

**From the Principal's Desk:**

Thank you to all of our families that attended Back to School Night. It was clear from the buzz around the building that this is going to be a great year for our children as they continue to grow and learn.

I wanted to clarify for you the process for our study of sustainability. Over the next 4-6 weeks, we (Fr. Ryan, Member of the Parish Pastoral Council, Member of Parish Finance Committee, and a Member of Parish Staff, and myself) will invite parents to attend one in a series of small-group discussions. These discussions will serve to inform parents on the facts at hand (tuition costs, expenses, enrollment history, etc.) and will allow for a good, hard, honest dialogue as we develop a clear focus for our future. Every parent will have the opportunity to be a part of this process as we move forward. In addition to these conversations, we are developing a survey to distributed to the parish at large. The purpose of this survey is to assess the level of support for our school from the parish perspective. We hope to have a full report from these discussions and surveys to the entire parish and school community before we break for Christmas.

I pray that we are all able to keep Jesus Christ and our children at the forefront of our minds as we prepare for these conversations.

Sincerely,  
David J. Hayden

PS - I apologize for my hasty exit following the presentation. I forgot to fill my wife's car with gasoline and she unfortunately ran out of gas on Bridge Street. I was able to get some gas and get her on her way home before too long.

**Calendar Highlights for October**

- 10/1 - School Mass (Gr. 8 & K) 8:30am  
Student Council Installation Ceremony
- 10/2 - Tipping School Portraits
- 10/5 - Student of the Month Assembly
- 10/6 - HS visit from Gwynedd Mercy (Gr. 7-8)  
- Parent Meeting for First Penance (7pm)
- 10/7 - Pray the Rosary 2pm - In Church
- 10/12 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service
- 10/13 - Winter Uniforms to be Worn  
HS Visit from Basil's/Prep (Gr. 7-8)
- 10/14 - HS Visit from Archbishop Wood
- 10/16 - Field Trip - PreK to Linvilla  
- Parish Golf Outing
- 10/17 - OKTOBERFEST (H&S Event)
- 10/18 - Parish 40 hours Devotion
- 10/19 - Parish 40 hours Devotion
- 10/20 - HS Visit from Bishop McDevitt (Gr. 7-8)  
- Progress Report Distribution  
- Parish 40 hours Devotion
- 10/23 - Tag Day \$1  
Field Trip - Gr. 3-5 College Settlement Camp
- 10/27 - Halligan's Family Night 5p-8p
- 10/29 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 10/30 - NO SCHOOL - Faculty Retreat Day
- Nov. 5 - School Mass (8:30am) Gr. 2
- Nov. 11 - HMS Book Fair @ Barnes and Noble  
(Montgomeryville)
- Nov. 19 - Archdiocese HS Visitation Day - Gr. 8
- Nov. 25 - 12noon Dismissal /  
Start of Thanksgiving Holiday

**Phillies Tag Day (Free)**

**Wednesday, October 7th**

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!



**Student Council News**

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

- President - Sara Violi**
- Vice-President - Kaitlyn Brogan**
- Vice-President - TJ Johnson**
- Secretary - Alyssa McFadden**
- Treasurer - Lauren Brogan**
- Grade 6 Rep. - Nicholas Camusi**
- Grade 5 Rep. - Greg McGrath**
- Grade 4 Rep. - Gary Seeburger**

These young men and women were formally installed as our Student Council at our school mass on Thursday, October 1st.

## 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 2009 School year, all students in grades K-8 will be administered Terra Nova tests in the Spring.

### Terra Nova Testing Program Timeline:

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 students have learned. Additional information will come home in the spring as we prepare for these tests.

## HMS Nights at O'Towne Tuesday, October 13th

In building upon a strong relationship, we are pleased to offer our parents HMS Nights at O'Towne. One Tuesday each month O'Towne will host a HMS Night from which a portion of the restaurant receipts is donated back to Holy Martyrs School. We hope to see you there.  
**Dates: 11/10, 12/8, 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8**

## Halligan's Family Fun Nights Tuesday, October 27th

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.  
**More Dates: 11/24, 1/26, 2/23, 3/23, 4/27, 5/25**

## 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.

9/29 - LaSalle College HS / Mount St. Joseph Acad.  
10/6 - Gwynedd Mercy Academy (*girls only*)  
10/13 - St. Joseph's Prep / St. Basil's Academy  
10/14 - Archbishop Wood HS  
10/20 - Bishop McDevitt HS

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, November 2 at St. Stanislaus in Lansdale. 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.

Home & School presents...

