

From the Principal:

Thank you to all of our families that helped to make our event successful. This day was a great opportunity for our students to showcase their school. And they did a wonderful job. I spoke with several guests who commented on the children and how well they spoke of and represented the school. I am heartened by the commitment and dedication of our parents and students and I am further inspired by the efforts of parents who have volunteered to assist with our marketing efforts. These efforts continue well past our Open House date. I have met with several individuals and I am quite excited about our forthcoming long-term, multi-faceted marketing plan. You will certainly hear more on this in the next 10 days. Also, although, our Open House has passed, parents are still encouraged to assist with our "Each one bring one" message. Tours and visits to Holy Martyrs School are currently being scheduled ahead of our information session on Feb. 10th

Thanks for your support and keep up the good work!

Holy Martyrs School is proud to support our Troops through a TASTYKAKE Tag Day! Thursday, February 4, 2010



Bring in a box of Tastykake treats and enjoy a Dress Down Day

The Treats collected on Thursday will be combined with Kakes collected on MLK Day of Service to make a wonderful Care Package for our troops currently serving overseas!

Thank you for your support!

HMS for Haiti - Penny Race - Update

To support the country of Haiti as they work to recover from the devastating earthquake. Thank you to all of our students who donated pennies to this cause. Here are some staggering statistics:

Total Weight of Pennies Collected: **360 pounds**

Approximate Value of Pennies Collected: **\$600**
We will gather the actual total this week.

For the race, our teams worked together to order the pennies in as many stacks of ten as possible in a 30-minute time limit. Congratulations to Team 4 as they were the winners with 537 rows of pennies. This team also collected the most total pennies with a total of 61 pounds of pennies. This team will be awarded a NUT Card for their victory.

In addition to our Penny Race, our MAPs program conducted a Bake Sale on January 22nd and the school held a tag day for Haiti. These events raised over \$300 dollars for this cause.

In total, Holy Martyrs School has raised close to \$1000 for the people of Haiti.

HMS Announces New Director of Marketing

I am pleased to follow up on the excitement of our Open House with the announcement of a dedicated Marketing Director. Colleen Kriz, parishioner and mother of Joseph (Class of 2018), William (Class of 2020), and Gregory (Class of 2023) has agreed to take on the task of heading and organizing our Marketing Committee. Colleen is an ideal individual to take on this role, with a Master's Degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Governmental Administration and experience in both finance and nonprofit management. She has worked with nonprofits throughout the Delaware Valley and I have asked her to help us show more parents the benefits of sending their children to HMS! I am grateful to Colleen for her willingness to step forward and work on the work of marketing our school! I am certain that you will hear more from Colleen directly in the coming weeks.



Grade 8 Catholic Schools Week Essay

Congratulations to **Teddy Arsenault**. His essay was selected to be read at the Parish Mass on Sunday, January 31st. I have decided to include his essay in its entirety because it speaks so well of why HMS is special! The essay is below:

I have attended Holy Martyrs Catholic School for nine years and I have gained much from the experience. Holy Martyrs Catholic School has a unique atmosphere, a friendly environment, and is a strong part of the parish community. My class is like family; you may get mad at them, but you can't stay mad at them.. Prayer partners have been a memorable part of my years at Holy Martyrs. The older students in the school partner up with younger students to take part in school masses and special activities. The Eighth Graders pair up with Kindergarten students and the seventh graders pair up with the first graders. The eighth graders are role models for the younger student in the school. The older prayer partners are someone the younger kids can look up to.

Because the classes are small, the teachers are able to get to know the students individually. The teachers have the opportunity to recognize the students who are having difficulties and give the individualized attention students need. The students have a better chance to have an opinion and to receive the attention they need. This year Mrs. Kaiser, our Eighth Grade Teacher, helped us prepare for high school by encouraging us to read the high school test preparation book and to bring all the questions we had difficulties with back to the classroom for help. This was a great help to me.

Holy Martyrs Catholic School is keeping up with technology and updating the classrooms. Some of the chalkboards have been replaced by whiteboards which are much easier to write on and easier to see. Holy Martyrs has also invested in Smartboards to put into classrooms to make them more user friendly. A Smartboard is an interactive electronic whiteboard which can improve instruction and learning. The teachers are able to connect to their computer and write on the board to point out specific details for a test or any other learning objective.

We also have Mission Awareness Program (MAPs) that serves the community by helping people in need. This is one of our after school activities that students may choose to participate in. Some other activities include glee club, fitness, and cooking programs. Parents can also put their children in the CARES Program which is the after school care program, held in our preschool building. The school also provides a hot lunch program for the students so they or their parents don't have to make a lunch every day.

