

From the Principal's Desk

November 30, 2017



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

Toy Drive Ends Tomorrow!

The toy drive to benefit Santa's Ride ends tomorrow with our annual Giving Mass. As of today, we have 392 donations, well short of our goal. Historically our community has always pulled through at the end and I am confident that will happen this year as well. Please remember that each student will carry his/her donation to the church. We would love to have you join us for 9:00 Mass tomorrow.

The Christmas concert events are right around the corner - be sure you have marked your calendars!

The Band and Choir concert is Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm.

The K-4 Christmas Concert - *Miracle on Bethlehem Street* - is Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm. (Some of us had a sneak peek this afternoon - just WOW!)

The 5th grade Nativity Pageant is Thursday, December 14th at 2:00 pm.

All are invited to each of the performances!

With all of the excitement of these events, let us not forget that the season of Advent begins this Sunday, December 3rd. When the children return to school after the weekend, we will be awash in preparations for the birth of our Lord -

our Advent Prayer Service will be Monday, December 4th at 8:30 am - all are welcome. Additionally, we will begin our Jesse Tree readings and decorate trees with the ornaments the children are making.

The Student Council is sponsoring our celebration of St. Nicholas Day on Wednesday, December 6th - don't forget to send an extra shoe with your student (see details below).

Additionally, the Middle School Geography Bee will be held Monday, December 11th at 10:00 am and the annual Santa Boutique will also be held during the same week.

We will round out our time before the break with a Christmas dress-down day sponsored by the NJHS on Monday, December 18 (see details below) and then spend time with our Lord in Adoration on Tuesday, December 19th.

So many wonderful events over the next several weeks - plus more than just a little learning too!

Be sure to make a trip into the school when you have a moment to see the wonderful Christmas STREAM projects from the children - so creative!

-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.



**Celebrate The Feast of Saint Nicholas
Wednesday, December 6th**

All students should bring in ONE extra SHOE

**Throughout the day, students will be surprised
that St. Nick has left a little gift for them in their
shoe!**

Sponsored by the Student Council

Christmas Dress Down Day

Sponsored by the NJHS

December 18, 2017

Celebrate the season and come dressed as...

Pre-K through 2nd grade: Santa's Elves

3rd-5th grade : North Pole animals: such as

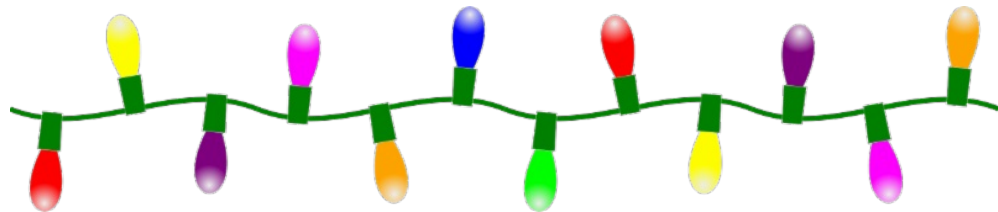
polar bears, reindeer, even penguins

6th grade : Christmas Presents

7th: grade: Gingerbread Boys and Girls

8th grade: Santa Claus and Snowmen

**HOW MUCH? THERE IS NO COST!
ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!**



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!**

4th Grade costumes have been added!

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.

White socks/black shoes

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!

White socks/black shoes

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.

Black socks/black shoes

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.

White socks/brown sandals or shoes

4th Grade

Costume/accessories for 4:

Guests/shepherds- Gym shorts and a white t-shirt to wear underneath the costume, brown sandals or brown shoes and white socks

Staff and clerk members ONLY- black pants, long sleeve white shirt, black socks, black shoes

Rachel- black shoes and white socks, white t-shirt and gym shorts underneath costume

Benjamin- brown shoes or brown sandals with white socks, white t-shirt with gym shorts underneath costume

Herald Angels- black shoes with white socks, white t-shirt, gym shorts underneath

Servant- long black sleeve shirt, white socks with brown shoes or sandals

Joseph- white t-shirt and gym shorts underneath costume, brown shoes or sandals with white socks

Mary- white t shirt and gym shorts underneath costume, brown shoes or sandals with white socks

Kings- white t-shirt and gym shorts underneath costume with white socks and black shoes

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*If you are a staff or clerk as a second role, you will wear the black pants and white shirt underneath your costume for scene changes

