



The Latest Word

St. Perpetua School - Weekly Newsletter

November 15, 2023



Weekly Update from Mrs. Gotchet

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that after twelve years of service to St. Perpetua, Stacey Hinton, our beloved librarian, will be leaving St. Perpetua. Her final day with us will be Friday, December 1st.

Please see the note below from Stacey:

"This decision was not made lightly. After seeking guidance through prayer and careful consideration, I have decided to explore a new career opportunity. I believe I have been called to return to public service. This opportunity is the right step to provide financial security for my family. You may recall that my husband has been out of work for most of 2023. His job search is not yielding any results. In the meantime, a position has become available for me. Words cannot express what a difficult decision this has been for me. This decision was not made lightly. It has been my joy and privilege to serve the students of St. Perpetua school for the past twelve years. I have greatly appreciated the opportunities I have had to work with you, your families and our wonderful staff. Our community truly is blessed and it has been a highlight of my career to work in a faith-based community. "

As sad as we are, we are forever grateful to Mrs. Hinton for her dedication and commitment to St. Perpetua. She will be missed, but we look forward to the next chapter in her life and will be cheering her on from afar. We are blessed to have Kate Johns, a seasoned library volunteer and current parent, who has graciously agreed to continue to provide library classes to our students each week for the short-term while we look for a new librarian. Thank you, Mrs. Hinton, for being such an integral part of the St. Perpetua community ~ you will always have a home here at St. P's!

School Schedule and Calendar

Normal Bell Schedule

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays: 8:00 - 3:05pm
- Wednesdays: 9:00 - 3:05pm - Late start and mass uniforms
- Fridays: Cafe Perpetua 7:20 - 9:30am ~ unless stated as a No Cafe day ~ (cash or check only). Students may wear St. Perpetua spirit-wear tops and uniform bottoms.
- [Lunch Schedule](#)

Next 10 Days

- Thursday, November 16 - St. Perpetua Staff hosting our Winter Nights guests
- Friday, November 17 - **NOON Dismissal**
 - **NO Cafe Perpetua**
 - **NO Panther House**
- Monday 11/20 - Friday, 11/24 - Thanksgiving break

Other Important Dates

- Wednesday, 11/29 - Ladies Night Out
- Friday, 12/1 - report cards go home with students
- Friday & Saturday, 12/1 & 12/2 - Cafe Perpetua's Christmas Boutique
- Saturday, 12/2 - Peppermint Shoppe
- 12/3 - Rise & shine Mass ~ 1st grade hosting

- 12/21 - Christmas Sharing Performances / NOON Dismissal
- 12/22 - 1/7/24 - Christmas Break

Monthly School Calendar

Four Hot Lunch Volunteer Leads Needed ~ 35 volunteer hours for each lead position!

The Daily Lead is in charge of a specific day for Hot Lunch for January '24 - May '24. The Daily Lead is supported by 2 volunteers (3 on Pizza Thursdays) to get lunch out to the kids.

Monday: 11:30-1pm (this position is filled)

Tuesday: 11:30-1pm

Wednesday: 11:00 - 12:30 (this position is filled)

Thursday: 11:00-1pm (this is our fundraiser for SEEDS; it's just pizza, but it's high volume, averaging about 200 students each Thursday vs an 85 average on other days)

Friday: 11:30-1pm

We're offering 35 hours for the Daily Lead Volunteer. I will be there to train you for the first week or two! It's not really all that different from what you've done in the past as a supporting volunteer, it's just that you have a dedicated day to serve hot lunch for the semester.

Here is a [brief description of the role and responsibilities](#). Email [Kate MacGinley](#) with any questions or interest!

December SEEDs 'Pizza Thursday' Fundraiser

Thursday Pizza continues to be a favorite for students, parents and staff! We will offer Pizza on TWO Thursdays in December ~ 12/7 & 12/14.

Order link closes on November 30th.



**Order
Pizza**

Teacher Spotlight ~ Mrs. Laura Kelly, our 1st grade teacher

My first graders and I have been working on daily gratitude journals since before Halloween. Each day we write about something that we are grateful for and why. This is one of my favorite projects of the year and I love watching my first graders' gratitude develop as the days pass and the journal gets fuller. By Thanksgiving we will have a beautifully crafted, 25 page reflection of what we are most thankful for.

I once read that *"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend."* Life isn't perfect for any of us. We are pulled in a million directions with commitments and responsibilities. We have bills that need to be paid, marriages that are strained, parents who are ill. We are scrolling too much, drinking too much, spending too much. And despite all of that, we are truly blessed. A commitment to gratitude reminds us to see the good despite the chaos.

This holiday season, let us remember to be grateful. To see the good. To remember to thank God for all His blessings all around us. Maybe the first graders are onto something with their intentional commitment to gratitude...maybe we should be too.



Ladies Night Out ~Wednesday, November 29th

Ladies Night Out is Wednesday, November 29th from 6:30 - 9:30pm at the St. Perpetua Community Center. Don't miss this fun evening of 'Sips & Shopping' with many unique vendors. This is a great event to invite friends to join and get a jump on your holiday shopping while supporting our school!

[Buy Tickets](#)



December 15 ~ Holiday Fun at Panther House

Panther House is offering a 'Fun Friday' activity for St. P's students .

