

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to another great year at HMS. As we join our brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church celebrating the Year of St. Paul, I call to mind his great question; "What will separate us from the love of Christ?". I know that many issues confront us in our daily lives that may keep us from God's love. But I know that your child's attendance at HMS will bring them closer to God's love and I pray that together we can succeed in bringing God's love to our world on a daily basis!

I would like to take a moment to welcome all of our new students and their families to our wonderful school community:

Dale Brower - PreK4s
 Mary Cirelli - Kindergarten
 John Coonahan - PreK4s
 Brandon Decker - Kindergarten
 Jack Hartman - PreK 3s
 Timothy Hayden - PreK4s
 Sean Iadonisi - Kindergarten
 Andrew Imredy - Grade 4
 Charles Johnston - PreK3s
 Bryon Jordan - Grade 2
 Emma Lamb - PreK4s
 Joseph Li - PreK3s
 Malachi Lightner - PreK3s
 Seanpaul Lightner - Grade 1
 George Lynch - PreK4s
 Anthony Parsons - Kindergarten
 Kayla Parsons - PreK3s
 Sarah Powell - Kindergarten
 Cate Noelle Quinn - PreK4s
 Luke Seweryn - PreK3s
 Nicholas Solomon - PreK4s
 Casey Steele - PreK4s
 Luke Thompson - PreK3s
 Grace Urban - PreK3s
 Gabrielle Wilsbach - PreK4s

Each of these students and their families bring some wonderful qualities to their respective classrooms and they have already begun to share in God's love at Holy Martyrs School. May God Bless us all this school year and beyond!

Sincerely
 David J. Hayden
 Principal

Calendar Highlights for September

9/8 - PreK3 and Kindergarten Orientation
 9/9- Preschool (4yrs) and Kindergarten Orientation
 Band Demonstration (Gr.3-7) 2pm
 9/10- Full Day for all Students (Preschool - Grade 8)
 Back to School Night - 7pm in Parish Hall
 Band Parent Meeting (6:15pm)
 9/12- Tipping School Portraits (No Uniform Required)
 9/16 thru 9/20 - Holy Martyrs Carnival
 9/19 - Free Tag Day - Thank you for your support for Carnival
 9/23- Halligan's Family Night (5-8pm)
 9/24 - Home and School Speaker -
 Topic 529 College Savings Plan
 9/26 - Tag Day \$1
 Oct. 3 - School Mass (8:30am) Grade 8
 Student Council Installation Ceremony

Back to School Night
Wednesday, September 10th
7:00pm in the Parish Hall

Welcoming remarks from Mr. Hayden will be followed by a brief presentation from our Home and School President. Parents are invited to the classrooms for presentations from teachers. This is a great opportunity to learn about many of the exciting activities that teachers have planned for this year. At least one parent from each family is expected to attend this event.



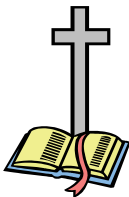
Do you know how you will afford College Tuition for your children?

HMS Home and School welcomes
Vantage Point Bank presenting
529 College Savings Plans
Wednesday, September 24th
7pm in the Parish Hall

Plan on joining us for this informative presentation.
 It is never too early to plan for college!

The Year of St. Paul June 2008 - June 2009

Pope Benedict XVI invites all Catholics to celebrate the year of St. Paul - June 28, 2008 - June 29, 2009. The conversion of Saul on his journey to Damascus is well known as are his thirteen epistles included in the New Testament. His conversion and these letters provide us with some valuable teachings from which we can draw strength. Please visit the archdiocese web page for more information on this celebration of the life and journeys of St. Paul.



<http://archphila.org/catechetical/saintpaul/saintpaul.htm>

Additional information on this celebration will be forthcoming.

HMS C.A.R.E.S. Program

Holy Martyrs does offer a CARES program (Children Are Receiving Extra Services) for our students. The program is available every day that school is in session until 6pm.

Parents interested in this program should contact the office to request a packet of information.

Sacramental Preparation Important Dates

First Penance (Grade 3)

Sacrament - Saturday, December 13th at 10am
Parent Meeting - Tuesday, December 2nd at 7pm

First Communion (Grade 3)

Sacrament - Saturday, April 25th at 10am
Student Rehearsal - Tuesday, April 21st at 6pm
Retreat/Parent Meeting - Tuesday, February 10th at 7pm

Confirmation (Fall 2010)

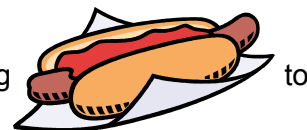
Our next celebration of sacrament of Confirmation will be held in the fall of 2010. This move to a Grade 8 Sacrament will strengthen our program with a year of service and a full year of Catechesis.

