



Inspire • Discover • Believe

Inside HGA

Parent newsletter of Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

D a t e s t o R e m e m b e r

- February 22 – CYO Spring Sports
Sign-ups 6-8 PM
- February 25 – **Joe Corbi's Delivery** -
Pick-up 11 AM - 12:30 PM
- March 1 – Ash Wednesday - Mass 9:00 AM
- March 6 - H&S General Meeting 6-7 PM
- March 7 - EARLY DISMISSAL 1:00 PM
- ALL FUNDRAISING BALANCES DUE
- March 11 - Spaghetti Supper Take Out - 2-4 PM
Sit Down - 4-8 PM
- Book Fair - HGA Day with Clifford Noon-9:00 PM
- March 12– Book Fair -
Breakfast with Books 9 AM-1PM
- March 13 - Book Fair -
"Red" a Good Book Today 9 AM-6PM
- March 14 - Gr. 6-7-8 Berks Catholic Musical
Science Fair Interviews at Albright College
- Book Fair - Guest Authors/Readers 7 AM-6PM
- March 15 - Cognitive Ability Testing Gr. 3-5-7
- March 17 - **St. Patrick's Day**
- March 19 - First Communion Parent Meeting
6:00 PM - Learning Commons
- March 20 - Spring Portraits (PS - 7th Grade)
- March 24 - Gr. 7 - Our Lady of Czestochowa
Gr. 8 - Portraits / Classroom Photos
Gr. 4 - Biography Assembly
- March 27-31 - IOWA Testing Grades 2-7

Catholic Schools Week A Celebration for Everyone!

What a busy week it was! **"2017 Catholic Schools Week"** left very little down time for the students, faculty, and families of HGA. The week began on Sunday, January 29th, with a very successful Open House that welcomed prospective and current families who spent time touring the school, meeting administration, faculty and staff, and enjoying the celebratory spirit that filled the hallways. The festivities of the week included our Kindergarten, first and second graders enjoying games of BINGO with grandparents and extended family members. First Responders were honored by fifth and sixth graders, and **Mary's Shelter** was the recipient of baby items donated by the third and fourth graders. Once again, the Faculty and Staff Luncheon was a feast for the stomach, as well as the soul. All employees are truly grateful to the Home and School Association for this very special time to relax and socialize with colleagues and friends. Winter Carnival provided everyone with an evening of fun and this special week concluded with the 10th Annual Rock-Paper-Scissors Competition. **Congratulations to this year's champion - 7B's Isabella Hernandez!**





***"Do our actions
and behaviors
reflect that we are
children of God?"***

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During the month of March, our school will recognize the value of HONESTY. Honesty is making a promise to God, to oneself, and to others. When faced with difficult situations, we can be comforted by turning to God for guidance. Being honest with God helps us seek the truth. As a Catholic community, we are fortunate to be able to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is another opportunity for students to engage in an honest dialogue with God and receive His forgiveness. This is especially important during the season of Lent. Just as Jesus spent forty days in the desert praying, we are to spend time in prayer reflecting honestly on our actions. Do our actions and behaviors reflect that we are children of God? We pray that these reflections will be fruitful as we journey together this Lent.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Maureen Wallin
Principal



Locks of Love

Maya Smith 4A

Have you ever thought about helping someone not as fortunate as you? Well I wanted to, so I decided that one way I could help others is by donating my hair.

I donated my hair because, why have your hair go in the trash **when it can be made into a wig for someone who doesn't have** hair. They might not have hair because of a medical condition or because they are sick.

I think the people who don't have hair probably feel embar- rased, less confident, or both. So that is why I decided to help by donating my hair.

I hope the hair I donated will make someone feel happy and have confidence again.



Religious Ed Corner

Sacramental News

First Penance took place on Saturday, February 11, 2017, at 10:00 AM. Please pray for all the students who received this beautiful sacrament. May the forgiving love of Jesus enter into their hearts and fill them with every grace and blessing.



First Communion Parent Meeting - Sunday, March 19th at 6:00 PM in the School Learning Commons.

First Communion Retreat Day - Wednesday, April 19th during the school day.

Confirmation News - Reminder all Sponsor Eligibility Forms are due by the end of May!

Lenten News

Lent begins on March 1 with Ash Wednesday. Mass at 9:00 AM. During the season of Lent the students will have many opportunities to embrace their faith through Prayer, Fasting, and Alms Giving.

