



Inside HGA

Parent newsletter of Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

MAY/JUNE 2013

Congratulations HGA Class of 2013!



Jonathan Arnold	Anne Baney	Skylar Blum
Bethany Brenner	Emily Briel	Dustin Brown
Anna Bunnick	Edwin Colon	Juan Cubilete
Kelsey DeAcosta	Julianna DeMarco	Stephanie Dominguez
Nicholas Domyan	Ryan Dunlap	Brooke Eveland
Caroline Golembiewski	Jordan Hine	Mia Hodge
Eric Humphrey	Daniel Katella	Sarah Knockstead
Kathleen Martinez	Melissa Medina	Eliot Menet
Datnilza Metz	Alexander Midouhas	Daisy Miraflore
Christina Mitchell	Kiannah Nieves	Nathan Nye
Rachel Nye	David Peck	Cole Quinter
Yadira Reyes	Tariana Rivera	Christina Rudderow
Bethany Schlott	Alic Schrader	Caitlyn Scrobe
Niko Silfies	Tristan Szymborski-Pratt	Rachel Taylor
Jayna Thomas	Timothy Walker	Brianna Woodworth

Dates to Remember

May 28-31 – EXAMS

May 31 – 9:00 AM Recognition Mass

June 3 - Grade 8 Graduation Mass & Dinner

June 5 - Field Day - 12:00 Noon Dismissal

June 6 - Last Day of School
Mass 9:00 AM

10:30 AM Dismissal
Schell's Day of Fun

SUMMER CAMPS

Summer Fitness & Fun

June 24-28 - 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Culinary Camp

July 22-26 - 8:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Drama Camp

July 8-19 (two weeks)
9:00 AM-12:00 Noon

SCHOOL STORE DATES

August 8 & 13

9:00-11:00 AM & 6:00-7:30 PM



**“Holy Guardian
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Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we move into the last two weeks of our school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the faculty and staff for their hard work, dedication, and continued efforts in making Holy Guardian Angels Regional School one of the top elementary schools in the diocese. Holy Guardian Angels has created excitement throughout the school year with its performing arts, athletics, and academic success. We are also working with the development of our educational offerings, and researching new ideas for students at HGA that will enhance their overall educational experience.

A **HUGE** thank you goes out to all of our parents and guardians for your support and assistance, and for allowing us to educate your child throughout the 2012-2013 school year! With your continued support, we will continue to develop and exceptional educational product for our families.

We are so proud of all of our students especially our eighth graders who have reached another important milestone in their lives. It gives us great joy to see them grow and mature in their lives and in their faith. We pray for God's continued blessing on our eighth grades as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

As we end another great year, I would like to dedicate this quote to our eighth graders and their parents.

“I hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known.” - Anonymous

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Maureen A. Wallin

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
CONFIDENTIAL 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 and click on “Youth Protection” in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



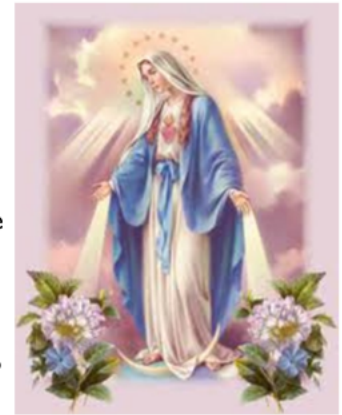
The Religious Ed Corner

Why Do We Honor Mary During the Month of May?

May is traditionally the Month of Mary because, during this month we recall the role of Mary in salvation.

Mary is the Virgin Mother of God, whose fiat allowed Our Lord to take human form. Because of her complete trust in God, she lived a sinless life. And, after her life, she was assumed into Heaven by the power of God and crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth. She is, of course, not divine. We worship only Jesus Christ, but we honor Mary as a saint. We honor God by remembering the role of Mary in the beginning of our salvation. And, remember, Devotion to Mary always leads to Jesus Christ.

In May there are a number of wonderful feast days including the Anniversary of Fatima (May 13) and the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (May 31).



First Holy Communion

This time of year is always special because so many children receive Jesus into their hearts for the first time. Four our school children, the first time for communion was on April 27th when 10 children received Jesus at St. Joseph Parish. The next time was on May 4th when 27 more students allowed Jesus to enter their hearts here at HGA Parish. The remaining students have chosen either their own parish or one of the weekend Masses at HGA throughout the month of May to celebrate this special event.

