

From the Principal's Desk:

During the season of Lent, we often choose to offer a sacrifice in some form or another. This act of self-denial mimics that act of Christ going into the desert to fast. But this sacrifice can be so much more than a physical act. It can be a real attempt to touch our deeper, spiritual side.

For some this notion of sacrifice seems outdated and old-fashioned. For them, the emphasis of their life is to accumulate material goods and satisfy their senses through self-gratification. But many of us recognize that this over-indulgence in physical/material items fails to strengthen our spiritual relationship with Jesus. It is through this act of sacrifice that we train our bodies to do without so that we can focus on what is truly important in our lives - a strong relationship with Jesus.

I pray that each of us remain steadfast in our faith and in our commitment to strengthen our spiritual side through sacrifice. May the Lord continue to bless us all throughout this Lenten Season. Through His love and our faith in Him, our Easter Sunday will be filled with great rejoicing and abounding love!

In Christ,
David J. Hayden
Principal

Students of the Month

Holy Martyrs Faculty recognizes the following individuals as our ACE Students of the Month. These students are commended for their positive attitude, exceptional cooperation, and/or outstanding effort during the month of February.

Kindergarten - Tessa Singh
Grade 1 - Michael Lombardi
Grade 2 - Tahnun Meenarai
Grade 3 - Aine Lavery and Rabia Shah
Grade 4 - Kimberly Donnelly
Grade 5 - Quinn Johnston and Shane Meenan
Grade 6 - Eddie Corcoran
Grade 7 - Nicholas Wierman
Grade 8 - Julia Burke, Robert Gillies, and Patrick Mahoney

Calendar Highlights for March

3/2 - Stations of the Cross (2pm)
 3/3 - H& Board Meeting (1:30pm)
 3/4 - First Communion Parent Meeting (7pm)
 Terra Nova Testing (K-7)
 3/5 - Tipping Class Pictures
 Terra Nova Testing (K-7)
 3/8 - Terra Nova Testing (K-7)
 3/9 - Terra Nova Testing (K-7) / Stations of the Cross (2pm) / HMS Night at O'Towne
 3/10 - Terra Nova Testing (K-7)
 3/11 - Terra Nova Testing (K-7)
 3/12 - Terra Nova Testing (K-7) / End of 2nd Marking Period / MAPs Fashion Show
 3/13 - CASINO NIGHT (7pm)
 3/14 - Daylight Saving Begins (Spring Forward)
 3/15 - HMS Spelling Bee
 3/16 - Stations of the Cross (2pm)
 3/17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day (Free Tag Day)
 3/19 - Happy 70th Birthday Fr. Ryan
 3/21 - Confirmation Retreat - Gr. 7 (12pm at St. Katherine Drexel Shrine)
 3/23 - Stations of the Cross (2pm) / Halligan's Family Night (5p-8p)
 3/24 - Report Card Distribution
 3/26 - Donuts with Dads (7:30am-8:15am)
 3/27 - HMS Flea Market
 3/28 - Palm Sunday
 April 1 - NO SCHOOL - Holy Thursday
 April 2 - NO SCHOOL - Good Friday
 April 4 - Alleluia, He Is Risen - Easter Sunday
 April 5 - NO SCHOOL - Easter Monday
 April 8 - School Mass - Grade 1 (8:30am)

HMS Receives Field Trip Grant from Target

Holy Martyrs School has been selected to receive a field trip grant from Target Stores as part of their Target Field Trip Grant Program. The grant amount is \$800.00 cash to be used for a pre-selected trip to "The Liberty Museum" in Philadelphia. The Liberty Museum provides exhibits and classes to promote issues like Anti-bullying, Diversity, Civic Responsibility and more. Grade K-3 will attend the museum in the Spring. Bus transportation, museum entrance and classes will be funded through this grant. This should be a meaningful trip.

Thank you Target!

Marketing Update

Thank you to all of our families who helped to spread the good news of our school in anticipation of our Information sessions and registration days. Although the weather did not cooperate, we had a successful series of events with 16 families coming out to here about our wonderful school.

If you know a family that is interested in learning about our school but was unable to attend our information sessions, please ask them to contact me directly at the school office 215-887-2044. We will be happy to schedule a visit for them to come and see our wonderful school.

Thank you again for your assistance in spreading the good news of HMS!



