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From the Principal's Desk

November 16, 2017



Quick Links

[School Site](#)

[School Calendar](#)



Holy Spirit School
Inspiring Minds / Igniting Hearts
2017 / 2018
"Respect and Responsibility in Action"

Happy Thanksgiving

If I do not have the opportunity to see you before we break for the Thanksgiving holiday - please enjoy! My prayer is that each of our Holy Spirit families may experience the joy of family and the gratitude of heart for all of the blessings which God has granted to each of us.

Please remember we have no school beginning Wednesday, November 22nd and we return to school on Monday, November 27th.

On Monday, November 27th our annual toy drive will begin. Again this year the school will support the Santa's Ride program (see the information below). Our community has always been incredibly generous bringing in close to 800 toys/year. The annual Giving Mass will be Friday, December 1st at 9:00 am, please join us.

The beginning of the Advent season will soon be upon us. We will have a prayer service on Monday, December 4th at 8:30 am; all are welcome.

Additionally, the band's Winter Concert will take place Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of our families to enjoy the talents of so many of our students. This year, for the first time, the School Choir will be a part of the Winter Concert - Thank you Mr. Toussaint and Dr. Little for putting together the evening's program.

In preparation for the K-4 Christmas Concert, be sure to see the costume call sheet below from Mr. Toussaint. Information regarding costumes for the 4th graders will be forthcoming.

A quick reminder that when students are dropped off in the car line in the morning, for safety purposes all students should exit the car on the right hand side directly to the sidewalk. I continue to ask that parents/drivers refrain from using cellphones when the car is moving.

As mentioned last week, as we prepare for the 2018/2019 academic school year registration process we would appreciate hearing from current families who will have a prekindergarten sibling joining us; please email Mrs. Laclede by December 1st. The prekindergarten program always fills quickly and we would like to be sure we reserve enough slots for siblings.

Enjoy!

-Maureen Ashby

Principal



Holy Spirit

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

&

little sparks

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Inspiring Minds | *Igniting Hearts*

Learning Today....Leading Tomorrow

The Promethean ActivBoards that are currently a part of our classrooms range in age from 8 to 12 years old. At the time of purchase these boards were considered "cutting edge" and provided a wide range of interactive capabilities to teachers as they presented curriculum lessons to students. As you can well image, in the span of a decade the technology of interactive boards has changed drastically and the current boards have lived out their life span. As we triage the current devices and replace bulbs and projectors we are sinking hundreds of dollars into each purchase in the hopes of getting just a little more use. Depending on the type of board put into the classroom, some projectors can be replaced, some cannot. I recently learned that the "pens" needed for writing on the boards will no longer be manufactured.

Needless to say it is time...

Time for what though, you may be asking...

Time for the Promethean ActivPanel - the world's first upgradeable Android-based interactive display!

Think interactive tablet on the wall!

This award winning device is powered by an external Android-based mini PC which can be upgraded over time in order to keep pace with advances in technology.

Upgrading the boards across the entire school in one fell swoop entails outfitting twenty-eight teaching spaces with ActivPanels.

Yes, that is a HUGE goal and at a cost of approximately \$5000.00/board (when buying in quantity) that gives us a fundraising goal of \$140,000.00 - by far the largest technology campaign we've ever launched.

For our 21st Century Learners interactive technology is as "normal" a part of their learning as the overhead projector was to most of ours. When used well, interactive technology increases teacher-student engagement and has been shown to boost overall performance. Although Holy Spirit School prides itself on maintaining a healthy balance between traditional learning methods and technology-based learning, as an institution that inspires life-long learners and ignites servant-leaders through a program of academic excellence grounded in the traditions and values of the Holy Catholic Church we know that we must keep pace with the changing world of education technology.

The students before us today and those who will join us in the future are set to be not only our future fathers, mothers, clergy and religious but also captains of industry, leading entrepreneurs, humanitarians, and scholars.

In order to meet this lofty but necessary goal, we need the assistance of each of our families.

Thank you to those who just last week began donating to our campaign via our online site.

[Click here to donate to the Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow Campaign](#)

Annual Holy Spirit School Toy Drive

SANTA'S RIDE

Help Bring Holiday Cheer to Sick Children



Monday, November 27th - Friday, December 1st with our annual Giving Mass

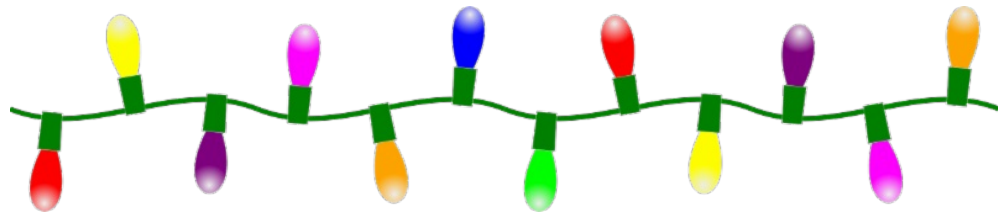


Make a difference in the lives of the many sick children who are unable to return home for the holidays.

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

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

Thank you for your generosity.



It is almost SHOW TIME!