Yes, this is really a special and blessed time of the year. How wonderful it is to see these children now at our school masses as they process up to the altar with the rest of the congregation. The smiles of these first communicants truly show their simplicity, beauty, and inner peace as they receive Jesus into their hearts. This peace and simplicity quickly radiates to everyone else in the church. Congratulations to all of these children.



May Procession

On Tuesday, May 7, 2013, HGA Regional School celebrated their annual May Procession. Our Lady held off the rain, as we honored her by processing from school to church where we prayed the rosary, sang hymns, and offered prayers in her name.

The 7th graders were the line leaders. Students from all different grades were readers and cantors. The 2nd graders said a poem to Mary and the 8th grade consecrated themselves to Mary through prayer and flowers. This was followed by the crowning of the Blessed Mother. Two 2nd graders carried the crown up to Fr. Zelonis who placed the crown on Our Lady.

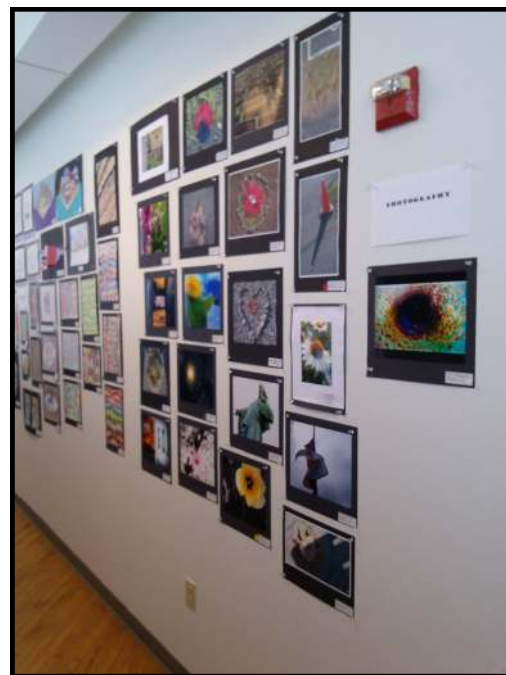
To honor Mary further, on Thursday, May 16th, the 2nd graders sang a song to Mary, prayed to her, and crowned the statue of the Blessed Mother, which is located outside by the Library and Computer Rooms.

2013 CYO Art Exhibition

The students of HGA were well represented at this year's CYO Art Exhibition held at the GoggleWorks with a total of 83 pieces. The caliber of work submitted was extraordinary and at the opening reception was reflected in the positive feedback given by all who attended.

The following students placed within their categories:

Drawing Black and White	Grace Pascuzzi - Honorable Mention
Colored Pencil Drawing	Danielle Siteman - First Place
Crayon Drawing	Christina Rudderow - Third Place
Mixed Media	Kelsey DeAcosta - Second Place
	Hannah Mogford - Honorable Mention
Photography	Ryan Dunlap - First Place
	Anna Bunnick - Third Place
	Bethany Schlott - Honorable Mention
	Eliot Menet - Honorable Mention



Congratulations to all of the artists and thank you for not only representing HGA with pride but showing the community that Catholic schools celebrate the arts.

Off the HGA Bookshelf



Preschool through 8th grade presented this year's spring musical, "Off the HGA Bookshelf" on Tuesday, April 23rd. Both performances were spectacular. All of the songs were based on books. Some of the books included were Green Eggs and Ham, Chicken Soup with Rice, Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes, Winnie the Pooh, and Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. Dramatic performances included The Three Little Pigs, The Ugly Duckling, and A Christmas Carol. Two skits were performed, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Alexander and the Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.

Mrs. Gaffney and the Music on the Move students performed two songs based on books as well. The highlight of the show was "Ancient Words" where the whole school closed the show with a song about the Bible. Mrs. Kasperowicz and the 8th grade did a fabulous job on the bookshelf backdrop. In addition, they created a life-sized Clifford, the Hungry Caterpillar, Mrs. Wallin's library card, and three large books. We are very proud of our HGA students and their wonderful performance.