Particular details for each of our sacraments and the preparation will be coming from Carole Galante. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Galante at the rectory at 215-884-8575.

Hot Lunch Update

Our Hot Lunch program will begin operations in October, after the carnival. Our first lunch will be served on Monday, September 29th. Order forms will be coming home on Tuesday, September 16th and will be due to the office by Tuesday, September 23rd. Parents will receive confirmation receipts for October Lunch orders by Friday, September 26th. 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 again to Stephanie Harmer for offering to serve as our Hot Lunch Coordinator.



Support Holy Martyrs School and Earn Tuition Credits

BUY SCRIP!

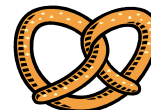
The SCRIP program allows you to raise important funds for Holy Martyrs School and tuition credits for you while conducting your normal shopping. You can purchase gift cards to be used at many of your favorite shopping spots including ACME, Giant, Old Navy, Kohl's, and much, much more.

Scrip cards are sold Friday and Sunday mornings in the main vestibule and orders can be submitted using your RED scrip envelope.

Please contact the school office for more information.

Pretzels and Milk

Pretzels sales began on Monday, Sept. 8th. We will be selling the larger pretzels at a cost of \$0.40 each.



Thank you to our Grade 7 students who have volunteered to coordinate the delivery and sale of pretzels.

Milk sales began on Monday, Sept. 8th. Students may purchase 8 oz servings of White Milk and Chocolate Milk for \$0.40 each. In addition, we have ice water available to all students at no cost. Thank you to our Grade 7 students who have volunteered to assist.



HMS Collects: Box Tops for Education / Campbell's Soup Labels / ACME Register Tapes / Printer Cartridges

HOLY MARTYRS CARNIVAL

The annual Carnival opens on Tuesday, September 16th and runs through Saturday, September 20th. This event is a great display of the spirit of Holy Martyrs. We hope to see you there!



To ensure that this event is a great success, we encourage parents to...

- 1) Bring friends and families to our wonderful carnival. More people make for a more successful carnival!
- 2) Volunteer their time to work at various booths. Your energy and enthusiasm will make for the best carnival ever!

Thank you in advance for your support!

Halligan's Family Fun Nights Tuesday, September 23 5:00-8:00pm

Halligan's Restaurant on Bethlehem Pike

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

Additional Dates: To Be Announced

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.

HMS Recycles

Holy Martyrs School continues to be good stewards of the earth's resources through the Abitibi paper recycling program.



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 (NEAR THE KARATE STUDIO)

Since we began using these bins, we have recycled 64 tons of paper and have raised \$923 for Holy Martyrs School. Thank you for your support!

Aluminum and Plastic

We are working to create a greener school this year in other areas as well. We will be recycling aluminum cans, and plastic bottles from our lunch room. Aluminum and Plastic Recycling Bins will be placed in our lunchroom for student use.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spanish K-8	Phys. Ed. K-4	Phys. Ed. 5-8		
Computer K & 1	Computer 5 & 6	Computer 4	Computer 4, 5, 7	
		Art K, 2, 3, 4	Art 1, 5, 6, 7, 8	
		Music 1, 2, 5-8	Music K, 3, 4	Band 4-8
	Library 4, 7, 8			Library K-3, 5, 6

Schedule for Special Subjects

Please remember that Computer, Art, Physical Education, and Music are graded subjects for students in Grades 4-8. Subjects are taught but not graded for students in grade K-3.

Check out our school website :

www.holymartyrsschool.net

You can access important information including uniform requirements, yearly and monthly calendars, monthly school news, along with links to teacher email addresses and classroom teachers' school notes page. Each month, our page will be updated to include the current monthly calendar and newsletter.

Home and School Association News

Thank you to the following individuals who have agreed to serve as our Home and School Association Executive Board. We have already begun planning what is sure to be a successful year.

President: Lucy Debes
Vice-President: Tina Donnelly
Vice-President: Megan Spoerl
Secretary: Jill D'Angelo
Treasurer: Rosi Iadonisi

We would like to extend our thanks to Donna Storm and Karen Sabatini for their service as President and Secretary, respectively.

Home and School Association Dues: \$25/family

These dues allow us to build some start-up cash for our events and fundraisers.

Planning: Our H&S Board met several times over the summer to put together a variety of events and activities that are sure to offer something for everyone. Please review this list and identify the items in which you would like to participate. Remember that we do not expect parents to participate in all fundraisers. Rather, we hope that you choose the ones that work best for your family.

