

Prayer Request

We ask all of our families to pray for the Seeburger Family. Mr. Seeburger passed away on Friday afternoon after his long battle with Cancer. The arrangements are:

Viewing - Thursday, March 5th
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Anton B. Urban Funeral Home
1111 S. Bethlehem Pike
Ambler, PA 19002

Funeral Service - Friday, March 6th
11:00am
Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill
8855 Germantown Ave.
Chestnut Hill, PA 19118

In addition to these services, Fr. Ryan is working with the family to arrange for a mass at Holy Martyrs for our entire school community to come together and celebrate the Eucharist. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Calendar Highlights for March

3/3 - Field Trip - Gr. 5-8 to Philadelphia
3/5 - Terra Nova Practice Test (K-4, 7)
3/6 - Terra Nova In View Test (K-4, 7)
- Fashion Show (2pm)
- End of 2nd Marking Period
3/8 - Daylight Saving Time Begins
3/9 thru 3/13 - Terra Nova Testing (K-4, 7)
3/13 - HMS Spelling Bee (Gr. 4-6)
- Family Bingo and Pizza Night
3/16 - SCHOOL IN SESSION
3/17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day
3/18 - Report Card Distribution
3/19 - Happy Birthday Fr. Ryan
3/24 - Halligan's Family Night
3/27 - Donuts with Dads / Tag Day \$1
3/28 - Silent Auction 7p @ Flourtown CC
April 3 - School Mass (Grade 1)
April 9 - Holy Thursday
April 10 - Good Friday
April 12 - EASTER SUNDAY

Spreading the Good News...

Congratulations to all of our students for their participation in the 2009 Archdiocese of Philadelphia Art Contest. Under the direction of Mrs. Hucker, our Art Teacher, each student completed artwork that was judged at the local level. The projects were wonderful and judging very difficult. We commend the following students on the submission of their pieces to be judged at the Archdiocese level.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Art Contest

Kindergarten - Sarah Powell
Grade 1 - Sophie Mancini
Grade 2 - Colleen Quinn
Grade 3 - Graham Demkovitz
Grade 4 - Julia Violi
Grade 5 - Eddie Corcoran
Grade 6 - Moira Nolan
Grade 7 - Lauren Brogan
Grade 8 - Jennifer McGrath

Cold and Flu Season / Absent Students

In recent weeks, we have had many absences related to this current cold and flu season. Please keep in mind the following guidelines:

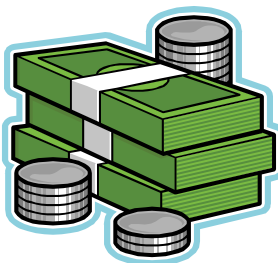


- 1) If your child is absent, please call the school by 8:30am. In addition to the phone call, parents MUST send in a written note when the child returns to school.
- 2) Students should be fever free and symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- 3) Students that are absent for three (or more) consecutive days must bring in a doctor's note upon return to school.
- 4) Homework may be picked up each day beginning at 3pm.

If you have any questions on these guidelines, please contact the school office at 215-887-2044.

Tuition Assistance

With tuition rates set for next school year, I wanted to remind all parents that Tuition Assistance is available for the 2009-2010 school year. We thank Firsttrust Bank and Brendan Abstract Co. Through their support of the EITC Program, we have \$22,225 in Tuition Assistance Money to distribute to our families. In addition, there are several other scholarship organizations with money for tuition assistance. A list of these organizations is available through the school office.



Fr. Ryan and the Parish Finance Committee have restated their commitment to making a Catholic education affordable for all parish families. Please know that all information is kept in the strictest confidence. Please contact Mr. Hayden if you would like to learn more about our tuition assistance program.

Deadline for Applications: March 23rd

Registration Information

Re-Registration forms are due to the school office at this time. Please return the forms so that we may accurately plan for next year.

Also, we are currently accepting registrations for the 2009 School Year. Please call the school office to make an appointment to register.

The Following Items are needed to Register:

Birth Certificate / Baptismal Certificate

Immunization Records / \$100 Registration Fee

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 them to be added to the list: holy martyrs.homeandschool@yahoo.com

Holy Martyrs School Collects:

Empty ink-jet cartridges
General Mills - Box Tops for Education
ACME Register Receipts
Campbell's Labels for Education - UPC label

Thank you for your support on these simple, yet valuable fundraisers.

Low Income Data Survey

Thank you to the 73 families that have responded to this survey request. This information is critical in obtaining state and federal funds for the MICU which provides services to our school. If you have not submitted your survey, please send them to the office.

