

# PRINCIPAL'S PAGE



November 2017

Happy Thanksgiving

**Colossians 2:6-7:** So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

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 Holy Trinity School is here. I am thankful for the Priests, Deacons, teachers, teacher aides, secretary, and support 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 a Catholic school education and have faith in the HTS staff. 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 ever so 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!

**Parent - Teacher Conferences:** Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 7th from 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM for Preschool Full Day thru 8th grade. This year parents will need to register online for conference times. Please use this link: <http://signup.com/go/vsgVQLW> to sign up. If you have multiple children do not sign up for back to back appointments because you will need time to travel. The conference is mandatory for all parents. The teachers will discuss the Iowa test results with you as well as address any other concerns. Each conference will last for 10 minutes. It is extremely important for the teachers to remain on schedule so waiting parents are not inconvenienced. If you feel you need additional conference time please contact the teacher via email.

Beginning on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> parents may register for an appointment. Parents with more than one child are encouraged to register ASAP in order to get appointment times close together. If you are unable to attend the conference due to work related issues, you need to contact the teacher to schedule an alternate day to meet or you may set up a phone conference. Your child's report card will not be sent home until you have spoken with the teacher in grades 1-5.

**Middle School Parents:** Middle School students will receive their report cards on November 1st so that you can decide if you need to speak to another teacher. You may email the additional teacher you would like to speak to schedule your conferences.

**Attention all Chairpersons:** All volunteer hours and fundraising dollars must be recorded in Goal Tracker by Friday, November 3rd.

**Holy Trinity Goal Tracker:** As you know the Goal Tracker is an online website that is available for you to check both volunteer and fundraising assessments. You received a password and a user id at the beginning of the school year. You will need to change your password upon entering this site. Please write it down because once it is changed I will not have access to the new password. This information will allow you to see a detailed report of your assessments. You must check your quarterly statements. **You will have 2 weeks after the report cards are issued to notify the chairperson if your information is incorrect.** No changes will be made after November 21st. The website address is [holytrinitygoaltracker.com](http://holytrinitygoaltracker.com)

All questions should be directed to the chairperson of the event or fundraiser. Here is a list of chairpersons for the 1<sup>st</sup> nine week events and fundraisers. Please use the School Directory for additional contact information.

Volunteer Hours	Chairperson	Email	Fundraisers	Chair person	Email
Recess	Ronelle Boburka	rboburka@comcast.net	Football Pool	Kristen Thomas	kmehno2002@yahoo.com
Cafeteria	Char Osso	cafeteria@holyltrinityrobinson.org	Magazine	Rebecca Mulvay	srconmulvay@verizon.net
SCRIP	Amy Gallagher	dagall@comcast.net	SCRIP	Tara Horr	tara@tara-mtg.net
Coaching	Mike Flanagan	flanoman76@yahoo.com	Car Raffle	Jessica Sellman	jessica_sellman520@yahoo.com
Summer League	Mike Flanagan	flanoman76@yahoo.com			
Welcome Back Picnic	Michelle Roun	michelle.roun@gmail.com			
Magazines	Mrs. Mulvay	srconmulvay@verizon.net			
Car Raffle	Jessica Luchini	jml37@students.pti.edu			
Festival	Michelle Roun	michelle.roun@gmail.com			

**Fundraising Summary:** The fundraising summary for the 1<sup>st</sup> nine week period will be sent home soon. Please review the information on the fundraising financial report. Your continued support with our fundraising effort is greatly appreciated.

**Iowa Assessments:** The Iowa Assessments are achievement tests that assess students' Reading, Language, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies skills. The test results are in and over the next several week we will be analyzing this data. The data management system for the assessment has many reports which can be customized for each class, grades and the entire school.

Results from this assessment will be used to drive instruction and improve students' learning. Achievement tests help identify students' strengths and weaknesses. The principal and the teachers will use this information to monitor students' growth, provide instructional grouping data and improve instruction. This data will allow us to make judgements on past and future instructional strategies and be used for placement decisions.

The teachers have been in serviced in order to understand and explain the results to the parents. I believe you will find the Student Narrative and the Student Profile reports very informative and easy to understand. A school summary report will be provided to you in the December Principal's Page.

