

The Gazette

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2012/2013

Important Dates

December

- 10 NO SCHOOL
Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11 NOON DISMISSAL
Parent Teacher Conferences;
- 14 5th Grade Mass and Retreat
9:30 AM
- 21 NOON DISMISSAL
Christmas Break Begins
No Time Well Spent

Christmas Break:
December 21–January 4

January

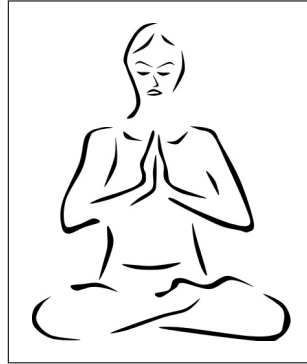
- 7 School Resumes
- 14 Honor Roll After Assembly
- 17 Kindergarten Admissions Mtg.
Parish Hall, 7pm
- 18 NO SCHOOL
Teacher Inservice
- 21 NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 23 First Reconciliation, 2nd Grade
- 25 1st Grade Mass and Retreat
9:30 AM
- 28 Catholic Schools Week
Book Fair (Ends February 1)
- 31 NOON DISMISSAL
Open House, 7pm–8:30pm

February

- 2&9 Kindergarten Testing
- 8 End of 2nd Trimester
- 13 Ash Wednesday
4th Grade Mass and Retreat
9:30 AM
- 15 NO SCHOOL
- 18 NO SCHOOL
President's Day
- 22 NO SCHOOL
Religious Ed Congress
- 23-24 Religious Ed Congress

Lovingkindness Meditation

By Amy Esnault • Parent Guild Vice President Spirituality



Earlier this year I participated in a series of six meditation workshops to help me work on one of my 2012 resolutions: finding tools to help manage the stress in my life. I had heard the praises of meditation practice many times and decided to find out for myself if it could be a tool for managing stress.

One of the most powerful parts of the workshops that became a tool for me to help manage stress, was learning about lovingkindness meditation. I am far from an expert so I will turn to Sharon Salzberg's book "*Real Happiness The Power of Meditation*" to give a brief introduction to this practice. She states "The practice of lovingkindness meditation is done by silently repeating certain phrases that express kind wishes first for ourselves, then for a series of others. The customary phrases are usually variations on May I Be Safe (or May I Be Free from Danger), May I Be Happy, May I Be Healthy, May I Live with Ease—may daily life not be a struggle." After repeating these phrases for yourself, then others, you can repeat them for a person who has been kind to you, a person who is going through a difficult time, an acquaintance, someone you are in conflict with, and to all people everywhere.

Lovingkindness meditation has helped me to look at the positive and not dwell on any shortcomings, to "cut myself some slack" and be kind to myself. This in turn has helped to manage the stress.

So, as the hectic holiday season is upon us and our stress levels increase give lovingkindness meditation a try, it just might help alleviate some stress.

Merry Christmas!

Success Takes Teamwork!

By Carolyn Strong • Principal

At HFS, we have a state of the art facility, dedicated teachers, strong supportive parents, fantastic volunteers, caring staff members and wonderful parish personnel. Along with these characteristics we have a student body that values the commitment that you have made for their education. They are respectful, and they care for the needs of others.

Listed below are some key elements that we, as a school community, strive to accomplish with everyone on the team.

- Training for parents in virtue: protecting god's children and keeping the promise recertification classes
- Training for children in touching safety classes
- Support of fundraisers and activities for children chaperoning educational field trips
- Support for extracurricular activities: mock trial, academic decathlon, drama, chess, instrumental music, athletics, scouting programs etc.
- Consistent religious education formation
- Service projects that help students understand faith in action.
- Haiti, ministry to the elderly, ministry to shut-ins, hospitality ministry to the giving bank, and all the other organizations and causes we have assisted through our spirituality program.
- Parents serving as important team members with teachers to help their children grow and thrive
- Active participation in holy family community: meeting service hours in school and parish.
- Successful legacy of learning program
- New parents happy that their children are here

We are truly blessed at Holy Family. We know that we are living out our Catholic faith each and every day. We are helping our students know and think about Jesus every day in our classes and in our prayers. Thank you for everything you do for your children. We are in partnership with you.

Advent: A Season of Tradition

By Angela Parris • Holy Family School Board President

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. We also know this is a season filled with deep traditions, renewed spirits and hope.

