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# Inside HGA

Parent newsletter of Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

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**November 20 - Gr. 3&4 - Thanksgiving Feast**

**November 22-27 - NO SCHOOL**

**November 30 - Second Trimester Begins**

**December 2 - HGA Craft Bazaar 9 AM-2PM**

- Evergreen Pick 9 AM - Noon

- **December 3 - Advent Vespers - 4 PM**

**December 6 - Report Cards Issued**

**December 8 - Mass - 9:00 AM**

Feast of Immaculate Conception

**December 10 - Pancakes & Photos with Santa**

**December 11-16 - Book Fair**

**December 11 - Band Concert - 6:00 PM**

**December 13 - Confessions**

**December 15 - Preschool Christmas Program**

**December 16 - Happy Birthday Baby Jesus**

**December 22 - Noon Dismissal**

**December 25 - Merry Christmas**

**December 25 - January 2 - NO SCHOOL**

**January 13 - Father/Daughter Dance**

**January 15 - NO SCHOOL**

**January 16 - Joe Corbi Sale Begins**

Be Kind,  
Be Thoughtful,  
Be Genuine  
But most of all be  
Thankful





*"Most importantly, I am thankful for the parents who believe in Catholic education."*

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I reflect on the many things for which I am thankful, I want to take this opportunity to share just a few of them with you: I am thankful for the children who come to school every day ready to learn. They are a daily reminder of what is important and why HGA is here. I am thankful for the priests, administration, teachers, and staff who really care about the students' achievement and have the best interests of our children at heart. I am also thankful for our volunteers who enthusiastically contribute so much to our school.

Most importantly, I am thankful for the parents who believe in Catholic education. They continue to share their most valuable possession with us and in most cases, work hard and advocate to be a partner in their children's faith development, education, safety, and well-being. For this, I am forever thankful.

I would like to wish all of you and your families a happy, healthy, and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday. May God continue to bless you abundantly!

Yours in Christ,  
Mrs. Maureen Wallin  
Principal

### THE WEATHER CAN BE FRIGHTFUL!

An important part of our school day is recess. Students in grades Preschool through 8th grade continue to enjoy fresh air and exercise even during the winter months. Outdoor recess is still held unless the wind chill is below freezing.

Please send your child to school with a coat, scarf, hat, and gloves. Protecting the hands, head, and face from cold temperatures may prevent frostbite, an injury to body tissues caused by exposure to cold.



# Religious Ed Corner

## THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

### Sacramental Information

Confirmation 2017 took place on Thursday, October 19, 2017 and was celebrated by our new bishop, Bishop Alfred A. Schlert. Please continue to pray for all our students and the students from St. Joseph Parish that the Holy Spirit will continue to fill them with His seven wonderful gifts.

**First Penance Parent Meeting** took place on November 12, 2017. Please pray for all the students and their parents as they prepare to receive this most precious sacrament of God's forgiving love.

**Confirmation 2018** parent meeting will take place on Sunday, January 7th, at 6 PM in the school's Learning Commons.

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, and continues until Sunday, December 24. 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!"*



### ~ UPCOMING FAITH-FILLED EVENTS ~

**November 21 - Thanksgiving Prayer Service - 9:00 AM - Church**

**November 26 - Christ the King (end of our Liturgical Season)**

**December 4 - First Week of Advent Prayer Service - 8:20 AM - Gym**

**December 8 - Immaculate Conception (a Holy Day of Obligation)**

**December 11 - Second Week of Advent Prayer Service - 8:20 AM - Gym**

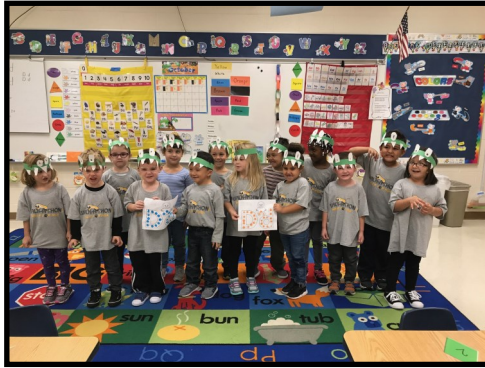
**December 18 - Third Week of Advent Prayer Service - 8:20 AM - Gym**

**January 1 - The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (a Holy Day of Obligation)**

# Preschool

## AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

Preschool has had a fun-filled month. We took time to celebrate the upcoming Walk-a-thon by playing games and wearing our Walk-a-thon t-shirts. We also celebrated the letter D by wearing dragon masks. ROAR!!



