



*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

**August 23** - Back-to-School Event

5:30 - 7:30 PM

**August 25** -

Kindergarten Orientation - 6:00 - 8:00 PM

**August 29** - Protecting God's Children

Program 9:00 AM - Noon

**August 31** - First Day of School

**September 1** -

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

Grades 1-2-3 - 6:30 PM

Grades 4-5- 7:15 PM

**September 2** - PRESCHOOL

ORIENTATION 6:00 PM

**September 3** - Mass 9:00 AM

**September 4 & 7** - School Closed

(Labor Day Observance)

**September 9** -

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

Grades 6-7-8 - 6:30-8:00 PM

**September 18** - Family Bingo

**September 29** - 1:00 PM Dismissal

**October 4** - Walk-a-thon

**October 9** - Noon Dismissal

**October 12** - School Closed

(Columbus Day Observance)

## NEW FACES, NEW PROGRAMS, A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

September is the time of year to reconnect with old friends and welcome new friends. To those students and families who are new to HGA as well as our new faculty and staff, we extend an especially warm welcome and best wishes for an exciting and productive year. Our new grade level teachers are: **(front row left to right):**

**Miss Courtney Lucarelli-KA**

**Mrs. Melinda Burkman-4A**

**(back row left to right)**

**Mr. Joseph Oros-7A**

**Mr. Thomas Dowd-7B**

**(not pictured):**

**Mr. Sean O'Brien-Writing Support (6-8)**

**Ms. Ericka Donaldson-5th Grade Aide**



Holy Guardian Angels Regional School embraces the work and challenges set before us, developing creative and innovative measures to support our mission. We are an elementary school where every student is given the opportunity to succeed and is supported throughout this process.

To support this mission, we must provide a variety of pathways and programs so that every student can achieve their goals. We have expanded our Spanish course offerings to 6th grade and will hope to expand our Ready-Set-Read Program. We will also grow new initiatives like our Phase I STREAM Program. This will be a hands-on, inquiry based, discovery component to our already existing science curriculum. In addition, we are incorporating a new Writing Support Program for students in grades 6-7-8. The Early Childhood Program at HGA is fully expanding. We've opened additional spaces for the 4-year old/full-day program providing more opportunities for a richer preschool experience.

May we all work together for a successful year and for the greater honor and glory of God!

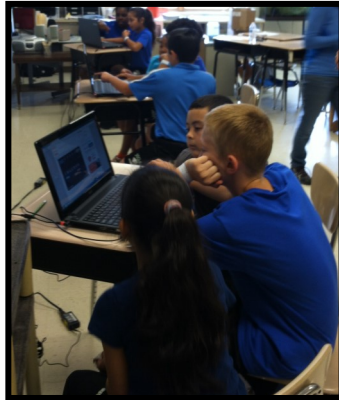
## Field Day Fun

Field Day 2015 was a great success! Congratulations to the Green Team winning the "Smelly Sneakers" title.



The students enjoyed a variety of physically challenging games, along with a few games challenging the mind. Continuing our mission of

helping the community, all students participate in a service project. Creating a card or craft for shut-ins of the Parish and seniors in various living centers. HGA's Empowerment Club made a special delivery of the cards and crafts to over 150 residents of the Guardian Angels Apartments and Rittenhouse Living Center.



Thanks, once again, to all the parents and volunteers who lend a hand to create a great day of FUN!

## Summer Camps

HGA's **Drama Camp** celebrated its 7th anniversary of theatrical summer fun for students entering grades Kindergarten through 8th grade.



Over the past six summers their productions have delighted audiences with performances of The Wizard of Oz, Alice in Wonderland, The Little Mermaid, Cinderella, Peter Pan, Beauty and the Beast, and this year's rendition of The Emperor's New Clothes. A total of 44 participants came together to act, sing, dance, paint scenery, create props and costumes, and have fun.

