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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

- April 12** - Gr. 5 - Harrisburg
April 14 - Report Cards
April 16 - 5K Color Run/Fun Walk
 Jim Dietrich Park
 10:00 Run Begins/10:45 Walk Begins
April 17 - Declamation - BCHS 1:00 PM
April 18 - Dress Rehearsal
April 19 - Spring Musical
 9:30 AM & 12:45 PM
April 20 - Preschool - Reading Public Museum
 Home & School General Meeting
April 24 - Berks County March for Life
 1:30 PM Berks Catholic High School
April 28 - Gr. 2 - DeSales University
 HGA Art Show & Sale 6-8 PM
April 30 - First Communion
 St. Joseph's Parish
May 3 - May Procession / Dismissal 1:00 PM
 NO AFTER CARE
May 5 - Ascension Thursday Mass 9:00 AM
May 7 - First Holy Communion
 Holy Guardian Angels Parish
May 12 - Home and School Sandwich Sale
May 13 - Gr. 7 -
May 15 - Gr. 6 - DiVinci Center
May 25-27 - 8th Grade EXAMS
May 30 - Memorial Day
 NO SCHOOL
May 31-June 3 - Gr. 1-7 EXAMS
June 3 - Gr. 8 Retreat
June 4 - Sports Banquet
June 6 - Gr. 8 Graduation
June 8 - Field Day - Noon Dismissal
June 9 - Last Day of School
 9:00 AM Mass

School Community Rejoices in the Easter Season

The holiest week of the Christian Year began on Palm Sunday. Upon entering the school on Monday, students were aware of the symbols of the upcoming week's events. Thorn wreaths wrapped in purple ribbon hanging on the front doors and banners draped in the main hallway depicting Jesus on the cross reminding everyone to reflect on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As a school community, HGA gathered for a Lenten Retreat Day on Wednesday, March 23, 2016. During this prayerful day students, faculty, and staff were able to reflect on Holy Week, their own personal Lenten journey, and the need of vocations. The students reflected through prayers, Living Stations of the Cross, and classroom activities.

During this Holy Season, students participated in "giving of alms" for the Missionary Childhood Association. A total of \$500 was collected. Thank you for all of our school families who donated.



UPCOMING FAITH-FILLED EVENTS:

- Wednesday, April 13 - First Communion Retreat Day
- Sunday, April 24 - Berks County March for Life
- Tuesday, May 3 - May Procession at 10:00 AM
- Thursday, May 5 - Ascension Thursday
- Saturday, May 7 - First Holy Communion at HGA - 10:00 AM



"After all, it's easier to love something if you begin with an optimistic outlook!"

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The first thing that came to mind when I turned the calendar to begin the month of April, was the rhyme, "April showers bring May flowers." As I reflected on this grade school rhyme, I felt certain there was a deeper meaning than just flowers growing because of rain; and so, I challenged myself to find that deeper meaning. Motivated by the Bible verse from I Corinthians: "When I was child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things ... So faith, hope, and love remain, but the greatest of these is love." So, I believe, I am "obligated to interpret the April showers rhyme as an adult to discover its deeper meaning."

Here are some of my thoughts as I took on the challenge to think and reason as an adult. Even the most unpleasant of things, like the heavy rains of April can bring about very enjoyable things, like the beautiful flowers of May. Another lesson I learn from this rhyme is one of patience. Many of life's greatest things come only to those who wait. If we wait patiently and rely on our **faith** of God, we can endure whatever "clouds" come our way, having **hope** knowing we will find the beautiful sights and smells of May. After all, it's easier to **love** something if you begin with an optimistic outlook!

As we plant our seeds in spring to grow our future gardens, let us remember to plant them with faith, hope, and love, thereby enabling these seeds to blossom into our children's future "Catholic Faith Life".