Reading Olympics Update

Mark your calendars now. We have just been advised of the dates for the competitions this year:

Chapter Chasers (Grades 4-6)

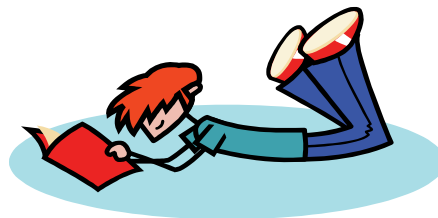
Date: Monday, April 20th

Location: Colonial Middle School

Newberry Nerds (Grades 7-8)

Date: Tuesday, April 28th

At Wissahickon Middle School



Congratulations to all of our Olympians as they continue to read, read, and read some more! We also wish them Good Luck in their upcoming competitions.

Holy Martyrs Home and School invite all Dads...

Donuts with Dads
Friday, March 27th
7:30am - 8:00am
7:45a-8:15a (Preschool)

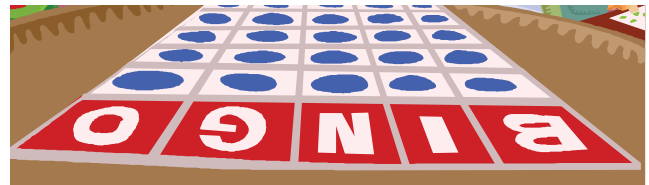
Dads (Granddads and others) are invited to visit HMS on this day for coffee and donuts. Remember to stop by your child's classroom to see the exciting things that they are working on in school.



HMS Home and School invite you to attend...

Family Bingo and Pizza Night
Friday, March 13th
7:00pm
In the Parish Hall

Please plan on joining us for this fun, family event. Tickets are \$6/person or \$30/family. Admission price includes pizza, drinks, dessert and bingo cards. We will have prizes for winners and tombola chances for sale.



Terra Nova Testing - Update

The Terra Nova standardized testing system is an assessment that measures what students know and can do. This standardized test also reflect the quality of our curriculum and instruction. As in the past, our students will again participate in the Archdiocese Terra Nova testing program. However, you may recall that in October I introduced this year's testing program and the changes that we will see in this revised program.

In the past, students in Grades 4-8 were administered testing in the fall and students in Grade 2 were administered testing in the spring. For the 2008 School year, students only in Grades 5, 6, & 8 took these tests in the Fall. Students in Grades K-4, and Grade 7 will be tested in March, beginning Thursday, March 5th and concluding Friday, March 13th. The change in our testing program will strengthen our ability to assess the strength of our academic program and provide a clearer picture of what the students have learned.

This survey provides a measurement of student achievement in Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. During our testing period, each day will begin with a 30-60 minute block of testing. Later this spring, parents of students in Grades 1-4 and Grade 7 will receive a report detailing your child's outcomes. Kindergarten parents will receive reports with aggregated data that will not contain performance results for individual students.

There is no academic preparation that the children need to complete. However, as with each day, we ask you to make sure your child receives a good night's sleep and eats a nourishing breakfast each morning. Being well rested and well fed sets a positive tone for the student for the day.

The assessment is an important activity that keeps us, parents and educators, informed about what our students are learning. Although important and beneficial to all of us, no one,



students included, should be apprehensive about the testing process.


Grade 7 Terra Nova Update

Students in Grade 7 will utilize a multiple assessment form of the Terra Nova. This version requires students to provide constructed responses in addition to the standard multiple choice answers. We are very excited about this new test as it provides a more accurate demonstration of student knowledge and skill. However, we recognize that students may feel a certain level of frustration with this new test. We will reassure them that their best is all we can expect. I encourage parents to echo that sentiment for all students.

Terra Nova Testing Program Timeline:

October 2008 - Grades 5, 6, and 8
Spring 2009 - K-4, and 7
October 2009 - NO TESTING
Spring 2010 - K-8 Terra Nova

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Field Trip Gr. 5-8 to Philadelphia	4	5 Terra Nova Practice Tests Gr. K-4, 7	6 Terra Nova InView Testing Gr. K-4 & 7 Fashion Show 2pm	7
						End of 2nd Marking Period
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 	9	10	11	12	13 HMS Spelling Bee Gr. 4-6 Family Bingo and Pizza Night - 7pm	14
						Terra Nova Testing - Grades K-4 & 7 - see newsletter for more details
15	16 School will be in Session (8a-3p) To make up for the 1/28 Snow Day	17 <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 Report Card Distribution	19 Happy Birthday Fr. Ryan 	20	21
22	23 Lenten Confessions Gr. 3-8	24 Halligan's Family Night 5p-8p	25	26	27 Donuts with Dads 7:30a-8:00a Tag Day \$1	28 <i>"Starlights and Moonbeams"</i> Silent Auction 7pm at Flourtown CC
29	30	31	April 1	April 2	April 3 School Mass (Grade 1) 8:30am	April 4