- You don't have to be registered for Panther House to join in this festive event.
- Kids will make Foam Gingerbread Houses, have a special sweet snack, and watch *The Grinch*.
 - 3:05 - 4:30 pm on December 15th
 - \$30 per student
 - **Reservations close on November 17th**

[Sign-Up Form](#)



11/20 & 11/21 Basketball Skills & Games with Coach Bri & Ms. Ralston during Thanksgiving break

See [Flyer](#) for more details.

**Counselor's
Corner**

November Note from Ms. Tamara

This month, the focus of our SEL lessons is on conflict resolution and problem solving. Conflicts are a normal part of social development. When faced with a conflict, our students need to learn healthy mechanisms and tools to manage it. Just with any other SEL tool, these tools need to be practiced over time since their young brains are developing and forming new pathways. The goal is *not perfection* but rather *openness to learning*. When faced with a conflict or a problem, students will be taught to **STAY CALM, USE AN "I" MESSAGE, FIND A SOLUTION, COMPROMISE AND APOLOGIZE**. It's important to note that these are general guidelines which might not fit every situation but are helpful to incorporate overall. To stay calm, students are encouraged to take healthy space while breathing deeply so they have a chance to regulate their nervous systems and ground. Using "I" messages is quite effective as it takes the focus away from blaming and shaming toward taking responsibility, accountability while offering the expression of one's feelings toward a situation. To implement "I" messages, students are encouraged to take turns talking while expressing how they feel and the reasons why they feel a certain way. Listening mindfully and actively is also a key with this step. Finding a solution requires a collaborative non-judgmental attitude with positive intentions. Once a solution or compromise is reached, it is incredibly helpful and important to express an apology when appropriate and necessary. Though conflicts can be tiring and difficult, healthy use of these tools can help our students overcome them in a positive manner and take

these new skills into their future endeavors.



Peppermint Shoppe - December 2, 9:00 - 11:00

Peppermint Shoppe is a sweet opportunity for children to shop for Christmas gifts for their parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, teachers, and pets. Each item is priced at \$2.00 and payment is accepted by cash or check only.

This is a 'kids only' event. Each child will be paired with a junior high elf to help the little kids shop. While parents wait for their child, they can visit Mrs. Meo's

Christmas Boutique and buy coffee and treats at Café Perpetua.

Watch for an early appearance by St. Nicholas! Contact [Sally Salay](#) with any questions.



Panther House After-School Care ~ December

Panther House after school care is available beginning November 1st. Please take time to review the [program details](#). If you are interest in enrolling your child(ren), please fill out the [enrollment form](#) and the [December Drop-In Calendar](#) with each child's dates/times they will attend. Submit forms via email to pantherhouse@stperpetuaschool.org.

- [Enrollment Form](#) - required for all full and part-time students



Cafe Perpetua Christmas Boutique ~ Dec. 1st & 2nd

Cafe' Perpetua's Christmas Boutique will be held on Friday, December 1st from 7:20am to 9:30am and on Saturday, December 2nd 9:00am until 11:00 at the cafe`!

~You can pick up that perfect hostess, friend, teacher, co-worker, neighbor, babysitter or that someone-special-on-your-list present!

~We will be featuring homemade culinary delights such as Kahlua cakes, peppermint bark, and organic jams (apricot, blackberry, peach, red raspberry, strawberry, apple pie and cranberry cabernet)!

~ There will be fabulous holiday decorations for inside and outside including gorgeous nativity sets, beautiful wreaths, Gingerbread boy and girl sets for the yard and so much more!

~All items are festively wrapped and ready to go, and we have gift bags for every package!

~Please join us for this wonderful holiday tradition and bring your friends! Please contact mmeo@cndo.org for any questions!

Junior High Service Hour Opportunities

We are proud of our Junior High students for their involvement in the community. Don't forget their 10 hours are due November 15th and there are [many opportunities](#) available.

- [Sign Up for Donut Service](#) at mass
- [Create Birthday Bags](#) for Monument Crisis Center
- [Monument Crisis Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Youth Homes Organization](#)



**Service Hours
Form**



Application for 2024-2025 School Year

[Application Link](#) for **NEW STUDENTS** interested in the upcoming school year

Contact Gretchen Trapp, our Admissions Director gtrapp@csdo.org for more information on class availability or to set up a tour.



Volunteer Opportunities and Links

We need your help at St. Perpetua. Please review the [volunteer participation agreement](#) and sign up now to complete your hours and get to know our wonderful St. Perpetua school community.

Sign Up Now to Volunteer

- [Hot Lunch Volunteers Needed](#)
- [Yard Duty Volunteer](#) - 2 required for each family
- [Crosswalk Volunteer](#) - 1 required for each family
- [Become an 'All Clear' volunteer](#)

[Log Volunteer Hours](#)

Important Links

- [Choice Lunch Service](#)
- [PowerSchool Login](#)
- [Family Directory](#)
- [Scrip Obligation & ordering information](#)
- [2023-2024 Parent & Student Handbook](#)
- [Faculty Directory](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)
- [Uniform Policy](#)
- [Printable School Calendar](#)
- [Archived Constant Contact Newsletters](#)



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