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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 17— Stations of the Cross - 1:30 PM

February 20— HGA 1st Penance - 10:00 AM

February 21-26— Book Fair
2/21 - 10 AM - 1 PM

2/24 - Family Night - 6-8 PM

February 24 - Stations of the Cross - 1:30 PM

February 27 - Protecting God's Children
9 AM-12 Noon

March 1 - Noon Dismissal

March 2 - Stations of the Cross - 1:30 PM

March 2 - 4 - COGAT Testing (Gr. 3-5-7)

March 6 - Lenten Simple Supper - 5:00 PM

March 7 - HGA Declamation - 6:00 PM

March 8 - Deadline to Fulfill Fundraising Fee

March 9 - Stations of the Cross - 1:30 PM

March 11 - Meatball Making

March 12 - Spaghetti Supper

Take-Out 3-4 PM / Sit Down 4-8 PM

March 14 - IOWA Testing - Gr. 2 & 7

March 16 - Stations of the Cross - 1:30 PM

March 20 - Palm Sunday

March 23 - Lenten Retreat Day

Living Stations - 1:15 PM

March 24 - Holy Thursday - NO SCHOOL

Mass 7:00 PM

March 25 - Good Friday - NO SCHOOL

Mass 3:00 PM

March 27 - Happy Easter

March 28 - NO SCHOOL

April 2 - Ladies Night Out

Catholic Schools Week - the Tradition Continues

Preparations for Catholic Schools Week 2016 began in early fall and continued through the last hour of the last day of this special week. Keeping four very important words, **FAITH, FAMILY, COMMUNITY**, and of course, **FUN** in the forefront of all activities planned, the committee organized a week that certainly did not disappoint.

Students, parents, grandparents, community members, faculty and staff enjoyed a week of long-standing traditions invigorated by the spirit of today's youth.

The week began with **Opening Mass** on Sunday, January 31st, and a record setting **Open House**. HGA was bustling with a total of 52 families touring our beautiful school and meeting Principal, Mrs. Wallin and the many teachers and aides on hand to answer any questions or to simply chat.

Winter Carnival provided families an evening of non-stop fun! Three new games proved to be just as popular as the old standards. This year's "main event", a Prize Booth, attracted both children and adults alike. An opportunity to grab for a winning ticket for a chance to win a large screen TV, tuition credit, and spirit wear was a successful venture for three lucky families.





"We understand compassion not only as the ability to empathize with another, but also, to act on behalf of that other person."

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During the month of February, we celebrate the value of COMPASSION. In Luke's Gospel, we read, "Be compassionate as God is compassionate." We understand compassion not only as the ability to empathize with another, but also, to act on behalf of that other person. This is evident when we care deeply and want to help others, even if we do not know them. It is being kind and forgiving to someone who has hurt you.

A message from Pope Francis, "A merciful heart is not a weak heart." This is from his Lenten message of 2015, and leads us brilliantly into this Year of Mercy. Perhaps for this Lent, if we are tired and unmotivated by the thought of giving something up for Lent, we could look at a way to be merciful, to do acts of mercy, to act with a heart of mercy. This Lent becomes not only a season of self-denial and cleansing, but also, a season of growth and fulfillment and strengthening of our hearts.

Wishing you all of God's blessings this Lenten season and always,

Mrs. Maureen Wallin

Principal

Catholic Schools Week (cont.)

