

# Holy Martyrs School

SCHOOL NEWS

From: Mr. Hayden

November 2009

## From the Principal's Desk:

As we begin this month of November, we remember all of the faithful followers of Jesus that have journeyed to the Lord. We will offer prayers for them during our School Mass on Nov. 5th. We invite all of our students and families to submit names of people for whom we will pray.

During the month of November we also celebrate Thanksgiving. This holiday is filled with family, friendship, and tradition. As a school community, there is so much that we have to be thankful for - dedicated teachers, loving parents, wonderful students and so much more. I hope that you are able to find a moment to reflect on the goodness of the Lord and to offer him thanks for our many blessings. May God continue to shine his love on each of us!

I offer a brief thanks to those parents that attended the first of our information and dialogue sessions on the sustainability of our wonderful Catholic School. This evening was successful in sharing information on the current state of our school. These sessions will continue on Monday, Nov. 16th. Additional information is located within the full edition of the November Newsletter. Thank you in advance for all you do to make HMS a great place for our children.

Sincerely,

*David J. Hayden*

Principal

## Calendar Highlights for November

- 11/ 3 - Election Day - Remember to Vote
- 11/5 - School Mass (8:30am) - Grade 2  
Mass of Remembrance
- 11/10 - Confirmation Speaker (Gr. 7)  
HMS Night at O'Towne
- 11/11 - HMS Book Fair at Barnes & Noble in  
Montgomeryville (5p-9p)
- 11/15 - Mother-Son Bowling
- 11/16 - Parents Meeting - re: Future of HMS
- 11/17 - MAPs Meeting 3p-4:15pm
- 11/18 - PreK/Kindergarten Thanksgiving (6pm)
- 11/19 - HS Visitation Day (Gr. 8)
- 11/20 - Tag Day \$1 / Father-Daughter Dance
- 11/24 - Halligan's Family Night (5p-8p)  
H&S Pie and Cookie Dough Delivery
- 11/25 - 12noon Dismissal
- 11/26 - NO SCHOOL - Happy Thanksgiving
- 11/27 - NO SCHOOL
- Dec. 2 - Secret Santa Shop
- Dec. 3 - School Mass (Gr. 4) 8:30am
- Dec. 4 - Field Trip (K-2)  
End of 1st Marking Period
- Dec. 5 - HM Parish Christmas Bazaar
- Dec. 6 - Advent Faith Formation Event (7pm)
- Dec. 7 - NO School - Faculty In-service
- Dec. 8 - NO SCHOOL - Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 10 - HMS Christmas Show (7pm)
- Dec. 15 - Report Card Distribution

The full edition of the monthly newsletter will be emailed to parents and will be available online. The contents include:

- Calendar Highlights
- Update on Sustainability Study for the Future of HMS
- PreK-Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast - Nov. 18th
- MAPs Update
- Student Council Update
- Advent Happenings at HM Church - 12/6 - Sing-a-long
- Emergency Closing Information - HMS Closing #1111
- High School News for Grade 8 Students/Parents
- HMS Collects-Acme Tapes, Printer Cartridges, Box Tops
- Sacramental Information - Confirmation Talk - Tuesday 11/10 w/ Ed Hastings - all are invited
- HMS Nights at O'Towne - 11/10 and Halligan's 11/24
- H1N1 Influenza Update and Reminders
- Absent Student Reminder and Policy Update
- Buy Scrip
- Hot Lunch Updates
- HMS Christmas Show - Dec. 7th

Important information is included in this newsletter, please take the time to read and stay informed.

## Students of the Month

Congratulations to our Students of the Month for October:

**Kindergarten - Jimmy Donnelly**

**Grade 1 - Sean Iadonisi**

**Grade 2 - Madison Laing**

**Grade 3 - Bryon Jordan**

**Grade 4 - Gary Seeburger**

**Grade 5 - Emily Mancini, Sean Farrell**

**Grade 6 - Nicholas Camusi**

**Grade 7 - Moira Nolan, TJ Johnston**

**Grade 8 - John Archie, Sara Violi**

Thank you to these students for making HMS a great place to grow and learn!

## HMS-MAPs (Mission Awareness Project) Update

The following is an overview of our various MAPs projects. Some have been complete, some are coming up, and others are ongoing. Please know that these activities are open to any and all students and/or parents that wish to be involved. You are always welcome to come along and bring a friend. You may choose to do as much or as little as you are able.

