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Inside HGA

Parent newsletter of Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

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- August 21** - Back-to-School Picnic 5-7 PM
- August 23** - Kindergarten Orientation - 6-8 PM
- August 24** - Meet-the-Teacher
Grades 1-5 - 6-7:30 PM
- August 27** - Protecting God's Children
9:00 AM-Noon
- August 29** - First Day of School
- August 30** - Meet-the-Teacher
Grades 6-8 - 6-7:30 PM
- August 31** - Preschool Orientation - 6-7 PM
- September 2 & 5** - **NO SCHOOL**
(Labor Day Observance)
- September 9** - Mass 9:00 AM
- September 11** - Knights of Columbus Breakfast
- September 17** - Protecting God's Children
9:00 AM - Noon
- September 23** - Family Bingo
- October 5** - Blessing of the Animals
- October 6** - Chicken BBQ Sale
- October 10** - **NO SCHOOL**
(Columbus Day Observance)
- October 16** - WALK-A-THON
- October 25** - Confirmation
- October 27** - Trick-or-Trunk
- October 28** - All Saints Mass - 9:00 AM

Dreams to Reality: Our Road to a Learning Commons

One of our dreams for our school over the last few years has been to be able to transform our traditional library into a dynamic Learning Commons: a re-purposed space that would allow our students to take a more active role in their education and experience a more integrated approach to the acquisition of 21st century skills. The Learning Commons environment would integrate the best features of both the computer lab and library into a learning area that would benefit students by providing the (and their teachers) with a space designed with the teacher's role as a guide for student learning. Learning would be able to be achieved in more depth, STEM concepts can be better integrated into the curriculum, and students will have a greater opportunity to create, collaborate, and communicate throughout the learning process.



Today, we are happy to announce that our Learning Commons has arrived!

- The Learning Commons will now be the home of a new STEM-based class, taught by Mrs. Kinyo.
 - ◊ Students will still learn about the genres of literature, research skills, composition skills, science concepts, and technology tools; however, they will be able to explore all of those concepts and skills in a space designed for activity and supplied with the resources they need to discover, apply, and create.
- Library time will be more effectively spent.
 - ◊ Although library will not be offered as a separate class, as it has been in the past, it will now be customized by the reading teachers and incorporated into the reading class schedule.



BEFORE



AFTER

Learning Commons (cont.)

This summer, we were able to begin the first phase of creating the Learning Commons by reorganizing the bookstack areas and dividing them into three “zones”. Through donations, fundraising, and hard work, we hope to have the project entirely completed by the Fall of 2017. Once the project has been completely accomplished, users will find:

- Bookstack Zone:
 - ◊ Shelves of books
 - ◊ Comfortable places to sit
 - ◊ Quite corners to read
 - ◊ Inviting layout and gathering spaces
- Collaboration Zone:
 - ◊ Desktop computers
 - ◊ Laptop computers
 - ◊ Group work areas designed for research, collaboration, and communication
- Creativity Zone:
 - ◊ Flexibility will be the key to the success of this area of the Learning Commons!
 - ◊ Tables and chairs designed to be rearranged to accommodate small groups, individual work, or large group activities
 - ◊ New STEM class space
 - ◊ Hands-on projects to create, build, and discover



Facility Director, Skip Jagielski, frames out a partition in the Learning Commons.

We will continue to accommodate parish and school groups who use our facility after-hours to hold meetings and other events.



Welcome
Back To
School

First Day of School Reminders

UNIFORM DRESS CODE is in effect the first day of school and will be enforced. (Optional summer uniform may be worn through Monday, October 31st.)

All clothing is to be the **PROPER SIZE**. The baggy look is not acceptable. Pants are to be worn at the waist, not the hips.

Label ALL your child's clothing (sweatshirts, sweaters, etc.).

Label ALL your child's items (books, lunchbox, book bag, etc.).

HAIRSTYLES AND HAIRCUTS—NO FAD HAIRSTYLES AND all hair MUST BE THE CHILD'S NATURAL COLOR. NO BLEACHED, DYED, OR STREAKED HAIR IS ALLOWED.

BOYS - haircuts are to be NEAT and trimmed properly. Hair is NOT to go beyond their shirt collar and/or beyond their eyebrow.

GIRLS - NO hair extensions are to be worn. Hair accessories are to be kept simple and are NOT be become a distraction.

LUNCH SERVICE - will be available.

TRANSPORTATION - Make sure your child knows what mode of transportation they will be taking. If they will be riding a bus, please make sure they know what bus they will be riding.