Prayer: The students will have weekly Stations of the Cross, a Lenten Retreat Day, Lenten Confessions, and many more prayerful times. They will also have a traveling Vocations Chalice that will go from classroom to classroom where the students can pray for the increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Fasting: The students will fast from meat on Fridays and Ash Wednesday during the season of Lent and will also learn, in religion class, the importance of fasting (sacrificing) something for the whole season of Lent.

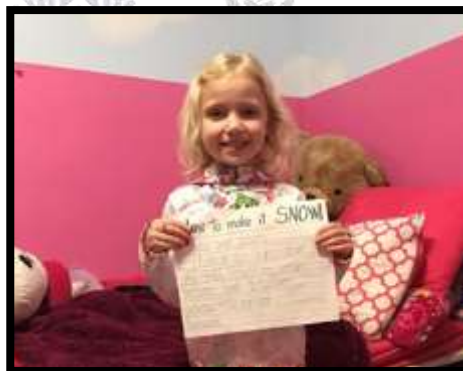
Alms Giving: The students will be able to donate, during the season of Lent, to the Missionary Childhood Association. Starting on Ash Wednesday, each student will receive a Lenten coin folder. Each day they can put a quarter in the folder for the Missionary Childhood.

Let It Snow. . .

It looks like we have KB to thank for the recent snow day. They did some research with the help of Mrs. Karella and found out that there are a few things they could do to help the meteorologists prediction come true. They even wrote a list to take home so they could tell their parents the plan.

HOW TO MAKE SNOW:

1. Say your prayers.
2. Flush 6 ice cubes down the toilet.
3. Eat ice cream before bed and put you spoon under your pillow.
4. Wear your pajamas inside out and backwards.



Mikaela Schmeck follows the plan!

Preschool



Fr. Hoffa joins the preschool classes after mass to bless the children's throats to celebrate St. Blaze.

Catholic Schools Week 2017

B-I-N-G-O FUN!



CARNIVAL





COMMUNITY CONNECTION

First Responders



T o Protect - T o S erve - T o R escue - T o S ave Lives

These are words that describe HGA's hometown heroes honored at the First Responders Gathering on Thursday, February 2, 2017. Approximately 30 fire fighters, police officers, EMT's and medical personnel, joined the 5th and 6th grade students for brunch, entertainment, and well deserved thanks. Through the generosity of school parents and local businesses, a feast of savory and sweet "low calorie" breakfast items was enjoyed. (The response for donations was so overwhelming, our visitors received care packages to take back to their fellow comrades who could not attend!)



To recognize our guests for their selfless acts of bravery, courage, and commitment to the communities which they serve, the students wrote, directed, and performed one-act skits featuring the various branches of first responders. A surprise visit from , Nitro, Officer Eveland's K-9, thrilled the students, faculty and guests, what a perfect way to end this wonderful morning.

Math Enrichment

The seventh and eighth grade students participated in a math enrichment afternoon during Catholic Schools Week. The planned schedule involved hands-on activities from geometry. Students rotated among four stations and explored the following topics:

- Drawing parabolic curves (a two-dimensional straight-lined drawing that seems to make a curve)
- Finding images in tessellations (a shape that is repeated over and over again covering a plan without any gaps or overlaps)
- Putting tangram puzzles together (an ancient Chinese puzzle with only seven pieces that have been cut from a square)
- Building Platonic solids (three-dimensional figures in which all sides are regular polygons)

The students enjoyed stepping away from their regular math studies to investigate these interesting math topics.

OUTREACH PROGRAM



Mary's Shelter



Welcoming a new baby, God's greatest gift!

This year, 3rd and 4th grade students partnered with Mary's Shelter of Reading, a local organization that provides support and housing for expectant and new mothers. For two weeks, students collected new or gently used baby articles or made a cash donation to purchase needed items.

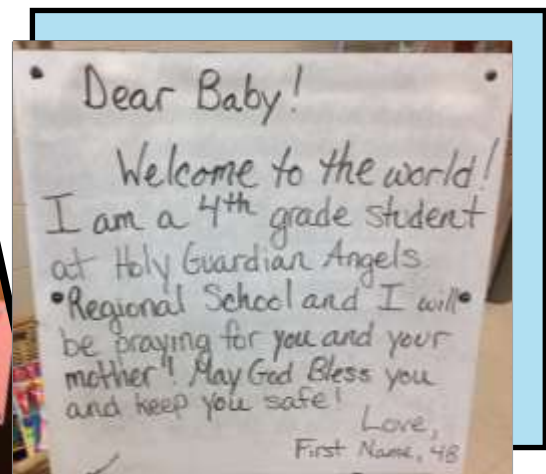
Accepting an invitation to attend HGA's Baby Shower in honor of the babies and mothers receiving assistance, the shelter's assistant director educated the students on the services Mary's Shelter provides and the role they play in the community; helping women learn life skills, navigating the housing market, and encouraging new moms to complete their high school or college education.