Mrs. Maureen Wallin

Principal

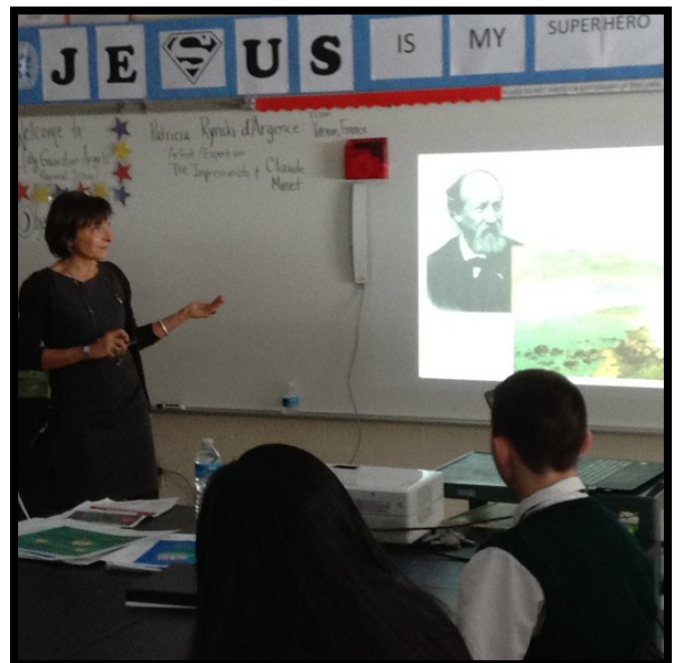
HGA's French Connection

HGA recently received a visit from a special guest who traveled from far away!

Patricia Rynski d' Argence, a French artist and expert lecturer about French Impressionism, visited our school on February 11th. Patricia was the guest of Mr. Michael Feeney of Feeney's Funeral Home in Reading. Mr. Feeney met Patricia and her husband while on a river cruise in France and was so intrigued by her knowledge of art, specifically French Impressionism, that he decided bring them to the United States to share Patricia's passion for art with Berks County.

Sharing a PowerPoint presentation with two art classes, Patricia traced the history of French Impressionism all the way back to pre-historic art's roots.

HGA is so blessed by Mr. Feeney's gift of sharing Patricia's knowledge.





Bishop's Scholar Society

Congratulations to the following 8th grade students on receiving the High School Bishop's Catholic Scholarships. All four recipients will be attending Berks Catholic High School in the fall.

Veronica Botch

Farren Christ

Kylee Iswalt

Quinn Malinowski

The Bishop's Scholar Society Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at Alvernia University at 10:00 AM.

Hoops for Hearts

In February, third through eighth grade participated in our annual Hoops for Hearts event. All money raised went to the American Heart Association to help fight heart disease and stroke.

The student's did an outstanding job raising \$1,419!

During their physical education class they participated in various basketball games and shooting games. Thanks to everyone who donated.



HGA Prepares for CYO Declamation

Congratulations to all the students who participated in Declamation this year. Over the past few months a few of our 8th grade students immersed themselves in preparing to present a speech that has made its mark on society with a pivotal message. Honing their skills of combining eloquent language with equally eloquent delivery, five students presented their speeches on Monday, March 7th, in front of three Reading Toastmasters judges and a live audience of family and friends.

Participants and their speeches:

- Veronica Botch - *speech to Holocaust Survivors in Krakow*
- Rachel Glembocki - *speech of Mother Teresa at the National Prayer Breakfast*
- Kylee Iswalt - *Anna Quindlen's Address at Villanova*
- Dante Procaro - *Ronald Reagan's A Time for Choosing*
- Anthony Rudderow - *FDR's Fourth Inaugural Address*
- Benjamin Villareal - *Jimmy Valvano's speech at the ESPY's*

Best wishes to Kylee Iswalt and Benjamin Villareal as they advance to the county competition at Berks Catholic on Sunday, April 17th at 1:00 PM



Kindergarten B

Celebrating Dr. Seuss

Kindergarten B recognized Dr. Seuss's birthday with a week-long celebration including reading, crafts, rhyming activities, and of course, eating green eggs and ham!



Embracing Faith

We also prayed for vocations with the traveling chalice.



First Grade

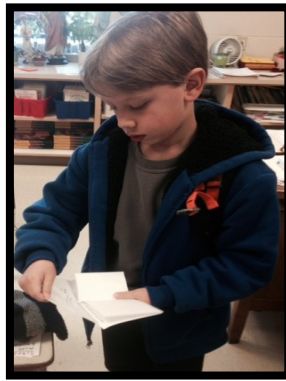
1B Mass Captured in Photos



Second Grade

Dear Abby

One of the required writing pieces for second grade is to write a letter. This year, the students wrote letters to "Dear Abby". After reading sample letters in the newspaper and online, we discussed what kind of issues or problems Abby might be able to help us with. Letters were written and anonymous signatures were created, such as "Troubled", "Annoyed", and "Heartbroken". After sending the letters, responses were received by each child. Hopefully, this advice was helpful!