Emergency Information

Emergency sheets for the family are included in the summer packet. This form provides the school with pertinent family information such as phone numbers (work and home), addresses, cell phone numbers, and emergency contacts. Please fill out the required information and return by **Monday, August 29, 2016, the first day of school.**

Forms regarding each child's medical background will be sent home on the first day of school. Please complete one form for each child and return to school by **Tuesday, August 30, 2016.**

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR



The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church.

Victim Assistance Coordinator

DIRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER

(800) 792-9209

To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy, and Code of Conduct, please visit www.allentowndiocese.org and click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

Religious Ed Corner

A Prayer for the Beginning of a New School Year

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body, and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Protecting God's Children Program

Since the summer of 2004, the Diocese of Allentown has implemented a safe environment program in which parents, educators, employees, and volunteers work together to maintain the safest environment for children.

With this in mind, all volunteers who come into contact with children (e.g., serving as a classroom or lunchroom volunteers, assisting with a classroom party, serving as a chaperone for a field trip, working as a clerical assistant for a teacher or in the office, Scout leaders, CYO coaches, etc.) are required to attend a workshop called Protecting God's Children. This workshop emphasizes the harms of child sexual abuse and what can be done to prevent it.

Holy Guardian Angels will host this program on the following dates:

- Saturday, August 27, 2016 - 9:00 AM - Noon
- Saturday, September 17, 2016 - 9:00 AM - Noon
- Saturday, February 18, 2017 - 9:00 AM - Noon

Contact Mr. Angstadt through the school office to register for a class.



You're invited to
HGA's All American
Back-to-School Picnic!!

Sunday, August 21, 2016

5:00 – 7:00 PM

School Parking Lot

(We'll take it inside if it rains)



Reading Camp

Something new was happening at HGA this summer a Reading Camp! Designed for reinforcement and enrichment for students in grades K-2, the camp was successful according to the director, Mrs. Tina Katella. "Six students took advantage of the camp and for different reasons. One overriding reason was the parents' desire to have their children retain what they learned the previous school year." The students liked that the camp, although held at school, was not like school.

They used various activities and materials to practice different reading skills. As a special treat on the last day

of camp, Mrs. Katella brought her new puppy, Sullivan for a visit—the students took turns reading to him. Mrs. Katella said she thought



the camp was successful, but when the last camper was leaving, he called from the car window, "I loved the camp. I hope you have it again next year—if you do, sign me up!" What better endorsement could a teacher ask for?

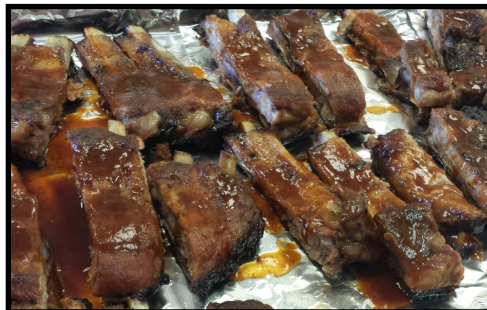
Culinary Camp

This summer we held our 7th annual Culinary Camp here in the HGA Social Hall. Twenty budding chefs arrived early every morning the week of July 25th through the 29th to don aprons and cook up a feast of great recipes. From start to finish our campers

chopped, whisked, stirred, mixed, minced, and sliced through 50 recipes.

We lead our fantastic student cooks

through four different regions of the United States, utilizing and incorporating as much local, farm fresh produce as possible. From the Midwest, we made regional BBQ ribs and chicken, layered salad, and baked beans. Our foray to the Northeast had us sampling roast pork, watermelon salad, hasselback potatoes, and cheesecake. When we traveled to the South, we feasted on fried chicken, fried green tomatoes, tomato pie, and fresh corn succotash. The Southwest region had us sampling red enchiladas, Mexican street corn, chili rellenos, and peach salsa. On the last day, we made a favorite PIZZA! Plain, pepperoni, and tomato pies were made from scratch,



as were sausage and pepperoni breads. The chefs also had their very own Chopped challenge, as they challenged themselves to come up with ways to use up any

leftover ingredients. Our student cooks made us incredibly proud! They came every day, eager to learn to prepare and to try new dishes and ingredients. It was an amazing (and DELICIOUS!!) week of camp and we can't wait to see where we go on our culinary trip next summer.

Drama Camp



For eight years, HGA has had a camp for young thespians. This year 48 students in grades K-9 participated in Drama Camp 2016. For two weeks they

learned many aspects of what it takes to put on a show, including stage direction, choreography, singing, set design, and how to do set changes. All their hard work came together as they presented Mary Poppins.



Orientations

Kindergarten

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

6:00-8:00 PM

Kindergarten students and their parents are to report to the gymnasium upon their arrival at 6:00 PM. After a brief introduction, the Kindergarten children will go with their teacher to the classrooms while Mrs. Wallin speaks to the parents. The students will then be off on a fun and informative bus ride while the parent report to the Kindergarten classrooms. Teachers will provide a more detailed discussion of the Kindergarten Program and the upcoming year.