On the day of the shower, the classes collected enough items to fill an entire minivan, and eleven containers of



Similac formula was purchased with donated money.

At the shower, the students created cards for the babies and played a few baby shower games.



First Grade

A Colonial Christmas

First graders learned how children celebrated Christmas in Berks County in the **1700's during a visit from** Mr. Timothy Essig, a Museum Educator from the Landis Valley Museum in Lancaster County. Mr. Essig engaged our students with this colonial period dress, donning a tri-corner hat, knickers, and buckle shoes. He explained how families in those days celebrated the birth of Jesus and showed our first graders many examples of common toys children in colonial times **played with, such as Jacob's ladder and authentic spinning tops.** The children were then given the opportunity to make a toy of their own using a dixie cup, a wooden bead, and a ribbon. The children then tried their hands at swinging the ribbon-tied bead into the cup. Giggles and smiles abounded as many were successful in their attempts to get the bead in the cup! Lastly, Mr. Essig **read Tomie de Paola's story, An Early American Christmas** leaving our students with a warm and loving description of a simple Christmas rich in tradition and love for the Holy Family.

On Wednesday, December 14th, Blandon author Dori Hoch read her newest book, **A Bunny Brothers' Christmas** to our first grade class. The pictures were projected onto our whiteboard as Mrs. Hoch read and discussed the



tale of Bobby and Benjamin Bunny. The children were engaged and left with the message that giving at Christmas is a warm and wonderful feeling.

Third Grade

Hearts and Snowflakes in 3A

We welcomed the new year beginning 2017 with our **New Year's Resolutions. This gave way to our goals** for the remainder of the school year. The time is passing so quickly, and it is hard to believe we are in the month of February. We began the new year with a celebration for our Christmas Trade Book. We had our Touch of Paris Brunch. Crepes with fruit and whipped crème were enjoyed by everyone. Of course the celebration would not be complete without a special French touch.



As we patiently awaited for any sign of SNOW, the children did some wonderful descrip-



tive writing. "If I lived in a Snow Globe" was their topic. The stories they wrote were wonderful! Making the snow globes was, of course, the fun part! In science, we have started a new unit on the Solar System. The students are learning all about space and the planets and are very excited to begin working on their group projects. Look for our Solar System in the all in a **"Galaxy far, far, away!"**

As always, Jesus is the center of our lives. As we prepare for the Season of Lent, we remember all that we have and that it comes from Jesus our Savior.

Fourth Grade

Learning and Sharing in 4A

We have been meeting with our Preschool buddies on a weekly basis to practice reading, math, and science. We worked collaboratively to complete an M&M graph and a STEM experiment with colors. This has been a fantastic time for fourth grade students to teach their buddies about taking turns, listening, and working together.



We continue to show how we are “Anchored in God’s Love” each day by showing kindness and being courteous to each classmate. We exemplified our commitment to Catholic education during Catholics Week. Each student wrote about the ways they “Light the Way” with love at HGA and our publications were displayed for Open House and parent observations. The week continued with a movie day for students and the 10th annual Rock-Paper-Scissors Contest. Maverick Stinksy, aka, “Maverick the Magnificent”, represented 4A as the class competitor. His classmates enjoyed cheering him on as he competed.

On January 25th, we celebrated spelling PERFECT ATTENDANCE for the third time this school year. This continues to prove that 4A students love learning and being present each day to experience the joys that come of being part of a faith-filled community.



Mr. Dowd’s Classes

Our middle school students at HGA are excited to be in the month of February and more than halfway through the year. In religion, Fr. Hoffa has been taking time out of his busy schedule to instruct the 7th grade students. He is presenting the Chosen video series from Ascension Press. We are also studying the Commandments, Parables, and the Miracles of Jesus. Our Confirmation candidates have started their Mass journals and are studying the famous Confirmation questions. Their saint reports will be due in May.

Seventh grade social studies has been very interesting. The students have been studying the African continent. All the 7th graders completed a poster highlighting a specific African country. The poster included information on the country’s map, culture, government, flag, etc. We have finished Africa and now continuing onto Europe.

