

Holy Martyrs School

SCHOOL NEWS

From: Mr. Hayden

November 2008

From the Principal's Desk:

As the busy months of September and October are now behind us, we find ourselves with a small pause for All Saints Day and All Souls Day. These two days are very important for our faith as we take time to celebrate the lives of the saints and to remember all of our brothers and sisters in Christ that have gone on to Heaven before us. We will offer a special mass of remembrance when we gather as a school community on November 7th. For this mass, we invite students, parents, and friends to submit names of our deceased brothers and sisters for whom we shall pray. Please look for the information in the weekly communication envelope.

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!

Sincerely,

David J. Hayden

Principal

We are very excited to host:

Preschool-Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast Tuesday, November 11^h at 6pm

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!



Daylight savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 2nd
Turn your clocks back



Calendar Highlights for November

- 11/4 - Election Day - Remember to Vote
- 11/7 - School Mass (8:30am) - Grade 4 Mass of Remembrance
- 11/10 - Tipping Pictures - Make-Up Day
- 11/11 - PreK/Kindergarten Thanksgiving (6pm)
- 11/13 - Parish Remembrance Mass (7pm)
- 11/20 - Grade 8 - HS Visitation Day
- 11/21 - Tag Day \$1 / Father-Daughter Dance
- 11/25 - Field Trip (K-2) Adventure Aquarium
- Halligan's Family Night
- 11/26 - End of First Marking Period
- 12noon Dismissal
- 11/27 - NO SCHOOL - Happy Thanksgiving
- 11/28 - NO SCHOOL
- Dec. 2 - Parent Meeting First Penance (Gr.3)
- Dec. 5 - NO SCHOOL - In-Service Day
- Dec. 7 - HM Parish Christmas Bazaar
- Advent Faith Formation Event (7pm)
- Dec. 8 - NO SCHOOL - Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 10 - Report Card Distribution
- Dec. 11- HMS Christmas Show (7pm)

Tipping Retakes - Monday Nov. 10th

Tipping Photographers will be at HMS on this date to retake student pictures. We have not had picture retakes over the last several years and we appreciate Tipping's commitment to customer satisfaction.



Students that were absent on Sept. 12 may send in their order forms on that day and have their picture taken.

For students/parents that were not happy with their portraits, please return the entire portrait package and bring your smile on this date.

For picture retake student only, uniforms are optional. I apologize for the lateness in getting this information to you, but we recently receive word that Tipping was interested in doing retakes. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Holy Martyrs School - Mission Awareness Project (HMS-MAPs) Update

We are off and running with another great year of service opportunities for our students and families. We are confident that our activities will help us to spread the Gospel message of love and compassion. Building on our past successes, we will continue some projects and have added many more. Please keep in mind that our MAPs activities are open to all of the members of our parish as we strive to make our community, our world a better place for all of God's people. This year we hosted a Car Wash that was very successful in raising funds to help support some of our projects. We have a t-shirt design and are looking into various ways to fund the purchase and printing of the t-shirts for all of our students. We are so blessed to have such wonderful support for all of our programs. We look forward to a great year!

MAPs Projects that are on-going

Offertory Gift Presentation - Families sign up to bring forward the offertory gifts at parish mass.

Snootles - handmade, soft cuddly toys for newborns

Snow Shoveling/Chores for Seniors - Older students sign up to assist our elderly parishioners

Card Making with Mrs. Prinzo - students volunteer their lunch recess time to make cards for homebound

MAPs Scrapbook - Tina Donnelly continues to add to the scrapbook of all our projects.

If you have any pictures from any maps events, please forward them to Tina.

Upcoming MAPs Activities

October 29th - Bingo w/ Seniors and St. Joseph Manor (this project will continue each month)

October 28th-November 14th - Cradle of Hope Spare Change Collection

students collect spare change to support a group home for expectant mothers.

November 8th - Special Olympics Fall Festival at Villanova University

Students will assist in this annual sporting competition

November 11, 2008 - Canned Food Drive

Student Council will coordinate this event to benefit the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Nutritional Development Services - information will be coming shortly

November/December 2008 - Faces of Jesus Orphanage

Students will complete a few different projects to support this Orphanage in Central America

December 2008 - Operation Santa Claus

Student Council runs this annual toy-collection

January 19, 2009 - Martin Luther King Day of Service

Students and families are invited to the Parish hall on this "Day Off" to participate in a wide range of service projects

February 5, 2009 - Ronald McDonald House

families and students travel to RMH to prepare a home-cooked meal for the patients and families that are staying at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House

March 2009 - TBD (email us with any suggestions that you may have)

April 2009 - Basketball Shootout to Knockout Autism

June 2009 - Alex's Lemonade Stand

New for 2008 - We have added a children's group - **MAPs KIDS**

We had a very nice turnout for our first meeting that was held on October 24th. This meeting provided students with an opportunity to suggest various service projects and to generate ideas on how to keep their classmates informed of the various MAPs projects each month. MAPs Kids is open to any student that wants to make a difference. Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 14th at 3:30pm.