A second grade student reads his Dear Abby response.

In reading class, we began A Tree is Growing. In honor of Earth Day this month, we will be learning about a variety of trees and why they are such an important part of our environment. In math class, we have entered the world of Geometry. The children have learned so much about polygons, area, perimeter, and volume. Math manipulative, including tiles and base ten blocks, are a favorite part of the day!

We also enjoyed celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with some of our favorite stories. Students read their books to the class and we made some fun crafts. In connection with our unit on matter, we also made Oobleck. It was very messy, but so much fun! We love you, Dr. Seuss!

In science class, we are finishing up our unit on Simple Machines. Come by and see our projects.

Book Fair was a great success this year and a "Groovy" dress down day was such a fun way to set the mood. Spring is in the air and we are really looking forward to being outside for our upcoming class trips

See you in May!



Third Grade

3A - April Showers & Flower Power

The snow is behind us (we hope) and flowers are blooming. Our minds are filled with thoughts of sunny summer days! However, there is still so much to learn before we are sitting and relaxing on the beach. During Lent, we reflected on the Paschal Mystery. The children made a beautiful Crown of Thorns as a gift for their parents and a reminder of His great sacrifice and love for us all. We are now in the Easter season. The children have done some wonderful reflective writing expressing their feelings about the Resurrection. We are also learning about the Ascension and Pentecost during this special time.



biography assembly. Each student dresses up as the subject of their biography and presents three clues to their identity. Our invited audience of 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade students eagerly attempts to guess each student's identity! It is an exciting way to learn more about some important and influential people from history!

Fourth Grade

Biographies

During the third quarter, the 4th grade students choose a biography to read for their marking period book report. They work very hard to create a biographical time capsule, a presidential poster, or a journal to represent what they have learned about the person they are researching. The final activity for the biography unit is for the 4th grade students to hold their annual

Fifth Grade

Was Sir Issac Newton Correct?

Fifth grade challenged Newton's 3 Laws of Motion by constructing roller coasters and a domino train. Do objects in motion stay in motion? For every action there is an opposite and equal reaction?

Yes, Sir Newton, you were correct!



Seventh Grade

Religion and Social Studies

The seventh graders have been very busy with their religion studies. Completing Religion Award projects, teaching mini-lessons to each other, and beginning their saint reports. After much discussion, each student has selected a saint, one that offers a fine example to emulate, to research for an extensive report. Those students receiving the sacrament of Confirmation will use their saint's name as their Confirmation name.

In social studies the students have been studying Europe with all of its different countries, customs, and traditions. The students have taken a geography test on the countries and capitals of Europe. With all of the news coming out of Europe, it is important to know where these events are taking place. Next up, exploring Northern Africa and the Middle East.

Eighth Grade

Learning More About the Catholic Faith

Our 8th grade students had an opportunity this week to learn and experience hands on church history. During this week Monsignor Hartgen visited our 8th graders during one of their religion classes and presented them with various historical church relics. The relics were from his personal collection. Monsignor shared these sacred pieces while explaining a brief history of the saint. He also explained how and why relics are important to our Catholic faith. The students listened to his stories, closely examined the relics, and appreciated the hands on connection to their faith's history.



On Thursday, February 25th, the eighth grade class visited the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Reading to participate in the liturgical celebration. In preparation for this visit, the students had been studying the similarities and differences between the rites of the Western Catholic Church and the Eastern Catholic Church. Nativity B.V.M. is an Eastern Catholic Church of the Byzantine rite. The students were warmly welcomed by the pastor Rev. Adriy Rabyi who spoke with the students after the Liturgy to answer their questions about the Eastern Catholic Church. The eighth graders were treated to a reception afterwards. We would like to offer our gratitude to Mrs. Rebecca Polyniak for organizing this visit and providing the delicious refreshments. Mrs. Polyniak has graciously hosted this visit for the past six years! However, this year we had the pleasure of visiting the church's new home which is located at the former Saint Anthony of Padua campus at 501 Summit Avenue. Again, we would like to thank Father Andriy and Mrs. Polyniak and everyone at Nativity B.V.M. for making us feel welcome and teaching us more about our Catholic faith.