Preschool took a field trip to the Angora Fruit Farm.



The children used their senses to explore autumn and nature. It was a beautiful day to be outdoors!



On Halloween, the children paraded around the school in their costumes and sang Halloween songs for their families. What a fun day!

On November 1st, the children learned about saints and that they are called to live their lives as the saints did.

# First Grade

1A celebrates Free Friday each week. The students may bring a toy or an activity of their choice to school if they earn good behavior stamps for the week. The children are often eager to share what they bring with everyone!! It's quite moving to see the happiness and harmony among the first graders during this very special fun time.



# Evergreen Pick-up



SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 2

9:00 AM—NOON

# Second Grade

## WHEN THE SAINTS COME MARCHING IN . . .



The past month, we have spent time learning about the Saints. We each did research on our patron saint and wrote about their lives. It was fun learning new information about them. We worked hard preparing for our first Mass as second graders! The All Saints Day Mass went perfectly. We all looked very *saintly* in our costumes.

Who says, "All work and no play.?" Not us - second grade even found time to go on a field trip! It was off to Middle Creek Wildlife Game Preserve. On a gorgeous fall day we enjoyed a nature hike and a picnic lunch outdoors. A scavenger hunt through the museum was very exciting and we enjoyed a movie about beavers. The students, teachers, and chaperones had a great time learning about Pennsylvania animals.



## ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS!



## NATIVE AMERICAN DAY NOVEMBER 15th



Before second grade celebrated Native American Day, we had a guest speaker who educated us on her life as a Native American. A big thank you to Dr. Bowen. On this special day of celebration, everyone participated in four stations of fun-filled activities; creating dream catchers, working with pottery, painting, and playing lacrosse. A special treat was enjoying different types of Native American food.

# Third Grade

## GREAT PUMPKINS AND GREAT INVENTIONS IN 3A

Leaves are falling and temperatures are dropping. It is that time of year when third grade becomes a very busy place. What an event-filled October! We spent the month honoring Our Blessed Mother. We expressed our love by praying the rosary and offering our love, actions, and words to Her each day. The children also made rosary booklets.

On October 4th, we celebrated a very important classroom birthday. Snoopy first joined the Peanuts Gang on

October 4, 1950! Of course, Halloween and the Great Pumpkin would not be the same without Snoopy. In the spirit of Halloween, the children wrote some wonderful free verse poems. They are working very hard on their writing skills.



In Science, we are completing our unit on Simple Machines. This was a great connection to our Reading



selection on Thomas Edison. The children learned about the life of an inventor, and that determination is the key. Everyone had an opportunity for an excellent hands-on learning

experience as they built their own simple and compound machines in class and presenting them to their class-

mates. Mrs. Wallin even stopped by to see the results of their hard work. This was also used as a writing experience. Everyone wrote a descriptive paragraph about their machine. The projects were all quite impressive.

We are moving right along with our multiplication unit. We have our very first FACT Master. Congratulations Moises! In Social Studies we are learning about the first communities. We will be studying Jamestown as we prepare for Thanksgiving. The



children are all very excited about their upcoming Thanksgiving Feast with fourth grade. It is always a great event!

3A wishes everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving. May your day be blessed with family and friends around you.

## Office



Beginning January 1, 2018, the following changes will take effect in the school office.

