M University), Kevin Rueby (Lone Star College), Mary Katherine Henry (undecided), Spencer Vosloh (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), David Garwood (University of Houston), Jordan Broussard (University of Dallas), Alec Jordan (University of Houston), Ariana Saenz (Texas A&M University), Julie Phillips (Benedictine College), Ryan Deitz (Baylor University), and Lynsey Lucas (NET Ministries missionary and then Texas A&M).

WE CONGRATULATE all the graduates from the SMCS Class of 2013 and wish them all the best in their next stage of life! We hope they will stay in touch with our Crusader family and continue to share their good news while in college and beyond!
A wonderful send-off for Mrs. Tina Lewis was hosted after our final Wednesday school Mass on May 24 in the Activity Center. The breakfast reception gave parents, parishioners, and alumni the opportunity to say thanks, farewell, and best wishes to Mrs. Lewis as she leaves the hallways of SMCS to lead St. Edward Catholic School as their new principal.

A very special thank you to parent volunteer Susan Cintron for coordinating and organizing the many other wonderful parent volunteers in providing a lovely reception for Mrs. Lewis. Our appreciation to the following who helped with setup, serving, cleanup, and/or by donating food items: Jennifer Farace, Vanessa Haines, Kelly Chesnut, Jodi Diamond, Valerie Menezes, Elisa Loper, Tina Damratoski, Monique Dennis, Jane Miller, Amy Jamieson, Cathy Payne, Christa Wilson, Caroline Stevens, and Nicole Benedict. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated!

During Mrs. Lewis’ years at SMCS, the school became financially sustainable, and the student population grew to a record high - in particular the middle school grew to expand for the first time to two classes in all grade levels. Under Mrs. Lewis’ leadership, many additional activities and extracurricular programs were created including Crusader Clans, band, and a Student Ambassadors Program plus Chess, Drama, Spanish and Yearbook Clubs. In addition, the athletics program was expanded by the addition of baseball, cross country, softball, and volleyball. The effects of her deep passion for our Catholic faith, her heart for community and service, and her contributions to the school will have a lasting impact on the future of SMCS. We thank Mrs. Lewis and wish her all the best - our Crusader family will miss her!
CONGRATULATIONS, SMCS CLASS OF 2017!

CONGRATULATIONS to our 33 graduates who will continue their education at Incarnate Word Academy, St. Agnes Academy, Cristo Rey Jesuit, Covenant Preparatory St. Pius X Catholic, St. Thomas Catholic, Frassati Catholic, Kingwood Park and Kingwood high schools. We wish all our graduates the best and pray that they will continue to grow in mind, heart and spirit as they continue their education and spiritual journey.


Congratulations to the following students for their achievements & awards received at the 2017 graduation ceremony:

**Academic Excellence:** Allissa Altman

**Golden Crusader:** Allissa Altman, Ana Sofia Aragon, Hayden Diamond, Leah Lucas

**A Honor Roll:** Jakob Brammer, Nathan Jimerson, Catherine Miller, Alex Varela

**A/B Honor Roll (fourth quarter):** Allissa Altman, Ana Sofia Aragon, Alex Benedict, Jakob Brammer, Alexis Cox, Hayden Diamond, Grace Guillory, Charlie Jardine, Nathan Jimerson, Leah Lucas, Parker Manning, Jack Mikuta, Catherine Miller, J.R. Simmons, Alex Varela, Claire Zeinieh

**Catholic Identity Award:** Leah Lucas and Austin Zammit

**Beta Scholarship:** Leah Lucas

**Beta Members for four years:** Allissa Altman, Ana Sofia Aragon, Alex Benedict, Jakob Brammer, Alexis Cox, Hayden Diamond, Grace Guillory, Leah Lucas, Parker Manning, Catherine Miller, Billy Schmidt, Landen Smith, Alex Varela, Claire Zeinieh

**St. Thomas High School Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge Merit Scholarship:** Hayden Diamond

**Incarnate Word Academy CVI Merit Scholarship:** Leah Lucas

**Students Attending SMCS from PreK3 through eighth grade:** Jakob Brammer, Parker Manning, Jack Mikuta, Austin Zammit, Catalina Zapata, Claire Zeinieh

THANK YOU to the parents of all our graduates for entrusting their children to SMCS and to our wonderful school families for their strong commitment to and generous support of Catholic education!
Development Updates

Congratulations to the Kindergarten through Grade 2 hallway for winning this year’s Box Tops contest.

Please remember to continue to save Box Tops over the summer. When we all participate, our school and students will benefit from our efforts!

For more information or questions regarding our Box Tops and Rebate and Redemption programs, please contact Mary Hays at maryarro@hotmail.com or Christy Villarreal at villarrealc@stmarthacs.org.