Science Fair

Students worked very hard on their Science Fair projects and did an excellent job of representing Holy Guardian Angels Regional school at the 2016 Reading Berks Science and Engineering Fair, held at Albright College. Congratulations to everyone!

Special Awards Earned:

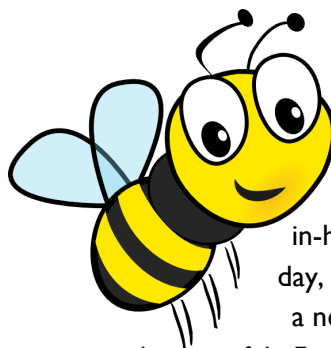
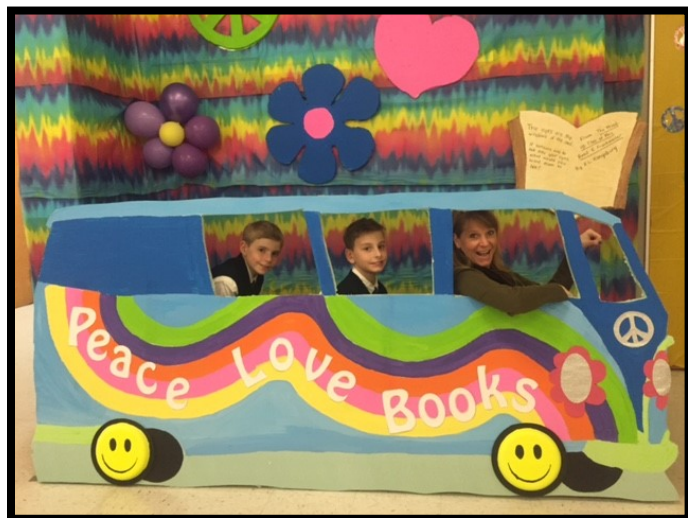
- Amara Midouhas - Alliance to the Berks County Dental Society Award
- Andric Brena - American Meteorological Society Award
- Farren Christ - Berks County Medical Society Award
- William Hertzog
 - ◇ Code Relief LLC Award
 - ◇ Penn State Summer Camps Award

Reading Berks Science and Engineering County air Place Award:

- Veronica Botch - 5th Place in the County for Natural Science

Book Fair

Thank you for supporting HGA's Scholastic Book Fair. It was a "GROOVY" time. . . See you next year!



Spelling Bee

Holy Guardian Angels Regional School held its in-house spelling bee on Thursday, February 18th, implementing a new format that proved to be

positive and successful. For the first time, students in grades second through 8 competed for top speller and the opportunity to compete in the Berks County Spelling Bee Championship Finals.

Each classroom ran their own spelling contest with the winner competing in the school-wide spelling bee. All students were given the same spelling words to study and the competition was tight. Congratulations to **Kyla Stutzman**, fifth grade, the winner of HGA's contest. Her winning word: paragon.

HGA Spelling Bee Participants:

2nd Grade: Hailey Achenbach & Oye' Guilavogui

3rd Grade: Gardlyne Deshommes & Tyler Monahan

4th Grade: Olivia Brady & Angelina Narine

5th Grade: Madison Esterly

6th Grade: Emma Moody & Kelsey Moschak

7th Grade: Thea Piskorski & Sam Robertson

8th Grade: Rachel Glembocki and Fabio Reyes

Berks County Spelling Bee Championship

Kyla Stutzman participated in The Berks County Spelling Bee Championship held at the Miller Center for the Arts - Reading Area Community College, and sponsored by Reading Eagle Company on Monday, March 14, 2016. Forty-two young men and women from the Berks County schools each took a turn at spelling their chosen word.

Kyla's word got the best of her during round one, however, her family and school community are very proud!

Gloria Singers

The Reading Choral Society and the Reading Musical Foundation, working with teachers in Berks County's parochial primary schools created the choral festival, Gloria Singers, now celebrating its sixth year. This opportunity to come together to sing is the parochial school's version of the Music Educators of Berks County Junior High County Chorus, exclusively for public school students.