Our next MAPs Meeting will be **Tuesday, November 17th at 3pm**. (Please note the change in date from the earlier email.) We will provide a time for snack and homework with our meeting wrapping up at 4:15pm.

### Ongoing Projects Include:

Snoodle Making (during HMS Lunch)

Card Making with Mrs. Prinzo (during HMS Lunch)

Leaf Raking/Snow Shoveling Registry (We are still looking for additional volunteers to sign up!)

St. Joseph's Manor Bingo with Seniors - Please contact Marie Lombardi if you are interested.

### MAPs Bake Sale

**Sunday, November 8th**

**Following the 9:00am and 11:30am Masses**

Please email Donna Storm if you are able to assist with this fundraiser.

**Cradle of Hope** - Thank you to all that have returned the baby bottles with change. If you have not done so, please return these as soon as possible. Mary Nadolski will be coordinating the delivery of this donation scheduled for December 2nd.

### Upcoming Projects

- **November 2-30 - "Adopt a Room"** at Mercy Hospice (a home for homeless women and children). We will be working to spruce up some of the rooms with fresh paint, new sheets, etc. Additional information will be forthcoming.
- **November 4th - Bingo** at St. Joseph's Manor (Contact Marie Lombardi if you are interested)
- **December 2nd - Cradle of Hope** Donation delivery
- **December 11th - Christmas Caroling** on a Friday after-school (more information to follow)

If you have any questions or would like to join in the fun, please contact Donna Storm.

### Take a break from the kitchen and join us...

**HMS Night at O'Towne**

**Tuesday, November 10th**

Additional Dates for HMS Night at O'Towne:

12/8, 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8

**Halligan's Family Night**

**Tuesday, November 24th**

Additional Dates for Halligan's Family Night:

1/26, 2/23, 3/23, 4/27, 5/25

A portion of the dining receipts are donated to HMS. We thank these establishments for their support for our school!

### Textbook Update

In Mid-October, the state legislature authorized the release of State Funds for School Textbook Purchases. We have already received many of our ordered items and more continue to arrive each week.

We are grateful for these funds for books, but must work with our legislators to avoid delays like this in the future.

Thank you to our teachers, parents, and students for their patience and cooperation on this matter.

### **Student Council Update**

Student Council had a very successful Candy Corn Counting Contest. Congratulations to the following students who guessed closest to the actual amount:

**Riley Atkinson - Kindergarten**  
**Megan McGrath - Grade 5**

Student Council members continue to meet to discuss upcoming activities and will have additional information in the next couple of weeks.

### **Holy Martyrs Advent Happenings**

Holy Martyrs Faith Formation group is putting the finishing touches on another great series of activities to help us prepare our hearts for the wonder of Christmas. Please keep an eye out for information:

Save the Date...

**Sunday, December 6th at 6:00pm**  
**"Do You Hear What I Hear"**

**Advent Christmas Carol Concert**

Please plan on joining us for this wonderful evening of Christmas music and more. This evening will include an outdoor Tree Lighting, Refreshments, Fellowship and more.

Additional activities are being planned. Please remember to check the parish bulletin for additional and updated information.

### **Reading Olympics**

Once again, Holy Martyrs School students will participate in The Reading Olympics. This program sponsored by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) is designed to get students excited about reading. Our students have done very well in past Olympiads and we look forward to working with even more young readers. Thank you to Mrs. Gallagher for her work in coordinating our participation in this program.

HMS Collects...

ACME Tapes  
Printer Cartridges  
Box Tops for Education  
Campbell's Labels for Education

Thank you for your support!

### **Emergency Closing Information Sheet**

Emergency Closing Information Sheet is coming home in communication envelope on November 6th. This page is critical in the event that HMS is forced to close early. Please return these forms to the office by Friday, 11/9!

**Reminder:** For Weather-related Closings, please check KYW-Radio (1060 AM) and WPVI-TV (Ch. 6) for the latest closings.

### **Holy Martyrs School – 1111**

For busing service only, please keep in mind the following numbers:

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

### **Holy Martyrs' Home and School Association Father/Daughter Dance**

**Friday, November 20th**

**7:00pm – 9:30pm**

**In the Parish Hall**

DJ, Dancing, Food & Fun! Hope you can join us! For additional information, please contact the school office.