American history in 8th grade has been a study of parallels between the early United States government and today’s government. The students have seen some similarities especially between Andrew Jackson’s administration and the current administration. We have studied the concepts of states’ rights, the Monroe Doctrine, Manifest Destiny, suffrage, and women’s rights. We are currently looking at sectionalism and the causes of the American Civil War.

The HGA band is working hard in preparation of our inaugural concert in May. We are rehearsing four songs for the school community’s entertainment. Some students will perform solos as well. Every band member is working hard in their lesson book and mastering as many scales as they can. We all hope to see you at our concert.





Fourteen competitors from grades 2-8 emerged as winners from their classroom spelling competitions in December to take part in the HGA Spelling Bee Contest on Friday, February 17, 2017.

After weeks of studying, memorizing, and practicing, along with daily spelling words recited on the morning announcements, our spellers took their seats, pushed away their nerves and even a few tears.



Round-after-round, in an effort to reassure themselves, participants exercised great caution, seeking repetitive pronunciations and definitions through a total of 136 words. Once the dust settled on round 25, 8th grader Sam Robertson was victorious spelling the words *clodhopper* and *quashed*. Aryelle Jimenez, 5th grade, was runner-up.

Sam will represent HGA at the Berks County Spelling Bee sponsored by Reading Eagle on Monday, March 13, 2017, at the Miller Center for the Arts. Best of Luck!



Did you ever wonder about the effect of acidic beverages on teeth, or what antibacterial dish detergent can reduce bacteria on kitchen sponges? Maybe you wondered about **the effects of music on blood pressure?** Well, HGA's 7th and 8th grade students had the opportunity to showcase the scientific method of these and many other fascinating **topics at last month's Science Fair.** A total of **43 projects** were judged in the categories of natural and physical science. Congratulations to all the participants. The winners from HGA's in-house competition will be moving on to the Reading Berks Science Fair Competition held at Albright College.



Winners of the Natural Science Category: L-R front row - Elizabeth Trumbore, Hannah Medina, Emily Zatorski, Peyton Stricker, Thea Piskorski. L-R back row - Peyton Malinowski, Hailey Davis, Mya Dubbbs



Winners of the Natural Science Category: L-R front row - Lindsey Kroenig, 2nd row - Gia Myers, RM Emrich, Andrew Walker; 3rd row - Aidan Sands, Ryan Merchancano, Sam Robertson, Julia Harris, back row - Alexander Zavala, Kevin Brown, Anthony Myers. Missing from photo - Sarah Leininger.

The STEAM Team

Full STEAM Ahead

HGA's new Enrichment Program, the STEAM Team, has begun! This program for students in Grades 5-8 combines the best of STEM and Art, taking the exploration of these areas further than we can in the classroom. During our first meeting, the 13 STEAM Team members combined recycling, art, thermodynamics, and patience, in order to create melted ornaments for Christmas. Using shaved crayons, glitter, pliers, plastic ornaments, a hair dryer, and creativity, the students designed a variety of festive decorations. In the process, they investigated a little further into the concepts of melting point (Wax melts between 120-147°.) and electricity (Two hair dryers can NOT be used on the same circuit!).



Throughout January, the STEAM Team immersed themselves in the Pixar animation process. They soon realized that “animation” was just one part of a multi-step process that begins with Art & Story and ends with Rendering. After a video tour of the process, our students jumped right in and started to digitally animate a bouncing ball - not as easy as the Pixar animators make it seem!

Frame rate, rotation, and forward movement all had to be considered in order to give personality to this common object. After conquering the digital world of animation, it was

time to animate “the old fashioned way” using flip books.

What’s in store for February? Stop-motion animation!

We can’t wait to see what our STEAM Team members create.

For an insider’s view into our activities, we invite you to start following our STEAM TEAM blog (<http://hgatech.weebly.com/steam-team-blog> or scan the QR code).



Interested in becoming a part of the STEAM Team? Applications for Third Trimester will be available soon - space is limited!



LOVE THE PIN! Even Pope Francis enjoyed our CSW celebrations.



Welcome to a new feature of Inside HGA! Each month the doors of a different grade level will be open, providing you a look into their daily routine and showcasing the gifts of our students, teachers, and aides. Enjoy!

Spotlight is on Kindergarten

Songs, stories, calendar, and large group instruction, are just part of the morning routine for Kindergarten. The environment is enriched by playful inquiry and emotional support. This caring atmosphere gives students the freedom to experiment and explore.