Another thing Holy Martyrs has is a strong CYO Sports program, which students from fourth grade to high school can participate. The sports we are offered to play include baseball, basketball, football, softball, track, and volleyball. Anyone can play regardless of skill level. It is a way for students to meet new people and grow in their team work skills, and to show their strong points.

One of my favorite things about Holy Martyrs Catholic School is at the end of the year the entire school is separated into teams for field day. These teams consist of students from every grade level. Field Day is day of sports activities where the students play other teams. You get to talk to the people on your team, help them, and have a great time with them. We get to have lunch with our and socialize with them, all the while competing against the other teams from the school. At the end of the day, the classes meet back together, and they compete in a tug-of-war.

Holy Martyrs Catholic School has helped me to progress in my thoughts and words and has helped me to grow as a Christian. This is a unique place and I am very proud to be a part of it!

Absent Students

If your child is absent, please call the school by 8:30am. In addition to the phone call, parents MUST send in a written note when the child returns to school. This note is required for teachers to properly cite the reason for student absence. These notes are kept on file for the remainder of the school year. Students that are absent for three consecutive days should bring in a doctor's note upon return to school.



Art Goes To School

During the week of February 8th, Holy Martyrs School will host a group of wonderful volunteers from the Art Goes to School Program. In this program, volunteers travel to various schools delivering wonderful presentations on art appreciation. The volunteers will bring with them poster-sized prints of many of the greatest pieces of art. Individual classes will be treated to 30-45 minute presentations on the artwork. We are grateful to these dedicated volunteers for sharing their knowledge and love of art with our students.



Holy Martyrs School Collects:

Empty ink-jet cartridges
General Mills - Box Tops for Education
ACME Register Receipts
Campbell's Soup Labels (UPC only)

Cold Weather Information

During the winter months, the faculty tries to get our children outside as much as possible including morning arrival, morning recess (K-3) and Lunch Recess (K-8). On most days, when the temperature is below 32° F the children shall remain indoors. However, in the event that the absence of wind and the presence of sunshine make a 32° F day seem nice, we will take the children outdoors. We ask that parents do what they can to see that all children are properly dressed (Hats, gloves, scarves, coats, etc.) for outdoor weather. The school staff will use their discretion in determining whether or not children will be permitted to head outdoors.

Class of 2010 High School Acceptances

- ◆ St. Basil Academy
- ◆ Archbishop Wood High School
- ◆ Roman Catholic High School
- ◆ St. Joseph's Prep
- ◆ Mt. St. Joseph Academy
- ◆ Gwynedd Mercy Academy
- ◆ LaSalle College High School

Congratulations to our Grade 8 students. They are beginning to see the many rewards of a Holy Martyrs education! Keep up the good work!

St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive

Thursday, February 4th
9:00am - 2:00pm

St. Vincent DePaul Society Donation Truck will be at HMS. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Holy Martyrs School Invites interested families to attend:

Parent Information Sessions Wednesday, February 10th

K at 9:00am

Meet in the Parish Hall

PreSchool at 10:00am

Meet in Preschool Building

PreK / K at 7:00pm

Meet in the Grade 3 Classroom

These sessions will include a welcome and overview with Mr. Hayden followed by classroom presentations from Mrs. Miller and Ms. Messina. Parents will learn firsthand the difference a Holy Martyrs education can make in their child's life.

Please share the good news of HMS and invite friends, family, and neighbors to one of these informative sessions.

Students of the Month - January

We congratulate the following students who have been selected as the Students of the month. These students are recognized for their positive attitude, cooperation and effort during the month of January.

Kindergarten - Riley Atkinson and

Kieran McAlary

Grade 1 - Mary Cirelli and

Lauren Luongo

Grade 2 - Sophie Mancini

Grade 3 - Caitlin Iadonisi

Grade 4 - Nina Violi

Grade 5 - Cole Storm and Joseph Quinn

Grade 6 - Megan McGrath and

Kane O'Connor

Grade 7 - Kevin McDonald and

Megan Doyle

Grade 8 - Teddy Arsenault and

Raeghan O'Connor

Through their actions, these students have made Holy Martyrs School a great place to grow and learn. We thank them for their good work.

Yearbook Photos Needed

If you have a photo that you think would be good for possible inclusion in the yearbook, please email the photo to bam811@comcast.net or send it to school in an envelope marked - Yearbook Photos"



We are especially looking for CYO sports, MAPs activities, school field trips, etc.