CYO NEWS - Grade 5 Boys - Region 10 Champions

Congratulations to the Grade 5 JV Boys "B" Team on winning the Region 10 Tournament. They defeated St. Phillip Neri in the Championship Game played on March 1st at St. John of the Cross. This win caps off a great season for the team (23-3) which included a strong showing at the Ambler Tournament (Semi-finalist), winning the Maria Goretti Christmas Tournaments and now capturing the Region 10 crown. The team consists of the following boys - Nolan Debes, Joseph Quinn, Ricky Bradley, Tim Smith, Petey Corcoran, Shane Meenan, Charlie Rittenhouse, Aidan Rich, Cole Storm, and Greg "Spud" McGrath. When you see these kids around, make sure you give them a fist bump. Joe Smith, assisted by Larry Storm, did a great job running the team all season long. Thank you gentlemen and boys for representing Holy Martyrs in great fashion!



Holy Martyrs School - Snow Day Make-Up

Mr. Hayden is currently working with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office of Catholic Education to devise a plan to make up for the 4 days of instruction that were lost due to the winter storms. Currently, the School District of Philadelphia has petitioned the Commonwealth for forbearance on the required 180 days of instruction due to the severity of these winter storms. As you can imagine, the commonwealth's response to this request will impact our plans to make up the lost instructional days. Once a decision is made on Philadelphia's appeal and communication is delivered from the Office of Catholic Education, Mr. Hayden will communicate to parents our plans to provide for make up days. Thank you for your patience on this matter.



Holy Martyrs School Collects:

Empty ink-jet cartridges

Campbell's Labels for Education - UPC label

General Mills - Box Tops for Education

*ACME Register Receipts (through April 30, 2010)

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

Please note: ACME Supermarkets is discontinuing their Tape Saver Charitable Giving Program effective April 30, 2010. All receipts should be turned in prior to that date for proper credit to be received by Holy Martyrs School. We are saddened by their decision, but recognize the contributions that they have made to our school and continue to make through the SCRIP program.

Tuition Assistance

With tuition rates set for next school year, I remind all parents that Tuition Assistance is available for the 2010-2011 school year. We thank the following companies for their participation in the PA Education Improvement Tax Credit Program and their cooperation with the BLOCS Office:



**Firstrust Bank Brendan Abstract Co.
Almeida & Hudak Contractors, LLC**

Through their support of the EITC Program, we have over \$20,000 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 contact Mr. Hayden for more information.

Deadline for Applications: April 15th

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.

**Holy Martyrs MAPs Fashion Show
Friday, December 12th
1:30pm in the Parish Hall
\$3 donation at the Door
Baked Goods for Sale**



Please join our students for our 2nd Annual Fashion Show to support SSIS (Starting School in Style). For additional information, please contact Donna Storm via email at: stormdm@comcast.net

Spreading the Good News...

Congratulations to all of our students for their participation in the 2010 Archdiocese of Philadelphia Art Contest. Students in Grades K-6, and Grade 8 completed artwork based on the theme of "The Year of Priests." Grade 7 students were in the midst of another project and, thus, were unable to participate in the Archdiocese Contest this year. The projects were wonderful and judging very difficult. We commend the following students on their pieces to be judged at the Archdiocese level.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Art Contest

Grade Level HMS Representative

Kindergarten	Cate Noelle Quinn
Grade 1	Sean Iadonisi
Grade 2	Victoria Mezher
Grade 3	Caitlin Iadonisi
Grade 4	Marielle Ford
Grade 5	Julia Dellaporta
Grade 6	Kelly Coonahan
Grade 7	No Entry
Grade 8	Alyssa McFadden

Alumni Update

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved Honor Roll status at local High Schools:

Gwynedd Mercy Academy

Erica Witkowski - First Honors
Michelle Hardcastle - Second Honors
Catharine McDonald - Second Honors
Georgina Mezher - Second Honors
Kerry Smith - Second Honors

Lansdale Catholic High School

Ray Harmer - First Honors

St. Basil Academy

Emalee Meyers - High Honors
Meghan McGovern - High Honors
Jenna Violi - Honors
Angela Meyers - Honors

The following graduates will be inducted into the **National Honor Society** at *Archbishop Wood High School* on March 4th.

