



Gazette

A Parent Guild Publication

November 2009

www.holyfamily.org/school

Carpe Diem!

**BY SHARON MCTIGUE
PARENT GUILD VP SCHOOL AFFAIRS**

Well, another Thanksgiving season is upon us. Time sure flies! School just began 45 days ago and now Christmas is only 71 days away . . . not that I'm counting or anything. Soon it will be 2010. We'll run the Jog-a-thon, celebrate Easter, May Crowning and appreciate our teachers and then my 3rd grader will be moving on to 4th. Wasn't it just yesterday that he was a happy-go-lucky kindergartner? Actually, it was 3 years ago. I just want it to seem like yesterday so I can act as if the only thing that has aged is him. Now he's informing me that he's in the "Class of 2015." Okay, so it's not just around the corner, but it's looming in the not so distant future. And since we're discussing the future, I'll mention that my 2-year-old will be a 1st grader that year which makes her "Class of 2021." Of course this does not cause me undue anxiety. I'm over getting hung up about my age. In my mind, I'm forever 40 and I'm good with that.

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Save The Date

NOVEMBER

- 8.....5th grade Continental Breakfast
- 10.....Legacy of Learning Pledge Day
Baptism of Mrs. Lutero's baby, 9:30 a.m.
- 11NO SCHOOL, Veteran's Day
- 13School Mass, 9:30 a.m.
6th grade retreat
NOON DISMISSAL
- 17Innisbrook delivery
- 18Stella & Dot holiday fundraiser, 7 p.m.
- 25NOON DISMISSAL
Prayer service at 11 a.m.
- 26-27.....Thanksgiving Break
- 27End of first trimester

DECEMBER

- 2.....Christmas Program, 7 p.m.
in the church
- 6.....4th grade Continental Breakfast
- 8.....School Mass, 9:30 a.m.
5th grade retreat
- 9-11NOON DISMISSAL
Parent Teacher Conferences in Loretto and Art Rooms
- 18NOON DISMISSAL
Time Well Spent closed
- 18-1/1.....Christmas Vacation

Parent Guild's Message

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Short of Daylight Savings, time is something we can never turn back, although we'll spend our life savings trying to. When we're young we can't wait to grow up and when we're grown up we want to recapture our lost youth. Is it just me or does anyone else feel that the older we get, the faster time passes? It seems like a cruel conspiracy between Mother Nature and Father Time.

So, Carpe Diem, I say! And seize not only the days, but the moments and the seconds . . . make every one count because they arrive with perfect punctuality and pass in the blink of an eye. Be grateful for all the time we have here on God's green earth . . . which is getting even "greener" these days, and enjoy life to the fullest! We have so much to be thankful for!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Scrip Contest

WIN A RESERVED PEW AND PARKING SPACE!

November is
"Buy Paper Scrip Month!"

The 2 families that **PROFIT** HFS the most \$\$\$ during October and November will have a 2nd row pew and parking space reserved for each of them at the December 2nd Christmas Concert.

Scrip News

- Don't forget to renew your Vons, Ralphs and Albertsons cards. All the necessary info for renewal is on the website.
- With the holidays just around the corner, the complete list of all available special order scrip is posted on the website.



*Legacy of Learning Campaign
2009-2010
Supporting Academic Excellence
while Enriching Student Lives*

Pledge Day is
Tuesday, November 10

Virtues of the Month – Wisdom and Good Judgment

BY CAROLYN STRONG

Often, we need to ponder the many difficult decisions we have to make.



We need to pray and meditate, and we need to dig deep down to come to a wise conclusion. Our Lord will always help us do that. We may not receive the answers we want, but we will receive the answers we need. This is where good judgment and wisdom come in. They help us to sort out the important things in our lives. We often want the easy answers, but sometimes we have to be patient and seek the right answers to our problems.

How do we help our children gain wisdom? We assist them when they need our advice and experience. We help them sort out their experiences by being compassionate and loving when they struggle with decisions. We also give them credit for the wise decisions they do make. All of these things are taught. They do not automatically know how to do things. Remember all the patience you showed when they first rode the two-wheelers, and you parents of teens remember when they first drove with you sitting on the passenger side.

Many of the 8th grade parents are asking the Lord for wisdom in helping their son or daughter choose a high school where they will grow, and it will be the right fit for them. Remember when our Lord was found in the temple when he was 12. They said he left with his parents to grow in wisdom and in age. These are times we are joyful – watching them grow up and also worried that they remember all the things we have tried to teach them.

Parents are modeling both these virtues. Your children are watching how you handle things. They are trying to sort out their world, and they are watching you sort out yours. Keep up the great communication because that is the key.

Save the Date!

Our annual parent retreat will be on
Friday, January 15, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Childcare is included.