Young chefs donning aprons and cutting boards enjoyed a week of cooking at **Culinary Camp**. During this 5th year, students prepared recipes as they took a tour of New York City. Our 16 campers chopped, rolled, kneaded, and blended their way through the week and cooked over 40 recipes in 5 days! We "traveled" to the Lower East Side of NYC with classic Jewish-American dishes such as roasted chicken, beet and apple salad, challah bread, and matzo ball soup. Then on to Little Italy with homemade marinara sauce, homemade pasta, focaccia bread, and chicken cacciatore. In Chinatown we sampled spring rolls, beef with broccoli, sweet and sour pork, and dumplings. We couldn't visit NYC without eating Coney Island hot dogs with Coney Sauce, Junior's cheesecake, fried chicken and waffles, and pizza!! A delicious time was had by all and we look forward to seeing you next summer! Who knows where we'll go next year!? Interested in learning how to cook and eat well? Then do be on the lookout for quarterly culinary nights that are held during the school year! Bon Appetit!



### 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) 791-9209**

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

# 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 Friday, October 30th.)

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, lunch-box, 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 to 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 31, 2015, 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, September 1, 2015.**





# The 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.*

### POPE

### STRONG

HGA Welcomes Pope Francis to the USA!  
Information will be sent home at the beginning of the school year regarding the Papal visit.

## 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 volunteer, 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:

- August 29, 2015 - 9:00 AM - Noon
- September 19, 2015 - 9:00 AM - Noon
- November 21, 2015 - 9:00 AM - Noon
- February 27, 2016 - 9:00 AM - Noon

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

## The Power of Prayer

As a Catholic school, we have the privilege and blessing to pray throughout our school day! Each morning, we have the opportunity to offer up our prayers for special intentions. We pray for all our relatives and friends who are suffering in ill health and ask God to bless them and those who share in the healing ministry of Christ.

We pray for all the men and women in the Armed Forces, especially relatives and friends of our school community that God may bring them home safely.

If there is someone you would like the Holy Guardian Angels School Community to pray for, please send their name into the office to be placed on our "prayer intentions" for morning prayers.



# Back-to-School Event



SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD – 5:30–7:30 PM

WE'RE BRINGING BACK SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR TV GAMES TO BE PLAYED DURING OUR ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL GATHERING. BE A CONTESTANT OR SIMPLY ENJOY THE FUN FROM THE AUDIENCE.

**ARE YOU READY TO PLAY: THE PRICE IS RIGHT? MATCH GAME? HOW ABOUT PASSWORD?**

SIGN-UP TODAY (STUDENTS & PARENTS ARE ELIGIBLE)

STOP BY THE SCHOOL'S COMMISSARY (SOCIAL HALL) FOR A FREE HAMBURGER, HOT DOG OR CHICKEN PLATTER AND THEN ENTER STAGE 15 (GYMNASIUM) TO ENJOY AN EVENING OF GAME SHOW FUN!

**FOOD SERVED:** - 5:30 – 7:00 PM

**GAME SHOW SCHEDULE:** PRICE IS RIGHT – 6:00 PM

MATCH GAME – 6:30 PM

PASSWORD – 7:00 PM

**AN R.S.V.P. IS REQUIRED!** PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE AT 610-929-4124 ON OR BEFORE **FRIDAY, AUGUST 21<sup>st</sup>**.

# Orientations

## Kindergarten

**Tuesday, August 25, 2015**

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 parents report to the Kindergarten classrooms. Teachers will provide a more detailed discussion of the Kindergarten Program and the upcoming year. The Home and School Association will provide light refreshments in the Social Hall after all the meetings.

## Preschool

**Wednesday, September 2, 2015**

Children entering 3-year and 4-year old Preschool and their parents are to report to the Preschool room at 6:00 PM. After a few brief comments by Mrs. Wallin, the students will take a short school bus ride and talk about bus safety to prepare them for field trips that will be taken during the school year. Teachers will then provide parents with a detailed discussion about the Preschool Program.

Light refreshments will be available in the Social Hall, courtesy of the Home and School Association.

# Recess Before Lunch - Play First & Then Eat

We are excited to report that we have switched lunch recess so that it occurs before the children have lunch instead of after lunch. There is much research that supports this switch including health, academic, and social considerations. We are hoping that this switch will provide children more time to eat and fuller appetites. Meetings have been held and will continue to be held with staff members, food service employees, students, and parents to provide a smooth and hopefully seamless transition to this mode. For now, parents who have their children bringing lunch to school are asked to **BOLDLY** display your child's name, grade, and section (A or B) on their lunch boxes and/or bags. Also, it is being recommended that all parents include sanitary hand wipes/hand sanitizer in their child's lunch box so that they can be used before children eat their lunches.