The faculty and staff were treated to a fabulous lunch on Wednesday, February 3rd, organized and prepared by the **Home and School Association**, as well as treating students to an afternoon **Movie Day**. This Greek-themed luncheon filled stomachs with delicious cuisine, tested our minds with mythology trivia and warmed our hearts with gratitude and love. **Community Day** opened our doors to more than 180 visitors. Grandparents enjoyed a morning of **BINGO** fun with the students in grades Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd. Many smiles and much laughter filled the first floor hallway guaranteeing that memories were created and taken home. **First Responders**, including local police officers, EMT's, and fire fighters, were treated to an appreciation gathering with the students in grades 3 and 4, an opportunity to thank those individuals for putting others first. Great conversation and tasty breakfast fare preceded an informative presentation on utilizing the 9-1-1 Call Center by Larry Moyer, Deputy Chief, Department of Fire and Rescue Services. A big thank you to Fr. Kravatz for his inspirational blessing on those in attendance. On the second floor, the 5th and 6th graders were assembling "one-use" toiletry bags (including personal hygiene items, warm socks, granola bars and a prayer) to be distributed to those in need at New Journey Center when visiting the YMCA on shower day. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations for this **Community Service Project**. Offering our 7th and 8th graders insight to career possibilities, twelve speakers introduced career opportunities in the areas of Food, Sports and the Arts. Our thanks to the following businesses: Heidi Reuter Photography, Rittenhouse Senior Living, Monte Lauro Imported Italian Specialties, Reading Fightin' Phils, DeSales University, PCN Network, Santander Arena, Reading Museum, GoggleWorks, and Acting Up Studio.

We closed out the week with our **10th Annual Rock-Paper-Scissors Competition**. The arena was filled with excitement as the contenders entered waiting to take their place in the center ring. The early rounds indicated that this competition could be won by any grade level. One-by-one "Beloved Blair, from the Kingdom of Kindergarten" ousted her opponents, including "Captain Liberty" to achieve the coveted title of champion. Congratulations to all those who competed - showing that it's not all about winning, but how much fun you're having! Until next year. . .

Religious Ed Corner

Sacramental News

First Penance will take place on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 10:00 AM. Please pray for all the students who will be receiving 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 will be held on Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the school.

School Activities for the Holy Season of Lent

- The students will be able to donate to the Missionary Childhood Association during the season of Lent. A special coin holder has been sent home for the students to participate in the “giving of alms” during this Holy Season.
- A “Vocations Chalice” will be traveling from classroom to classroom during the season of Lent to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
- The students will have, as always, weekly Adoration, Stations of the Cross, and Mass during this journey of Lent.
- A “Simple Supper” will be offered to the school community on **Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 5:00 PM**. A flyer with information will be sent home for this beautiful tradition.
- On **Wednesday, March 23, 2016** the whole school will participate in a Lenten retreat day. During this prayerful day the students will be able to reflect on Holy Week, their own personal Lenten journey, and the need of vocations. The students will reflect through prayer, special guest speakers, and Living Stations of the Cross.

Please remember to keep this Holy Season close to your hearts and allow the power of our Lord’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection guide you ever closer to Easter.



Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

We would like to congratulate the following young men and women who participated in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition that was held on Friday, January 22:

- 8 year old boys - Maverick Stinsky
- 8 year old girls - Sophia Billman
- 9 year old boys - Shawn Swavely
- 9 year old girls - Julia Rosenberger
- 10 year old boys - Sean Hall
- 10 year old girls - Olivia Jones
- 11 year old boys - Trevor Moschak
- 12 year old boys - Anthony Crisafulli
- 12 year old girls - Kelsey Moschak
- 13 year old boys - Evan Eichhorn
- 13 year old girls - Michaela Rosenberger
- 14 year old boys - Owen Wolfe

