

From the Principal's Desk:

In the September 30th Communication folder, I am sending each of our families a St. Paul Prayer Card. These cards are being printed and distributed free of charge from Pauline Books and Media in the Northeast. We are grateful for their support as we journey through this Year of St. Paul.

Having heard many homilies over the past three months at various churches, including Holy Martyrs Church, I have been inspired by the many reflections on the life of St. Paul. Before his conversion, Saul was responsible for the persecution of many Catholics. However, when God struck him from his horse and called him Paul, he became one of our greatest advocates and evangelizers. St. Paul wrote over a dozen epistles to the faithful of our early Church and his words resonate with us today. We may not find ourselves thrown into a den of lions, but our world today is full of temptations that lead us away from Christ. The culture of consumerism is filled with excess and greed. But as Catholics, we understand that Christ is at the center of all that we do and all that we are. With St. Paul as an example, we must evangelize our world today so that others may see the goodness that is Jesus and so that we may bring God's love to this world.

I encourage all of us to learn more about the life of St. Paul and the many other Heroes of our faith. Through their words and their actions, we can find strength and inspiration to be what God has called us to be.

Sincerely,
David J. Hayden

Calendar Highlights for October

- 10/3 - School Mass (Gr. 6) 8:30am
Student Council Installation Ceremony
HS visit from St. Basil's (Gr. 7-8)
- 10/4 - Blessing of the Animals (10am)
- 10/6 - HS visit from Archbishop Wood (Gr. 7-8)
- 10/7 - HS visit from Bishop McDevitt (Gr. 7-8)
- 10/8 - HS Visit from Gwynedd/Prep (Gr. 7-8)
- 10/9 - Terra Nova - InView (Gr. 5, 6, and 8)
- 10/10 - Terra Nova - InView (Gr. 5, 6, and 8)
Preschool Trip to Kohler Farms
- 10/11 - Book Fair opens (after 5p Mass)
- 10/12 - Book Fair (after masses)
- 10/13 - Terra Nova Testing (Gr. 5, 6, and 8)
Book Fair
- 10/14 - Terra Nova Testing (Gr. 5, 6, and 8)
Book Fair
- 10/15 - Terra Nova Testing (Gr. 5, 6, and 8)
Safe Environment Training 7p - Hall
Book Fair
- 10/16 - Terra Nova Testing (Gr. 5, 6, and 8)
Book Fair
- 10/17 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service Day
- 10/19 - Parish 40 hours Devotion
- 10/20 - Winter Uniforms in effect
Parish 40 hours Devotion
- 10/21 - Parish 40 Hours Devotion
- 10/22 - Progress Report Distribution
- 10/24 - Tag Day (\$1)
- 10/25 - H&S Community Yard Sale (8a-1p)
- 10/30 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 10/31 - NO SCHOOL - Faculty Retreat Day
- 11/7 - School Mass (8:30am) Gr. 5
- 11/8 - Catholic Life Congress at Carroll HS

Student Council News

Congratulations to the following students on their election to Student Council:

- President - Catharine McDonald**
- Vice-President - Cullen Doyle**
- Secretary - Brigid Corcoran**
- Treasurer - Teddy Arsenault**
- Grade 6 Representative - TJ Johnston**
- Grade 5 Representative - Megan McGrath**
- Grade 4 Representative - Evan McFadden**

These young men and women will be formally installed as our Student Council at our school mass on Friday, October 3rd. We invite all of our friends to join us for this ceremony.

Phillies Tag Day (Free)

Wednesday, October 1st

To help kick off the Phillies run to the World Series, Holy Martyrs School joins the thousands of Phillies fans around the Delaware Valley in showing our colors.

Students are encouraged to wear their Red, White, and Blue to show our Phillies spirit and to let everyone know who will be World Champs 2008!



TerraNova Testing - Important Changes

The TerraNova standardized testing system is an assessment that measures what students know and can do. TerraNova reflects today's curricula. As in the past, our students will again participate in the Archdiocese TerraNova testing program. However, this year brings many significant changes to this testing 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 will be administered Terra Nova tests in the Fall. Students in Grades K-4, and Grade 7 will be tested in the Spring. Beyond this year, all Terra Nova testing (K-8) will take place in the spring. Below is a brief summary of our revised terra nova schedule:

Terra Nova Testing Program Timeline:

October 2008 - Grades 5, 6, and 8 (ONLY)
Spring 2009 - K-4, and 7
October 2009 - NO TESTING
Spring 2010 - K-8 TerraNova Testing

As you can see, these changes bring a significant change in our testing program. The change in testing dates will strengthen our ability to assess the strength of our academic program and provide a clearer picture of what the student have learned.