- Mrs. Judy Wise will assume the full-time position of school secretary - [judwis@hgaschool.org](mailto:judwis@hgaschool.org)
- Mrs. Kelly Precht, Finance Manager, should be contacted with all questions or concerns regarding tuition - [kelpre@hgaschool.org](mailto:kelpre@hgaschool.org)

Easing into retirement, Mrs. Sue Sweigart will be working part-time - Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 8 AM - 1 PM.

# Mr. Dowd's Classes

Students in 7th grade Religion and 7th and 8th grade Social Studies are hard at work studying several interesting concepts. In 7th grade Religion we are studying the Bishop's Confirmation questions in preparation of next year's receiving of the actual sacrament. While talking about a different saint each day, we try to apply their commitment to the Lord with what we face everyday as Christians. In studying the New Testament, the 7th grade is learning of the Infancy Narratives and Jesus' early life in ministry. We are constantly trying to prepare our lives for a life serving the Church.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

In 7th grade Social Studies the students have finished Central and South America. We are now looking at the geography, history, economy, and politics of the African continent. We are comparing Africa's environment and customs to our own. Later on in the month each student will hand in a poster project on an African country. The students also are studying current events. It is important to be aware of the issues of today on a local, state, national, and international stage.

The 8th grade students are getting used to their brand new textbooks. American history continues to be very interesting with studying early explorers and the colonizing of the North American continent. Later this month the students will be handing in a project studying a particular English colony and comparing colonial times with modern times. It will be curious to see how things were done 300 years ago in early America.

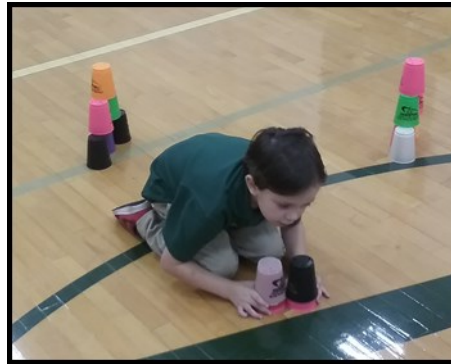


# Eighth Grade

The 8th grade has several special events scheduled for this fall season. First of all, we will take a CPR course. We learned how to recognize and respond in an emergency situation and what to do before EMS arrives. We learned how to perform CPR, how to use an Automated External Defibrillator and how to perform the Heimlich Maneuver. On the lighter side, we will also have our December Fun Friday event. We will be watching a movie about our Lady of Guadalupe and enjoying popcorn and other theatre treats. Additionally, we will set aside some time in November to create angel ornaments for our Christmas tree for the Santa Breakfast. Eighth grade is certainly flying by; we are looking forward to visiting Berks Catholic in January for Step-up Day. High School, here we come!

# Cup Stacking Fun

We had another great turnout for Cup Stacking Club this year. The month of October and November had



48 students stacking cups in various pyramids, competing in relay races, and playing various games with the cups. We had the use of mini

cups, regular sized cups, and jumbo cups. Students also got to test their quickness as they timed themselves doing the various stacks. Everyone had a great time and a special thank you to Miss Majeski for helping us out this year!

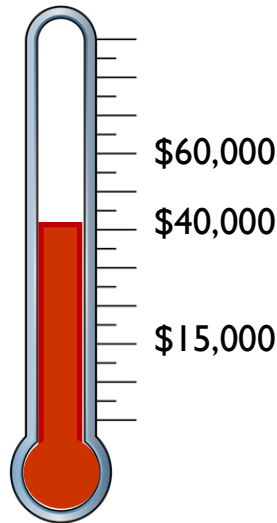




# WALK-ATHON 2017

## WALK FOR HGA

**GOAL: \$80,000 BY  
MAY 15, 2018**



## Dining Out

HGA's first Dining Out Night at Victor Emmanuel's Beneficial Society on Tuesday, November 14th was an evening of delicious Italian fare and a dining room full of laughter and fellowship.

Those who joined us feasted on a meal of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread and butter. Of course the dinner wasn't complete without a slice of their famous home-made pizza!

Thank you to everyone who supported HGA and enjoyed a night out for dinner.