Event	Date
Kidstuff Coupon Book	Sep. 9 – 22
Back to School Night	Wed. Sep. 10
H&S Speaker	Wed. Sep. 24
Cherrydale Farms—Gift Wrap	Sep. 29—Oct. 13
Trash To Treasure Sale	Sat. Oct. 25
Father/Daughter Dance	Fri. Nov. 21
Secret Santa Shop	Thu. Dec. 4
Breakfast With Santa	Sun. Dec. 14
Parents Night Out	Fri. Dec. 19
Night At the Rink	TBD
Grandparent's Day	Wed. Jan. 28
Super Bowl Hoagie Sale	Sun. Feb. 1
Trivia Night	Fri. Feb. 20
Family Bingo / Pizza Night	Fri. Mar. 13
Donuts with Dad	Fri. Mar. 27
Mother/Son Bowling	Sun. Apr. 5
Silent Auction	Spring 2009
Muffins with Mom	Fri. May 8
Graduation Dinner	Mon. Jun. 8
Family Appreciation Night	Thu. Jun. 11
Recess Duty	Daily
Hot Lunch	Daily
H&S Officer Meetings	3 rd Monday

Communication:

Our Home and School Association exists as a channel to communicate ideas and concerns to the school administration. We appreciate and rely on the feedback from parents to make HMS a great place for our children. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the board members.

DR. PACE 2008 FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

HMS is pleased to welcome Dr. Pace for another exciting year of her exciting and helpful programs.

High School Placement Test and Terra Nova (HSPT/TN) Test Prep

Comprehensive test seminar ideal for 7th and 8th Grade students who are considering applying to any of the Philadelphia private academies, public schools, and Archdiocesan High Schools that administer entrance and scholarship tests. Course materials cover most standardized tests used for entrance, tracking, and academic scholarships.

Location: Holy Martyrs School
 16-Hour Course—Mondays & Wednesdays
 4:45pm - 6:45pm
 September 15, 17, 22, 24, 29
 October 1, 6, 8

Cost: \$250

Slaying the Dragons Holistic - High School Entrance Test Prep for Students and Their Parents

Effective Techniques to deal with test anxiety, stress, low confidence, and distractions - factors that have been shown to thwart personal best performance.

Location: Holy Martyrs School
 5 Sessions: Mondays & Wednesdays
 6:50pm-7:40pm
 September 15, 17, 22, 24, 29

Cost: \$75

Dr. Pace offers many courses throughout the year. Please check her website:

www.drpaceseminars.com

For more information. If you have any questions, please call Dr. Pace at 215-725-6568.



What's New for 2008

This year we are very excited to show off our newly refurbished and upgraded computer lab. Through our Home and School Association and the generous support of our parents and friends, we purchased 16 brand new dell computers. These machines have already brought much excitement and happiness to our students and teachers.

We have also remodeled our Art Room as well. The proceeds from our Dance-a-thon enabled us to purchase and install cabinets for easy storage and art tables and stools for added student workspace.

We are still in the process of ordering our Whiteboards to replace the chalkboards in each of our classrooms. The delay on this project has been caused by a significant price increase from our original supplier and our decision to replace both classroom chalkboards at once. We expect this project to be completed before the end of October. In addition, our replacement water fountains have been ordered and should be installed in the main hallway upstairs soon.

Request for Volunteers

It takes many hands to help our school operate smoothly and efficiently. I am writing to request your continued support in a variety of areas. If you are able to assist, please contact the school office.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

Hot Lunch Volunteers – We need parents to help serve the hot lunch to the students. Our program will run 5 days per week.

Recess Yard Parents – We are looking for additional volunteers to monitor the Recess Yard from 11:30a – 12:30p. This is a great opportunity to watch the children work together.

Thank you to all of the parents and friends that have volunteered in the past. We are grateful for your support. If you have any questions or comments please contact the school office at 215-887-2044 or via email at holy martyrs54@yahoo.com.

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Brightly colored beach pails are located at each entrance of our school to collect the pop tabs from aluminum cans. The Ronald McDonald House (RMH) collects aluminum pop tabs from soda cans, soup cans, etc. They process the collected aluminum tabs and turn these pop tabs into cash. Through this program, RMH has raised over \$109,000.

Homework Helper

(The following information is from:
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Communications and Outreach
Helping Your Child with Homework, Washington D.C., 2005.)

Why do Teachers Assign Homework?

Teachers assign homework for many reasons. Homework can help their students:

- ⇒ *review and practice what they've covered in class;*
- ⇒ *get ready for the next day's class;*
- ⇒ *learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and computer web sites to find information about a subject;*
- ⇒ *explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits*
- ⇒ *extend learning by applying skills they already have to new situations; and*
- ⇒ *integrate their learning by applying many different skills to a single task such as book reports or science projects.*

Homework also can help students to develop good study habits and positive attitudes. It can

- ⇒ *teach them to work independently; and*
- ⇒ *encourage self-discipline and responsibility (assignments provide some children with their first chance to manage time and to meet deadlines).*

How Can Parents Help?

