

Grade 8 Catholic Schools Week Essay

Congratulations to Erica Witkowski. Her essay was selected to be read at the Parish Mass on Sunday, January 25th. The essay is below:

As I begin, let me first offer a big THANK YOU to all of the members of this parish who have generously given of their time and talents to make our school exist. I am grateful for all that has been done to make Holy Martyrs School a great place to grow and learn.

Holy Martyrs Catholic School gives students the opportunity to give back to the world just as you all have given so much to us. Showing kindness to others can help put a smile on someone's face or help make a difference in someone's life. Jesus calls us to love others as God has loved us. Holy Martyrs School helps us to live this message of Jesus each day.

Here at Holy Martyrs, we learn to serve those in need. One way we lend a hand to others is by participating in a canned food drive that we host here at school. We donate the cans to local food cupboards and organizations who distribute the food to the hungry. Donating canned goods is such an easy way to feed hungry people. It makes me feel better about myself that I am feeding a starving person in the community.

Students at Holy Martyrs are part of a Catholic school that teaches students to serve and care for people of all ages, religions, races, and beliefs. This is why Holy Martyrs gives students the opportunity to participate in making "snootles" for a hospital nursery. "Snootles" are little pieces of cloth that the mother of a premature baby will wear. After the cloth gets the mother's scent, it is put in the incubator with the newborn. Partaking in this kind act helps me appreciate my health and my family deeply.

Everyone in the world deserves to have clothing. That is why Holy Martyrs School also hosts a Saint Vincent de Paul clothing drive. When the people in our community donate their clothes to the needy, they are living out Jesus' message to clothe the naked. It makes me proud of myself to live God's message of caring for those in need. It also makes me thankful to have clothes to wear every day that will keep me warm in the winter and comfortable in the summer.

There are people in the world who are needier than I am. Holy Martyrs School and I can make a difference in someone's life, no matter how big or small. I believe this is what Christ wants us to do with our lives. He even tells us these things in Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew. Making a difference will help others, we will be living God's mission, and we will feel better about ourselves. Holy Martyrs School has greatly prepared me for making service a part of my life now and forever.

Calendar Highlights for February 2009

- 2/4 - Information Sessions for PreK/K - 9a & 7p
- 2/6 - Tipping Class Pictures - *Uniform Required*
- 2/7 - HMS Night at the Rink-6p-8p @York Road
- 2/9 - *Art Goes to School* visits HMS (all week)
- 2/10 - HMS Night at O'Towne Tavern
 - First Communion Meeting (Gr. 3)
- 2/11 - Registration Night (5p-7p)
- 2/13 - NO SCHOOL - In-Service Day
- 2/14 - Happy Valentine's Day
- 2/16 - NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day Holiday
- 2/17 - Field Trip - PreK to Family Stages
- 2/20 - HMS Trivia Night (7pm-Parish Hall)
- 2/22 - Confirmation Meeting (Grade 6)
- 2/24 - Palm Night - 6:45pm in Church
 - Halligan's Family Night (5p-8p)
- 2/25 - Ash Wednesday (Mass 8:30am)
- 2/26 - Halligan's Family Night
- 2/27 - Tag Day \$1
- March 6 - End of 2nd Marking Period
- March 18 - Report Card Distribution
- March 28 - HMS Silent Auction

Holy Martyrs School Collects:

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

Starlight and Moonbeams**HMS Silent Auction 2009****Saturday, March 28th****7:00pm****Flourtown Country Club**

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining the entire HMS community for our largest fundraiser of the year.

Thank you to the many families that have already responded to our request for donations. For additional information or to make a donation, please contact the school office.

Terra Nova 2008 Testing Results

In October, our students in Grades 5, 6, and 8 participated in the Terra Nova standardized tests. Individual student results will be sent home on Wednesday, February 4th with the student progress reports. This year we will send home two separate reports. Home Report with *InView*, Part I identifies the student's national percentile score in various content areas. The percentile scores are compared with other children who took the same tests. Home Report with *InView*, Part II identifies the student's score in national percentile and National Stanine Scale on five tests of cognitive ability. These five sub-tests provide a glimpse into the students academic aptitude and potential. For both reports, it is important to consider that scores between 25 - 75 are considered average. In addition to the graphs, each report provides general overview of the test results and specific information for the student.

Grade 5				
County	Read Cmpst	Lang Cmpst	Math Cmpst	Total
Montgomery	75	73	75	73
Archdiocese	65	60	60	60
Holy Martyrs	72	72	59	66
Grade 6				
County	Read Cmpst	Lang Cmpst	Math Cmpst	Total
Montgomery	75	74	75	77
Archdiocese	65	64	63	64
Holy Martyrs	66	68	64	68
Grade 8				
County	Read Cmpst	Lang Cmpst	Math Cmpst	Total
Montgomery	82	84	83	84
Archdiocese	72	74	71	72
Holy Martyrs	80	90	83	88

Our teachers have been reviewing these results and utilizing this information to guide the instructional practice. The testing results provide us with insight into the performance of the school as a whole and specific information on students and content area. We are able to view the whole class in terms of clusters of students with strengths and weaknesses. This information allows teachers to more accurately direct their attention to meet each child's academic needs.