Preschool

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

6:00-7:00 PM

Children entering 3-year and 4-year old Preschool and their parents are to report to the gymnasium upon their arrival at 6:00 PM. Students will be introduced to their Preschool teacher and aide and enjoy some playtime in their respective classrooms while Mrs. Wallin speaks to the parents. The students will then enjoy a treat and beverage in the social hall and a few activities in the gym while the parents report to their child's Preschool room. Teachers will provide a more detailed discussion of the Preschool Program and the upcoming year.



Meet-the-Teacher



Grades 1-5

Wednesday, August 24, 2016

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Grades 6-8

Tuesday, August 30, 2016

6:00-7:30 PM

Transportation

If you haven't requested bus transportation by filling out a form during the past school year, or have any questions or difficulties with bus scheduled, please contact your local school district in which you reside.

The public districts DO NOT provide preschool transportation.

- Antietam - 610-779-4920 (ext. 3)
- Brandywine - 610-682-5143
- Conrad Weiser - 610-693-8561
- Exeter - 610-779-0410
- Fleetwood - 610-944-8111 (ext. 3)
- Governor Mifflin - 610-775-1464 (ext. 2)
- Hamburg - 610-562-2241 (ext. 1723)
- Muhlenberg - 610-921-8000 (ext. 6)
- Oley - 610-987-4100 (ext. 6063)
- Reading - 610-371-5824
- Schuylkill Valley - 610-916-5447
- Tulpehocken - 610-488-6286 (ext. 1166)
- Wilson - 610-670-0180 (ext. 1232)
- Wyomissing - 610-374-4031 (ext. 1110)

Taking Care of Your Books

All books are to be covered and carried in a school bag or tote bag. **Textbooks are to be covered at all times with a book sock, book cover, or brown paper.**

All workbooks must be covered with a clear contact paper. Contact paper may be purchased through the School Store, or local shopping centers. Workbooks covered with contact paper are easy to identify and stay in good shape for the whole year.

Please cover only workbooks with clear contact (books children write in). Before covering with contact paper, please write your child's name and grade on the cover of the book. Workbooks should be covered no later than **Monday, September 12th, 2016.**

Personal Items

Due to liability issues ALL of the following items ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL:

- Electronic Games
- MP 3 Players and Other Electronic Devices
- Cameras
- Trading Cards
- Any New Toy/Fashion Fad

Cell phones are permitted, however, the cell phone must stay in the child's book bag, silenced, until after school.

School Handbook

The 2016-2017 information regarding all school policies and curriculum will be available on-line to the students and parents on Monday, August 29, 2016, the first day of school. The teachers will go over important components with the students on this day.

We urge you to take the necessary time needed to read the information held within these pages. This is the basic blueprint of our school program. The Handbook Agreement Form, which will be sent home, **MUST** be signed and returned to school no later than Friday, September 9, 2016.

For your convenience, a hardcopy of the School Handbook may be signed out through the school office.



In compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) in inspection for asbestos

containing building materials was performed at each of the schools within the Diocese of Allentown. A copy of the inspection reports are on file in each school's administrative office for your review any time during normal school hours. In the event you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school's Principal or the Diocesan Asbestos Coordinator.

Fundraising Opportunities

Fundraising at HGA is crucial! The income received through fundraising assists in maintaining our facility, faculty/staff salaries, and classroom enhancements needed throughout the year. We make every effort to provide each family with several opportunities to fulfill their mandatory fundraising quota. Once again, each family is required to fulfill a \$350 fundraising fee. Listed below are your fundraising opportunities:

FACTS Management: Break your fundraising fee into monthly payments through the FACTS Management Program. You can combine your fundraising fee with your monthly tuition payment or set up an agreement just to handle your fundraising payments. Please contact the school office for additional information.

Kidstuff Coupon Books: Earn 50% profit towards your fundraising obligation. Sale begins on Tuesday, August 23rd and ends on Tuesday, September 20th.

Evergreen Sale: Back by popular demand, HGA will once again be selling fresh wreaths, garland, and centerpieces for the Christmas season. Sale begins Tuesday, October 18th and ends on Tuesday, November 1st.

2016 Walk-a-thon for Catholic Education: All monies raised through your Walk-a-thon solicitation letters is applied directly to your fundraising fee. Walk-a-thon solicitation preference forms will be distributed at Orientation/Meet-the-Teacher Nights. Choose to send your Walk-a-thon letters via e-mail, US post office, or both.

Joe Corbi Pizza & Dessert Sale: Earn a percentage towards your fundraising obligation. This sale is held during the months of January and February, just in time for Lent.

