



New Families Welcome: Members of the school board welcomed parents of new students Aug. 16. Families were able to see their children's classrooms and meet their teachers. After presentations by kindergarten teachers Alice Gonzalez and Shanta Munoz, kindergarteners' parents met their mentor parents at a mini-reception hosted by the board. Board members sitting from left to right: Tracy Giordano, Lee Ann Iagmin, Cory McMahon, Katie Scheie and principal Diane Hartley. Standing: Brian Kingston, Virginia Delamater, Genevieve Suzuki, Shantala Cryns and Teresa Propper.

LETTER FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Hello to all of our new families and welcome back to our returning St. Martin of Tours Academy community! I'd like to introduce myself to those of you I've not had the pleasure of meeting: My name is Cory McMahon. This will be my tenth year as an SMA Parent, fourth year as a board member and my first year as the school board president.

The year 2018 brings a feeling of new beginnings for me in this new role. I also look forward to working with our new principal, Diane Hartley, and our new pastor, Father Elmer Mandac. One of the first things I'm excited to work with Ms. Hartley and our school community on is the roll-out of the Fund for St. Martin of Tours. This fund will be an ongoing campaign that bridges the gap that occurs when tuition alone does not cover the costs to educate a student. Money raised will ensure access to tech updates, enrichment curriculum,

campus upgrades and other targeted goals, all in support of a high quality Catholic education. I wish you and all SMA students a successful and blessed school year.

Sincerely,

Cory McMahon
School board president



On Board with SMA

The Newsletter of the St. Martin of Tours Academy's School Board

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Extra Credit

Bingo's gone, but there are still several options offering volunteer hours. The Great Cash Giveaway and the annual Walkathon are two big events that depend heavily on parent volunteers for their success.

Contact Great Cash Giveaway chair Virginia Delamater at roselinemullaly@hotmail.com or Walkathon chair Tracy Giordano at giordano3@cox.net to get involved now.

Stay informed about additional opportunities by making sure you're enrolled in your child's class Shutterfly account and checking in with your room parent for other ways to help.

St. Martin of Tours Academy presents the
GREAT CASH GIVEAWAY

A NIGHT UNDER THE BIG TOP

Step Right Up to Get Your Tickets to the Greatest Show

One of St. Martin of Tours Academy's favorite nights is its annual Great Cash Giveaway. This year chairperson Virginia Delamater expects it to be an utter circus.

Delamater and her team brainstormed ideas until they landed on "A Night Under the Big Top," based off the movie-musical "The Greatest Showman."

The Nov. 3 event is set to be full of fun and games. Attendees will also enjoy dinner, photo booth antics, dancing, an opportunity drawing, and live and silent auctions. Delamater also promises a few surprises.

As for the dress code, whether it's bright colors associated with the circus or full-fledged costumes, attendees are encouraged to have fun with the theme

when deciding what to wear. "Let's have some fun with this," said Delamater, who is chairing the event for the fourth year. If you'd rather be a spectator, please wear your Sunday best.

As usual, the night is for adults only so please make arrangements for your kids.

Proceeds from the event will support Catholic education, operational expenses, and tuition assistance for students and families in need. Last year the event raised \$52,000.

If you're interested in getting involved, Delamater said there's always a need for volunteers and donations. "And, of course, we need people to attend. I would love it if everyone came!"

Visit smta.ejoinme.org/Smagcg to get your tickets to the greatest show.

A NIGHT UNDER THE BIG TOP

Nov. 3, 2018

5 to 10 p.m.

**St. Martin of Tours
Parish Hall**

Tickets: \$40

Purchase tickets at
smta.ejoinme.org/Smagcg

Showing the Way from Preschool

Selecting a preschool isn't an easy task. When it's your youngest child's first time away from home, it can be that much more daunting.

St. Martin of Tours Preschool offers a smooth transition for potty-trained 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds from home to the Academy. Preschool director Anne Thompson explained the school's utilization of Workshop Way to parents at their orientation night Aug. 27.