Costume Call Sheet for the Christmas Musical

Miracle on Bethlehem Street

The Christmas Concert is on December 12th
and it is time to start acquiring the costume
essentials!

Kindergarten- "Angels"

The Kindergarteners will wear all white, white shirt with their grey school gym uniform pants. They will be provided with tinsel halos to complete their heavenly look.

1st Grade- "Flockwatchers"

The 1st graders will wear a white shirt with their grey school gym uniform pants worn inside out. They will be provided with floppy sheep ears and a smart bow. They'll look so cute, they won't feel in the least bit sheepish!

2nd Grade- "Star Chasers"

The 2nd graders will wear a blue shirt and black pants. They will be provided with crowns to complete their royal ensemble.

3rd Grade- "Bethlehemites"

The 3rd graders will wear a brown shirt with tan pants. They will be provided with head scarves to keep them looking Biblical.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't
hesitate to contact Mr. T @
atoussaint@holyspiritflames.org.

Thank you so much for your cooperation in making this year's Christmas Musical a great memory for you and your child! Please ensure that your child is accessing the materials on their online Power Learning Music page for the show. There you will find a separate "sub-page" containing the recordings and lyrics of the songs for the show.

In Christ, Mr. T



THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our Holy Spirit families and parishioners who participated in our fall Box Top Drive. Between our Boys vs. Girls drive at the end of last school year and our fall drive this year we have raised \$1,647.30 so far for the 2017-18 school year. These funds help the PTO and all of the great work that they do to help support our school.

Box Tops Holiday Challenge

GOAL: For every student to turn in 1 Box Top collection sheet (with 10 Box Tops) between now and the winter break. That would be an additional \$448 for our school!

PRIZES:

The first homeroom to have every student return the attached sheet with 10 Box Tops (not expired...Please check those dates!) will win a Popcorn and a Movie Afternoon!

If EVERY student in the school turns in one sheet, Mrs. Ashby

will award a FULL SCHOOL DRESS-DOWN DAY!

Have more than 10 Box Tops? Bring them in and help a classmate!

(See the Family Folder section below for collection sheet.)

HACK BI



WHERE: BISHOP IRETON HIGH SCHOOL
201 CAMBRIDGE RD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

WHEN: JAN 20TH 8:00AM-JAN 21ST 10:00AM

**WHAT DO I NEED: A LAPTOP, A CHARGER,
AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE**

MORE QUESTIONS? WE'LL BE MORE
THAN HAPPY TO ANSWER THEM VIA EMAIL



SIGN UP AT: HACKBI.ORG

**CONTACT US AT
HACKBI@BISHOPIRETON.ORG**

**Open to all Holy Spirit School middle school
students**

(No experience necessary; the focus is on

programming education)

For more information email
hackbi@bishopireton.org

**HOLY
SPIRIT**
Catholic Church

Spaghetti Dinner

Hosted by the
Men's Club

Menu

Spaghetti with Variety of
Meat and Meatless Sauces

Garlic **Bread**

Salad with Italian Dressing

Dessert Items

Wine, Sodas, Juice, and Water

Prices

Age 10 and over: \$7

Age 6 to 9: \$4

Free for Age 5 and Under!


CLAAMM
SAUCE!



Saturday, November 18

5:00-7:30 pm

In the School Cafeteria
(joined with Meeting Rooms 1 & 2)



Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Date: December 10th
Where: School Cafeteria
After 7:30am, 9:00am, &
10:30am Masses

Adults: \$5.00, Children: \$3.00,
not to exceed \$15.00 per Family.

In the spirit of St. Nicholas, pictures with
Santa will be available after the 9:00
and 10:30am Masses only.

Sponsored by the Holy
Spirit Knights of Columbus





 WREATHS *across* AMERICA



REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.



Please Join the Holy Spirit 4-H groups
Spirited Cloverbuds & Spirit Flames

To honor those who served by joining us and others to lay wreaths
at the grave of every soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th

We will be meeting at 8:30 a.m. at the Fashion Center at Pentagon
City food court. There is plenty of parking and it's Metro
accessible. From there, we will walk to the Cemetery together.

Want to attend? Please email Mr. Pietuszka
(MPietuszka@holyspiritflames.org) within your email, please
include the names (first and last) of each person in your party and
a good cell phone number to reach you that morning.



[Click here for the December 2017 and January 2018 school lunch menus.](#)

Send in a separate menu for each child in your family along with a check for payment. The cost of lunches is \$5.00/day/lunch.
Reminder that you must purchase milk/water separately in order for your child to receive it - beverages are not included in the lunch price.



Family Folder Flyers

The following flyers can be found on the website in the folder labeled "November 16, 2017 "(or [CLICK HERE](#)). For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

School Flyers:

1. December lunch menu
2. January lunch menu
3. Santa's Ride Annual Toy Drive
4. K-3 Costume Call flyer for Christmas Concert
5. Box Tops Flyer
6. Box Tops Collection Sheet
7. Wreaths Across America

Parish Flyers:

1. HS Parish - Spaghetti Dinner
2. HS Parish - Pancake Breakfast with Santa
2. St. Cecilia Parish Choir

Community Flyers:

1. "Hack BI" flyer
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