# Thank You

## Corporate Sponsors

Monsignor Hartgen  
Mr. and Mrs. John Wallin  
Meares Family  
Gethsemane Cemetery  
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Dennis L. Hain Plumbing  
HGA Home and School Association  
HGA Boosters





## A BOOK IS A GIFT YOU CAN OPEN AGAIN AND AGAIN.

We hope you will take time during this busy holiday season to stop by the HGA Book Fair and browse through our extensive selection of books. With such a variety of books to choose from, you're bound to find something for everyone on your Christmas list.

Students will be able to shop during the school day (schedule to come).

### Additional Family Shopping Hours

Sunday, Dec. 10th (During Santa Breakfast): 7AM—2PM

Monday, Dec. 11th: 2:30PM—8PM

Tuesday, Dec. 12th: 2:30PM—8PM

Wednesday, Dec. 12th—Friday, Dec. 15th: 2:30PM—4PM

Saturday, Dec. 16th: 8AM—NOON



### Throughout the Fair . . .



- ✦ Stop by our Angel Giving Tree to select an ornament that contains the name of an item needed by Lifeline of Berks County. Then, purchase the item and return it under our tree to help those in need this holiday season.
- ✦ For each book purchased, receive a raffle ticket for our Gift Card Raffle.
- ✦ Free Book Fair Tote Bag with every purchase of \$50 or more.
- ✦ “Stuff the Stocking” with your monetary donation to help fund the purchase of books for our Learning Commons.

Located in the School Learning Commons

# Home & School Association

## Pancakes and Photos with Santa

Sunday,  
December 10th  
8:00 - 11:30 AM  
HGA Gym



Enjoy all you can eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, tea and juice. Baked goods will be sold.

**Pre-order Tickets: Adult - \$7 / Child - \$5**  
**Tickets at the Door: Adult - \$8 / Child - \$6**  
**Tickets available at school and parish rectory**  
**Pre-order money due Friday, December 1st**

**Christmas Traditions**

Holy Guardian Angels Parish Craft Bazaar  
Saturday, December 2nd,  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM / HGA School

Christmas Vespers Concert  
Holy Guardian Angels Church  
Sunday, December 3rd  
4:00 PM

## Sounds of the Season

HGA BAND  
CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT

MONDAY,  
DECEMBER  
11<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM

## Holy Guardian Angels

### Regional School

3125 Kutztown Road  
Reading, PA 19605  
Phone: 610-929-4124  
Fax: 610-929-1623  
Email: [www.hgaschool.org](http://www.hgaschool.org)

### 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 - GAGC



### GAGC News

The leaves may be falling, but the tuition credit is rising! Since June 1st, \$5,506.59 in tuition credit has accumulated.

Tuition credit statements were issued in October, but the totals have increased since then! How much did your family earn? Check out the top five tuition credit totals year-to-date:

6th Grade Family	\$749.78
4th Grade Family	\$631.91
8th Grade Family	\$429.30
Preschool Family	\$323.85
7th Grade Family	\$214.00



#### EXTRA! EXTRA!

Extra Order Dates for the Season! To make it easy for you to use gift cards all season - additional special order dates have been added for the next two months.

**Note: Sunday, December 10th will be the LAST special order date for 2017.** Special Order Dates are:

- Sun. Nov. 12 - pick-up Nov. 17-19
- Sun. Nov. 26 - pick-up Dec. 1-3
- Sun. Dec. 3 - pick-up Dec. 8-10
- Sun. Dec. 10 - pick-up Dec. 15-17

#### LOW DENOMINATION GIFT CARDS ARE BACK

While supplies last - great gifts for everyone on your list and one-stop shopping!

Through 12/15 or while supplies last, your favorite retailers are offering low denomination gift cards - perfect for gift giving and stocking stuffing. Applebee's \$10, B&N \$5, Darden Restaurants \$10, Home Depot \$10, Panera \$5, Red Lobster \$10, Starbucks \$5, Target \$10, and Walmart \$10.