**Weather Closing and Delays** If inclement weather or some other emergency requires that the school be delayed, closed, or dismissed early, you will receive a phone call from The School Messenger automated call system. This information will also be announced on the KDKA television station also. Remember to look for Holy Trinity School Robinson on the news station. Our Morning Care Program will be available on 2 hours delays for the cost of \$7.25 for 1 hour, \$8.25 for 2 hours and \$9.25 for 3 hours for any parents needing this service.

**Dress Code Changes:** Please make note of the changes in the uniform policy in the Parent Handbook. The changes are effective beginning November 1st. Navy shorts are no longer permitted to be worn. Only the school plaid uniforms and navy pants are permitted for the girls with blue knee socks. Boys are only permitted to wear navy pants and a polo or oxford shirt. The mass day uniform remains the same. Please remember we go outside if the temperature is above 32 degrees. Be sure that your child has on a coat suitable for winter temperatures.

**Book Fair:** The Scholastic Book Fair will be held the week of November 6th - 10th from 8:30am to 2:15pm. On the day of Parent Teacher Conferences the Book Fair will be open until 6:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to stock up on books for the winter and also to do some holiday shopping. We desperately need volunteers to help the children shop. Please contact Tammy Ohrn to sign up to volunteer. Her email is [tlohrn@hotmail.com](mailto:tlohrn@hotmail.com). Students must be accompanied by a parent to shop during the conferences.

**Food Drive:** Our school will be collecting nonperishable food items for our St. Vincent DePaul Food Bank during the week of November 13th -17th. We are asking each class to send in specific items to provide the food bank with a wide variety of nonperishable goods. Your generosity for those in need is greatly appreciated.

The students will present their food items before mass on Wednesday, November 17th. Please remember to have the students dressed in their mass uniforms.

### Classroom Food Items

Preschool and Kindergarten:	Boxed Items: <b>Non sugar</b> cereal, rice, potatoes, cake mix, spaghetti, pancake mix, bread crumbs
1st ,2nd and 3rd Grade	Canned Goods: vegetables, tuna, chicken, sausage
4th, and 5th, 6th Grade	Paper Products and Cleaning Items: tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, plastic wrap, foil, Clorox wipes, laundry detergent, dish detergent
7th and 8th Grade	Tooth paste, tooth brushes, shampoo, soap,

**Holy Trinity Catholic School Auction:** There is time to purchase your Non Attending Auction tickets for the Auction on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. **This ticket allows you to bid on items in SILENT Auction items only and is just \$20.00. Many of the classroom project as well as sports tickets, dinner packages, and many other items are available for you to bid on.** Please the return this form in the November Principal’s Packet with payment to Pam Paluso c/o Natalie 5A by Thursday, November 2, 2017. Checks should be made payable to: Holy Trinity School Auction. Don’t forget to register your credit card online on the Auction website prior to the Auction: <https://holy-trinity-school.ejoinme.org/auction>. Your participation will help ensure another successful Auction fundraiser.

**Camp Invention:** Wild and crazy ideas become reality in this year’s all-new Camp Invention program, Fast Forward! A nonprofit program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, Camp Invention allows children in kindergarten through 6th grade to experience real-world problem solving, creative thinking, invention, and teamwork – all while having FUN! Activities include challenges and achievements from the brightest thinkers around—National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees – to inspire children! This year, campers will bring their “smart” home to life with smart furniture and eco-smart energy, design a robotic dog and diagnose puppy problems, explore sensors by designing tracks for an Optibot, a robot that senses dark and light surfaces, and build Cake Catapults! Local educators lead the week of fun, hands-on, STEM activities that allow children to think big, explore their curiosity, and never give up.

**The camp will be held June 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Aftercare is provided until 6:00pm free of charge. Early registration discounts are available. Visit [campinvention.org](http://campinvention.org) or call 800.968.4332 to register. Use promo code Ideas25 to save \$25 (expires 3/23) and Ideas15 to save \$15 (expires 5/4).**

**Student Council:** I would like to introduce the HTS Student Council for 2017 – 2018 school year. This organization will be raising funds for Alzheimer’s Research. I look forward to working with our student government this year. President Audrey Flanagan, Vice President Ethan Williams, Recording Secretary Chiara Golomb, Treasurer Braehm Brown, Public Relations Kate Mickle.