Fundraising fees must be fulfilled by Tuesday, March 7, 2017 - either paid in full or added to your tuition payments.

Walk-a-thon 2016



The Beat Goes On!

Sunday, October 16th

Goal \$85,000

Save the Date - Mark Your Calendar -
HGA's Largest Fundraiser

Corporate Sponsors are now being accepted. Fulfill your family fundraising obligation - perhaps your place of employment would be interested in participating. Contact Mrs. Reber for additional information.

Raising Money at HGA

Holy Guardian Angels Regional School participates in a few programs that earn funding for our school. Support from family and friends earns approximately \$11,00 per school year.



Simply clipping box tops off General Mills products and sending them to school raises 10¢ for each box top.



Register your Giant Bonus Card and HGA earns a percentage every time you shop.



Recycling opportunities include: newspaper and junk mail (drop off bin located on the school parking lot), and laser & ink jet cartridges and cell phones. These can be dropped off in the school office.

MIDDLE STATES *Update*

The entire Middle States Self Study Process is a group effort involving the entire HGA Regional School community of parents, students, staff, and stakeholders. We will be publishing our progress as we complete the various stages of the process, culminating in a multi-day visit by the Middle States Visiting Team in the Fall of 2016 who will decide whether or not to recommend our school for reaccreditation. If you have any questions regarding this process, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. ***Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school.***

What we have accomplished so far. . .

- Establishment of our Planning Team
- Evaluation, Revision, and Creation of our Founding Documents
- Profile of the School
- Self-Assessment of the Indicators of Quality for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in the areas of Religion, Reading, and Mathematics
- Research and Reports Concerning the 12 Standards
- Verification of the Middle States Visiting Team Dates: The visit will take place November 15-18, 2016
- MSA Technical Review and Approval of our three objectives for our seven-year Action Plans

What we are finalizing. . .

- Plan for Growth and Improvement - ACTION PLANS: Once the objectives have been approved, the Action Plan Teams will actively begin creating the seven-year plans. In the meantime, they have already begun the discussion concerning the formation of the plans.

What we are in the process of completing. . .

- Final Middle States Report and Preparation of Supporting Documentation: Once the Action Plans have been created, the report will undergo a final review and revision by the Planning Team before being sent to the Chair of our Visiting Team, Mrs. Carol Dick.
- Preparations for our Pre-Visit: As we approach the evaluation dates of our Middle States Visiting Team in November, we will be meeting with Mrs. Carol Dick in mid-October to review our work and discuss the details of the Team visit in November.
- Creation of a Hospitality Committee: Members of the Hospitality Committee will soon be meeting to begin planning for our Team's lodging, meals, and all of those details that will help make their stay with us enjoyable and as carefree as possible. **If you are interested in being apart of this committee, please contact Mrs. Kinyo by September 1, 2016.**

Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

3125 Kutztown Road
Reading, PA 19605
Phone: 610-929-4124
Fax: 610-929-1623
Email: www.hgaschool.org

Our Mission Statement

We, the community of Holy Guardian Angels Regional School, recognize that our primary mission is to develop and promote a Christian student focused on loving and serving God, self, and others. We strive to achieve high academic standards in an environment which embodies diversity and creativity in order to nurture open-minded, faith-filled individuals who positively and responsibly contribute to their community.



Christ Centered - Faith Filled

Guardian Angels Gift Certificate Program - GAGC

WELCOME BACK!

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE GAGC PROGRAM . . .

- The current GAGC Program Year began on June 1, 2016 and runs through May 31, 2017. Any tuition credit earned during this program year will be applied to the 2017-2018 school year.
- Over **\$20,000 in tuition credit** was earned in the last program year! It's never too late to start and every little bit helps. Earned credit adds up quickly!
- An easy way to try out the GAGC program is to begin with your weekly grocery shopping. For example, if you purchase a \$125 in Giant gift cards each week for your groceries, you would earn \$10 per month in tuition credit. Reducing your monthly tuition bill by \$10 could be a great help.
- In-stock GAGC is sold 7 days a week. Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM at the rectory, before and after all weekend Masses in the church vestibule, and also on Tuesdays during the school year through the weekly communication folder. In-stock GAGC includes **Giant, Redner's, Sheetz, Wal-Mart, and Weis** in a variety of denominations.
- Using the Online Option allows you to earn tuition credit on-the-go with no planning ahead! Visit the **GAGC tab** on the school website for a Quick Start Guide.
- GAGC information is always available on the school website. There you will find detailed program information, 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.
- It's never too late to enroll in the GAGC Tuition Credit Program - just contact Tricia Christ at tac317@ptd.net or 610-451-1959 for more information - you'll be glad you did!