**Support Holy Martyrs School  
and Earn Tuition Credits**

## **BUY SCRIP!**

The SCRIP program allows you to raise important funds for Holy Martyrs School and tuition credits for you while conducting your normal shopping. You can purchase gift cards to be used at many of your favorite shopping spots including ACME, Giant, Old Navy, Kohl's, and much, much more. Contact the office for more information!

### **High School News for Grades 6-8**

Several schools throughout the Archdiocese host High School Information Nights. Parents and students are invited to meet with representatives from many high schools including - McDevitt, Wood, La-Salle, Gwynedd, The Mount, and more. Please visit the Office of Catholic Education Website:

<http://www.catholicschools-phl.org>

to see a complete listing of High School Information Nights and Open Houses

**Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
High School Visitation Day (Gr. 8)  
Thursday, November 19th**

On this date, our Grade 8 students will visit an archdiocesan school of their choice. This is a great chance for students to see firsthand the quality programs that our Archdiocese High Schools offer. Please note that all students must visit one of the Archdiocesan High Schools on this date.

## Sacramental Preparation Information

### Reconciliation (Grade 3)

Sacrament–Saturday, December 12th-10:00am

### First Holy Communion (Grade 3)

Parent Meeting – Thursday, March 4th - 7pm

Rehearsal – TBD

Sacrament – Saturday, May 1st - 10:00am

### Confirmation 2010 (Current Gr. 7)

Parent Meeting - Tuesday, November 10th - 7p

Speaker - Dr. Ed Hastings

Student Mini-Retreat and Speaker -

Tuesday, November 10th - 6pm

followed by speaker at 7p

Sacrament Day - Fall 2010 - TBD

### Confirmation 2011 (Current Gr. 6)

Year of Ministry - 2009-2010

Kickoff and information Session was held in October for our current Grade 6 students.

These students should currently be engaged in their year of ministry. Please contact Mrs.

Galante if you missed the first meeting or need assistance selecting a ministry.

Sacrament Day - Fall of 2011 - TBD

*Additional information regarding each activity will be coming from Carole Galante and the Parish Office of Faith Formation.*

## Mark Your Calendars...

### HMS Christmas Show Thursday, December 10th 7pm in the Church

Our music department has been working diligently to prepare for our annual Christmas Program. Please remember that attendance at both of our annual school shows (Christmas Show and Spring Show) is NOT optional. Obviously, children cannot participate when they are ill. However, our teachers have spent many weeks rehearsing with the entire student body and taken time to arrange the students so that all students are visible on stage. We ask parents to support these efforts and schedule family activities and commitments after our performance. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



## HMS Recycles with Abitibi

Thank you to so many families and friends that continue to support our recycling efforts. Through your work we have saved tons of paper from the landfill and raised money for HMS.

We have received over \$600 from Abitibi to support our school. This amount is based on the tonnage of paper that has been emptied from our bins. Keep up the great work and fill those bins!

### Help HMS and Save the Environment:

Please bring the following items to our Paper Retriever Bins

Catalogs      Junk Mail      Fax Paper

Magazines      Newspapers      Folders

Office Paper      Shredded Paper      Envelopes

**No Cardboard, No Phonebooks,**

**No Food Containers**

BINS are located in the back parking lot

### Hot Lunch Update

The early reviews are in and they are positive. Parents are very happy with our complete menu this year and students are thrilled with many of the selections that are on tap. Thank you to the many volunteers that have played a part in expanding our hot lunch program. As we continue to move forward, I offer a couple of reminders:

- **No Late Orders will be Accepted**

Although we have in the past, we are no longer able to accept late orders. Our volunteers use a number of suppliers for our menu items. Many of these suppliers need advanced lead time to turnaround orders and our timetable works forward from the date orders are due. Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to our deadlines.

- **All Orders must be submitted to the Office**

Mrs. Spoerl is our coordinator for hot lunch. Her responsibilities include menu selection, supply requisition, and volunteer scheduling. She does not total the orders for each day/month and she is unable to accept orders at her house in person or by phone. The office staff totals each lunch order and calculates the monthly totals. Therefore, all orders must be submitted to the school office by the date listed on the form.

- **Receipt Confirmation of Orders Comes Home**

When a lunch order is received in the office, it is date-stamped, photocopied, and returned to the parents. If you do not have the returned copy with a date-stamp on it, please do not assume that your child is scheduled for lunch that day. Also, please remind your child to submit these orders when you send them. Teachers will work with children as well on these reminders.