**OKTOBERFEST**  
**Beef & Beer**  
**Saturday, October 17th**  
**7:00pm - 11:00pm**  
**\$20 / person**  
**Includes food, beer, and soda**

Plan on joining us for this wonderful event that will include music, food, fun, and some wonderful raffle prizes. Buy your tickets today!



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.

### Vending Machine

As many of you know, we have a new addition to our lunchroom this year - a vending machine. I am excited to offer this as another resource to assist parents in the busy day-to-day life. If you are unable to provide a complete lunch for your child, parents may send in money for some additional snacks. Currently, the machine stocks Cheese Itz, Potato Chips, Popcorn, Nacho Chips, Animal Crackers, Nutrigrain Bars, Fruit Snacks, Pop Tarts, Rice Krispy Treats, Cheddar Cheese on Cheese Crackers. Price for each item range from \$0.50 - \$0.60 each. Students may begin to use this machine on Wednesday, October 7th.

As always, your feedback will help us to provide the best for our students. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to deliver those suggestions to Mr. Hayden via email at holymartyrs54@yahoo.com.

### Students of the Month

We are very excited to continue our Student of the Month program this year. Classroom teachers will recognize individual students (1-3 students/month) from each classroom that personify three positive attributes: Attitude, Cooperation, and Effort. Our mini-assemblies will take place on the first Monday of each month and will include a brief statement from each teacher explaining why each student was selected. Each student will receive a printed certificate, NUT Card, and a coupon for a free slice of pizza.

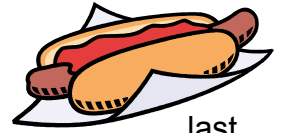
Congratulations to our Students of the Month for September:

**Kindergarten - Cate Noell Quinn**  
**Grade 1 - Kieran Rich**  
**Grade 2 - Caelinn Corbett**  
**Grade 3 - Colleen Quinn**  
**Grade 4 - Maeve Corbett**  
**Grade 5 - Evan McFadden, Julia Violi**  
**Grade 6 - Hunter Seeburger**  
**Grade 7 - Sara Boyle**  
**Grade 8 - Alicia Schlosser,**  
**Alyssa McFadden**

Thank you to these students for making HMS a great place to grow and learn!

### Hot Lunch Update

Our Hot Lunch Program kicked off on Monday, October 5th. 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 - Megan Spoerl, Rosemarie Beal, and all of the lunch moms.

**Please keep in mind that our lunch prices have increased to \$3/day and include entrée, side, fruit, dessert, and drink.**

### 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!

### Emergency Closing Forms

Weather related closings may seem hard to imagine with the beautiful fall weather we are enjoying. But old man winter is not too far off. To prepare for the possibility of an early dismissal, we ask that all parents return the Blue Emergency Closing Forms at this time. The forms were sent home via the communication folder in September. If you need an additional form, please contact Mrs. Gaffney at the school office.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

### **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 during the week of October 19th. 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](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.

### **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.

### **Progress Report Distribution Tuesday, October 20th**

On Wednesday, all children in Kindergarten - Grade 8 will be bringing home their mid-term progress report. These reports are designed to give parents a brief overview of the students' progress. In addition to these reports, we have scheduled Thursday, October 29th as a time for Parent-Teacher conferences. A letter explaining our procedure for conferences will come home with the progress report. So that we can complete the master schedule for these conferences, we ask that parents return the conference request form to the classroom teacher by Friday, October 23rd.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school office.

### **Winter Uniforms In Use Tuesday, October 13th**

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!

## *New Format for Fall Book Fair*

# BARNES & NOBLE

[www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com)

If leaves are changing and children are back in school it must be Fall and time for our annual book fair! This year our **book fair** will take place on **Wednesday, November 11th**—so mark your calendars now! We are very excited about our book fair this year as it will have a new look and location.

Our book fair will be held off-site—at the Barnes and Noble retail store on Knapp Road and route 309—just south of the Montgomeryville Mall. And you will have access to not just 7 cases and 7 or 8 tables of books but the entire store! This Barnes and Noble has over 10,000 items in its children's department—many times larger than the Willow Grove or Jenkintown stores. Just about anything that is purchased is eligible to be counted toward the HMS sales total—including food items from the B&N Cafe. From this total we will receive a percentage to be used for books and other items for our classrooms and library.



It will be an evening to showcase our school. The fair will begin at 6:30PM. Patrons and parents will get an opportunity to hear our Glee Club and Band perform and Mr. Hayden will read a story during the evening. What a great way for people to learn about HMS and what a fun way to spend the evening with your children all the while supporting literacy.

There will be banners and signs placed throughout the store advertising the event and well qualified B&N personnel to help with suggestions and questions. At check out time all you need to do is mention our unique voucher number—**10032647**—to the cashier and a portion of your sale gets donated to HMS.