- ◆ Set a regular time for homework
- ◆ Pick a quiet place - kitchen table, home office, bedroom
- ◆ Remove Distractions
- ◆ Provide supplies and Resources
- ◆ Set a good example
- ◆ Be interested and interesting
- ◆ Be informed of the school's homework policy

Homework Time Allotments:

Holy Martyrs School adheres to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Policy No. CIA 615 (March 2004)

"The following time allotment is suggested for homework. This includes both written and studied assignments. Homework assignments may not exceed these limits.

- ◇ *Grade 1 and 2 30 minutes*
- ◇ *Grade 3 and 4 60 minutes*
- ◇ *Grade 5 and 6 90 minutes*
- ◇ *Grade 7 and 8 120 minutes*

In the event that homework concerns arise (including students spending more than the allotted time and/or students not completing assignments) please contact the classroom teacher as soon as possible. With good parent-teacher communication and a concrete plan for students' success, most homework issues can be resolved quickly and rather simply. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

What is HMS-MAPs?

Holy Martyrs School Mission Awareness Project (HMS-MAPs) is a group of parents, students, community members, and friends that work to organize a variety of service opportunities for our children. Projects are open to anybody with the desire and enthusiasm to help others.

To get this year off to a great start, we are hosting:

**MAPs Planning Meeting
Thursday, September 25th
6pm in the Parish Hall
All are invited to attend**

Please bring your positive energy and any ideas that you may have for future service projects. Past activities have included a car wash, letters to homebound parishioners, Bingo at St. Joseph Manor, Alex's Lemonade Stand and much, much more!

We are very excited to continue to build on our recent success as we help our students to live the gospel message by helping others. "It is in giving that we receive!"

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Auxiliary Services

For the 2008 School Year, the following individuals have been assigned to work with our students to deliver the applicable services.

Math and Reading Remediation - Mrs. Jen Major
Guidance Counseling - TBD
Speech and Language - Mrs. Barbarann Probst
Educational Psychologist - Dr. Donna Cavalaro

Over the next several weeks, Mrs. Major will be assessing students' ability using a variety of assessments. New students and students that have been recommended by classroom teachers will be assessed. The testing results will yield a priority list and placement will be determined by Mr. Hayden, Mrs. Major, and Classroom Teachers.

Once appointed, our counselor will be busy during the first few months as he/she visits each classroom and "checks in" with all new students to learn a little more about them and their transition to HMS. Furthermore she will be working on several grade-level projects while maintaining her load of counseling cases. If parents have any concerns or would like to speak with a counselor, please contact the school office.

Communication is Essential

We recognize that communication is crucial to a successful school experience for students and parents. We will utilize a variety of methods to maintain positive communication:

Communication Folder

Again this year, we will utilize a communication folder/envelope to streamline and organize communications from the school office. This envelope will come home each week on Tuesdays (or Wednesday with Monday Holiday) with the youngest and/or only children. Important items such as monthly calendar and newsletter highlights, hot lunch order forms, and more will be sent in these folders. Please remember to check your child's backpack for these items.

Electronic Communications

We will also be utilizing a variety of electronic communication tools this year.

School Website: holymartyrsschool.net will be updated monthly to include our monthly newsletter, important information and links to "schoolnotes" page that teachers use to keep parents informed on classroom activities. Teacher and staff email addresses can be found on the school web page as well.

Teacher Email: Each teacher has an email account that they check daily. Parents can expect a response with 24-36 hours. However, please keep in mind that email may not be used to communicate absences, change in dismissal or other items with which we need a parent signature.

Home and School Weekly Email: Each Tuesday, home and school will send out a weekly email that will include reminders, fliers, monthly newsletters, and more. **Please note:** We ask that all fliers and notices for the communication envelope be sent to Mr. Hayden via email by 10am on Mondays. The electronic versions will be attached to the Home and School Weekly email.

If you have not been receiving the home and school weekly email, please contact them directly by email at holymartyrs.homeandschool@yahoo.com. We will be happy to add you to the list and include you on our next email. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Hayden directly by phone at 215-887-2044 or via email at principalhayden@gmail.com.

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Holiday	2	3 School Opens Gr. 1-8 Full Day	4	5 Mass 8:30am 12noon Dismissal NO Springfield bus in pm	6
7	8 K & PK3 Orientation	9 K & PK4 Orientation Band Demo 2pm	10 Back to School Night 7pm in School Hall	11	12 Tipping School Pictures No Uniforms	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Free Tag Day	20
Holy Martyrs Carnival September 16th - 20th						
21	22	23 Halligan's Family Night 5p-8p	24 H&S Speaker 7pm Topic: 529 College Savings Plans	25	26 Tag Day \$1	27
28	29	30	October 1	October 2	October 3 School Mass 8:30am Student Council Installation	October 4