



February 28, 2024

Dear Families:

Tomorrow, SMCA graduate Thomas Tong '18 is turning five. Yes! You read that right. Although Thomas graduated in 2018, he's only turning five tomorrow. Also, my dad's birthday is March 1st, but this year he's got to wait one more day—366, to be exact—to celebrate. Why all these birthday anomalies?

That's because tomorrow is Leap Day, which happens just about every four years...but what's the point? According to the Smithsonian Institute:

It takes Earth 365.242190 days to orbit the Sun, or 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and 56 seconds. This "sidereal" year is slightly longer than the calendar year, and that extra 5 hours 48 minutes and 56 seconds needs to be accounted for somehow. If we didn't account for this extra time, the seasons would begin to drift...because over a period of about 700 years our summers, which we've come to expect in June in the northern hemisphere, would begin to occur in December! By adding an extra day every four years, our calendar years stay adjusted to the sidereal year.

Who knew Leap Days were so important? Without them, we'd be celebrating Christmas in shorts and t-shirts, and school would end in the middle of winter! Along with keeping our seasons in order, Leap Years also offer us something else—one more day.

We just ended the Mid-Winter Recess. How many of us were thinking, "I could use just one more day off"? When we have a lot on our "to-do" list at work or at school, how many of us hope for "one more day" to get everything accomplished or to meet a deadline? Tomorrow, we get that extra day.

What will you be doing on February 29th? What will you do with that extra day? Undoubtedly, Thomas Tong will be celebrating his birthday. You could be like my dad and wait another 24 hours for his—or you can try something new...get to work on something you've been putting off because "you don't have the time." Visit a friend. Read a book. Clean out your closet. Think about it, and get "a jump" on Leap Day tomorrow!

Sincerely,

Mark Wilson
Principal

YOUTH MINISTRY
PRESENTS
PASTA
NIGHT

March 1st

Penne Pomodoro with Garlic Bread will be served

Costs:

\$20 for Adults

\$10 for Kids (16 and Under)



- Dinner is at 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Saint Mark Catholic Academy Cafeteria
- After Dinner, Stations of the Cross will be held in the Church

Contact Youth Minister Michael Davis at 347-574-1828 for further questions.