



Inspire • Discover • Believe

Inside HGA

Parent newsletter of Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

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December 19– Last Day of Preschool
for Christmas Break

December 21– Noon Dismissal

December 24-January 2– School Closed

December 25– Merry Christmas

January 3 – School Resumes

January 12 – Father/Daughter Dance

January 21 – NO SCHOOL

Science Fair Set-up 1:00-3:00 PM

January 22 – Science Fair Set-up 7:00-7:45 AM

January 27 - February 1– Catholic School Week

January 27 – Opening Mass 9:45 AM

Open House & Registration - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

January 28 – Parent Reception &

Classroom Observations 8:00-10:00 AM

January 29 – Winter Carnival - 5:30-7:30 PM

January 31 – Grandparent/

Grandfriend Day - 8:30-10:30 AM

February 3 – Parent Confirmation

Meeting - 6:00 PM

February 5 – EARLY DISMISSAL - 1:00 PM

February 9 – First Penance - 10:00 AM



Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus



Joseph and Mary are turned away at the inn.



Jesus is born in the manger.



The angels appear to the shepherds.



Listening to the angels, the shepherds follow the star.



The Wise Men bring gifts to the New Born King!



"Let us remind ourselves that this is one time of year when it is commonplace to find the spirit of human kindness alive and well."

From the Principal



"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During this Advent Season, students and staff have been enthusiastically preparing for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our weekly Advent prayer services, as well as prayers and reflections by our teachers in their classrooms help to ensure that the real message of Christmas is at the forefront of our hearts.

Our faith traditions help us to think about Jesus' humble birth in a manger, and our Catholic school provides all members of our learning community with a wonderful opportunity to reflect together on the true meaning of Christmas. We are reminded to keep Christ close to us for He is our strength throughout our lives.

As Christmas draws closer, it is inevitable that our minds start to drift away from the work of our day-to-day school business, to the festive period itself. Let us remind ourselves that this is one time of year when it is commonplace to find the spirit of human kindness alive and well. Let us embrace this by ensuring that we enjoy ourselves safely but also take time to look out for those nearest and dearest to us and those less fortunate than ourselves.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of Holy Guardian Angels Regional school as we work together to offer the very best learning opportunities and experiences for your child. On behalf of Father Finlan, Monsignor Grabish, Father Ganser, Father Camilli, and the HGA faculty and staff, we wish you, and your family and the students of HGA a holy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Maureen Wallin
Principal



Religious Ed Corner

The Holy Season of Advent

The Season of Advent began on Sunday, December 2 and continues until Sunday, December 23. Advent is a four week time period in which we wait for the coming of our Lord. We think about the birth of our Lord and also the second coming of our Lord. During this time we are to prepare the way of Our Lord by letting our faith shine. In doing this, we need to be mindful of our words, actions, and thoughts. We need to remember Our Lord in weekly Mass on a Sunday by receiving Him in Holy Communion. Are we truly ready for our Lord's coming? Take this time to prepare and be ready! "Prepare the way of the Lord...make straight His path."



Sacramental News

First Penance Parent Meeting took place on November 18, 2018. Please pray for all the students and their parents as they prepare to receive this most precious sacrament of God's forgiving love. All other parents who were unable to attend the meeting the information will be sent out. (First Penance takes place on Saturday, May 9, 2019 at 10:00 AM.)

Confirmation 2019 Parent Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 6:00 PM in HGA's Learning Commons (Library).



The Passing of Monsignor Dennis T. Hartgen

On Friday, November 30, we laid to rest Monsignor Hartgen who was pastor of Holy Guardian Angels for 20 years. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

"Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and

let perpetual light shine upon him."

Upcoming Liturgical Events

December 17 - 6:30 PM - Ecumenical Candle-Lit Service

December 25 - The Birth of our Lord: Christmas

January 1 - New Years and the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (A Holy Day of Obligation)

February 9 - First Penance - 10:00 AM - HGA Church

HGA Annual Book Fair:

A Big Success in Many Little Ways

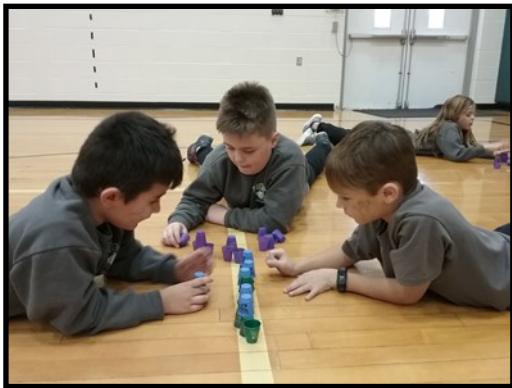
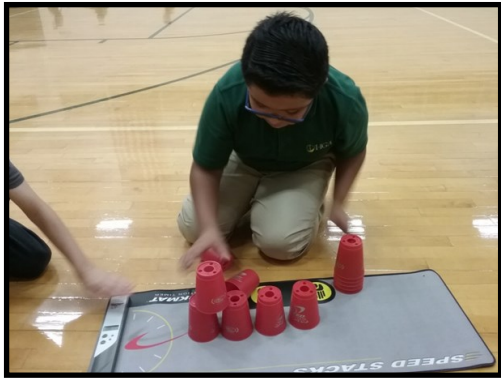
This year's annual Book Fair was a wonderful success thanks to the entire HGA School and Parish communities. We started the fair with our first Early Bird Event. Registrants had the opportunity to be the first ones to view the fantastic book selection and were treated to extra raffle tickets, a tote bag, refreshments, and a relaxed and festive shopping atmosphere. During the week, the students enjoyed finding books that starred their favorite characters, such as Pete the Cat, and on books that focused on their interests, like Minecraft. On Saturday, December 1st, the visitors to the HGA Craft Bazaar were delighted to find the addition of the fair to their shopping experience. Parishioners, alumni, crafters, and guests all helped us reach our goal of \$9,000 in sales (\$2,100 profit), which will help us continue to maintain the school facility to be enjoyed by the entire community for years to come.

Our success would not have been possible without our donors, volunteers, and - of course - shoppers! Fair volunteers helped students find the perfect book, make wish lists, and calculate that pesky tax. Special thanks to the following volunteers: Missy Fox, Nancy Weiss, Karen Kroenig, Heather Rosado, Liz Acevedo, Sean O'Brien, Susan Askey, Diane Stinsky, Geraldine Sepulveda, Nina Haggerty, Karen Bauer, Heather Ferguson, Heidi Wilson, Vickie Smith, Karen Kroenig, Bellina Morris, Linda Lee, Sue Sweigart, Samantha Rechieru, Andrea Armo, Malinda Barends, Beatriz Carannante

Donor	Gift Card	Winner
Falter Family	\$25 Game Stop	Mrs. Jessica Flynn
Paxon Family	\$25 Dicks Sporting	Eden Sandoval
Missy & James Fox	\$25 Target	Davin Batista
Garverich & Wickstrom Families	\$35 Barns & Noble	Annabella Carannante
Bard Family & Anonymous Donor	\$35 Dunkin Donuts	Marlie Emrich
Work Family	\$25 Longhorn	Meredith Swavely
(Dominic) Smith Family	\$50 Longhorn	Mrs. Jennifer Chupak
Gina Burk & Anonymous Donor	\$15 Netflix, \$15 ITune, \$10 Amazon	Mr. Joe Jablonski
Pascavage Family & Anonymous Donor	\$10 Weis & \$15 Starbucks	Michalsky Family
Nelson-Corrino Family	\$20 Walmart	Alex Dionne
Morgan's Family	\$20 Pet Smart & Pet Toy Stocking	Lilly McCormack

Cup Stacking

On Wednesday afternoons, during the months of October and November, we had 30 eager students stacking cups in different formations. These formations included 3 stack, 6 stack, and the infamous 10 stack. We worked on our eye/hand coordination, finger dexterity through mini cups, along with right and left brain activation. There were memory games played, various relay races, tag games, jumbo cups, and table top games. Student's couldn't believe how fast the hour went each week as fun was had by all! Thanks to Miss Majeski for lending us a helping hand!



Preschool

Weaver's Orchard

On November 7th, Preschool took a field trip to Weaver's Orchard for a day of fun! The children took a hayride around the orchard and had the oppor-



tunity to pick a small pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. Our tour guide talked about pumpkins and how they float in water, and we

learned about apples and how a machine sorts them by size, and how a cider press works. Everyone enjoyed a taste of some apple cider and pretzels for a snack and then had some play time on the hay bales.

Christmas Program

On Friday, December 14, the Preschool held their Christmas Program for their families and friends. They worked very hard on perfecting their songs and the joy they brought into their performance was contagious. It was a wonderful show! We are very proud of all their hard work.