Our goal is to engage as many students/families as possible in volunteer efforts that make a difference in our parish, our community, and our world! If there are any questions or suggestions, please contact Donna

Student Council Update

Student Council has been busy during the month of October planning events and activities for the year.

In October, they assisted with the food sales at our Trash To Treasure Sale and are sponsoring a candy corn guess contest. For \$0.25 students guess how much candy corn is in the jar, the closest without going over, wins the jar.

Student Council is Sponsoring...

**Free Halloween Tag Day
Thursday, October 30th
Please wear your black and orange**

For November, Student Council will again coordinate the Canned Food Drive. They will also be hosting a "Gobble Contest." Information on both of these events will be coming home shortly.

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 7th at 7:00pm
"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.

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 21st 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.

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 20th

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.

HMS Collects...

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

Thank you for your support!

Sacramental Preparation Information

Reconciliation (Grade 3)

Parent Meeting – Tuesday, December 2nd-7pm
Sacrament–Saturday, December 13th-10:00am

First Holy Communion (Grade 3)

Parent Meeting – Tuesday, February 10th - 7pm
Rehearsal – TBD
Sacrament – Saturday, April 25^h at 10:00am

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

Holy Martyrs School Celebrates:

Veterans' Day Tuesday, November 11, 2009



To commemorate this day, Mrs. Hill, Grade 7 & 8 Social Studies teacher, has invited a number of veterans from the community to speak with the students on their experience and what this country means to them. The students will no doubt learn a lot from these veterans. Furthermore, the students will use these presentations as they participate in the VFW Patriotism Essay Contest. We are grateful for the service of these men and the service of thousands of other men and women who sacrifice so much for our freedom. We especially thank Mr. Roy Hanshaw for his work in bringing these speakers to HMS.

Mark Your Calendars...

HMS Christmas Show Thursday, December 11th 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.

Halligan's Family Night Tuesday, November 25th 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Take a break from the kitchen and enjoy some good food and community.

A portion of the dining room receipts is donated to HMS as part of this fundraiser. Thanks to Halligan's Pub for their support for our school. This year, we have received over \$300 from Halligan's towards our general operating expenses. Thank you to all of our families and friends that support these family fun nights!

HMS Recycles with Abitibi

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

We have received over \$400 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 (NEAR THE KARATE STUDIO)

Support Holy Martyrs School
And Earn Tuition Credits

BUY SCRIP!

Contact the school office for more information!

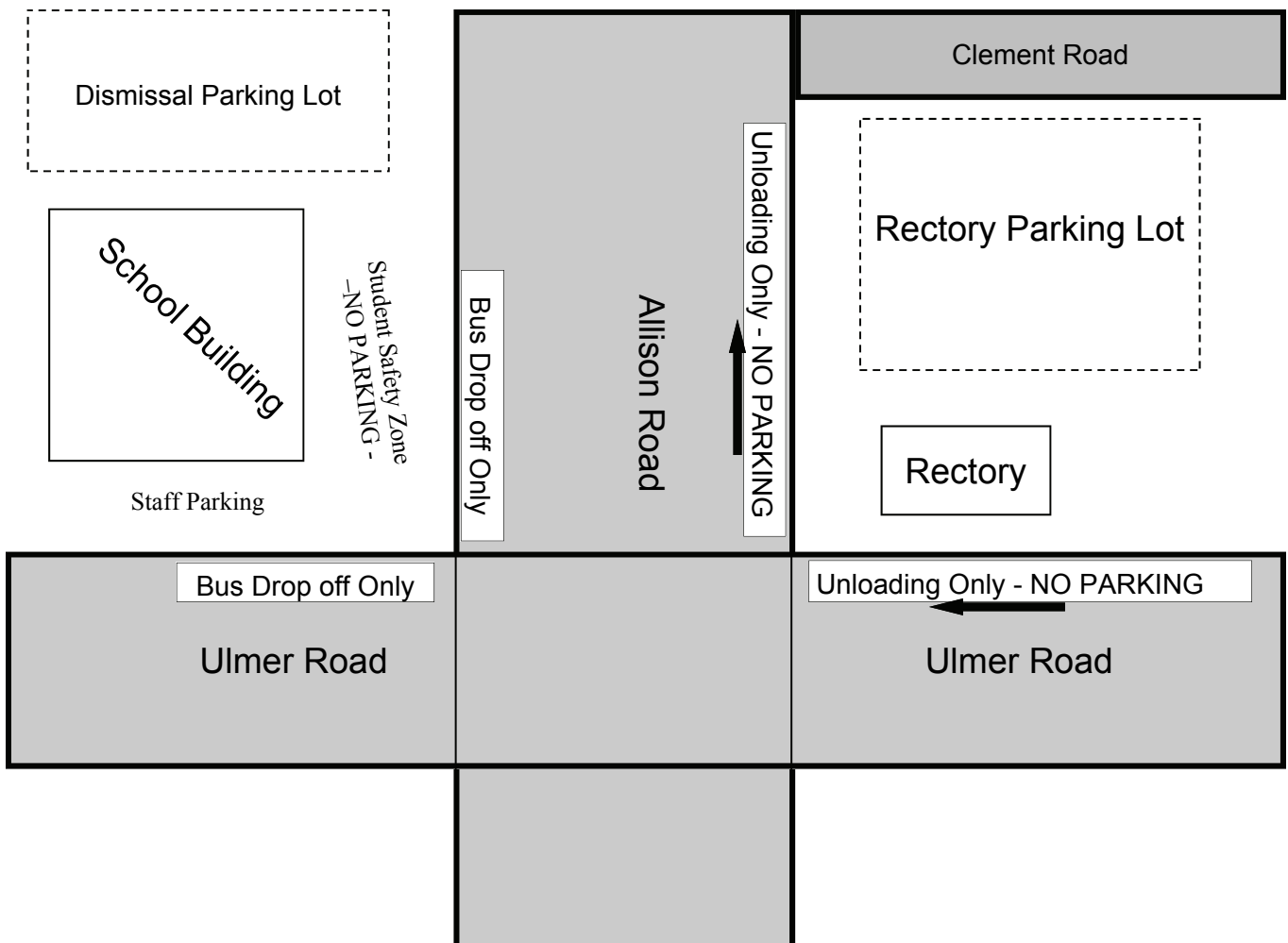
Morning Drop-Off Procedure - (revised 11-28-07)