Teacher: Miss Lucarelli - KA

Aide: Mrs. Coveleski

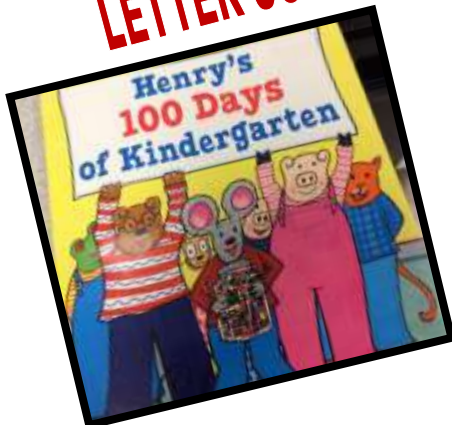
One-on-One Instruction



Independent Work



A - E - I - O - U
LETTER SOUND PICTURES



PRACTICE — PRACTICE — PRACTICE

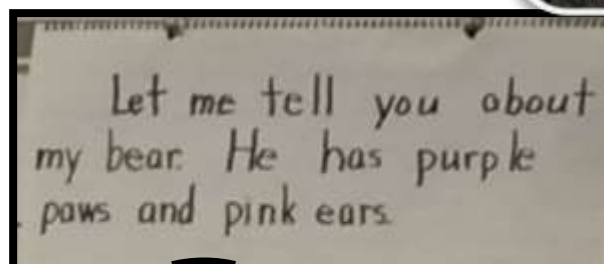
smart beads

Wear these all day when you teach the class something new!



Teacher: Mrs. Katella - KB

Aide: Mrs. Wilson



Writing Center

Word Bank
Building Sentences



We Are Ready To Be Authors!

Prayer & Adoration



5th Grade

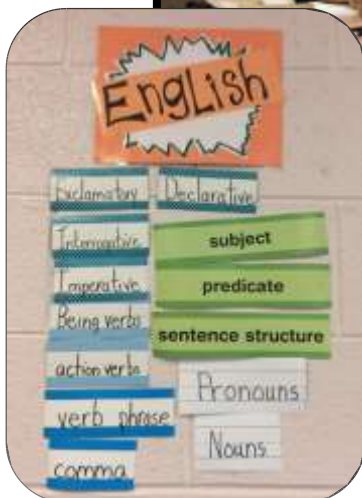
Teachers: Miss Kollar - 5A

Mrs. Bernardo - 5B

Fifth grade is a year of such incredible growth and change. The students have great energy, unique personalities, and an inclination to talk. Whether working on math problems, walking in the hallways, conducting a science experiment or riding on the bus, fifth graders just generally love to chat! Just as the main characters of the stories being read in class, fifth graders **are just trying to “figure things out”**. In the end, they're a strong learning community of friends, having fun!



Potlatch



Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

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Our Mission Statement

We, the community of Holy Guardian Angels Regional School, recognize that our mission, embodied in Catholic tradition, is to develop a Christian student focused on loving, respecting, and serving God, self, and others.

We strive to achieve high academic standards in an environment which celebrates diversity and creativity in order to nurture open-minded, faith-filled individuals who positively and responsibly contribute to the global community.



Christ Centered - Faith Filled

GAGC February & March News



As of February 13, 2017, \$11,546.20 has been earned in Tuition Credit and several participating families have surpassed the \$150 mark which means they are now earning double back! How much did your family earn? Take a look at those top tuition accounts!

\$1,521.74	\$1,088.24	\$906.73
\$845.50	\$591.62	\$502.39

Aeropostale gift cards are back! Available in physical gift cards, Scrip Now, and Reload with a great 10% rebate.

First Communion this year? **Find the perfect dress or suit at Boscov's, Bon Ton, Kohl's, Nordstrom, Macy's, Lord & Taylor, and many more.**

Now is the time to plan ahead for all those April birthdays - iTunes, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Starbucks gift cards make awesome gifts.

Rebate Change: PetSmart is increasing their rebate to 5% effective immediately.

Did you know that GAGC offers prepaid universal gift cards including Visa, Discover, and American Express? Perfect for travel or gift giving!

GAGC information is always available on the school website. There you will find detailed program information, an Online Quick Start Guide, policies & procedures, a list of rebate percentages for individual gift cards, and the current Special Order Form.

Be sure to Like our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/HGAGAGC to stay up to date on GAGC news, bonuses, and giveaways throughout the year!

Not enrolled in the GAGC Program? No problem - sign up to earn money off of your tuition bill! Enrollment is easy - just contact Tricia Christ at tac317@ptd.net or 610-451-1959 for more information on how to get started.