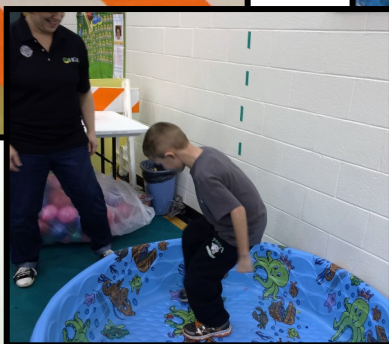
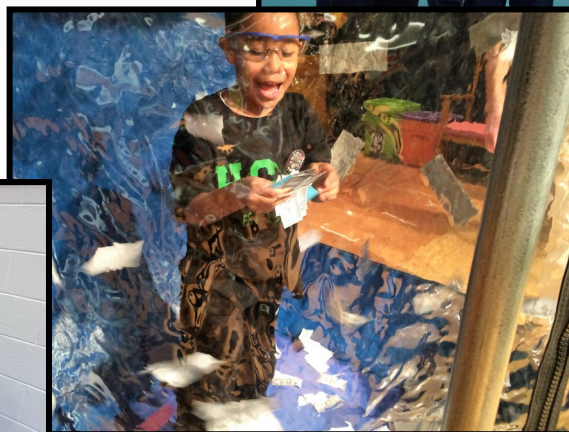
The 9-14 year old winners now move onto the Regional Competition on February 7th at St. Ignatius. Registration is promptly at 2:30 PM and competition begins at 3:00 PM.



Winter Carnival Fun



Friends



Fun





Family



Third Grade

3A - Snow Globes & Grateful Hearts

The New Year got off to a memorable start and the Blizzard of 2016 is one we will certainly remember. The excitement of snow and snow days continues to fill the classroom air. Still, we are working hard to make up for lost time. With thoughts of so much snow, the children made snow globes of their life in a snow globe. This was a fun writing and art activity. Upon finishing our trade

book, we had our Family Under the Bridge Brunch. A touch of French culture was enjoyed as the children feasted on “crepes”, fresh fruit, and of course,



whipped cream. A BIG “thank you” to our awesome moms for another great day. You may not recognize them behind the mustache!



Catholic Schools Week was a great success. Our First Responders’ Breakfast was enjoyed by the students and our honored guests. We recited our poem beautifully, and had an opportunity to talk with and ask questions of the first responders. We also celebrated the 100th day with different activities, our favorite one was building our 100 Valentine Cup Tower. What a busy month!

The third quarter has opened the world of science in our classroom. The children are very excited to begin some hands-on work with our first book on Matter. We will be doing some fun and slightly messy experiments as we examine the three states of matter. In math class we are measuring away as we learn about linear measurement and capacity.



Last, but certainly not least, we have entered the season of Lent. The children received their ashes on Wednesday. We are reflecting on how to spend our time during Lent. The students are preparing their hearts for Jesus. Our lessons are focusing on prayer, fasting, and alms giving. We will be learning about the Paschal Mystery in class following the time spent attending Stations of the Cross. We will concentrate on acts of kindness in our classroom as we prepare for Easter.

See you in the SPRING!

Fourth Grade

The students of 4A survived the blizzard of 2016 and had a great time learning in the month of January. We celebrated Spirit Day to kick-off our events during Catholic Schools Week. We are proud to be Cougars from HGA. We are earning letters to spell "PERFECT ATTENDANCE". We have spelled it twice and are working on the third time around. Fourth grade loves to learn every day!

Sixth Grade

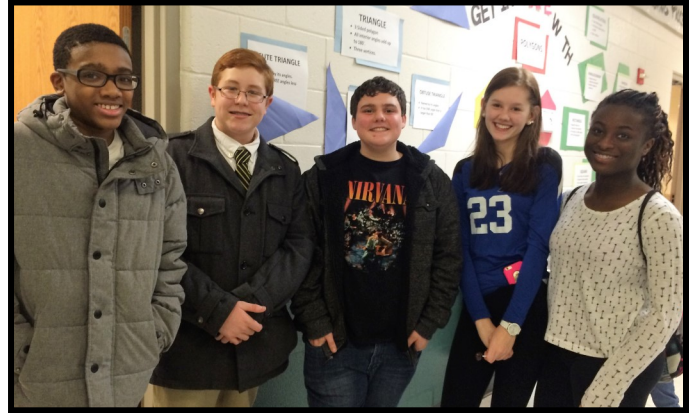
Spreading Joy On December 22, the classes of 6B and 3B visited Rittenhouse Living Center to spread some Christmas joy. The students presented the residents with ornaments and sang many cheerful carols. It was wonderful seeing the smiles, hugs, and delight of all those in attendance as they joined along in singing and share in the Christmas spirit. It was a very fulfilling afternoon for the children and a blessing to spread their youthful spirit. We look forward to returning next year!