Below you will find the particular details for our drop-off procedure. You may notice some changes and some similarities. The current procedures that we have outlined are in place for the safety of all of our students and need to be followed by all adults responsible for the transportation of students. I ask that parents communicate this information to all necessary parties.

Drop-Off / Unloading Zones are located on Allison and Ulmer Roads on the sidewalk that is adjacent to the rectory. Parents that are unloading in these locations are asked to form an orderly line - pulling forward when possible and exercising patience as others unload their students. In the event that the unloading zones are full, parents may park in the rectory lot. **Parking for parents** that are escorting their children to the corner or to the school are asked to park in the Rectory Parking Lot. **School Buses** will drop students off on the sidewalk adjacent to the school building. Students are not permitted to exit from cars on the sidewalks that are adjacent to the school building. We have had several near-miss incidents involving a line of parked cars and regular street traffic. Utilizing only one side of the streets should alleviate the congestion and prevent accidents.

In the past we allowed parents to pull into the school parking lot during inclement weather. **This is no longer allowed.** The congestion from the number of cars and the little children walking near the cars is a risk that we simply cannot take. Cars are not permitted to enter the school parking lot. I have spoken with Mr. Jim O'Donohue and we have his full cooperation in clearing ice and snow from the crosswalk/sidewalk to the school doors. The inclement weather (Rain, snow, ice) always presents challenges. However, with our revised procedures, we are confident that all of our students will arrive to school safely (*perhaps a little wet and chilly, but safe!*)

Reminder - The school day begins promptly at 8:00am and students should be in the yard/building before that time. Our crossing guard is on-duty until 8:00am. I have noticed a large rush of parents dropping off students right around that 8am time and this last-minute rush adds to the problems with our drop-off routine. To assist in a smooth and safe procedure, we ask that parents do what they can to arrive at school with plenty of time to allow for congestion and other delays. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this procedure and for doing what you can to help ensure the safety of all students!



November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Oct 27	Oct 28	Oct 29	Oct 30	Oct 31	1
				Parent-Teacher Conferences 3p-8p	NO SCHOOL Faculty Retreat	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Turn Your Clocks Back 		Election Day 			School Mass 8:30am Grade 4 Mass of Remembrance	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Tipping Pics Make-Up Day	Preschool & Kindergarten Thanksgiving Festival - 6pm				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				Grade 8 Archdiocese High School Visitation Day	Tag Day \$1 Father-Daughter Dance 7pm - Parish Hall	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Field Trip K-2 to the Adventure Aquarium	12noon Dismissal Bus Service - All districts End of 1st Marking Period	NO SCHOOL Happy Thanksgiving	NO SCHOOL	
30	Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6
1st Sunday of Advent 		Reconciliation (Grade 3) Parent Meeting 7pm - Church		H&S Presents: Santa's Secret Shop at HMS	NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service Day	