For this fall, our students in **grades 5, 6, and 8** will be administered the TerraNovas beginning on **Thursday, October 9th and concluding on Thursday, October 16th**. Spreading out the testing over this time period will allow us to test in 30-45 minute blocks at the start of each day.

This survey provides a measurement of student achievement in Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Each day during our testing period will begin with a 30-45 minute block of testing. Later this fall you will receive a report detailing your child's outcomes.

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.

HS Presentations

To help our students learn more about the variety of excellent High School options, we have invited a number of High School representatives to come and speak to our students in Grades 7-8.

9/30 - LaSalle College HS / Mount St. Joseph Acad.
10/3 - St. Basil's Acad. (*girls only*)
10/6 - Archbishop Wood HS
10/7 - Bishop McDevitt HS
10/8 - St. Joseph's Prep / Gwynedd Mercy Acad.

In addition, these schools encourage parents and students to attend their respective open house events and high school nights. The Archdiocese is pleased to offer a variety of High School nights in the area - most notably: Monday, October 6 at St. John of the Cross in Roslyn. For a complete list of the High School Nights throughout the Archdiocese, please visit the Archdiocese of Philadelphia website:

<http://www.catholicschools-phl.org/>
and click on the Events and Calendars Link.

Halligan's Family Nights

Tuesday, October 28th

5:00-8:00pm

Halligan's Restaurant

on Bethlehem Pike

We are very excited to continue a wonderful partnership with Halligan's Restaurant. One Tuesday each month (excluding the busy month of December), they will host a Family Night from which a portion of the restaurant receipts is donated back to Holy Martyrs School. We hope to see you there.

**Additional Dates: Tuesday, November 25th
Tuesday, January 27th**

**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.

Please contact the school office for more information.

Safe Environment Training for Children

In November 2002, the U.S. Catholic Bishops met in Dallas, Texas to discuss the sexual abuse tragedy that was brought to light within the Catholic Church. The Bishops created a document since named "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People". You may also recognize this document by its shortened name, "The Dallas Charter". A mandate followed these meetings to ensure that in this "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" instruction would be offered to parish and school clergy, administrators, teachers, coaches, and volunteers to ensure that all children and young people would find a safe environment within the Church. To further fulfill the goals of the charter, programs must be established to instruct the students as well as their parents/guardians within our secondary, special education, elementary and PREP school programs.

This charter mandates that PREP and school students receive instruction on **The Protection of God's Children: A Program for Students** during the course of their year long instruction. In our school, classroom teachers will present the lessons to the students on either October 28th or October 29th. The content of the lessons for the students in PreK through Grade 8 may be reviewed by you online at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia website: http://www.catholicschools-phl.org/general_info/safe.htm Parents may also access additional information at the following website: <http://www.virtus.org>

It is crucial that parents take the time to gather information and determine how you will offer guidance to your child around this most sensitive topic. As we work together to provide the safest of environments for our children, let us pray that God will heal the hearts of all abused victims. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Learn to sew with

Miss Sew & Sew
Oct. 22, 29, & Nov. 5, 12
3:00pm - 5:00pm
HMS Art Room

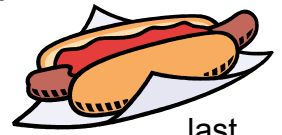
We are very excited to offer a wonderful program to our girls in Grades 4-8. A detailed flier is coming home in the 9/30 communication folder. You can also check out Miss Sew & Sew's webpage at:

<http://www.missewandsew.com>

Space is limited, so be sure to get your registration in early!

Hot Lunch Update

Our Hot Lunch Program kicks off on Wednesday, October 1st. Order forms came home with students



last week and all students should have received their confirmation receipts. If you do not receive a confirmation form, please contact the school office. Please do not assume that your child is signed up for hot lunch.

Thank you to the many hands that run our lunch program - Stephanie Harmer, Rosemarie Beal, and all of the lunch moms. We are still looking for a couple of volunteers to assist in preparing and serving the meals. If you are available, please contact the school office.