Preschool students are given their own little schedule of toddler tasks to work through at their own pace, said Thompson. They are also invited to take risks, learn it's OK to make mistakes and be respectful of others.

The Preschool classrooms themselves are warm examples of Workshop

Way in action: clean, open environments boasting the kind of space that allows children to explore.

Thompson also asked parents to foster their little ones' independence by having them walk into the preschool rather than be carried, wear elastic-waisted pants so they can learn to use the bathroom unassisted, and open and close their own lunchboxes at mealtime.

School board member Katrina Phruksukarn also spoke to parents that night as the liaison between the preschool and the Academy. Phruksukarn, who set up Academy parent mentors for new Preschool families, said she hopes parents seriously consider keeping their children in the Workshop Way system.



St. Martin of Tours Preschool staff Nikki Paredes, Anne Thompson and Gena Doan are happy to introduce Workshop Way to their young students.

It's not all work and no play. Parents were invited to the Great Cash Giveaway and the annual Walkathon, and the preschoolers will be heading to Oma's Pumpkin Patch in October.

Board Members Set New School Year Resolutions

Who wouldn't want a financially solvent school with a growing population? This year's school board aims to help St. Martin of Tours Academy continue along its route to success. While each member has been tasked with duties for their respective positions and committees, being a parent is still everyone's No. 1 job.

"My goal is financial solvency. I'd like to keep reinvesting back into the people and the school."

Eric Crockett

"I look forward to being a part of the next chapter in SMA history. Change is exciting. At least that's what I'm telling myself as my oldest enters 7th grade!!!"

Shantala Cryns

"As a school board member, I look forward to enjoying my son Timothy's 8th grade year. My time here has really flown by and I am looking to give back and do whatever I can to help out. One of the biggest things I am looking forward to this year is 'A Night Under the Big Top,' our annual Great Cash Giveaway. It is one of our biggest fundraisers and so much fun!"

Virginia Delamater

"I am looking forward to this year's Great Cash Giveaway, which will be held at the church hall. I am also looking forward to an increase in St. Martin's Cub Scouts membership as the organization now welcomes girls and kindergarten age children."

Mitzi Elsten

"I'm excited to chair the Walkathon again this year. It is always a fun community event and I love how it brings everyone together. On a personal note, I look forward to watching my oldest daughter Bella graduate this year. She has attended SMA since kindergarten and we have had the best experience! It will be bittersweet on Graduation Day."

Tracy Giordano

"In the 2018-2019 school year I'm looking forward to seeing my youngest child tackle 7th grade and continue to grow academically and spiritually."

Anna Kennedy

"Since it is my first year being a member of the school board, I am looking forward to finding ways to get involved, contribute however I can and forming new relationships with the other board members."

Katie Scheie

"I look forward to strengthening existing relationships and forging connections with our new families. I'd like to see St. Martin of Tours Academy's profile grow amid our La Mesa community."

Genevieve A. Suzuki

"This year I am taking on the role as Mentor Coordinator [between the preschool and the Academy]. I love meeting new people and introducing them to our wonderful community. I am really excited about welcoming a new batch of families – 27 in total! – and helping them experience all that St. Martin's has to offer!"

Katrina Phruksukarn

"I look forward to seeing the spiritual and educational growth not only in my own children, but all our Spartan children."

Brian Kingston

"I'm looking forward to getting more involved and helping to promote the school's efforts to raise funds, especially the Great Cash Giveaway."

Teresa Propper

"I look forward to the launch of our Advancement and Development Committee's 'Fund for St. Martin of Tours Academy' this year."

Lee Ann Jagmin

What I'm looking forward to this year is both my children being at SMA and getting to see my youngest experience how special this school is.

Shannon Knuth

Q & A

In this newsletter we want to help you get to know St. Martin of Tours Academy's new principal, Diane Hartley. Ms. Hartley has been at St. Martin of Tours Academy since 1989, making this year her 30th with our school. She has taught physical education, fifth grade and third grade, and has served as the athletic director and vice principal.