Homeroom Representatives:

- 8A Taytem Froehlich
- 8B Tony Cicchino & Isabelle Kulak
- 7A Sierra Abbott & Allison Weaver
- 7B Joey Leininger & Kyle Rooney
- 6A Luke Baker & McKinley Walsh
- 6B Maria Cicchino & Aaron Williams
- 5A Jack Marcello & Alexandra Loehlein
- 5B Casie Yonker & Harold Tarr

**Classroom Happenings:** Look at all of the amazing learning that is taking place at HTS!



**Preschool Helped Our Four Legged Friends:** Animal Friends visited the preschool classes. The children learned how to ask to pet a dog and how to get a dog to stop jumping on them. They practiced petting a stuffed dog and then petted a real dog! They were able to ask questions and made a large supply donation to the shelter.

**Fire Safety:** Moon Run Volunteer Fire Department visited our preschool classrooms as part of Fire Safety Awareness Week. The fire fighters met with the preschoolers to discuss the adult use of tools such as lighters and matches. They reminded the children to play with toys and not to play with tools, and then discussed the importance of smoke detectors. A firefighter is pictured showing the preschoolers his gear and equipment used to keep him safe in a fire. Each child took a turn squirting the hose on the truck, and climbing the truck, looking at all of the equipment through the front cab!



**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Special Readers:** 1st grade enjoyed a visit from one of their classroom's grandmothers this week as part of their Special Reader program. Each student has a week to invite someone to read to the class. The student picks a book special to them. Everyone enjoys the story and time together!



**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Graders Participate in Econ and You Program:** McDonald's Restaurant and its supplier, Keystone Foods, visited the 3rd and 4th grade classes to give their "Econ and You" class presentation. The economics lesson focused on a discussion of the resources that are involved in hamburger production: natural resources (cows), capital resources (warehouse equipment), and human resources (people.) Students watched a video taken at the largest processing plant to demonstrate how the meat is received, made into patties, and then shipped to restaurants while highlighting all of the steps that must be taken to keep the food safe. Each class was challenged to calculate how many hamburgers are produced each day at this largest processing facility by solving a series of multiplication problems: the answer-5,180,400 per day! Each student received a certificate for a free cheeseburger at our neighborhood McDonald's on Route 60, which sponsored the presentation.



**Growth Mind S**...ning about the American artist Laurel Burch, the fourth grade was inspired to make paper sculpture cats. The elements of line, shape and color were used to create the

cat. The principle of pattern was used in the design of the project. Laurel Burch had to overcome many obstacles and developed a belief system which enabled her to believe she could do anything. This emphasizes our "growth mindset" goal of thinking positively and believing we can achieve success, if we just try. The students learned the values of determination and patience during the construction of this project.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Learns About Native Americans:** After learning about different Native American tribes, the students worked in small groups to create their own Native American tribe. The students designed a village for their tribe, decided what type of clothing their people would wear, and discussed their tribe's main food sources. Additionally, the students decided what other real-life tribe they would trade with as well as the items they would trade, and created a Venn diagram displaying the similarities and differences between their tribe and the real-life tribe.



**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science and S'mores:** 6<sup>th</sup> Graders made S'mores as part of a Stem activity. Did you know it was invented in 1927 by the Girl Scouts and originally called "some more"? Yummy!

(**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **M**ath)



- S** – Follow the scientific methods
- T** – Video on history of the s'more
- E** – Build a solar oven
- M** – Create a line graph to track temperatures of oven

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science: Plant-based Recipes:** The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade science classes are participating in the Fairchild Challenge, sponsored by Phipps Conservatory. This first challenge was for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. Each

group needed to come up with a recipe using discarded plant parts. Did you know that one-third of the food raised or prepared isn't eaten? This contributes to greenhouse gases and linked to global warming. The students not only made their plant-based recipe, but had to write how they were reducing food waste, the resources used in producing the plants, and how they were reducing their household contribution to climate change. The top 10 recipes were added to our school's recipe book and submitted for judging. All challenges are totaled at the end of the year and prizes are awarded to the top schools. We are keeping our fingers crossed!