Eighth Grade

Our 8th grade students participated in a day-long CPR training program in December. The class was instructed by HGA alumnus, Anthony Wiencek, class of 1999. Our 8th graders learned how to recognize and respond in an emergency situation and what to do before EMS arrives. They also practiced skills regarding how to perform CPR, how to use an Automated External Defibrillator, and how to perform the Heimlich Maneuver. The students did a great job in class and are now officially certified to perform CPR. Let's hope they never find themselves in an emergency situation, but if they are, they may be able to help save a life!



Alumni News



HGA Alumni enjoying the Winter Carnival!

Ethan Stoney, class of 2015 - earned the highest score in the JV Division of the History Bee Regional Competition and received the bronze medal in the US History Bee aspect of the competition. Ethan moves on to compete in the National History Bee in the spring.



Berks Catholic High School
Franco Post Auditorium
Friday, March 18th - 7:00 PM
Saturday, March 19th—7:00 PM

On the stage at Berks Catholic High, cast and crew in the upcoming musical Annie:

Thomas Biros	Sara Lala
Summer Rose Biros	Christina Mitchell
Victoria DeMarco	Hannah Mogford
Molly Gaffney	Grace Pascuzzi
Katie Hawkins	Lea Santoni
Morgan Hummel	Katie Traugott
Ethan Kinyo	Tim Walker
Monica Kinyo	

Break-a-Leg!

Stand-up for Life

This past fall, the Diocese of Allentown sponsored the “Stand Up for Life” Essay and Multimedia Contest with over 600 students submitting essays and multimedia presentations. On January 17, 2016, Dr. Philip Fromuth, secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic Education, welcomed the 21 student finalists being honored to an awards ceremony, along with their families and educators.

“This afternoon we reach out both as a church and a people of faith to acknowledge the dignity of life for all,” said Fromuth. He told the students they are responding to Pope Francis’ call to move away from a “throw away culture,” are are living out their duty as Catholics and citizens to help those in need, and to protect the lives of the most vulnerable.

Four HGA students who participated in the Junior Division Multimedia Contest were among the 21 honorees. “U.S. Birthrate Drops for the Sixth Straight Year” was the Junior Division theme for students in seventh and eighth grade. The multimedia entry could be any combination of PowerPoint slides, video, animation, music and voice-over multimedia. It had to be 2-5 minutes long, self-running and require no interaction from the user.

Congratulations to our HGA honorees: Anicia Molano, Junior Division multimedia first place winner, and finalists Maya Barreto, Sydney Grim, and Ashley Lynch!



Science Fair Winners

7th Grade



Front Row: Elizabeth Trumbore, Lindsey Kroenig, Thea Piskorski, Sam Robertson.
Back Row: Julia Harris, Hailey Davis, Anthony Myers, Kevin Brown, Dana Mejia

8th Grade



Front Row: Kylee Iswalt, Tamara Barrera.
Middle Row: Farren Christ, Amara Midouhas, Veronica Botch. **Back Row: Michaela Rosenbarger, William Hertzog, Dante Porcaro, Quinn Malinowski, Nathan Wilson.** **Missing - Andric Brena**

First Honors:

3rd Grade

- Rian Coulter
- Elizabeth East
- Eduardo Franco
- Jacqueline Pelagio-Gallo
- Evan Kroenig
- Addison McKittrick
- Tony Nguyen
- Eva Noll
- Maya Smith
- Shawn Swavely
- Ricardo Tinoco