Technology Month Recap

Webcam Scavenger Hunt Contest

At any given moment, we have access to live webcams that allow us to be connected to people and places all over the world. As a way to provide families with a way to discover the world together, we held our Webcam Scavenger Hunt Contest. Throughout the month of April, a different webcam was featured on the “Announcements” page of our website. Some of the locations of the cameras included the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Beluga Whales in Canada, the International Space Station, and even our own 5th Grade Chick Cam to watch chicks hatch. Families recorded the location of each camera and submitted their entry forms at the end of the month. All of the entries with the correct cameras listed were placed in a drawing. The Castorani family’s entry was chosen and they won a new webcam. In turn, the Castorani’s graciously donated the new webcam back to the school. Thanks to them for their generosity and thanks to all who participated in the contest. We hope you enjoyed discovering something new each day.



Eighth Grade Digital Photography Workshop with Heidi Reuter

Once again, Ms. Heidi Reuter graciously donated her time and expertise to help our eighth grade students better understand the art of digital photography. A professional photographer and instructor in her own right, Ms. Reuter guided our students through the unknown world of ISO settings and Russian Angles. The students were divided into three groups, each focusing on a different photographic task. One group was to take pictures using a different point of view, another group was to focus on textures in their compositions, and the third group was assigned the challenge of utilizing color to its fullest potential. The students rose to the occasion and their work can currently be seen in the first floor hallway outside of the Art Room. Many students’ work was also submitted to the Diocesan CYO Art Show. Congratulations to all on a job well done and especially to Ryan Dunlap who placed first with his unique perspective on a bus at dismissal time.



eMissions Project

The sixth grade science classes experienced the power of technology’s role in global connectedness first-hand as they worked tirelessly to save the astronauts on the Space Shuttle Discovery through a live simulation in conjunction with the Challenger Learning Center. Their mission? To save the astronauts who were adversely affected by solar flares on their way to the Space Station. Placed in various task groups, such as Communications, Crisis Management, and Radiation, students were sent various pieces of data concerning the astronauts’ vitals, shuttle power levels, and conditions inside the module by mission control via a web portal. Over a 90 minute period of time, the students computed and analyzed the data and communicated their findings and action plan to mission control live via Skype in order to save the astronauts and get them successfully aboard the Space Station. Thankfully, the astronauts arrived with few ill effects and the missions were a success!



Technology Month Logo Contest

Each year, students in grades 3-7 participate in a Technology Month logo contest. Applying what the students have learned about good design techniques, they had the option of drawing or digitally creating a logo for Tech Month 2014. As usual, many great submissions were presented and we thank all of the students for their hard work and creativity. This year's winner was Julia Harris! Congratulations!



Technical Photo Display from RIT

If you walked down the first floor hallway at all last month, you may have noticed some unusual pictures across from the Art/Music Room. A detailed image of a sneeze and heat rising from a goblet are just two examples of the fascinating (and technical) works on display. This gallery of technical photos was provided to us on loan from Rochester Institute of Technology. We thank them for partnering with us again this year as we showcase the many ways technology can be used to enhance our understanding of the world around us.

First in Math Day

Although we originally planned to have a second Math 24-A-Thon, schedules are very busy this time of year and we needed to change our event to First in Math Day, held on May 10th. Although technically not during April, it was a great way to wrap up our annual Technology Month events. The school community started the day with 440,000 stickers (or points) based on the activities the students completed so far this year.



Throughout the day, teachers encouraged the students to complete the First in Math activities online and from 3-7:30 in the evening, students signed up for

a spot in the computer lab to get together with others in a relaxed environment to continue working on the various challenges on the website and to have fun. After 60 minutes online, the students were treated to a snack and some exercise time in the gym. By the time the day was over, we had earned over 20,000 stickers. Great work everyone! Thanks so much to the parent volunteers who helped keep this activity safe and fun for

HOLY GUARDIAN



First in Math

The Diocese of Allentown Award Ceremony for First in Math was held on May 15, 2013. Holy Guardian Angels Regional School earned the following awards:

- 5th in the Diocese
- Ola Adio placed 8th in the Diocese
- Family Link (Adio Family) placed 2nd in the Diocese



Congratulations to HGA on their First in Math accomplishments. Throughout the year, our students have fun playing for stickers (points) on-line at school and at home, while honing their math skills.

A big thank you to Mrs. Rebecca Kinyo, Technology Coordinator, for coordinating this daily math program, as well as collecting all the “sticker” data. She keeps the students motivated and engaged and results show that HGA’s math skills are continuously improving.