Deadline for Photo submission is February 26th!

Palm Night

Tuesday, February 16th

6:45pm in the Church

Parishioners and families are invited to bring blessed Palms (from Palm Sunday 2009) to burn at a short prayer service. The ashes from these palms will be distributed on Ash Wednesday.

Tipping School Pictures Friday, February 12th *Proper Uniforms Required*

On February 12th, Tipping School Pictures will be on hand to take group pictures of each class and graduation portraits of our 8th Graders. All students in Preschool -Grade 7 should be attired in the proper school uniform. No NUT Cards may be used on that day. Students not properly dressed may be excluded from the group picture. Grade 8 students should wear outfits appropriate for Graduation.

Sacramental Update

Grade 3 - First Holy Communion

Sacrament Date - May 1st

Next Meeting - Thursday, March 4th

Parents 7pm in Church

This evening of reflection for students and theology update for parents will end at 8pm.

Attention Preschool Parents:

With tax time approaching, please keep in mind that your tuition payments for Preschool Children may qualify for a Child Care Tax Credit. For this purpose, you will need:

Holy Martyrs School Tax ID number:

23-1445616/000

Please consult your tax professional for additional information. If you need any information on total payments for the year, please contact Peggy Youse (Business Manager) at the rectory - 215-884-8575.

Snow Closing Information

Reminder: For weather-related closings and delays, please check KYW-Radio (1060am) and WPVI-TV (Ch.6) for the latest information.

Holy Martyrs School - 1111

For busing service only, please keep in mind the following numbers as they apply to your family:

Springfield - 319 / Abington - 301 / Colonial - 305
Upper Dublin - 311 / Cheltenham - 306

Note: Home and School will send out email notices as well. To ensure that you receive these updates and other H&S news, please email: holymartyrs.homeandschool@yahoo.com to be added to their email list.

Home and School News

We thank all of our families for the continued support of our Home and School events. The second half of the school year has many exciting events and fundraisers!

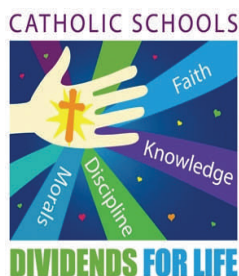
Grandparent's Day	Wed. Feb 3	Catholic School's week celebration honoring HMS children and their senior friends.
Super Bowl Hoagie Sale	Sun. Feb. 7	Hoagie Sale on Super Bowl Sunday open to all parishioners
Pizza sales	Feb 2-Feb 16	School sponsored fundraiser offering pizza for the Lenten Season.
Family Bingo Night	Fri. Feb 19	Bingo Fun and Pizza for the whole family open to all parishioners.
Casino Night	Sat. March 13	A fun and exciting event for all Parishioners and Friends to join.
Donuts with Dad	Fri. Mar. 26	Moms volunteer to serve coffee, juice, and pastries early morning for dads.
Flea Market	Sat. March 27	Flea Market-open to all Parishioners and friends!
Trivia Night	Fri. April 16	Fun night of trivia for adults open to all Parishioners and Friends!
Muffins with Mom	Fri. May 7	Dad volunteers only to serve coffee, juice and pastries early morning for moms.
Graduation Dinner	Mon. Jun. 14	The 8th grade is sent off in style!
Family Appreciation Night	Thu. Jun. 17	Hot Dogs, Popcorn, dessert, and DJ. This event is a smash!

If you have any questions on our fundraisers and events, please call one of us.

Tina Donnelly - Co-President / 215-885-2255 Megan Spoerl - Co-President / 215-886-4409
 Nikki Murray - Vice-President / 215-948-3040 Jill D'Angelo - Secretary / 215-233-1038
 Joni Smith - Treasurer / 215-233-0641

Catholic Schools Week Open House... a Huge Success!

Thank you to all who turned out for our Catholic Schools Week Open House on Sunday, January 31st! The event was a great success! The students looked great in their uniforms and did a wonderful job of sharing information about what they have learned and showcasing the wonderful things that happen at HMS! I spoke with many parents, parishioners, alumni and friends who had many nice things to say about our school! Thank you again for this great demonstration of what makes HMS special.



Earn tuition Credits! Buy Scrip!

our scrip team will be on hand to sell scrip at the following times:

Sundays 10:00a-11:30a
in the Church Vestibule

Fridays 8a-9a
in School Lobby

First Tuesdays Each Month - 7p-8p
In the church vestibule

Tuition Credits will be coming home shortly!