4th Grade

- Sophia Borden
- Olivia Brady
- Carmella Costa
- Helena Christ
- Marli Emrich
- Natalia Figueroa
- Sean Hall
- Skylar Herb
- Samantha Holland
- Sara Holland
- Klaudia Jarombek
- Olivia Jones
- Elijah Mecham
- Gabriella Moyer
- Leandra Moyer
- Hannah Nied
- Joshua Ortiz
- Grace Sands
- Katherine Stroup
- Kayla Thompson

5th Grade

- Stephen Askey
- Ty Barreto
- Luke Brenner
- Alyssa Coccia
- Madison Esterly

- Kathryn Gabriel
- Dominic Iaccarino
- Brian Kroenig
- Jazmin Mejia
- Riley Murphy
- Bryleigh Reddy
- Abigail Sabatucci
- Nicholas Stoudt
- Kyla Stutzman

6th Grade

- Melany Agosto
- Christopher Avram
- Mya Dubbs
- RJ Emrich
- Hannah Medina
- Molly Mogford
- Emma Moody
- Sydney Ouano
- Aidan Sands
- Peyton Stricker

7th Grade

- Akinkunmi Adio
- Kevin Brown
- Jakub Czyn
- Haley Davis
- Lindsey Kroenig
- Thea Piskorski

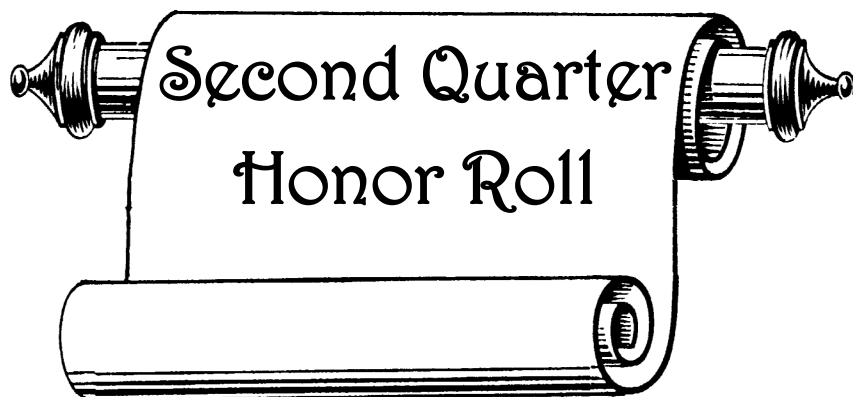
8th Grade

- Tamara Barrera
- Andric Brena
- Kylee Iswalt
- Rachel Glembocki
- Quinn Malinowski
- Michelle Nguyen
- Michaela Rosenberger
- Nathan Wilson

Second Honors:

3rd Grade

- Zeruiah Allen
- Gardlyne Deshommes
- Jocelyn Palagio-Gallo



- Riley Gofus
- Lilly McCormack
- Isabella Mondelli
- Kevin Nguyen
- Nathan Perez
- Kelci Reinhart
- Diego Ibanes-Roma
- Melina Stinsky
- Samuel Vicari

4th Grade

- Alexis Border
- Alex Davis
- Ariel Herrera
- Adam Menet
- Brayan Olivares
- Regan Prechtel
- Julia Rosenberger
- Hailey Schmeck

5th Grade

- Yonatan Ortiz-Diego
- Hector Franco
- Aidan Gaffney
- Christie Gonzalez
- Sophia Gattone
- Laine Horst
- Jose Lopez
- Zyna Lopez
- Riley Monahan
- Kaitlene Taveras
- Joseph Taimanglo

6th Grade

- Olakanmi Adio
- Julia Baney
- Christopher Echevarria
- Mason Iswalt
- Chrissy Kline

- Peyton Malinowski
- Giavanna Myers
- Gerald Perez
- Emily Zatorski

7th Grade

- Israel Gutierrez
- Julia Harris
- Kelly Kline
- Anthony Myers

8th Grade

- Veronica Botch
- Farren Christ
- Ashlie Eveland
- Amara Midouhas
- Heather Szymborski-Pratt