Can't get to Barnes and Noble that night? Know someone who shops another B&N (even out of our immediate area)? No problem! Just pass out our voucher number (10032647) and if it is mentioned at check out time any sale can get credited to HMS that is made within several days of our Nov 11th Book Fair. A great way to spread the HMS name even further.

So, keep looking for further updates. For now remember the **date**—**Wednesday, November 11**; remember the **location**—**Barnes and Noble** on Knapp Road and route 309; remember our unique **voucher number**—**10032647**; remember to **start browsing** the store and their website—[www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com); and remember to **spread the word!**

### **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 by bringing the following items to our Paper Retriever Bins: BINS are located in the back parking lot

Catalogs      Junk Mail      Fax Paper      Magazines      Newspapers  
Folders      Office Paper      Shredded Paper      Envelopes



**No Cardboard, No Phonebooks, No Food Containers**

**Holy Martyrs School  
Mission Awareness Project (MAPS)  
Cradle of Hope**

Each student is bringing home a baby bottle today. Students and families are invited to fill this bottle with their spare change to benefit Cradle of Hope in Glenside. Cradle of Hope is a home for single mothers over the age of 18 and their new babies. Their mission is to minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of these mothers and their children. MAPS coordinators ask that these bottles be returned to the bins located near the office by or before October 30th. 100% of these donations will go to Cradle of Hope as they teach these moms how to make "Change for Life."

**Spiritual Adoption**

Holy Martyrs Parish joins other parishes throughout the Archdiocese in our Spiritual Adoption Prayer Program. Through this intercessory prayer, parents and children can serve to protect unborn children. This program will provide education on the growth and development of unborn children over the next nine months.

Parents and students are asked to complete a pledge card stating that "willingly and joyfully agree to adopt this unborn baby and pray on Baby's behalf for nine months."

Additional information can be found in the parish bulletin.

**MCIU Remediation**

Due to budget cuts at the MCIU and our low number of students that qualify for Math and Reading Remediation Services, we will not receive these services this year.

The good news is that several of our students have successfully tested out of the program. In addition, our counseling, speech, and evaluation services remain uninterrupted.

The bad news is that some of our students will not have access to remediation services. I will continue to work with the MCIU Staff to identify ways in which they can support us as we strive to meet the needs of all our students.

**EITC Scholarship Update**

On Thursday, October 1st, Holy Martyrs School hosted County Commissioner Jim Matthews, Greg Martino from Aetna Insurance, and Leah Kithcart from the Bravo Foundation Scholarship Organization for a brief presentation. Through their collective efforts, Holy Martyrs School received \$9,500 in EITC Scholarship money. This money has helped to make a Catholic education possible for some students.

Education Improvement Tax Credit allows PA businesses to get a tax break while providing scholarship money and choice for parents who seek non-public education for their children.

**Textbook Update**

Attached to the October 6th Home and School Email, you will find two letters from September:

- 1) From Mary Rochford, Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- 2) From Bishop McFadden, Secretary for Catholic Education for the Archdiocese

These letters outline their awareness and efforts to bring about a resolution to the current budget impasse in Harrisburg so that our schools can access the state money that has been budgeted for textbook purchases through PA Act 195/95.

Please contact your legislators to express your concern on this matter.

**Top 10 Tips for Preventing the Spread of Flu**

- 1) Keep Sick Children Home
- 2) Allow children to return to school when they are fever-free for 24 hours (w/o medicine)
- 3) Cover Your Cough (upper sleeve or tissue)
- 4) Proper Disposal of used tissues
- 5) Wash hands frequently
- 6) Regularly clean and disinfect
- 7) Contact your health care provider when symptoms are present (fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, headache)
- 8) Plan ahead for sick days
- 9) Vaccinate against the flu
- 10) Stay Informed - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), or [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us)

# October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 7p - Parent Meeting for First Penance	7 Phree Phillies Tag Day!  2pm - Rosary	8	9	10
11 MAPS Car Wash 9am-12 noon	12 NO SCHOOL Teacher in-Service	13 Winter Uniforms to be worn  HMS Night at O'Towne	14	15	16 Field Trip PreK to Linvilla Orchard	17 Home and School OctoberFest
18 Safe Environment for Children Lesson #1	19	20 Progress Report Distribution	21	22	23 Field Trip Gr. 3-5 to College Settlement Camp	24
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">           Holy Martyrs Parish - 40 hours Devotion            October 18,19, 20            check Parish Bulletin for Information         </div>						
25	26	27 Halligan's Family Night 5p-8p	28	29 Parent-Teacher Conferences 3p-8p	30 NO SCHOOL Faculty Retreat Day	31