Scrip is a program in which HMS buys gift cards to local and national retail stores at discount and then sells those cards to parents at dollar value. HMS is happy to share the profits with parents in the form of tuition credits. Earn money while doing your everyday routine shopping - grocery stores, clothiers, restaurants, sporting goods and more!

Holy Martyrs School celebrates Catholic Schools Week 2010

Sunday, January 31st – Kick-Off Mass and Open House

Parents, Parishioners, and Friends are invited to this special mass and open house. This is a great opportunity to visit the classrooms and see the exciting things happening at HMS.

Monday, February 1st – Pastor/Principal Appreciation Day

On this day, we take a moment out of our day to recognize the leaders of our parish and school. Each class has prepared a special token of appreciation for their leadership and service to our school community.

Tuesday, February 2nd – Pennies for Haiti

Our students have been collecting pennies for the past week. At 12noon on Tuesday, we will gather as a school in our parish hall to line up the pennies to see which team has the most pennies. Our students have been working in their Field Day Teams (consisting of Students from PreK-Gr. 8) to collect pennies.

Wednesday, February 3rd – Super Persons Day

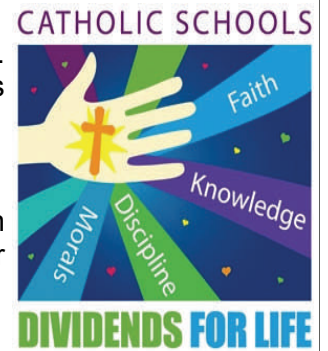
Our students have invited their grandparents, friends, and super people to join us for Mass and lunch. This day concludes with a concert from our award-winning band.

Thursday, February 4th – Teacher Appreciate Day

In recognition of all that our teachers do for our school, we send them off campus for a nice lunch and provide coverage for their class so they can enjoy the afternoon or rest and relaxation.

Friday, February 5th – Student Appreciation Day

Students will enjoy an ice cream treat at lunch and will participate in our Student Council Tombola. We will raffle off many wonderful prizes and our students will certainly enjoy the festivities.



Holy Martyrs Super Bowl Hoagie Sale

Orders are currently being taken for these delicious party favorites. Choose from Italian, Ham & Cheese, Turkey, Cheese, Tuna, and Veggie.

**\$6.00 per Hoagie
Or 3 Ft. Hoagie for \$35**

Orders are due by Friday, Feb. 5th!

Holy Martyrs Spelling Bee Monday, March 15th 12:30pm

Our students in Grades 4-6 will be participating in our local competition. The winner will go on to face contestants from around the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The "Word List" will be found on our website at <http://www.holymartyrsschool.net>

Good Luck to all our participants.

Valentines Day Breakfast Sunday, February 14th 7:30am - 11:00am Holy Martyrs Parish Hall \$6.00 per person

Proceeds support our Grade 8 Students annual trip to New York City.

Come and enjoy a wonderful breakfast with your sweetheart!

Registration Information For ALL New Students

Wednesday, February 18th
5:00p-7:00p
Report to the School Office

The Following Items are needed to Register:
Birth Certificate / Baptismal Certificate
Immunization Records
\$100 Registration Fee

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor & Principal Appreciation Day	2 Penny Race 12:00pm (for Haiti)	3 Grandparents/ Friends Day 10:30a-Mass 11:30a-Lunch 12:30p-Concert	4 Tasty Cake Tag Day Teacher Appreciation Day	5 Pajama Day Tombola Student Appreciation Day	6
Catholic School Week 2010 - January 31 - February 6th Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life						
7 Super Bowl Hoagie Sale Pick-Up 10a-12:30pm	8	9 HMS Night at O'Towne	10 HMS Information Sessions 9:00am And 7:00pm	11	12 Tipping Class Pictures (Uniforms Required)	13
14 Valentine's Pancake Breakfast 730a-11:00a (Benefits Gr. 8 - NYC)	15 NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day Holiday	16	17 Ash Wednesday (8:30am Mass)	18 HMS Registration Night 5p-7p (All New Students)	19 H&S Event Family Bingo Night 6p-8p	20
21	22	23 Stations of the Cross - 2pm Halligan's Family Night 5p-8p	24	25	26 Tag Day \$1	27
28	Mar. 1	Mar. 2 Stations of the Cross - 2pm	Mar. 3	Mar. 4 First Holy Communion Parents Speaker 7pm	Mar. 5	Mar. 6
Holy Martyrs School - Terra Nova Standardized Testing Monday, March 8th - Friday, March 12th						