3rd Quarter Recognition Mass

MATH

- 6th gr. - Ethan Stoney
- 7th gr. - Michael Miller
- 8th gr. - Anne Baney

LANGUAGE ARTS

- 6th gr. - Jennifer Polyniak
- 7th gr. - Ashley Villasenor
- 8th gr. - Melissa Medina

SCIENCE

- 6th gr. - Danielle Siteman
- 7th gr. - Molly Gaffney
- 8th gr. - Brooke Eveland

SOCIAL STUDIES

- 6th gr. - Alyssa Johnson
- 7th gr. - Maggie Blatt
- 8th gr. - Kelsey DeAcosta

GOOD SAMARITAN

- 6th gr. - Hannah Mogford
- 7th gr. - Alora Karpew
- 8th gr. - Alex Midouhas

Kindergarten

Kindergarten began May with a field trip to the Muhlenberg Library, Heister Bowling Lanes, and Schell’s Dairy Swirl. We had a great day that was filled with fun.

On May 15th, we celebrated Mass with Fr. Zelonis and our families. It was a special time for our class. We also enjoyed watching our caterpillars turn into butterflies and then letting them go out on their own. We are looking forward to a few more activities in June before we begin summer vacation.



Second Grade

Visit to the Reading Museum

Second grade took a trip to the Reading Museum in April. It was a beautiful day to have a field trip. We first saw the jelly bean exhibit and were amazed at how many jelly beans were in each picture. After that it was off to the Lego exhibit. Boy, did we have a great time! The students got to build Legos and there was a large play area which we really enjoyed. It was amazing to see the things made from Legos. Then everyone enjoyed a delicious picnic lunch on the gorgeous grounds of the museum. It was also fun watching the ducks swim. Second grade ended their day with a trip to the Planetarium. We saw a movie on the planets and learned how to find some of the planets in our own night sky.



Preparing for Communion

In preparation for their First Communion, Grade 2A and 2B planted the vines that had been growing roots since their reception of Penance in February. The special planters were decorated with symbols of the sacrament, such as bread, wheat, and grapes. We also held a special prayer service called an Agape with scripture readings, shared bread, and grape juice. Later in the day, a celebration cake was shared in class.

2A's Students of the Month

Riley Murphy:

Riley has been at HGA since preschool. She has an older sister Haley who is in 9th grade at Berks Catholic High School and a brother Max who goes to HGA and is in 6th grade.



Riley loves her ballet class that she takes each week. She even taught our class some ballet moves. Along with ballet she loves to play outside. She plays soccer and street hockey.

Riley belongs to St. Joseph's Parish and was very excited to receive her First Communion.

Moises Diaz:



Moises has a brother in 7A here at HGA and his name is Hector.

Moises loves to swim and is on the swim team. He also plays football for Berks Catholic Saints.

When he is not at school he loves to ride his bike at the skate park and play with his brothers.

Moises, also like Riley, belongs to St. Joseph Parish and received his First Communion in April. He thinks HGA is fun and loves recess. His favorite part of second grade was when he learned about subtraction. He is excited to go to third grade to make new friends.

Seventh Grade

Asia and the Arts (by Katie Hawkins)

Recently, the 7th grade went to the Philadelphia Art Museum for a tour of Asia, it was awesome!

When we entered the exhibits, it felt like we were actually there. We went to a Chinese Temple, walked through a Japanese village and saw amazing artwork created by both the Chinese and Japanese cultures. Some of the artifacts were over 1,000 years old, we were in awe of its beauty.

After the museum visit we went to a Chinese buffet. The food was so good, some of the students even tried sushi! This field trip was one of the best ever. Seventh grade absolutely loved our Asian experience.

Eighth Grade

Home of the Brave

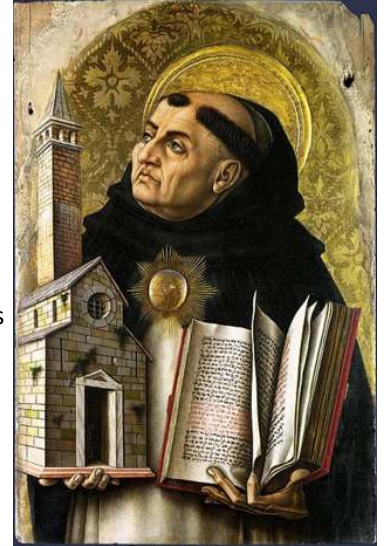
The eighth grade class recently enjoyed a fun-filled day at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD. We participated in a patriotic flag raising and learned many facts about the importance of the flag and the fort it now flies over, representing once and for all our country's independence. We ate lunch by the harbor, the amazing view on such a beautiful day was just breathtaking! We had a spectacular time at the Flag Museum, interacting with the tour guides and delving into copious amounts of information about the War of 1812. Our next stop was the home of Mary Pickersgill, the woman who sewed the flag that still waves over Fort McHenry today. The same flag that inspired Francis Scott Key, a young poet, to write The Star Spangled Banner. Today, that poem is our nation's National Anthem.