## Personal Items

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

- Electronic Games
- Phones/Tablets
- MP3 Players and Other Electronic Devices
- Cameras
- Trading Cards
- Any New Toy/Fashion Fad

## Bus 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 schedules, please contact your local school district in which you reside.

The public districts do NOT provide Pre-school transportation.

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Antietam          | 610-779-4920 ext. 114   |
| • Brandywine        | 610-682-5143            |
| • Conrad Weiser     | 610-693-8561            |
| • Exeter            | 610-779-0410            |
| • Fleetwood         | 610-944-8111 ext. 3     |
| • Governor Mifflin  | 610-775-1464            |
| • Hamburg           | 610-562-2241 ext. 1723  |
| • Muhlenberg        | 610-921-8000 ext. 6     |
| • Oley              | 610-987-4100 ext. 6063  |
| • Reading           | 484-258-7057            |
| • Schuylkill Valley | 610-916-5447            |
| • Tulpehocken       | 610-488-6286 ext. 1166  |
| • Wilson            | 610-670-0180 ext. 1232  |
| • Wyomissing        | 610-374-4301 ext. 11101 |

## 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 sox, book cover, or brown paper.**

All workbooks must be covered with clear contact paper. Contact paper may be purchased at the HGA 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 (books children write in) with clear contact. 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 14, 2015.**

## School Handbook

The 2015-2016 information regarding all school policies and curriculum will be available on-line to the students and parents on Monday, August 31, 2015, 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 11, 2015.

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



# Fundraising Opportunities

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

**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 to just 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 Monday, August 31st and ends on Friday, September 18th.

**2015 Walk-a-thon for Catholic Education:** All monies earned through your Walk-a-thon solicitation letter is applied directly to your fundraising fee. Walk-a-thon packets will be sent home on Orientation and Back-to-School Nights.

**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 completed by**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Either paid in full or added to your tuition payments.**

# Walk-a-thon 2015

## Tradition Continues



Sunday, October 4th

Goal \$95,000!

Save the Date - Mark Your Calendar -

HGA's Largest Fundraiser!

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

## Raising Money for HGA

Holy Guardian Angels Regional School participates in a few programs that earn funding for our school. Support from family and friends earns approximately \$11,000 per school year.



Simply clipping box tops off of General Mills products and returning 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.

### Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

3125 Kutztown Road

Reading, PA 19605

Phone: 610-929-4124

Fax: 610-929-1623

E-mail: [www.hgaschool.org](http://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

### Guardian Angels Gift Certificate Program – GAGC

#### 5 Facts to Know About the GAGC Tuition Credit Program

**FACT #1:** The GAGC Program has been a successful Parish fundraiser since 2001. In addition to raising funds for HGA Parish, GAGC provides tuition credit for participating families with children enrolled in any level of Catholic School – Preschool through 8th Grade at HGA, the PREP Program at HGA, Berks Catholic High School, Catholic Colleges and/or Universities within our Diocese, and the Seminary.

**FACT #2:** \$16,098.90 in tuition credit was received by 107 participating families with students in Preschool through 8th Grade at HGA for the 2015-2016 school year! The GAGC Program is open to ALL families, regardless of parish or religious affiliation.

**FACT #3:** Gift cards for over 150 different retailers and restaurants are available for purchase through the GAGC Special Order Program. Keep an eye out for frequent additions and bonus opportunities. Special Order Gift Cards Forms received by 1:00 PM on specified order dates are typically filled the following Friday by noon.

**FACT #4:** In-Stock GAGC are 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 on Tuesdays during the school year through the weekly communication folder. In-Stock GAGC include Giant, Redner's Weis, and Sheetz gift cards in a variety of denominations.

**FACT #5:** It's never too late to enroll in the GAGC Tuition Credit Program – just contact Tricia Christ at [tac317@ptd.net](mailto:tac317@ptd.net) or 610-451-1959 for more information – you'll be glad you did!