The 6th Grade Knighting Ceremony

A Practice in Ancient Rites of Passage

BY JIM GILLETT, 6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

On Thursday, October 15, the 6th grade students, along with their parents and teachers, helped transform the church into a medieval cathedral complete with knights, a bagpiper, songs sung in Latin and one big sword. It was the second annual knighting ceremony to celebrate the passage from formerly being elementary school students to becoming middle school students.

Entering middle school marks many changes for the students. First, instead of one teacher to answer to, they are given many teachers who may have different ways of managing the class, teaching styles and requirements for success. A teacher or adult also trusts the students to walk to multiple classrooms without being led. Entering middle school means that students have the opportunity to run for student office, participate on the "A" sports teams, and be of service and hopefully an example to younger students.

For many cultures throughout history, a significant change in responsibilities and privileges like the ones mentioned would be marked by a ceremony to celebrate a rite of passage. Rite of passage ceremonies were often thought of as a necessity in order to inform the initiated that their role in society was growing. The initiated would be made to realize that certain behaviors, now considered immature for that age, must be left behind and that a certain amount of maturity must be learned and exhibited in the following years. During the preparation for such ceremonies, the elders of the community

would meet with the soon-to-be initiated and dispense wisdom thought vital for the person's future success.

For this particular ceremony, the students made shields and painted a crest to show their growing identity in the Holy Family Community. Moreover, their parents were instructed to take them for a special dinner and on a special journey, during which they were to share some of the wisdom they have gained during their years on this earth. Lastly, the students prepared vows, which they spoke in front of the community gathered to witness their knighting. All in all, I thought it was a beautiful ceremony and hope to see it continue and grow in the following years.



Prayers and Condolences

The Parent Guild offers our prayers for the speedy recovery of the sick in our community:

- Gayle Gutierrez, grandmother of Lucas (3) and Guillermo (1) Gutierrez
- Jennifer Harnsberger, mother of Genevieve (3) and Patrese (1) Harnsberger

In the event of an illness or passing, please contact Mary Ternan, Ministry for Pastoral Care, (626) 403-6115 or Stacy Gewecke, Corresponding Secretary/Community Support, (626) 793-5243.

Spirituality Update – Wisdom and Good Judgment

BY ERIN MALONEY, SPIRITUALITY ASSISTANT

What an amazing response of the Holy Family School community to become “guardian angels” to rural families in need during the month of October! Through donations and purchases of special Baja Fresh scrip, we have been able to purchase animals for families who are now on their way toward self-reliance.

As we begin November and the season of thanksgiving, we reflect upon the virtues of wisdom and good judgment. We are calling upon the students to be “quiet saints” as they learn about the wisdom, good judgment and service of St. Francis (Grades K-2) and King Solomon (Grades 3-5) in their classrooms. In Christian action, students will be assembling non-perishable lunches for the Giving Bank. Many people, including the students, do not realize that Holy Family Church has always provided a meal to anyone in need – even before the Giving Bank existed! Now, it is a service that Carrie-Ann Lue Sue, her staff and many volunteers provide at any time during the workday.

We invite your family to assemble a few of your own non-perishable lunches for the Giving Bank and put them in the vestibule drawers on Sundays. This might include a bottle of water, a protein bar, fruit cup, trail mix or other non-perishables. Decorating sacks and assembling lunches (although it will take place in grades K-5 this month) is something that very little hands up through our middle schoolers can easily take part in. We are

raising the awareness that people who are in need deserve the dignity of a meal prepared with love and care.

It takes wisdom to understand the need and good judgment to act according to our hearts.

The Spirituality team is truly grateful for the constant outpouring of care and support of your children as they experience the call to truly live as Jesus did. Their understanding and concern is apparent in the stories they tell in the classroom as well as in their enthusiastic level of engagement.

Spirituality News

- Please check out the Spirituality bulletin board outside Mrs. Strong’s office for more information regarding Holy Family students’ involvement in Christian service on the local, national and international levels.
- *Reminder:* Please regularly check the Parent Guild/Spirituality tab on the website for updates.
- We are collecting greeting cards (covers only) for a Christian service project to help St. Jude’s Ranch for Children. Please put the cards in the box in the front office from November through February. For more information: http://stjudesranch.org/help_card.php



Holiday Jewelry Trunk Show

Join us for food,
wine and holiday cheer

.....
Wednesday, November 18
7:00-9:00 p.m.

at the home of
Julianne Coppersmith
321 Country Club Dr.
San Gabriel

.....
10% of sales benefit
Holy Family School!

Chance to win a raffle!

Orders placed online before Nov. 18 will be
valid for 10% donation to HFS
www.stelladot.com/amykelly
(Hostess Name = *Holy*, Last Name = *Family*)

If you have any questions, please contact
Amy Kelly at amyskelly@gmail.com or
Valerie Russell at vbellezzo@yahoo.com



Meet the Masters Features Paul Cézanne

Paul Cézanne, a French artist and post-Impressionistic painter, is said to be the bridge between the Impressionism and Cubism movements. Find interesting material about Cézanne at the South Pasadena Public Library.