As eighth grade's last trip together before high school, it was, without question, a memorable one!

St. Thomas Aquinas

Father Zelonis visited the 8th grade on April 10th, to teach us about St. Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican priest who is a Doctor of the Church. St. Thomas Aquinas is recognized as one of the greatest Christian thinkers and writers. One of his most famous works is *Summa Theologica*, which is a multi-volume piece on the Christian mysteries. Saint Thomas Aquinas is called the "angelic doctor" for his purity and knowledge. He is the patron saint of students and an outstanding example of holiness for us to follow.



Kisses for a Cause!

The 8th grade Kisses for the Cast Fundraiser was a great success! The students sold \$660 worth of Hershey® Kisses to parents, friends, and family prior to both performances of the spring musical. Everyone seemed to enjoy writing messages to the children and the students were certainly happy to receive the personalized bags of sweet treats. Special thanks to our generous 8th grade parents who very graciously donated all the Hershey® Kisses. We'd also like to thank Mrs. Bard and Mrs. Morris for organizing this project, as well as Mrs. Santoro for assisting the students with the selling. All the proceeds have been donated to the HGA Scholarship Fund which Mrs. Wallin will use to help provide scholarship money for students to attend HGA. Thank you to everyone who supported this exciting fundraiser.

Declamation

Speeches, Speeches & More Speeches

What is a speech? The expression of or the ability to express thoughts or feelings by articulate sounds, a person's style of speaking.

Congratulations to those students who participated in this year's Declamation Contest! Over the past few months the students in 7th and 8th grade have worked very hard memorizing, reciting, and mastering their style of speaking in hopes of delivering their chosen speech at the Berks Catholic CYO Declamation Contest. The students first competed in a runoff here at HGA and the winners of each grade level, Abby Gaffney-7th grade girl, Datnilza Metz-8th grade girl, and Tristan Szymborski-Pratt-8th grade boy went on to represent HGA at Berks Catholic High School in the county competition on April 21, 2013. Each of these students did HGA proud! Abby Gaffney placed first over-all in the 7th grade girl division and Datnilza and Tristan each placed third in their divisions. **WAY TO GO Abby, Datnilza, and Tristan!**



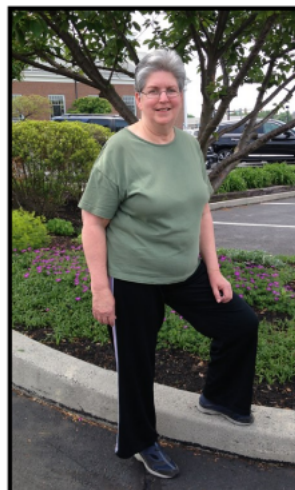
GRADUATION PRAYER

I have knowledge, so will You show me now, how to use it wisely and find a way somehow to make the world I live in a little better place, and make life with its problems a little bit easier to face.

Grant me faith and courage and put purpose in my days, and show me how to serve Thee in effective ways. So my education, my knowledge and my skill may find their true fulfillment as I learn to do Thy will.

And may I ever be aware in everything **I do**, that knowledge comes from learning, and wisdom comes from You.

Meet Mrs. DePoister



Family! Tradition! Love!

For Kathy DePoister, these three words define her connection to HGA!

Mrs. DePoister is grandmother to Connor Monk-4B and mother to three Holy Guardian Angels School alumni (Conner's mother, Michelle-class of 1990, David-class of 1992, and Brett-class of 1995).

Mrs. DePoister's recollection of the school traditions from the years her children attended school to today brings a smile to her face. Once holding the position of President of then Mother's Club, she is thrilled that events like spaghetti supper and sandwich sale are still vital fundraisers.