On April 4th, thirteen students from HGA participated in this event. For some, it was their fourth year participating. These HGA students rehearsed weekly during lunch recess with Mrs. Siatkowski and then attended a six hour rehearsal on Saturday 3rd with the Reading Choral Society and the guest director, Robin Bier. The Reading Choral Society director, Graham Bier, also worked with them.

This year, 180 students participated from eight Catholic schools in Berks County. The students who participated from HGA are: Maya Barreto, Alexis Border, Farren Christ, Helena Christ, Kathryn Gabriel, Sophia Gattone, Kylee Iswalt, Amara Midouhas, Molly Mogford, Jocelyn Rhodes, Abigail Sabatucci, Katie Stroup, and Courtney Thompson. Their performance was amazing and they received a standing ovation. Thanks also to Bill Coughlin for the pictures.



SAVE THE DATE

HGA ART SHOW

Thursday, April 28th

6:00-8:00 PM

School Social Hall

Every student in grades K-8 will have a piece of artwork on display in the Social Hall. Each piece will be professionally framed and double matted. The framed work will be available for purchase and digital copies will also be available for friends and relatives.

Framed Artwork: \$25 cash or check

If you can't make the show, you can pre-pay!

Preview the artwork on Mrs. Kasperowicz's website:
<http://hgaartzone.weebly.com>

We Never Stop Learning

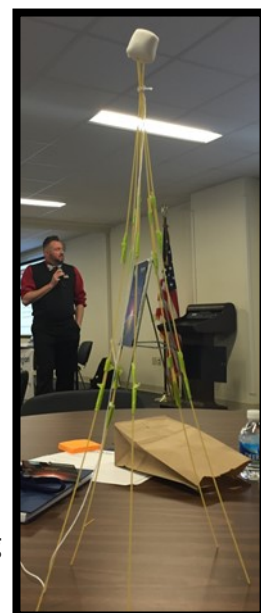
Teachers love being students, too. On March 31,

Mrs. Bard and Mrs. Kinyo attended

a STEM workshop entitled, **STEM ACADEMY: CONNECT THE**

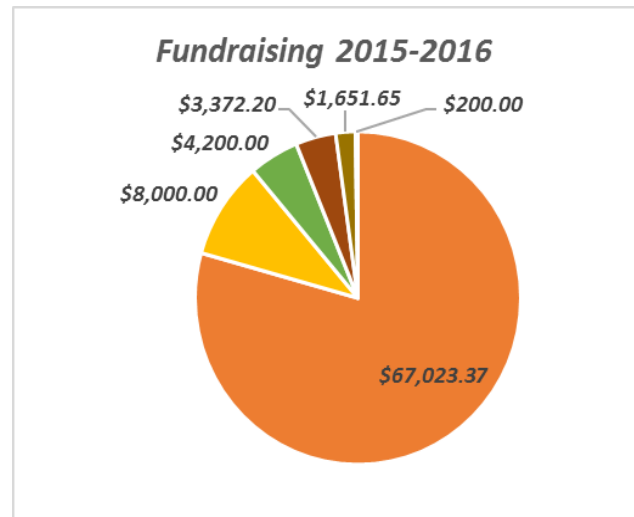
DOTS. This day-long workshop concentrated on the effective development and planning involved in implementing STEM strategies in the classroom. As STEM learners, they even participated in an engineering activity in which they were challenged with the task of creating the tallest free-standing tower using only 20 strands of uncooked

spaghetti, a yard of tape, and a yard of string. To test the soundness of their structure, they had to be able to balance a marshmallow on top. What a great exercise in communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking!



Fundraising Wrap-up

All families registered at HGA are required to fulfill a family fundraising fee of \$350. These dollars raised through a variety of sales are used to offset budgeted school expenses such as electricity, heating, water, and snow removal. A fundraising budget of \$126,000 was set for 2015-2016 school year, and as April 1, 2016, a total of \$84,447.22 has been raised.