Honorable Mention

4th Grade

- Gabriel Davis
- Nicholas Glembocki
- Chrisiany Lomas
- Julianna Molano
- Desirae Sullivan

6th Grade

- Tristan Hertzog

7th Grade

- Ashley Lynch
- Sam Robertson
- Courtney Thompson
- Soleil Twyman
- Alexander Zavala

8th Grade

- Bryan Aguilar
- Morgan Gebhard
- Nicco Iaccarino

**CORRECTION TO DECEMBER EDITION OF
INSIDE HGA:** 6th Grade Second Honors

Christopher Avram



It's not how much we give
but how much **LOVE** we put
into giving. Mother Teresa

HGA Wish List

The generosity of our school community is truly heartening. Through our first Christmas Wish List request we collected a total of \$1,345 and purchased desired faculty/staff items, as well as received donations of the following:

Preschool through 2nd Grade:

- boxes of crayons
- dry erase markers
- glue sticks
- alphabet clay cutters
- 10" playground ball
- red and blue ruled newsprint
- alphabet stampers
- wooden alphabet puzzle boards
- wooden number puzzle boards
- wooden pattern blocks
- heavy duty bean bags
- play-doh / sidewalk chalk

6th through 7th grade

- electric pencil sharpeners
- paper shredder (for faculty room)
- EXPO markers

Technology / Security

- 12 bay Chromebook Charging Cart
- security camera

Items will continue to be purchased and listed in future newsletters.

Helping A Family In Need

In the true meaning of the giving spirit, HGA's community certainly came to the aid of one of its own. A devastating fire resulted in the loss of the home of an HGA family. The out-pouring of support, emotionally and financially, from both the school and parish families, assisted in so many ways.

Thank you to every family who donated and helped keep the bright light of hope shining.

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

What we are finalizing. . .

- The Profile of the School: This section of the report addresses aspects of the school such as the school's history, demographic trends, staff certification, local community resources, and economics in order to create an accurate profile of the school and its surrounding communities.
- Research and Reports Concerning the 12 Standards: Our entire faculty and staff worked very hard to thoroughly investigate various aspects of the school community. The completed surveys from our parents, students, and staff were a key component to their reports. In addition to the survey feedback, our 12 Standards Committees (composed of faculty and staff members) also analyzed data from a variety of sources.

What we are in the process of completing. . .

- Self-Assessment of the Indicators of Quality for Curriculum Instruction, and Assessment: After a review of our Middle States Surveys as well as faculty input and student performance data, we have chosen to more deeply evaluate the following curriculum areas: Religion, Mathematics, and Reading. Committees have been formed and are currently evaluating these areas that will lead to a designed improvement plan.

Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

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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

Have you heard? The Online Option for purchasing GAGC has officially launched! Visit the [GAGC Tab](#) on the school website for Policy & Procedures for the Online Option as well as a Quick Start guide on how to sign up. The Online Option makes purchasing GAGC and increasing your tuition credit easier - no planning ahead necessary! Sign up today - have a gift card in minutes!

Great news - **Nordstrom \$25 and \$100 gift cards** are now available! Nordstrom gift cards are redeemable in stores and online at Nordstrom, Nordstrom Rack, and HauteLook.

As of January 31, 2016, HGA Families have earned \$11,564.49 in tuition credit.

- One 2nd Grade Family has earned \$1,439.88!
- One 4th Grade Family has earned \$1,252.40!
- One 6th Grade Family has earned \$940.70!
- One Kindergarten Family has earned \$789.00!
- One 7th Grade family has earned \$559.12!



How much did your family earn? It's never too late to start. Visit the [GAGC Tab](#) on the school website for enrollment forms and information.

Please note there will be no gift card sales on Good Friday through Easter Monday.

For more information on the GAGC Program, please contact Tricia Christ at 610-451-1959 or tac317@ptd.net.