

From the Principal's Desk

December 1, 2016



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Holy Spirit School

*Celebrating 50 Years of Inspiring Minds and Igniting Hearts
1966 - 2016*

Happy Advent!

It is difficult to believe that we have moved into the month of December and the Advent season. I certainly pray that all of our Holy Spirit families are finding joy in the season and are reveling in special preparations and traditions that mark the time prior to the birth of Jesus.

We have several busy weeks in front of us with a boatload of activities!

Tomorrow, Friday, December 2nd will be our annual Giving Mass. If you've not had the opportunity to donate to the Santa's Ride toy drive, I hope you will consider. It is a beautiful site to see the children walking from the school to the church to present the toys for blessing before they are distributed to those in need.

The middle school Geography Bee finals are scheduled for Monday, December 5th at 10:00 am.

The annual Christmas Band Concert is Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear how much our musicians have learned since the start of the year.

We will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, December 8th and go to Mass at 9:00 am.

The interims for the 2nd quarter will go home on Friday, December 9th. The 8th graders will receive the sacrament of Confirmation that same evening at 7:30 pm with the wonderful experience of having our new Bishop presiding.

The following week doesn't slow down! The kindergarten to fourth grade Christmas Concert is Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm and the 5th grade Nativity Pageant is Thursday, December 15 at 2:00 pm.

We will have Adoration in the school chapel on Monday, December 19 (please look for a sign-up soon to volunteer during the day as additional adorers).

The last day of school prior to the Christmas holiday is Tuesday, December 20. This is a full day of school and Extended Day is open.

A huge thank you to the parents and volunteers for all their help and support for this year's Book Fair; the total sales were \$13,095.00.

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

*"The future starts today, not tomorrow." - Pope John Paul II
Holy Spirit School Class of 2015*

Just a reminder...

**Our annual toy drive ends tomorrow, Friday,
December 2nd with our Giving Mass**

**Please help us reach our goal of 600+ toys
(We are currently at 398)**

Annual Holy Spirit School Toy Drive

SANTA'S RIDE

Help Bring Holiday Cheer to Sick Children



Begins: Monday, November 28th

Ends: Friday, December 2nd with our annual Giving Mass



Make a difference in the lives of the many sick children who are unable to return home for the holidays.

This is the 26th year that the Fairfax County Police Department motorcycle squad is collaborating with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and others to collect and distribute toys to sick children at Fairfax Hospital and Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center.

Please donate a new, unwrapped toy, game, or book.

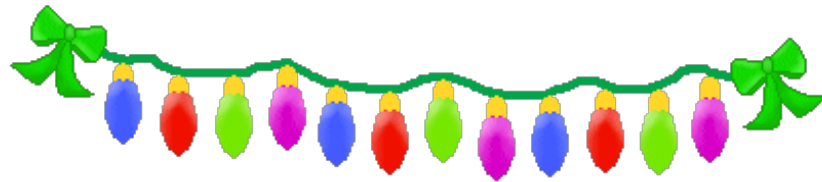
Thank you for your generosity.



The Feast of St. Nicholas...

Holy Spirit will celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas on
Tuesday, December 6th.

ALL students are asked to bring an extra shoe to be placed in
the hallway outside of the homerooms with the hopes that St.
Nicholas will again pay us a visit.



The Christmas Lamb Costumes for Grades K-3 December 13, 2016

It will be here before we know it so now is
the time to look for those costume pieces!

Kindergarten- "Kangaroos"

The Kindergarteners will wear a red shirt with black pants. They will be provided with kangaroo ears that will get them leaping for joy.

1st Grade- "Elephants"

The 1st graders will wear green shirts with black pants. They will be provided with elephant ears to create a memory they will never forget.

2nd Grade- "Penguins"

The 2nd graders will wear black shirts and black pants. They will be provided with penguin beak hats that are so cool, you'll feel a chill.

3rd Grade- "Tropical Birds"

The 3rd graders will wear a brightly colored solid shirt with black pants. Colorful feather boas are encouraged, and can be purchased at any craft store. They will be provided with toucan beak hats, so they'll follow their nose.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities!