Overall, our students scored very well on this test. This success is a testament to the combined efforts of parents and teachers. We should all feel very proud of our students' accomplishments and of the academic program at Holy Martyrs School. Parents may be interested in comparing their student's individual scores with the averages from their class and from around the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Please note that the Terra Nova scores are just one piece of the puzzle that we use in evaluating the academic program at Holy Martyrs School and the growth and learning of our students. The balance of the puzzle includes the student performance in the classroom and their general attitude towards learning and school. After reviewing these scores and the scores of your individual student, please contact me if you have additional questions.

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 9th, 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 Invites interested families to attend:

Parent Information Sessions Wednesday, February 4th

PreK / K at 9:00am

Meet in the Parish Hall

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.

Class of 2009 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
- ◆ Bishop McDevitt High School
- ◆ LaSalle College High School
- ◆ William Penn Charter 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!

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.

Registration Information

Next week, we will send out Re-registration forms for our current students and their siblings. We ask that parents complete, sign, and return the form to the school office as soon as possible.

Registration for ALL New Students

Wednesday, February 13th

5:00p-7:00p

Report to the School Office

The Following Items are needed to Register:

Birth Certificate / Baptismal Certificate

Immunization Records / Social Security Number

\$100 Registration Fee

Low Income Data Survey

Every year, Holy Martyrs School participates in the Low Income Data Survey along with each school within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This information is kept in the strictest confidence and is essential in securing government funds for various programs including the support services offered by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. We ask that parents review the information and complete and return the survey form as soon as possible. If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the School Office.

Tipping School Pictures Friday, February 6th *Proper Uniforms Required*

On February 6th, 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.

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 25th! The event was a smashing success! The students looked great in their uniforms and our school spirit was abundantly clear to all! I met with several parents, parishioners, alumni and friends who had many wonderful things to say about our school! Thank you again for this great demonstration of how Catholic Schools light the way to a better world and a better future!



Sacramental Update

Grade 3 - First Holy Communion

Sacrament Date - April 25th

Next Meeting - Tuesday, Feb. 10th

Students 6pm in Church

Parents 7pm in Church

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

Grade 6 - Confirmation

Sacrament Date - Fall 2010

Next Meeting - Sunday, Feb. 22nd

Students and Parents attend 9:30am

Mass and gather in the hall following mass.

This informative session will provide students and parents an overview of the preparation and activities pertaining to the sacrament.

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.

SCRIP UPDATE

Congratulations to our school community for raising close over **\$9,500** for our school through the Scrip program. This is a great accomplishment for our school of our size. Going forward, our scrip team will be on hand to sell scrip at the following times:

Sundays 10:30a-11:30a
in the Church Vestibule
Fridays 8a-9a
in School Lobby

Earn tuition Credits! Buy Scrip!

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 15th!

Palm Night Tuesday, February 24th 6:45pm in the Church

Parishioners and families are invited to bring blessed Palms (from Palm Sunday 2008) to burn at a short prayer service. The ashes from these palms will be distributed on Ash Wednesday.

St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive Thursday, February 5th 9:00am - 2:00pm

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

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!

- ◆ HMS Night at the Rink - February 7th
- ◆ HMS Night at O'Towne Tavern - February 10th **New Event**
- ◆ HMS Trivia Night - February 20th
- ◆ Halligan's Family Night - February 24th
- ◆ Family Bingo and Pizza Night - March 13th
- ◆ Halligan's Family Night - March 24th
- ◆ Silent Auction - March 28th
- ◆ Mother-Son Bowling - April 5th
- ◆ Halligan's Family Night - April 28th

You will notice that we have added “HMS Night at the O'Towne Tavern.” This is one additional opportunity for families to get together to support HMS. We are thrilled to support Jerry Schneider as he supports our school. Also, please remember that we do not expect all families to participate in every fundraiser. Rather, we have provided a variety of opportunities so that families may choose the event/activities that work best for them. Thanks for your support!

If you have any questions about any of our fundraisers, please contact one of us:

Lucy Debes - President / 215-884-1981

Tina Donnelly - Co-Vice President / 215-885-0382

Jill D'Angelo - Secretary / 215-233-1038

Megan Spoerl - Co-Vice President / 215-886-4409

Rosie Iadonisi - Treasurer / 215-572-0664

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Feast of St. Blaise Blessing of Throats after 8:30am Mass	4 Progress Report Distribution Information Sessions for PreK and K 9a & 7p	5	6 Tipping Class Pictures <i>Uniforms Required</i>	7 HMS Night at the Rink 6p-8p at York Road Rink
8	9	10 HMS Night at O'Towne Tavern First Communion Meeting (7p)	11 HMS Registration Night 5p-7p	12	13 NO SCHOOL In-Service Day	14
Art Goes to School - visits HMS Classrooms this Week!						
15	16 NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day Holiday	17 Field Trip - PreK to Christ Lutheran Family Stages	18	19	20 HMS Trivia Night 7pm Parish Hall	21
22 Confirmation Meeting (Gr. 6) Parents and Students 9:30am	23	24 Palm Night 7pm Halligan's Family Night 5p-8p	25 Ash Wednesday Mass 8:30am	26	27 Tag Day \$1	28