**merry
christmas
and
happy
new year!**

First Grade

Honoring Our Veterans

First graders were very excited, and maybe a little nervous as well to prepare for the Veterans Day Prayer Service held in the school's gymnasium on November 9th. Our children did



an excellent job reading from Scripture in front of the entire school community, as well as all the veterans who attended. Both classes also sang the moving tribute song, "Thank

You, Soldiers". We were told that there wasn't a dry eye in the gym at the conclusion of the song. Mr. Angstadt put together a beautiful prayer service in honor of our Country's Finest."

On December 14th both first grades celebrated their first of five school Masses. The readers practiced hard, and the children song "Come, Lord Jesus" for the Communion Meditation. We are also trying hard to perform an extra act of kindness every day during Advent, to prepare a fitting place in our hearts for Baby Jesus' Birthday.

Second Grade

Second grade took our fall field trip to Middle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. It was a beautiful day for our trip. We began the day with Mrs. Sherman, our guide, discussing Pennsylvania wildlife. She even had animal furs and skins for us to see and touch. We then had a beautiful hike through some of the property. We saw many interesting things in nature that day. The children loved the hike!



We had a scavenger hunt in the museum. Lunch was a picnic on the grounds where the children really enjoyed playing in the leaves. We ended our day with an informational video on beavers. It was a wonderful day for everyone. Second grade class has been taking this trip for many years and it never disappoints. We look forward to returning next fall!

Third Grade

Tis the Season

So much has happened in our classroom in the last two months. Fall has come and gone so quickly. It is hard to believe that we are in the season of Advent already.



The Great Pumpkin has come and gone. Halloween was awesome! We enjoyed seeing our friends and all the creative costumes at Trick or Trunk. It was a great night. Thanksgiving brought our 3rd and 4th grade Thanksgiving Feast. A wonderful meal and time spent with some Pilgrim and Native American friends was

enjoyed by the children. This time together was the perfect way to wrap up our Social Studies unit on The First Communities and The New World.

In Language Arts, the students have been doing a good deal of writing, and are sharpening their creative writing skills. Thank you letters were written and then mailed home to their families for the Thanksgiving holiday. As we have entered the season of Advent, the children are writing beautiful essays about the Nativity. They have really impressed me with their work. Math class always keeps us on our toes perfecting our multiplying and dividing skills. I am proud to announce that we have our first 4 Fact Masters for the year! Congratulations!

Of course in Religion, we are focused on Advent, and discussing the meaning of the Advent season. Our discussions and activities include the Jesse Tree, the Nativity, and how we can prepare our hearts for Jesus.

In Reading class, we have started our first trade book. Family Under the Bridge is a wonderful story for the season. It teaches us what it means to be truly thankful, the importance of giving, and the true meaning of Christmas.

Last, but not least, we have recently had the pleasure of a special visitor in our classroom. Brooke Eveland, an HGA alumni, has spent time with us completing requirements as she pursues her teaching degree. The children really enjoyed the time Brooke spent with them. She has a true gift for working with children, and we wish her the very best !



Oh, we do not want to forget our other very special guest this week. St. Nicholas stopped by to visit our classroom and talk with the children. Of course, treats were then enjoyed!

As we face the busy weeks ahead, let us all remember the true Reason for the Season.

3-A would like to wish everyone a peaceful and blessed Christmas!

Fourth Grade

The students of 4A and 4B have been busy “falling into learning” in October and November. Reading was the focus in October as students worked to complete their first book report. Each student read a fiction book in order to create a sandwich to summarize the important elements.

November began, and so did the preparations for the 3rd and 4th grade Thanksgiving Feast. This annual event remains a treasured tradition. The fourth grade Native Americans performed their two poems with gratitude to express their thankfulness for all their blessings at HGA and in their lives. After hanging up their bows/arrows, headdresses, and vests, they worked cooperatively on an integrated Science research project. Each group represented the sun or one of the eight planets in our solar system. They answered specific questions provided, created their own questions to research, as well as learned and recorded several interesting facts. The culminating activity was a presentation of their research and display of the sun or planet. Miss Andrefski and Mrs. Burkman were blown away by their stellar presentations. As the Class of 2027 strives to “Be the Change” in our global community, community outreach programs have been important to us. Both classes participated in the food drive donation event. We also showed our support for Anthony Myers, an HGA alumnus, during our TEAM17Strong dress down day. Grade 4A sent Anthony a “You Got This” encouragement before their mass in October. We all hope he remembers...#noonefightsalone.