Paul Cézanne by Mike Venezia

This children's biography depicts Cézanne's life experience and artistic works with his mastery of color and composition.

Orsay: Painting, Sculpture, Objets d'art, Photography, and Architecture videorecording

Discover the works from the Musee d'Orsay highlighting the historical artistic trends including Cézanne's contributions.

Making a Difference at Holy Family School

BY MARY BAXTER, DEVELOPMENT CHAIR, HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL BOARD



We have so much to be thankful for at Holy Family School. We are part of a thriving parish where our children are nurtured with strong values from our Catholic faith. Our children are receiving a first-rate education from the inside out. You may not see the effects of this right away, but you will. Make a point to come to the school liturgies that take place monthly. Our students are amazing. It is no wonder that our 8th graders get accepted to the top high schools in our area in abundant numbers. They are not only well-prepared students, but they are great human beings – articulate, confident, caring and kind. Holy Family School is one of the best values around considering all it has to offer.

In order for us to maintain the level of education we have come to expect, we need Parent Guild fundraisers, such as Innisbrook, Jog-a-thon and Scrip to help bridge the tuition gap



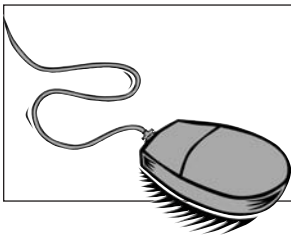
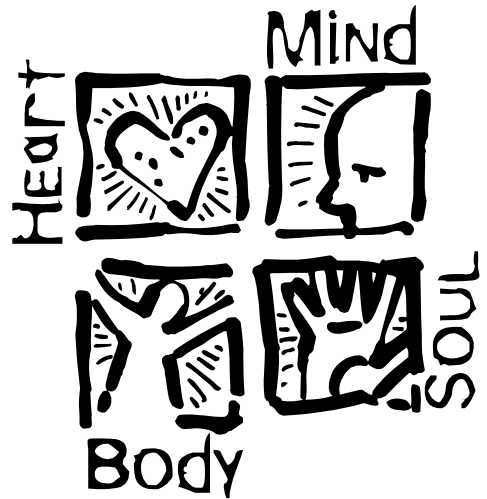
Legacy of Learning supports our school nurse.

which exceeds \$1,500 per student. This deficit between the cost to educate each student and the actual tuition payment is why our annual giving program, Legacy of Learning, has become so vital. We need to retain our valuable teachers and staff with competitive salaries. We need aides in every class. We need to keep up with technology, text books and learning materials. We continually add to accelerated reader and math materials, as well as Meet the Masters supplies. We have added a school nursing staff. We help to fund after school sports teams with coaches and uniforms. We assist with Mock Trial, Academic Decathlon and Speech & Debate teams. We have enrichment experiences such as Walk-through history programs and exceptional field trips to Mission San Juan Capistrano, the Spirit Ship, Science Camp and Catalina Island Marine Institute, again at no additional charge to parents. Our school pays the 8th Grade graduation expenses, which includes their year-end trip to Disneyland as well as caps and gowns. Most parochial schools in the area charge extra for these expenses.

Legacy of Learning is helping to keep our tuition raises to a minimum and our school affordable for more families. Our gifts are *tax-deductible* which would not be the case with tuition increases. This year's campaign goal is to have 100% of our school families participate. Each grade that achieves 100% participation will be rewarded with a lunch party, so get your pledges in as soon as possible. Your gift, no matter how large or small, is a statement of support. Please consider Legacy of Learning in your annual giving and help make a difference at Holy Family School.

Ways to Feed your Soul for You Parents

1. Listen to a favorite piece of music and savor its beauty.
2. Take a walk around a park, nature trail, or your own neighborhood. Slow down enough to appreciate the goodness of God's creation.
3. Compile a list of things you can do in five minutes or less that can be used as mini soul-feeders within the course of the day. These might include reading from a book of cartoons, writing a thank you note, savoring the taste of a candy bar or cup of tea. Keep the list handy and use it each day.
4. Spend an afternoon in a library or bookstore browsing through books. Make a list of books you'd like to read and start on it!
5. Check out a favorite, uplifting video, make a favorite snack, and settle down for a few hours of relaxation.
6. Write a love letter to a spouse, friend, family member, or God.
7. Visit a place of beauty – an art museum, arboretum or botanical garden, for example. Visit it alone or with someone you love.
8. Sit in stillness for five minutes with a lit candle before leaving your house in the morning or before going to bed.
9. Read a psalm slowly and reflect upon its meaning in your life.
10. Spend one week or month composing daily prayers of thanksgiving. When the time is up, read all of them over and appreciate anew the blessings of life. Save them for reading over when facing difficult days.



You can find the school calendar, class information, downloadable forms and much more on the Holy Family website.

www.holyfamily.org/school