Crafty Costume Makers

There is a lot of cutting, taping and gluing to get our actors costumed for the big night! If you are creative, crafty and willing to donate some time and effort, it will be a big help in bringing these characters into the spotlight.

Combined Rehearsal Monitors

The combined rehearsals will take place the two weeks before the week of the concert, November 28th - December 2nd and December 5th - 9th. Come help keep our little stars in line! Times for grade levels will vary.

If you have any costume questions, or you're a parent who would like to earn some hours by volunteering, contact Mrs. Gullickson,
lgullickson@holyspiritflames.org

Thank you so much for helping make this year's Christmas Concert a great memory you and your child!

Please see the Family Folders Flyers section below for a printable version of the costume requirements.

***Costume requirements for 4th grade may be found in the flyers section.**



2017 - 2018 Financial Aid Applications

Applications are now being accepted for the 2017 - 2018 school year.

For the upcoming school year, the Diocese of Arlington has decided to once again use FACTS Grant and Aid for the assessment of tuition financial aid. To be considered for the first round of awards, applications and supporting documents must be received by the FACTS Grant and Tuition Aid offices no later than March 17, 2017. Families who currently have financial assistance must reapply to be considered for an award in the upcoming school year.

Apply on-line at <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3QVGQ>.

[Click here for additional parent resources.](#)

Coming Soon!
Santa Boutique
Thursday, December 15

SANTA'S SECRET S · H · O · P

...is coming to our school

Dear Parents,

We are inviting you and your child to participate in the upcoming "Santa's Secret Shop" program at our school. This program makes it possible for children to experience the joy of choosing their own special holiday gifts for family and friends. The "Santa's Secret Shop" program will be set up at the school and supervised by our parent volunteers. They will help the children pick that perfect gift for the price they want... in a familiar, comfortable atmosphere.

We believe this program will create wonderful memories for the children while teaching them to budget their money and make their own decisions. There will be a large variety of gifts in different price ranges to choose from. Imagine the fun they will have surprising a loved one with a "secret" gift they bought... all by themselves!

We welcome you to be part of this great experience. A "money control" envelope is provided for you to help them decide who they should buy gifts for and how much they should spend. You can even suggest ways that your child can earn extra shopping money.

**"Santa's Secret Shop" ...
"Where Wishes Come True"**

WWW.FUNSERVICES.COM

FUN SERVICES

THE ORIGINAL SANTA'S SECRET S · H · O · P EST. 1968

Parents & Faculty Scan From Any Smart Phone To See A Santa's Secret Shop In Action

WeDo 2.0 Robots

Would you like to help us build our robotics program?

As we grow the robotics program at Holy Spirit we would like to purchase our own robots. Donations are tax deductible. A set of four of the smaller Lego WeDo 2.0 robots currently prices at \$750.00 (with additional shipping costs, etc.). In order to have students work in relatively small groups we are looking to start with eight to twelve robots. The complete class set will be available for teachers to check-out and work with in their classrooms.

Donations large or small are appreciated.

Thank you!



Holy Spirit School is now on Twitter!

@HSS_Flames

Follow us to see some of the fun and exciting things that go on here at school each day!



Lunch Menu

Please remember that beverages are *not* included in the cost of the hot lunch meals. If your child is having milk or bottled water with

lunch that must be paid separately (the link is available under the *Current Families* tab).

[Click Here for December Lunch Menu](#)



Family Folder Flyers

The following flyers can be found on the website in the folder labeled "December 1, 2016" (or follow the links here) For your convenience, some flyers are repeated:

School Flyers:

1. [December lunch menu](#)
2. [Santa's Ride flyer](#)
3. [K-3 Christmas Concert Costumes](#)
4. [Grade 4 Christmas Concert Costumes](#)

Parish Flyers:

Community Flyers:

1. [O'Connell Youth Music Festival](#)
 2. [ANSLL Sports Registration for Spring 2017](#)
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