For the past 32 years my family has celebrated every Christmas at Holy Family; it is one of our most treasured traditions. Our growing family will now renew that tradition this year by sharing it with our new granddaughter:

During this time of preparation, we celebrate with profound gratitude our families, our church and our blessings. The fruitfulness of our community is founded from the traditions of this great congregation. It is a blessing to be able to be a part of and serve such a great community which is why I am humbled and grateful to be your School Board President.

On behalf of the entire School Board, we would like to wish each of you a blessed holiday season filled with your own deep traditions and would like to thank you for entrusting your children to Holy Family School and all the wonderful gifts you bring to enrich our community all year long.

Blessings, Angela Parris, HF School Board President

Scrip Contest Winners!

Congratulations...

**to the Harnsberger Family
and the Ruano Family**

They were two families that **profited** HFS the most money through purchasing paper Scrip from October 1 through November 30.

The Bland Family

was the Kindergarten family who profited HFS the most money through purchasing paper Scrip.

We hope you all enjoyed your easy parking and prime seating at the Christmas program.

You earned it!

Ordinary Moments—Waiting, Listening, and Hoping During Advent

Erin Maloney • *The Spirituality Program*

Memory is a funny thing...sometimes extraordinary. Fifth grade students surprised us last month when they remembered a retreat from their second grade year in which they collected magazines, snacks, and socks, ultimately packing them into boxes for our troops. They remembered the cards they wrote for them as well, and repeated the gift, this time three years older and wiser, with heartfelt, even empathetic words: "I really, really hope you can talk with your family on Thanksgiving. Maybe Skype or Facetime even."

In this season of Advent, students and families are called to reflect upon and engage in the virtues of sensitivity and unselfishness. The holidays can be a particularly difficult time for families who have lost loved ones or those journeying with ill family members. In learning how to be sensitive and act unselfishly through stories and Advent activities in the classroom, the children will also have a chance to make cards and placemats for families who are staying at the Pasadena Ronald McDonald House while their children undergo medical treatment at Huntington Hospital.



In our own homes, gathering around the Advent wreath in the evenings over the next few weeks is a wonderful way to share our hopes and prayers and an important time to prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming (advent). In lighting the first purple candle, we are reminded of prophecy as in the book of Isaiah, which elicits images of a peaceful and just world with the coming of the Lord: "the wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid." The second and fourth candles, also purple, symbolize prayer and penance, a time of simplifying and clearing the heart and mind in preparation for Emmanuel (God-with-us). The pink candle, lit in the third week, signifies hope and rejoicing among us; the wait is almost over.*

It is our intention for the Spirituality program to meet the children where they are—in the ordinary moments of their school day—to invite them to listen to the world around them. "At the heart of Advent, then, everyday life is an arena for doing justice and making peace in the smallest and most humdrum of moments" (Sr. Chris Koellhoffer, I.H.M.).

*Source: *Celebrating the Church Year with Young Children* by Joan Halmo

Thanks for Giving!

By Mary Baxter • Development Chair, School Board

The 2012-2013 Legacy of Learning campaign continues to benefit from the many generous gifts from Holy Family School parents, faculty, school board members, extended family and friends. To date, we have over \$115,000 in pledges and 88% of our school families have participated thus far. Pledge forms are available on the website at www.school.holyfamily.org or you may donate directly online using the *Support HFS Donate Now* tab on the home page.

Legacy of Learning Class Competition!

Our goal is to have each class reach 100% participation. This means that each class must have a pledge from every student's family in that class. If a family has students in several grades, their one donation is counted in each of the grades. The classes with 100% participation will receive an Ice Cream social on Thursday, January 24th.

Thank you for your support!

Thank You For Shopping Great American and Supporting Holy Family School

Thanks to your participation, we have raised over \$12,000 for Holy Family School so far!

Congratulations to the following winners of our prizes:

Amazon Kindles

Noah Messara, Sean O'Connor and Alessio Favilli

iPod Shuffles

Riley Russell, Hope DiBona, Isaac Phe, Sebastian Lacayo, Dante Negroe, Madeline Macias, Alexander Herrman and Michael Risher

Your opportunity to get fundraising credit for purchases with Great American is not over.

Unlike past fall fundraisers Great American affords your family the opportunity to make purchases throughout the year and still get credit towards your fundraising contribution. The profit from any online purchases made using your child's name for Holy Family School will be credited back to your overall fundraising commitment through April 2013.

Think about making your holiday purchases at the Great American website and with offerings like, personalized items, college paraphernalia, stationary, wrapping paper, sweet treats, tree trimming items and jewelry—what more could you ask for—Great American is your one stop shop!