What is your educational background?

I went to Catholic school my whole life except for my college years at SDSU. I have a B.S. in Physical Education and have two teaching credentials. One is a single subject credential in Physical Education K-12, and one is a multiple subject credential.

What is your favorite thing about being an educator?

My favorite thing about being an educator is the interaction with the children. When they experience a moment when the light bulb goes off and you see that they really understand the concept, it is a fantastic feeling. I love getting to know these little ones, watching them grow while at the academy, and then seeing pictures of them as high school graduates. My favorite is when they are in college and come back for a visit and listen to them reminisce.

Why do you think Workshop Way is effective?

We say that Workshop Way is 'A way to teach, a way to learn, a way to live.' I have



Principal Diane Hartley stands with her students. Pictured with Ms. Hartley clockwise from left: Jayden Munoz (8th grade), Giselle Williams (6th grade), Quinn Suzuki (4th grade) and Dominic Fitzpatrick (kindergarten).

been teaching this philosophy for 28 of my 30 years here. I know how it works because I have lived it for a very long time and have witnessed how the philosophy allows children to grow and become successful adults. We often don't see the fruits of our labor here because the kids still grow throughout high school and college. That is when they will realize the benefits of the Workshop Way® philosophy.

What is your goal for your first year as principal?

A goal I have for my first year as principal is to ensure the lines of communication remain open. We have a staff of excellent, dedicated teachers here, and I want the parents to know that the teachers and myself are always just a phone call or e-mail away. My door is always open and I will always make

time for anyone who needs to see me.

What are your favorite events at St. Martin of Tours Academy? Why?

Some of my favorite events at school are the Academy masses, the Walk-a-thon, and Grandparents' Day. I feel that going to Mass as a school community is a wonderful way to start a day. The Walkathon is fantastic because it is a wonderful community builder. The kids love it, and the parents just have a great time catching up with friends, watching their kids play, and just "enjoying" the day. Grandparents' Day is fantastic because I always enjoy talking to the grandparents and seeing how proud of their grandchildren they are. This day is also a wonderful way we celebrate our St. Martin community. And believe it or not I do enjoy lunch duty!

What do you think makes a successful student?

A successful student is a student who tries his/her best. We, as human beings are not perfect, and no one expects us to be. As a student here, one should be assured that some people take longer to learn things than others, and that each student is precious in God's eyes. So we encourage kids to take a risk, try their best, work hard, and not to give up on themselves.

What can a parent do to contribute to St. Martin of Tours Academy?

As parents, if you support our philosophy, our teachers and staff, work with your child, encourage and support them, and are in communication with us, this will contribute to keeping SMA the wonderful school that it is.

Finally, what is your favorite thing about fall?

My favorite thing about fall is being able to wear a sweater in the evenings as they cool down!

School Board

Eric Crockett
Shantala Cryns
Virginia Delamater
Mitzi Elsten
Tracy Giordano
Lee Ann Iagmin
Anna Kennedy
Brian Kingston
Shannon Knuth
Tracy McCormick
Cory McMahon
Katrina Phruksukarn
Katie Scheie
Genevieve Suzuki
Robert Dyar (ex-officio)
Diane Hartley (ex-officio)
Rev. Elmer Mandac (ex-officio)

School Board meets on the second Monday of the month at 3 p.m. in the school library.

Newsletter editor: Genevieve Suzuki

Graphic designer: Aleta El Sheikh

Catholic school = civic engagement

Catholic school graduates are more civically engaged, more tolerant of diverse views, and more committed to service as adults, and less likely to be incarcerated than their public school peers. (Campbell, 2001)

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 14 Fair Trade Gift Event
- Nov. 3 Under the Big Top Cash Giveaway
- Jan. 27 to Feb. 1 Catholic School Week
- May 10 Grandparents' Day
- June 7 8th Grade Graduation
- June 7 Last Day of School