Olivia Demkovits
Samantha Nichols

Congratulations to these alumni and all of our alumni who continue to represent HMS in fine fashion.

Holy Martyrs Home and School invite all Dads...

Donuts with Dads
Friday, March 26th
7:30am - 8:15am
7:45a-8:30a (Preschool)



Dads (Granddads and others) are invited to visit HMS on this day for coffee and donuts. Remember to stop by the classrooms to see the exciting things that our students are working on.

Art Goes To School

During the week of February 9th, Holy Martyrs School hosted 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 showed our students poster-sized prints of many of the greatest pieces of art. Individual classes were 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 Spelling Bee **Monday, March 15th** **12:30pm**

Our students in Grades 4-6 will be participating in our local competition. The winner will go on to face contestants from around the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The "Word List" will be found on our website at: <http://www.holymartyrsschool.net>

Good Luck to all our participants.

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

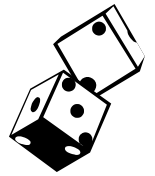
For busing service only, please keep in mind the following numbers as they apply to your family:

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 H&S to be added to the list: holymartyrs.homeandschool@yahoo.com

HMS Home and School invite you to attend...

HMS CASINO NIGHT **Saturday, March 13th** **7:00pm In the Parish Hall**



Come out and join in the fun of our biggest fundraiser of the year! This event features delicious food, tasty beverages, and many casino-style game tables. Even if you are not a gambler by nature come out and enjoy the comraderie and fun with our guest Black Jack Dealers - "Doc" Dougherty - CYO Football Coach and Mr. Hayden, HMS Principal as we raise money for our school! Each attendee will have a chance to win some fabulous prizes! Hope to see you there!

Low Income Data Survey

Thank you to the 68 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.

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 should 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.

Terra Nova Testing

The Terra Nova standardized testing system is an assessment that measures what students know and can do. This standardized test also reflects the quality of our curriculum and instruction. As in the past, our students will again participate in the Archdiocese Terra Nova testing program. You may recall, beginning in the fall of 2008, changes were introduced both in the format of the test and the timing of the tests. With this spring's testing, all changes will have been implemented. **Students in grades kindergarten through grade 7 will be administered the tests this spring.**

Students in grades 1 through 7 will utilize a multiple assessment form of Terra Nova. This multiple assessment version requires students to provide constructed responses in addition to the standard multiple choice answers. *Kindergartners will be tested using the standard multiple choice type of question only.* 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 to their child.

Testing for grades kindergarten through grade seven will begin Thursday, March 4th and conclude Friday, March 12th. This survey provides a measurement of student achievement in Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. During our testing period, each day will contain a 30 to 60 minute block of testing. Later this spring, parents of students in Grades 1 through 7 will receive a report detailing their child's outcomes. Kindergarten parents will receive reports with aggregated data that will not contain performance results for individual students.

There is no special 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. Being well rested and well fed sets a positive tone for the student for the day. **We ask that every effort is made to have the child present and on time for school.** Late arrivals and absences introduce a level of stress to the child and it is our goal to minimize any apprehension.

Students **MUST** bring to school three (3) sharpened number 2 pencils with erasers. Individual classroom teachers will notify the students if calculators are permitted. 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 fret about the testing process.



March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Stations of the Cross 2pm	3	4 First Communion Parent Meeting 7pm	5 Tipping Class Pictures <i>(rescheduled from 2/12)</i>	6
7	8	9 Stations of the Cross 2pm	10	11	12 End of 2nd Marking Period <hr/> MAPS Fashion Show -1:30p	13 HMS Casino Night
Terra Nova Standardized Testing: March 4th - March 12th						
14  Begin Daylight Savings Time	15 HMS Spelling Bee Gr. 4-6	16 Stations of the Cross 2pm	17  Happy St. Patrick's Day Free Green Tag Day	18	19 Happy 70th Birthday Fr. Ryan	20
21 Confirmation Retreat at St. Katherine Drexel Shrine	22	23 Stations of the Cross 2pm	24 Report Card Distribution	25	26 Tag Day \$1 Donuts with Dads - 7:30a	27 HMS Flea Market
28 Palm Sunday	29	30 Stations of the Cross 2pm	31	April 1 NO SCHOOL Holy Thursday	April 2 NO SCHOOL Good Friday	April 3