Watermelon Rind Popsicles



Tomato Basil Soup with bruised tomatoes



Apple Crisp (with bruised apples)



Sauce



Jam



Muffins

**The Holy Trinity Robotics Team Win Best Middle School**



Our Robotics Team



Our Marketing Team



2<sup>nd</sup> Place T-shirt Design



Fireman Braehm and The HTS Tiger



The Firebot

The HTS Robotics completed their 6 week competition cycle at Grove City College on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. In response to this year's Crossfire theme, the team programmed and built the Firebot to rescue "Manny", remove hazardous materials and put out fires. Visits to local fire departments and the Pittsburgh Bomb Squad provided critical research and background for the team. Their marketing presentation and exhibit booth focused on what the team learned and their brand promise "We take the heat so you don't have to!"

In addition to BEST Middle School, the team took home a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award for the incredible t-shirt design. The team wants to thanks their Coaches and Mentors Mike Flanagan, Adam Miller, Dawn Lecker, and Steve Ludwick. Without their help and knowledge the Robotics program would not be possible. Thanks to our sponsors Eastern Excavating & Construction, Precision Matthews, OLSH & Brown Brothers Flooring for your financial support.

Representing HTS and the Tigerbots: 3-year participants: Braehm Brown, Tony Cicchino, Audrey Flanagan, Renee LaGrosse, Ian Lecker, Averil Ludwick, Kennedy Walsh and Ethan Williams

2-year participants: Nick DiPerna, Gianni Domenico, Isaac Huang, Marco Iacchetti, Kyle Janas, Joey Leininger and Corinne Ludwick

1-year participants: Joey Cicchino, Maria Cicchino, Damian Davila, Anthony D'Orazio, Patrick Forster, Michael Smith, McKinley Walsh and Aaron Williams

**Diocesan Cross Country Championship:** Holy Trinity Catholic School participated in the 2017 Diocesan Championship at Cooper's Lake in Slippery Rock on Saturday, October 14th. There were 43 teams and over

1,000 runners. Holy Trinity JV girls team finished 3rd and the Varsity boys finished 5th. 43 schools participated and over 1000 runners competed.

Individual medalist for the JV girls out of 207 runners:

Mia Crofford finished 15th place  
Sophia Saginaw finished 16th place  
Joelle Ludwick finished 17th place

Congratulations to our runners on an exceptional job! Congrats again to the cross country team for a very great season!!

**South Hills Invitational Cross country Meet:** The HTS Cross-Country team participated in the South Hills Invitational with 12 teams and over 375 runners from the Diocese. Our team achieved many personal bests, and the following team and individual medals.

The JV Girls and the Varsity Boys teams both placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Varsity Girls team placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, and JV Boys placed 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a great meet for all of our teams.

Individual medalists:

JV Girls out of 118 runners, the following received medals:

Mia Crofford, 10<sup>th</sup> place, McKinley Walsh, 11<sup>th</sup> place, Sophia Saginaw, 14<sup>th</sup> place and Joelle Ludwick placed 18th overall

JV Boys out of 129 runners, the following received medals:

Luke Baker, 10<sup>th</sup> place and James Baker, 18<sup>th</sup> place

Varsity Girls out of 70 runners, the following received medals:

Chiara Golomb, 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Kennedy Walsh, 9<sup>th</sup> place

Varsity Boys, out of 67 runners, the following received medals:

Andrew Marcello, 4<sup>th</sup> place Joseph Rees, 18<sup>th</sup> place, Andrew Feeley, 19<sup>th</sup> place, and Tony Cicchino, 20<sup>th</sup> place

**HTS Soccer News:** All of the HTS soccer teams 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, JV and Varsity finished their home season on October 7. The teams will continue to have away games through the end of October. As part of the final home stand, the 8th grade members of the Varsity team were recognized. Each 8th grader presented a rose to his/her parents, courtesy of head coach Tim Feeley. Both JV and Varsity played teams from St. Bede that day. JV tied St. Bede and the Varsity team celebrated a victory. Congratulations to the 8th grade members of the soccer team!