As we prepare for Christmas, fourth grade promises to have HOPE, PEACH, JOY, and LOVE and we wish all of these to our HGA family. “The Light of Heaven...became the Light of the World” in order to “Be the Change.”

Fifth Grade

What a busy month!

We have had several opportunities to work with our kindergarten buddies, and we had FUN! We’ve done crafts together, decorated Christmas cookies, and have been teaching them how to sit quietly at church. This has proven to be an excellent lesson for all students involved.

Our annual Potlatch Meal was held on December 13th. It is a traditional gift-giving feast practiced by indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast of Canada and the United States. Our

students made totem poles comprised of four spirit animals or symbols they feel best represent them in a variety of

areas of their lives and identities, and then they wrote essays about each for the class and attendees to read.

We have also been invited to write the annual holiday essays for The Reading Eagle. This year’s theme is “My Christmas Wish,” and our students have teamed up with 6th grade to write about their holiday hopes and dreams. We are excited to see which students are selected by the newspaper to have \$100 donated in their name to be Greater Berks Food Bank. Good luck, team!

Finally, we are looking forward to our Christmas party. We’re making popcorn and watching a movie!

We plan to keep Jesus in our hearts and charity in all we do as we enjoy the season with our friends and families. Merry Christmas to all!



Sixth Grade



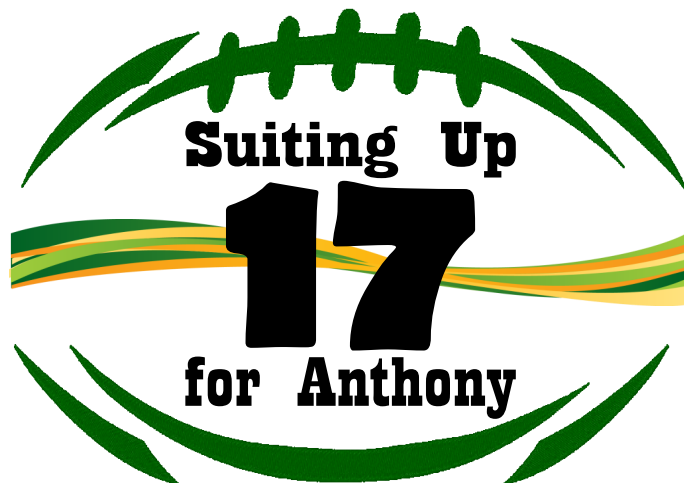
Sixth grade was all “ears” for a good cause. When the Make-A-Wish Foundation asked the public to send in pictures of themselves wearing Mickey Mouse ears, we decided to participate. Every student sketched, designed and created their own ears. Using the school’s Facebook page, we uploaded them for all to see. It was “ear”ristible fun!



Eighth Grade

Our 8th grade has enjoyed several Fun Friday activities so far this year. In September, we spent a relaxing afternoon outside playing a friendly kickball game with 8A competing against 8B. In October, we worked collaboratively with a partner to create a catapult that could launch a piece of candy corn the farthest distance. Then, in November, we made beaded angel ornaments and Christmas cards for the Sister, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In October the 8th grade students took a CPR course. They learned how to recognize and respond in an emergency situation and what to do before EMS arrives. They also learned how to perform CPR, how to use an Automated External Defibrillator and how to perform the Heimlich maneuver. Additionally, 8th grade hosted the annual HGA Talent Show, A Night of Stars. More than \$500 was raised which will be put towards their class of 2019 gift to the school. Thank you to all the 8th graders who volunteered to work on stage crew and sell tickets, refreshments, and Kisses for the Cast. Special thanks to all our 8th grade parents who donated refreshments and Hershey Kisses.



Supporting Anthony Myers, HGA Class of 2017 and current Berks Catholic High School student, who was recently diagnosed with Stage 3 Cancer, is a priority for our school community and Berks County as a whole. Working with the **Team 17 Strong Foundation**, Holy Guardian Angels Regional School is helping to raise awareness about Cancer and much needed funding to assist the Myers family, and has organized a calendar of events in an effort to raise \$10,000.