Lastly, if a child forgets their lunch, school staff will certainly work to ensure that they have something to eat. We thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

## HMS Book Fair - 2009 at BARNES & NOBLE

**BARNES & NOBLE**  
www.bn.com

If leaves are changing and children are back in school it must be Fall and time for our annual book fair! This year our **book fair** will take place on **Wednesday, November 11th**—so mark your calendars now! We are very excited about our book fair this year as it will have a new look and location.

Our book fair will be held off-site—at the Barnes and Noble retail store on Knapp Road and route 309—just south of the Montgomeryville Mall. And you will have access to not just 7 cases and 7 or 8 tables of books but the entire store! This Barnes and Noble has over 10,000 items in its children's department—many times larger than the Willow Grove or Jenkintown stores. Just about anything that is purchased is eligible to be counted toward the HMS sales total—including food items from the B&N Cafe. From this total we will receive a percentage to be used for books and other items for our classrooms and library.



It will be an evening to showcase our school. The fair will begin at 6:30PM. Patrons and parents will get an opportunity to hear our Glee Club and Band perform and Mr. Hayden will read a story during the evening. What a great way for people to learn about HMS and what a fun way to spend the evening with your children all the while supporting literacy.

There will be banners and signs placed throughout the store advertising the event and well qualified B&N personnel to help with suggestions and questions. At check out time all you need to do is mention our unique voucher number—**10032647**—to the cashier and a portion of your sale gets donated to HMS.

Can't get to Barnes and Noble that night? Know someone who shops another B&N (even out of our immediate area)? No problem! Just pass out our voucher number (10032647) and if it is mentioned at check out time any sale can get credited to HMS that is made within several days of our Nov 11th Book Fair. A great way to spread the HMS name even further.

So, keep looking for further updates. For now remember the **date**—**Wednesday, November 11**; remember the **location**—**Barnes and Noble** on Knapp Road and route 309; remember our unique **voucher number**—**10032647**; remember to **start browsing** the store and their website—www.bn.com; and remember to **spread the word!**

### **Absent Students**

If your child is absent from school, parents have **TWO responsibilities:**

1) Call the school office before 8:30am to report your child's absence

**AND**

2) Send in a note with your child when they return to school. Students that are absent for three or more consecutive days should bring in a note from a physician.

Please note: Lately, many Physicians are refusing to see patients with Flu-like symptoms. If that is the case and you do not have a note from the physician, please indicate that on your notice

These notes are kept on file for the year and is required documentation for teachers to accurately complete their daily attendance logs.





We are very excited to host:

**Preschool–Kindergarten  
Thanksgiving Feast  
Wednesday, November 18<sup>h</sup>  
at 6pm in the Parish Hall**

Mrs. Miller and Ms. Messina will be sending home specific information regarding this evening. Please mark your calendars and bring your appetites to this wonderful evening of food and friendship!



# November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>H&amp;S Pie and Cookie Sale Continues</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Field Trip: Gr. 6-8 to Union League and Cathedral</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>School Mass (Gr. 2) 8:30am</p> <p>Senior Glee Practice 3p-5p</p>	<p>6</p> <p>H&amp;S Pie and Cookie Sale Orders Due</p> 	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>MAPs-Kids Bake Sale After 9am and 11:30a Masses</p> 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Confirmation Speaker (Gr. 7)</p> <p>HMS Night at O'Towne</p>	<p>11</p> <p>HMS Book Fair at Barnes &amp; Noble</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>Senior Glee Practice 3p-5p</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>H&amp;S Mother- Son Bowling 3p-5p</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>MAPs-Kids Meeting 3p-4:15p</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PreK and K Thanksgiving Feast</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>HS Visitation Day (Gr. 8)</p> <p>Senior Glee Practice 3p-5p</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Tag Day \$1</p> <p>H&amp;S Father- Daughter Dance 7:00p-9:30p</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Pie and Cookie Dough Delivery</p> <p>Halligan's Family Night 5p-8p</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12noon Dismissal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>NO SCHOOL Happy Thanksgiving</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>Dec. 1</p>	<p>Dec. 2</p> <p>H&amp;S Secret Santa Shop</p> 	<p>Dec. 3</p> <p>School Mass (Gr. 4) 8:30am</p> <p>Senior Glee Practice 3p-5p</p>	<p>Dec. 4</p> <p>Field Trip K-2</p> <p>End of 1st Marking Period</p>	<p>Dec. 5</p>