Communication Folder Reminders

Our weekly communication folder comes home with students on Tuesdays (on Wednesdays when school is closed Mondays). These envelopes should be returned to school on the following day with your child.

All communications for this envelope should be submitted in hardcopy paper format **and** electronic format and must be received in the school office by 1:00pm on Mondays. Electronic versions will be attached to the home and school weekly email to provide consistent communication.

Thank you!

Oreland Fire Company presents...

Fire Prevention Family Fun Day
Oreland Fire Company
1500 Bruce Road
Sunday, October 5th
1:00pm - 3:00pm

All are invited to join in this informative afternoon filled with fun activities for children, food for all, and a special 100-year Birthday celebration.





HMS Hot Lunch Volunteers needed



Thank you to the parents that have already volunteered to assist with our daily lunch program. We are still in need of a few volunteers to assist with this program. This is a great opportunity to see your child during their work day and your volunteer efforts enable us to provide a 5-day lunch program.

We need help with meal preparation, meal service, and kitchen clean up.

The menu for the month is posted on the board in the kitchen. Student lunch lists and total lunch counts for the day will be available.

First lunch (K-3) is served by 11:30am

Please arrive by 10:30am set up and prepare meals for first lunch (K-3)

Second Lunch (Gr. 4-8) is served by 12:00pm

Clean up and your day is done

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Stephanie Harmer

Hot Lunch Volunteer Sign-up

Please complete the bottom portion of this form and return it to the school office. Thank you!

Name _____ Phone # _____

I am available on the following days: (please circle all that apply)

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Please send completed form to the school office to the attention of:

Stephanie Harmer
Hot Lunch Coordinator

Plant A Tulip, Become Part of a Global Community

How are plants affected by climate and the seasons? Students at HMS are about to find out along with students across the Northern Hemisphere. Students working with their prayer partners in grades K & 8 and 1 & 7 along with grades 2 through 5 will work collaboratively with students across our country and Canada over the Internet to track the growing patterns of tulips and report their findings. We will be planting tulip bulbs around the school and rectory this fall and then monitoring them throughout the late winter and spring tracking their growth. We will report our findings to all the other schools involved. Students in many other schools will be doing the same. Our students not only get the opportunity to study science but gain a better understanding of the impact where we live has on things, not to mention interacting "electronically" with students across our country. Holy Martyrs School will truly be on the map around the world! Look for beautiful red tulips next March and April in the flower beds around the school!



Monarch Butterflies Begin Trek to Mexico

Once again this year students in grades K through 3 will be participating in a global project involving the Monarch Butterfly. In the coming weeks our students will create "symbolic" monarch butterflies and send them to students in Mexican schools. Students there will care for the "butterflies" over the winter. This traces the real path that the Monarchs embark on as they leave our area to winter in the hills of Mexico. We will track their progress, communicate with students from Mexico, learn about students in other parts of the world, and help protect this valuable species of butterfly. Our school will take the proceeds from a Tag Day and send it to the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary Fund. We are embarking on this project again this year as everyone—teachers, students, and butterflies had such a positive experience last year!



Winter Uniforms In Use Monday, October 20, 2008

Beginning this day all students should be properly attired in the winter uniform. Please consult the web page for the current uniform requirements. Please note, the sweater/sweater vest is required as part of the winter uniform.

Now We Know Our ABC's

And WXY and Z's! The fourth grade is wrapping up an intensive 10 day, 2 session a day, program to master the keyboard. And they are doing it! Could you keyboard with ALL the letters covered? The fourth grade can! Kudos to the students for all their hard work, their parents for their support and encouragement, and Mrs. Gullotti and all the teachers for their flexibility in scheduling to accommodate the program. As we go forward we look to being able to provide many opportunities to the students in our new computer lab now that they are becoming such good touch keyboarders!

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.

Parent notes and Physician notes are kept on file for the year. The written documentation is required for teachers to accurately complete their daily attendance logs. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this matter.

Book Fair

Parent Volunteer Form

The success of the book fair depends on parent volunteers. We are looking for parents who can assist at the fair setting up, helping students make selections, filling orders, and collecting money. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours please **return the completed form** to the library by **Friday, Oct. 3**. You may email me at HMSCmp_gallagher@hotmail.com You will be contacted about specific times!