Through t-shirt and wristband sales, raffle basket opportunities, concession stand good-will offerings at CYO basketball games, and a Christmas gift-wrap, we are happy to announce that we have raised a total of \$4,000!

Additional events are planned into the new year and will be advertised them through the communication folder, HGA’s website and Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support.

Praying for Healing

The power of prayer. . . as a school community, we know that prayer can change things.

A candle-light prayer service was held at Holy Guardian Angels Church on Monday, December 17th. This was a beautiful evening of liturgical music and prayer for healing. Thank you to our Director of Religious Education, Mr. Andrew Angstadt and the choir from St. Benedict’s Parish for this impactful evening.



Principal and Parent Partnership Program



The 2018-2019 school year has been very busy with activities and events for the school and community under the Principal and Parent Partnership Program.

Night at the Races

Saturday, November 3 - Fourth Grade Event

Thank you to Mrs. Kelly Precht for organizing this fun adult night of horse racing. A total of 121 attendees enjoyed cheering on the horses, socializing with friends, and taking chances on the great silent auction baskets. A total of \$5,744.86 was raised.

Dining Out - Victor Emmanuel, II

Tuesday, November 13 - Fifth Grade Event

Our second annual Dining Out Night at Victor Emmanuel, II was a real success. School families, parishioners, and local guests joined us for a delicious dinner of spaghetti and meatballs. Our fifth grade parents did a great job of serving meals and manning the dessert and raffle basket tables. We served 309 meals earning a profit of \$1,394.

Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 9 - Sixth Grade Event

Ho! Ho! Ho! What a wonderful tradition. This year's event was held in the school's social hall creating a more intimate feel for 326 hungry guests. Santa was seated on the stage ready to listen to every child's Christmas wish and pose for those memorable photos. Sixth grade parents helped set-up and decorate, assist in the kitchen, serve and bus tables, and help with clean-up. Smiling faces and lots of laughter were served up with this delicious meal of pancakes, eggs, bacon, and sausage. A total profit of \$2,782.00 was raised.

What's Next?

- Kindergarten - Father/Daughter Dance - 1/12/19
- Grade 8 - Dining Out - 3/12/19

Details on volunteer opportunities for your child's grade-level event will be sent home through the Communication Folder.

Generosity
changes everything

It is always the mission of Holy Guardian Angels Regional School to share our gifts and talents with those who are in need. As our school year began, hurricanes and natural disasters once again devastated the east coast. Through the generosity of our school families we raised a total of \$750 to donate to the American Red Cross to help alleviate human suffering.

As we entered the month of November, our annual food drive to stock the shelves of the food pantry of St. Joseph Parish. Volunteers loaded a total of 21 boxes filled with much needed non-perishable items.

Thank You

**school
registration**
2019-2020 School Year

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2019-2020 school year. To guarantee your child's seat, kindly return your registration form and \$125 fee to the school office by Friday, December 21st.

The registration fee increases to \$150 for all registrations after December 21st.

Open registration begins January 3, 2019.

Any questions, please contact Mrs. Reber through the school office.

Inside

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

Holy Guardian Angels Gift Certificate Program -

The GAGC Volunteer Team wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for your ongoing support of the GAGC Program.



Tuition Credit Update

Year-to-Date, participating families have earned \$5,711.02 in tuition credit! How much did your family receive? It's never too late to sign up to knock down that tuition payment. Check out what the top five participating families earned in tuition credit so far. . .

- 2nd grade family \$146.13
- 3rd grade family \$448.35
- 5th grade family \$913.64
- 6th grade family \$253.53
- 7th grade family \$667.05

Don't forget - if you have an 8th grader going to Berks Catholic next year - you could earn money right now that will be credited to your Berks Catholic tuition. One family has already earned \$536.63 toward their tuition next year at Berks Catholic

Please Note!

- The last GAGC Pouch order date before Christmas is December 19, 2018. Pouch orders will resume on January 8, 2019.
- There will be no GAGC sales in church the weekend of December 29 & 30. GAGC sales before and after mass will resume the weekend of January 5 & 6.
- The first Special Order of 2019 will be Sunday, January 6 with pick-up after 12:00 PM on January 11 or before or after mass on January 12 & 13. The Online Option remains available to participants 24/7 via www.shopwithscrip.com.
- **Signing up for the Online Option?** When signing up for your Shop with Scrip account, you will be prompted for an "Enrollment Code." The enrollment code for our program is **LD1246LE3382**.