But what really makes her happy is to be helping out at lunch duty again. "It is a joy and privilege to watch Connor grow and be involved in his life. Meeting his friends and interacting with all the students is very rewarding and enjoyable." Mrs. DePoister organized the first lunch volunteers under the direction of then Principal, Mr. Phil Fromuth. "Back in the day, students packed their lunches and were served one hot meal a week (prepared by parents). "I love that the school now cooks and serves several choices everyday for lunch." Kathy typically volunteers two times a week, helping out at all three lunch periods, selling snacks, monitoring tables, sweeping the floors, and retrieving stray balls on the recess yard. "I do what's needed! My lunch philosophy is, *keep them eating, keep them on schedule, keep them disciplined, keep them safe, and keep them polite.*"

One fascinating fact that was uncovered is that Mrs. DePoister was the school's first computer teacher. Having a love of technology herself, when the school installed its first Apple computers she volunteered to go to each classroom for 1/2 hour a week teaching the students the DOS Operating System!

Thanks Mrs. DePoister for your continued support of Holy Guardian Angels Regional School!



HGA held its first mini-golf tournament on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 7th, at Sitler's Miniature Golf Course on Route 222.

Eighteen teams teed off at 1:45 PM under cloudy, but dry skies. Our morning prayers to Mary certainly paid off!

Thank you to all the students, parents and extended family members and friends who took to the course uncertain of what surprises may arise at each hole. Would it be a fun treat or a goofy-golf rule like Mr. and Mrs. Angstadt's hole #15 - the "Hail Mary" hole. Golfers dropped to their knees to say a quick prayer before taking a swing. For those shots that went off the green, golfers had to offer up an additional prayer. Rumor has it that at least a rosary and a half worth of prayers were said! Thank you to this year's other Hole Sponsors: Hole #2 - Honoring 2nd Grade - sponsored by the Castorani Family; Hole #7 - sponsored by Morgan's Family; Hole # - sponsored by the Malinowski Family; Hole #12 - Russ and Caroline Reber; and Hole #18- the "Principal's Challenge" - sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Wallin.

Ice cream treats were enjoyed at the end of the tournament as each team tallied up score cards sharing laughs and stories of their favorite hole. Congratulations to all our winners! Everyone is looking forward to next year's tournament.



Jacob Schmeck is challenged by Mrs. Wallin's multiplication flash cards!

HGA Booster Club

CYO Athletics

If you have children in sports or just love sports, HGA's Booster Club has excellent opportunities for you to get involved.

We are in need of board members for the 2013-2014 school year. Many of our current board members have children in the 8th grade so these positions will need to be filled for future sports activities to be successful at HGA.

The following positions are currently available:

- ♦ Vice President
- ♦ Treasurer
- ♦ Athletic Director
- ♦ Uniform Coordinator

The PRESIDENT'S position will also be vacant at the end of the 2014 school year.

In addition to the Board Member positions above, the Booster Club is always looking for volunteers to help with events, coaching, planning sports activities, and much more. If you are interested in any volunteer opportunities, please join us at our next monthly meeting or contact Bill Blatt at 610-780-4826 or Blattwilliam@aol.com.

Throughout the school year, the Booster Club holds a monthly meeting on the first Monday of each month in the Library. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.

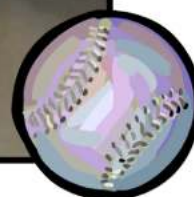
We hope to see you there!

Congratulations



Berks County CYO

Champions



Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

3125 Kutztown Road

Reading, PA 19605

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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

- ⇒ Blue enrollment forms for the 2013/2014 GAGC Tuition Credit Program contained in the tuition information packet need to be returned to the school office along with your tuition preference sheet (*kindly fill out the enrollment form even if your family is already enrolled*).
- ⇒ Thursday, May 30, 2013 is the last date that orders will be processed through the Pouch system (*please return all pouches to the school office to be updated for next school year*).
- ⇒ The current Program year ends Friday, May 31, 2013 at 9:00 AM. (*Final statements will be issued Monday, June 3.*)
- ⇒ The next Program year starts right up again on June 1, 2013 and runs through May 31, 2014 with tuition credit being applied to the 2014/2015 school year.
- ⇒ Even though the school year is ending, GAGC will continue to be available for purchase throughout the entire summer, 7 days a week - - - at the rectory Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and before/after every weekend Mass. Don't miss out on potential savings through the Tuition Credit Program - every purchase counts!
- ⇒ For more information on the GAGC Program, please call Claudia Rudderow at (610)916-1874 or email crudd5@hotmail.com.

