

The Gazette

HAPPY THANSGLIVING

NOVEMBER 2012



Being Thankful Everyday

By Camille Spina • Parent Guild Gazette Editor

**God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today.
Have you used one to say “thank you”? –William A. Ward**

Every year when summer winds down I find myself taking a deep, deep breath knowing what lies ahead with fall and the start of school: adapting to new schedules and routines and keeping up with meetings, homework and other activities. Before I know it Halloween is suddenly upon us, there is time for a quick exhale, followed by yet another deep breath as the holiday season is around the corner.

Trying to keep the pace can not only be exhausting, but depleting. Getting caught up in “having to do this and having to do that” makes it easy to forget the meaning in the madness.

Now that my oldest daughter is within months of getting her driver’s license, I am painfully aware that this next step of independence will reduce what has become a wonderful “downloading” time. Whether it is just her and me in the car or the entire family, car rides have become a time of funny, insightful and impromptu conversation. (Reality check...don’t be fooled, with two teenagers and a tweener it is always on their terms, of course! We have *plenty* of silent car rides.) The privilege I have to drive my children, and often their friends, to school, sporting events and countless other destinations is something that I treasure. It is an easy way for me to stay connected with them amid all of their busy-ness.

Being the family taxi driver is just one example of “it is all how you look at it”. Is it a task or can I find the gift in it? At times, it was frustrating spending so much time in the car driving in circles. I was convinced that I could do it with my eyes closed. Now, I try to remember to thank God for giving me car time to be with my kids... just be in the same space with them.

We are gifted 86,400 seconds each day to use how we please. Saying “thank you” to someone for even the smallest of tasks shows appreciation, respect and kindness. Who doesn’t need a little of that in their day?

What a difference two simple words can make to someone when you thank them, and what an effect these words can have on our own lives when we acknowledge all of the daily reasons we have to say them!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Important Dates

November

- 9 NO SCHOOL
Faculty Inservice
- 12 NO SCHOOL
Veteran’s Day
- 21 NOON DISMISSAL
No Time Well Spent
- 22-23 NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break
- 26 End of 1st Trimester

December

- 4 Christmas Program, 6 PM
- 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

Schoolwide Learning Expectations

By Carolyn Strong • Principal

Holy Family School Students are Spiritually Active Catholics Who...

Exemplify Christ by practicing Christian virtues

•

Act as witnesses of their faith through participation
in the Eucharist, prayer, worship, and ministry

•

Demonstrate knowledge of the foundation
of their faith and Church teachings

•

Make moral choices based on their Catholic faith
and accept responsibility for those choices

Will your child be living this SLE when he/she graduates from 8th grade?

How does Holy Family School teach and encourage its students to be Spiritually Active Catholics?

Well, it takes a special amount of love, dedication and faith from our teachers and staff that is added to a willingness to learn and a desire to help others from our students. Of course, we have our formal religion classes, our Masses and retreats as well, but embodying this SLE goes way beyond those activities alone.

Here are just a few of the many ways in which our students live their faith at Holy Family School and journey towards becoming Spiritually Active Catholics!

- Participation in Spirituality and Virtues programs
- Conflict resolution with a Christian focus
- Regular practice of our Mass/Commandments of Courtesy
- Observation and interaction with teachers who model their faith
- Altar serving opportunities and serving on funeral teams
- Participation in and attendance of Living Stations of the Cross
- Thanksgiving food drives
- Schoolwide daily prayer
- Participation in and attendance of our Thanksgiving and Holy Thursday prayer services
- Regular Reconciliation during Advent and Lent
- Participation in a relationship with Dolores Mission in the spring for the drama presentations
- Honoring Mary through October and May Rosary; May Crowning celebration
- Collections for Haiti, Dolores Mission, Giving Bank and soldiers
- Intergenerational art ministry with the seniors and the fifth graders
- Seventh grade hospitality teams with the Giving Bank on Mondays
- Second semester 8th grade teams who visit the shut-ins with Father Jose and Mary Ternan distributing the Eucharist
- Student Council drives for other countries (helping an alum raise funds for Thailand where she is serving.)
- Helping local community efforts such as Ronald MacDonald House as a Christian service project, or collecting stuffed animals for doctors who assist children with cleft palates, etc.

“It Is In Giving That We Receive.”