FUNDRAISER

Walk-a-thon (student solicitation)/Fees applied to FACTS

Joe Corbi's Pizza and Dessert Sale

KidStuff Coupon Book Sale

Box Tops for Education

Evergreens

Funding Factory (recycled cartridges/cell phones)

PROFIT

\$67,023.37

\$ 8,000.00

\$ 4,200.00

\$ 3,372.20

\$ 1,651.65

\$ 200.00

Annual Fund

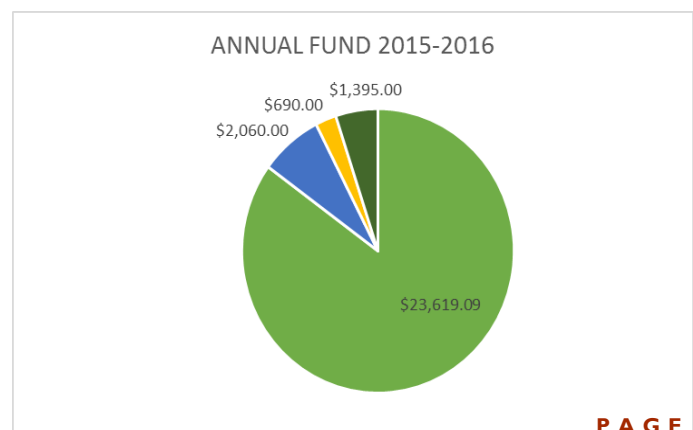
In the fall of 2014, HGA kicked-off their very first Annual Fund Appeal in an effort to raise monies for unbudgeted project plans and curriculum enhancements. Mrs. Wallin's continuous approach to improving resources (Chromebooks, iPads, STEM materials and learning guides, Learning Commons, and professional development programs) needs to be funded and more often than not, excess dollars are not always available through the school budget. Reaching out to HGA alumni and local businesses, the first year's Annual Fund got off to a slow start. This school year, extra effort has been made to attain a goal set of \$35,000 by June 31, 2016. We're close! We have a couple of months remaining to make this goal a reality.

Donations/Matching Gifts \$23,619.09

Alumni \$ 2,060.00

Memorials \$ 690.00

Miscellaneous \$ 1,395.00



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

What we are finalizing. . .

- Research and Reports Concerning the 12 Standards: Our 12 Standards Committees (composed of faculty and staff members) analyzed feedback from the surveys that were completed in the Fall of 2015 as well as data from a variety of other sources. These detailed reports have now been sent to the Planning Team for a final evaluation.
- Middle States Team Visit Dates: Our application for re-accreditation has been submitted to the Middle States Association and we anxiously await the confirmation package that will outline the dates of our Middle States Team Visit in the Fall of 2016.

What we are in the process of completing. . .

- Plan for Growth and Improvement: These plans are the culmination of the year-long self study that we have undertaken. With the information from the revision of the Foundation Documents, the Profile of the School, the Self-Assessment of the Curriculum, the 12 Standards Reports, and feedback from the school community, it has been decided to focus our Plan for Growth and Development in three areas: Reading, Mathematics, and Discipline. Now that these areas of focus have been established, three Action Plan Teams have been formed to develop a seven year improvement plan in these areas. The objectives for these plans will be developed very soon and submitted to the Middle States Association for approval before the plans themselves are created.

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 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

The Online Option is off to a great start with over \$6,000 in sales in the month of March! Are you signed up yet? Visit the [GAGC Tab](#) on the school website for a Quick Start guide and the Policy & Procedures for the Online Option. 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!

ScripNow electronic gift cards are the fastest way to purchase GAGC – at home or on the go. Here are just a few ScripNow retailers available – visit www.shopwithscrip.com for a complete list!

Bed, Bath & Beyond	Bath & Body Works	Target	Barnes & Noble
Home Depot	Amazon	Kohl's	Applebee's
Red Robin	Best Buy	Cabela's	Ulta

For a short time, a limited number of special small denomination gift cards will be available, perfect for teacher gifts and grad parties! Available only while supplies last, so don't wait to place your orders. Amazon.com \$10, AMC Theatres® \$10, Barnes & Noble \$5, Outback \$10, Regal Entertainment Group \$10, Starbucks \$5, Target \$10.

Congratulations to our \$25 Target Gift Card Winners for March...

Rita Kopicz and Lori & Joe Gattone

Stay tuned for upcoming giveaways!

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