



Dear Holy Spirit Community,

For those who were able to join us at the 5K Spirit Run in 2017, we were truly blessed with a beautiful morning, 213 runners and walkers who crossed the finish line, and a spirit of community that was shared by all the families who participated. We raised \$12,000 for our ever-growing resource program so we can continue to meet the needs of our students with special needs and those who need resource support at Holy Spirit School. This year we hired a paraeducator to work with the students in the classroom. Our part-time reading specialist works in small groups and provides one-on-one assistance in reading remediation. Our full-time resource teachers touch the lives of all the students, not just those with special needs. We are in the classrooms, doing afterschool activities, and we are available before and after school for students who need extra help. We support more than 30 students in our school who need resource assistance in the areas of ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Intellectual Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, and other special needs. This fall we welcomed a new pre-school student to our expanded resource program. All these services need financial support to pay salaries, purchase equipment, and provide training for our teachers.

This year, on May 19, we will hold our annual 5K Spirit Run at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield. As always, our goal is not only financial, but we hope that this annual 5K brings the Holy Spirit to all those who participate. There are many ways to participate:

- Become a sponsor: Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze or 5K Friend;
- Encourage your child to enter the t-shirt design contest;
- Register for the race – <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Springfield/flamesspiritrun>;
- Follow us on Facebook and share our posts with friends and family.

It is our goal to continue to raise awareness of our special education program at Holy Spirit School. This year's theme is "Respect and Responsibility in Action." As Catholics we teach our children that it is our responsibility to respect all of God's children and in the words of Pope Francis,

"An education in the fullness of humanity should be the defining feature of a Catholic School."

Thank you for your continued support of all our students at Holy Spirit School and I hope to see you on May 19th at Lake Accotink Park. **Early Bird Registration starts now and continues until March 31, 2018!**

Blessings,

Sue Gibbons, Race Coordinator
sgibbons@holyspiritflames.org