- St. Francis of Assisi

By Mary Baxter • Development Chair, School Board

Counting one's blessings is a good thing, and the blessings at Holy Family School are many. Visualize our campus, classrooms, and the overall learning environment for our children. We have a beautiful school that bustles daily with well-rounded, eager and talented students. Our children flourish both academically and spiritually, and it's hard to imagine a better school anywhere.

Every year, we tell of the important roll Legacy of Learning plays in the overall operational budget of our school. This year is no exception. Expenses go up, salaries and benefits increase and we need to retain our wonderful teaching staff. 99% of our families get this message,

and we are hoping every single school family will participate this year. Support from grandparents and our outside community is so helpful, but we ask for unified support from all of our 208 school families.

In order to seek additional grant assistance from foundations, we need 100% participation.

Every tax-deductible contribution helps keep our school financially sound, affords extra enrichment programs such as field trips, and provides resources beyond the basic classroom needs. Above all, Legacy of Learning and Parent Guild fundraisers keep tuition increases to a minimum so our school remains as affordable as possible for all families.

Please consider your support to Legacy of Learning as a charitable priority. Your gift matters and does great things for all of our children. We continue to be blessed with supportive, generous and committed parents that help make Holy Family School the best possible environment for our greatest gift—our children.



Dates to Remember

October 9
Official Legacy of Learning Kick-Off

November 6
Pledge Day
(blue/gold free dress day for the students)

November 12-16
Phone-a-thon Week

January 24
Legacy of Learning Ice Cream Celebration

The Key to Our Children's Faith: YOU

Erin Maloney • *The Spirituality Program*

Star stickers were given to those who were talented, those who could sing a beautiful song or could use big words, and when they received a star, they were elated and wanted to do more. Because his paint was chipped and he could not jump high or say clever things, Punchinello received drab, round stickers. After hearing this brilliant rendition of Pinocchio,* lively discussions ensued in each classroom last month about Lucia—the girl with no stickers at all—who daily visits Eli, the woodworker who made her. “Eli is like God,” a kindergartner gently announced during the story. In many ways, Lucia embodies the virtues of self-reliance and character, which 2nd graders aptly defined as “to be able to rely on yourself” and “being able to make dinner for yourself.” However, as humans, in our quest for fulfillment, we often look outside ourselves for a sign or symbol that we are worthy.

Although it is easier to look to others for validation, the 7th graders, with their parents during last month's retreat, spent time looking within themselves and reflected on the importance of character and self-reliance both spiritually and within our larger community. Discussion followed regarding how an adolescent Jesus and his parents were self-reliant and people of character. After students wrote down his or her most positive character trait, they posted it around the parish hall walls, surrounding the community with their gifts from God—truly a highlight of the morning.

In an act of solidarity with the children of Haiti—to let them know we keep them in our hearts through prayer—our children made friendship bracelets to send to the school children, to the women who work in the school's kitchen, and to adorn the cribs in the orphanages. If your child did not know how to braid, experienced classmates reached out to teach them. It was a wonderful sight!

As we transition into the season of thanksgiving, the Spirituality Program breathes life into the virtues wisdom and good judgment as grades K-2 read about St. Francis, who wisely makes peace with a wolf, and grades 3-5 read about the story of King Solomon

and Queen Sheba, who call upon the wisdom of the most beautiful bird in the land. In gratitude and service, the children will make Thanksgiving cards for U.S. Service Members who are deployed or wounded, which will then be sent with our surplus Halloween candy in care packages.

We look to others for wisdom, inspiration, good judgment, and signs of hope in our lives. It is what we need in the moment to sustain us, but it is fleeting. Jesus explains it in an amazing way: “...[S]he came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and there is something greater than Solomon here.”