*If you are a guest as your second role to an angel, King, or shepherd, you will simply wear the white shirt and gym shorts

underneath and change the costume cloaks for scene changes

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



SANTA'S SECRET S.H.O.P

... is coming to our school

DATE: Thursday and Friday, December 14 & 15

TIME: 8:15 am to 3:00 pm

PLACE: In the multipurpose room basement

Get that Special Gift for Everyone on your List



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



2018

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARISH CELEBRATION

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 31, 2017



NEW YEAR OF OUR LORD
&
SOLEMNITY OF
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

EVENING EVENTS

5:30 - 6:30 PM ***NO 6PM MASS**
SUNDAY MASS

6:30 - 11:00 PM
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

6:30 - 8:00 PM IN THE SCHOOL
CATERED FAMILY DINNER
RESERVATION ONLY

8:00 - 10:30 PM IN THE GYM
FAMILY FUN

- MUSIC FOR ALL AGES WITH A FAMILY DANCE AND LINE DANCING
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- PHOTO BOOTH FOR YOUR LAST 2016 PICTURES

11:00 - 11:30 PM
BENEDICTION

11:30 - 12:30 AM
**MIDNIGHT MASS:
SOLEMNITY OF
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

REGISTER TODAY

ON-LINE RESERVATIONS
PREFERRED
HOLYSPIRITCHURCH.US





CELEBRATE WITH US!

Catered Family Buffet Menu

<p>Adult Menu</p> <p><i>Salad</i></p> <p>* MIXED GREEN LETTUCE SALAD WITH CHAMPAGNE VINAIGRETTE DRESSING AND GRILLED PEARS, SAGE BLEU CHEESE & PECANS</p> <p><i>Entree</i></p> <p>BONELESS BEEF SHORT RIB TIP CUTS WITH PORCINI PORT WINE GLAZE SLOW COOKED AND FORK TENDER BLACK ANGUS WITH NATURAL JUICES AND FRIZZLED ONION THREADS</p> <p>CEDAR PLANK SHORT SMOKED SALMON WITH FRESH HERB, LEMON AND OLIVE OIL SAUCE</p> <p><i>Sides</i></p> <p>TORTELLINI CASSEROLE WITH ROASTED MUSHROOMS & WALNUTS, MAPLE BROWN BUTTER SAUCE, FRIED SAGE RICE PILAF VELVET MASHED POTATOES WITH ROASTED GARLIC AND WHITE TRUFFLE SAUTED VEGETABLES</p>	<p>Youth Menu</p> <p><i>Entree</i></p> <p>CHICKEN TENDERS SERVED WITH HONEY MUSTARD OR BBQ DIPPING SAUCE</p> <p>* BAKED CREAMY MACARONI & FOUR CHEESES WITH BREAD CRUMB TOPPING</p> <p>ALL MENUS</p> <p>ALL ENTREES SERVED WITH COUNTRY BREAD BASKET WITH CREAMERY BUTTER</p> <p><i>Dessert</i></p> <p>DESSERT SERVED BY THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL</p> <p><i>Beverages</i></p> <p>AN ASSORTMENT OF SOFT DRINKS & WATER, TEA AND COFFEE</p> <p>BEER & WINE AVAILABLE AT AN ADDITIONAL COST</p>
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2018

RESERVATION FORM FOR CATERED DINNER

Seating is limited. Reservations Required, deadlines:

Online: December 23, 2017

Check/ Paper: December 15, 2017

Reservations and payment for the Catered Family Dinner to be held on December 31, 2016 should be made online at www.HolySpiritChurch.us. Click on the Red "NYE Event" button to make your dinner reservation and payment.

Catered Dinner Admission Fees (family maximum charge: \$75.00)

• Age 4 and under: Free • Ages 5-11: \$10.00 • Ages 12 and over: \$20.00

Online dinner reservations are preferred. However, paper reservation forms are available in the rectory office. Payment is required when filling out the paper Reservation Form.

Have you made your reservations for the parish New Year's Eve dinner and dance yet? If not, [Click Here](#) to join us in celebration!



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 labelled "November 30, 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 - Pancake Breakfast with Santa
2. HS Parish - New Year's Eve event

Community Flyers:

1. "Hack BI" flyer
 2. PVI On the Move information
 3. ANSLI Registration Flyer 2018
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