(information about the Book Fair appears elsewhere in this month's newsletter and on the web page for the Book Fair - link through our school's web page www.holymartyrsschool.net)

return form to library or email me at HMSCmp_gallagher@hotmail.com to volunteer

NAME _____ PHONE _____

please print EMAIL _____

I am available to work the Book Fair:

setting up: _____ Wed 10/8 (3PM - 6PM) or _____ Thurs 10/9 (3PM - 6PM)

browsing and buying:

_____ Sat Oct 11 after 5:00PM Mass _____ Sun Oct 12 after 9:30 Mass

browsing and buying during school hours:

_____ Mon 10/13 _____ Tues 10/14

_____ Wed 10/15 _____ Thurs 10/16

You will be contacted about specific times. Thank you for volunteering!

Join Us on a Book Fair Safari

It's time for the annual book fair at Holy Martyrs! The Scholastic Book Company will provide us with a wide variety of books guaranteed to excite even the most reluctant readers. Titles from the *Reading Olympics* program will be available as will many other award-winning books.

Our teachers will each prepare a wish list of titles, available from the fair that they would like to add to their classroom libraries. What a nice gift to make in your child's name - a new book for the classroom library. Purchase a book from the teacher's wish list and the book will be inscribed with your child's name and remain a permanent addition to their classroom library.



The children (**preschool through grade 8**) will **browse** the fair **Mon - Wed Oct 13th - 15th**, and return to the fair on **Wed or Thurs Oct. 15th or 16th** to make their "must have" purchases.



We invite you to browse and shop the fair **after the weekend Masses** (5PM Sat. and 9:30 and 11:30 Sun.) on **Oct. 11th and 12th**. **This year we will accept credit card purchases on Saturday and Sunday**. See the selection for yourself. Remember, the Book Fair is a win-win fund raiser - the students get the opportunity to read some great books and the school gets the opportunity to purchase materials for the library and classrooms.

And as an added benefit to the fair, Scholastic Book Fairs and Holy Martyrs will sponsor the **One for Books** program again this year. It was very successful for us last year. For your donation of \$1.00, Holy Martyrs School will be able to purchase additional materials for the classrooms. And for every dollar donated to this program, Scholastic Book Company will match the **One for Books** dollars and make a donation (up to one million books) to three non-profit programs aiding children in need. So it is another win-win benefit of the Book Fair - we get the opportunity to purchase additional materials and Scholastic Book Clubs will match our collected funds by making matching contributions to children who can use our help.

One of the things that make our fair so successful each year is the parent volunteers. This year we are looking for help in "setting up", "browsing", and "buying" times. Look for the sign up sheet elsewhere in the newsletter. A sign-up sheet and a One for Books coupon also came home in the communication envelope. Thanks!



PS There is now a link from the Holy Martyrs School web page (www.holymartyrsschool.net) to a web page about our Book Fair - check it out! It also includes the ability to volunteer using email.

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Sept 29	Sept 30	1  Go Phillies! Free Phillies Tag Day!	2	3 School Mass 8:30am - Gr. 6 Student Council Installation	4 Blessing of the Animals 10am
5	6 HS Visit - Archbishop Wood HS (Gr. 7-8)	7 HS Visit - McDevitt HS (Gr. 7-8)	8 HS Visit - Gwyned-Mercy & The Prep (Gr. 7-8)	9 Terra Nova - InView Testing Grades 5, 6, & 8	10 Field Trip - Preschool - Kohler Farms	11 Book Fair after 5p Mass
12 Book Fair after Masses	13 Terra Nova - Standardized Testing Grades 5, 6, and 8	14	15 Safe Environment Training for Adults - 7pm	16	17 NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service Day	18
Holy Martyrs School Scholastic Book Fair - October 11-16th						
19 Holy Martyrs Parish - 40 hours Devotion October 19, 20, 21st - check Parish Bulletin for Information	20 Winter Uniforms are to be worn	21	22 Progress Report Distribution	23	24 Tag Day \$1	25 Community Rummage Sale 8a-1p
26	27	28 Halligan's Family Night 5p-8p Safe Environment Training for Children - October 28 or 29	29	30 Parent- Teacher Conferences 3p-8p	31 NO SCHOOL Faculty Retreat Day	Nov. 1 Holy Day - Feast of All Saints