Shop at www.gaschoolstore.com.

Follow the "Shop Now" link then enter our school code 2612133.

Enter the HFS student name to credit the correct account and start shopping. If you have not set up an online ID for your child please do so now, it only takes a moment.

If you have questions please contact:

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mm@ulrichs.us

YEARBOOK



Photos Needed!

The first half of the yearbook will be submitted to the printer soon.

If you have photos of any class activities or field trips, this is your last chance to get them in the yearbook.

We need your photos no later than December 14.

We also need photos of Time Well Spent, Dance, Scouts, Mock Trial and Choir.

Upload photos to your class Shutterfly site or www.replayit.com

Here's How...

Go to: www.replayit.com

Login or click on: "**Register Today!**"

School Pass Code: **knightsl3**

You can also send us a CD or a flash drive through the school office.

If you have any questions or problems uploading your photos, contact your yearbook advisors.

Trish Sarbaum

trish.sarbaum@coldwellbanker.com

or

Cassie Filippone

filippone@charter.net

Flag Football – 2012 Conference Champions!

Dr. Paul McAndrews • "A" Team Head Coach



The Holy Family 7th/8th grade Boys Varsity Football team made school history again. This is the first Holy Family football team to win the conference championship since 2000 with a perfect 9-0 record and playing in the CYO Championship game on Sunday November 18, 2012.

Holy Family School won every playoff game without giving up a single point and mercying the other teams all the way to the Championship Game.

The Championship game was a rematch of the 2011 CYO Football Championship against #1 seed Beatitudes from La Mirada. The game featured excellent play and sportsmanship on both sides between these heated rivals. Holy Family made a valiant come back but the clock ran out with a score of 18-22. Coach McAndrews stated

"The boys played their hearts out and left it all on the field. Coach Stephen, Coach Spina, and I are so proud of the Holy Family boys."

Holy Family's Football team ended the season with a 20-2 record; both losses were to Beatitudes. Beatitudes ended the season 22-1; their only loss to Holy Family earlier in the year in the St. Paul's Tournament Championship.

The CYO is comprised of 172 member schools, the largest middle school sports program in the country. This year 151 schools participated in the flag football league. Holy Family made it to the championship again to finish, this time, in 2nd Place.



Make Christmas Shopping Easy!

Buy Scrip!



Amazon • CPK • Bed Bath & Beyond • Macy's
 Cheesecake Factory • Ruth Chris* • Shutterfly
 Roy's* • iTunes • P.F. Chang's* • Islands • Disney*
 Dick's Sporting Goods • Build a Bear* • Starbucks
Best Buy • The Yard House* • Gamestop* • Sephora
 See's Candy • Peet's Coffee* • Regal Theaters
 Target • Gap/Banana Republic • Golfsmith*
 William Sonoma/Pottery Barn • Crate & Barrel*
 Dell Computer* • J Crew* • Dave & Busters*

And the list goes on and on...

**Denotes special order item.*

Gift card holders available upon request.

**The last day to order special order items
 is Friday, December 14.**

Mock Trial

By Diane Evans • Mock Trial Coach

The Mock Trial 2012 Season has just concluded for Holy Family School. This year we were proud to have three teams compete! Two of the three teams advanced beyond the initial two rounds and made it to the playoffs. Only the top 12 teams out of 50 schools made it this far.

Mock Trial is a competitive program run by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. Participating students receive a case file in mid-September with a statement of facts and rules, as well as exhibits and witness statements from which they must formulate their approach to either prosecute or defend the accused party. This year the case involved the hit and run of a bicyclist. The accused was a teenager who claimed his friend and houseguest was actually driving the car. Bella Schmitz won the CRF Outstanding Witness Award for her role as Cameron Douglas, the victim.

The students this year did a tremendous job analyzing the case, understanding proper objections and working to use the facts most effectively. Team members can choose from the following roles: lawyer, witness, bailiff, clerk, journalist or courtroom artist. This year we had over 45 participating middle school students coached by Tracy Merritt, Diane and Gregory Evans.

Congratulations to Alyssa Galang who won 3rd place in the courtroom art contest!

Scrip Fast Facts

Top Sellers	Most Profit from Sales
Vons	Vons
Arco	Shakers
Starbucks	Starbucks
Smart & Final	See's
Whole Foods	Arco
Target	Whole Foods
Shakers	Edwards/ Regal Theaters
Macy's	Gap
Holy Family Bookstore	Buca di Beppo
Amazon	Amazon