*** In other words, God's wisdom should not be sought outside of ourselves in earthly symbols; it can only be found in the faith and love that resides within us, which is not of this earth.*

**You Are Special by Max Lucado*

*** Excerpt from Matthew 12: 38-42*

Parent book recommendation for this month's virtues:

The Conference of the Birds by Peter Sis

Prayers & Condolences

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

Jack and Rosalie Burghardt,
grandparents of Kevin Sarbaum (6)

•

Mimi Jones, grandmother of Ms. Danni

•

Jerry Levin, father of Ms. Levin

•

Octavio and Emma Giordano,
grandparents of Ms. Giordano

•

Kris Mendenhall, sister of Mrs. Arnold

•

Mindy Dwyer, mother of Sean Dwyer

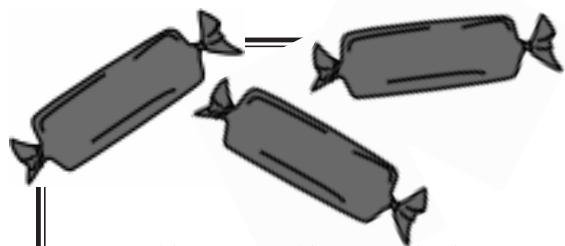
In the event of an illness or passing, please contact:

Mary Ternan, Ministry for Pastoral Care
(626) 403-6115 or

Maria Adriano, Historian/Community Support
(213) 503-2191

*A sincere thank you to
Tharon Garber
and his “team” who all
worked so hard to create
an amazing environment
for our students to spotlight
their talents.*

*From singing and dancing
to musicians and gymnasts,
Holy Family is full of
young talent!*



What Should We Do With All of This Halloween Candy?

If this is a question you are asking, we have a solution. As part of the November Spirituality Christian Service project, leftover Halloween candy will be collected and sent to **Operation Gratitude**, an organization that assembles and sends care packages to deployed and veteran U.S. Service Members.

Please send a ziplock bag of leftover candy to school by November 9th.



YEARBOOK



Photos Needed!

Our first deadline
is rapidly approaching.

We need photos of Halloween,
Class Activities and Field Trips,
Cross Country, Volleyball, Dance,
Scouts and Mock Trial.

**Please submit all of these photos by
November 15.**

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: **knights13**

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



2012 Art Contest Winners

Thank you to the 105 artists who participated in the art contest for the Fall Festival.

Congratulations to following students named as winners of their grade.

Madeline Gardner (1st)

Dillon Danesky (2nd)

Kindergarten

Jake Wyatt (1st)

Dante Negroe and Luke Wyatt (2nd)

1st Grade

Joy Hermano (1st)

Jose Capo (2nd)

2nd Grade

Daniel Rischer (1st)

Michael Rischer (2nd)

3rd Grade

Erik Wagner (1st)

James Galang (2nd)

4th Grade

Tharon Garber (1st)

Gracie Chavez (2nd)

5th Grade

Alyssa Galang (1st)

Amanda Wagner (2nd)

6th Grade

Catherine Condit

7th Grade

Scrip Contest!

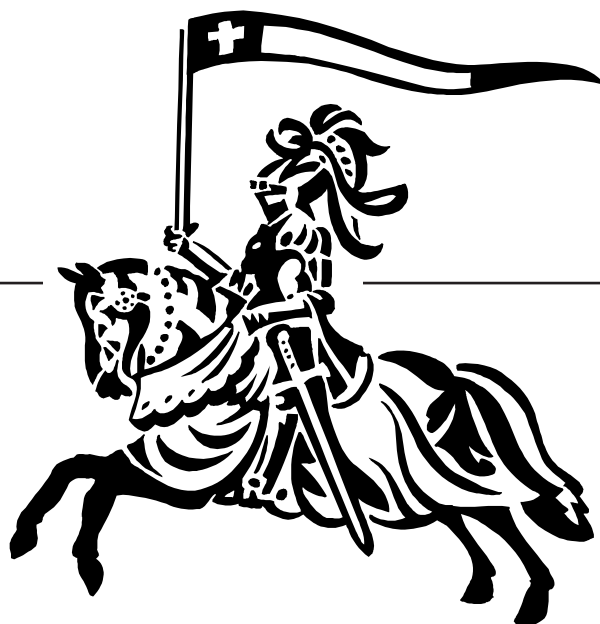
October & November are
"Buy Paper Scrip Months!"

Win a Reserved Pew & Parking Space

The 2 families that **PROFIT** HFS the most money through purchasing paper Scrip from **October 1** through **November 30** will have a 2nd row pew and parking space reserved for each of them at the December 4 Christmas Program.

New This Year for Kindergarten!

The top profiting kindergarten family will also have a pew and a parking space reserved for them at the Christmas Program!



***Holy Family Knights
Football...
Good Luck in Playoffs!
We Are Proud of You!***