

PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

October 2017



Growth Mindset Saying for October – My brain is like a muscle that grows!

October is a month of beauty as the leaves are transformed into a painter's pallet of color. Just as the leaves change so do your children as they become more independent and responsible. Foster these traits by letting students work independently on homework, have assigned chores, and get backpacks and clothes ready for the next morning.



Blessed Mother: During the month of October, we celebrate our Blessed Mother through the recitation of the rosary. As Catholics, we recite the Rosary during October, meditating on Christ's life and praying for peace in our world. Our teachers pray decades of the rosary with the children. As a school, the rosary comes to life in a beautiful ceremony dedicated to our Lady in The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Eucharist Holy Hour. Perhaps as a family, you might also take a day during the month, or once a week to pray the Rosary together. The power of prayer is tremendous. Please join us for the Eucharistic Holy Hour and Divine Mercy Chaplet on Friday, October 13th at 1:00pm in the church.

Consecration to the Virgin Mary and the Centennial Celebration of Fatima: All families are invited to join Bishop Zubik in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of our Lady of Fatima on Friday, October 13, 2017 at St. Paul's Seminary. The event begin at 5:00pm with a picnic style dinner followed by a candlelight Eucharistic Procession and Consecration. Please find time to enrich your families spiritually. See the flyer for additional information and pricing. Tickets must be purchased in advanced.

Reorganization: I know that the reorganization of the Diocesan schools is on everyone's mind. Holy Trinity School is in good shape financially and with our enrollment. It is extremely important that we work to remain strong in these areas. You can help by marketing the school to friends, families and colleagues. Your participations in the fundraisers and fundraising events will help guarantee that we will meet our school assessment. We have been below budget on several of our fundraisers. I know that by working together we can remain a strong and healthy school if we all have the same goal. Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education and let us look forward to our future with optimism.

Iowa Testing: The students have finished their Iowa testing. The results should be available for Parent Teacher Conferences in November. Mrs. Shaffer and I will be attending a training on interpreting the data. We will present the information to the teachers at the October 27th In-service Day. The data from the Iowa test will be used to drive the curriculum and provide reinforcement and enrichment skills to individual students.

EITC Update: Pennsylvania lawmakers have returned to Harrisburg to continue debating the 2017-18 state budget. While budget passage remains an uncertain time, it is also an important time to show support for an expansion of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. It has been acclaimed as one of the best educational programs Pennsylvania offers to students in both public and private schools, and as is stands, the House has a chance to vote on an EITC increase. Tuition aid for our school comes from EITC funds. **We need your help** to urge and remind all lawmakers to invest in success and support the expansion of the EITC program by voting YES on a state budget that includes an increase. Click the link below to log in and send your message: <https://www.voterveice.net/PACC/Campaigns/54365/Respond>.

Appalachian Coat and Clothing Drive: This is the 19th year that Holy Trinity Catholic School will once again be collecting winter clothing and coats for needy families in the Appalachian Region of West Virginia. The drive begins on October 1st and ends on October 31st. Please drop off your used items in the hallway by the office. We are collecting coats, hats, scarves, boots, gloves, blankets, sweaters, and toys. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions contact Barb Angelo at 412-787-3655.

Dress Code Changes: As fall weather approaches, Remember the winter dress code takes effect on November 1st. Shorts and skorts are no longer permitted. Please see the Parent – Student Handbook on our website for the details. Please be sure all clothing articles are marked with your child’s name.

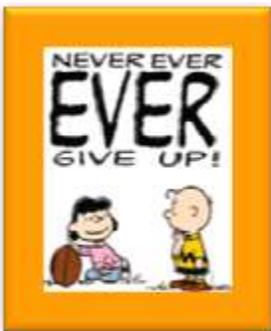
Our policy is to go outside for recess unless the temperature is below 32 degrees. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Also, periodically we receive requests for children to stay inside at recess and lunch due to colds. I will honor these requests for a period of two consecutive days, after which time a doctor’s slip will be needed to remain in doors.

Halloween Party: We will celebrate Halloween with parties and a parade on Tuesday, October 31st. Students in grades K-3 may come to school dressed in their costumes. Students in grades 4-8 may dress down and wear Halloween colors with jeans. At no time are jeans with holes acceptable. The parties will begin at 1:30PM and the parade will take place at 1:15PM in the upper parking lot, weather permitting. If the weather is inclement the parade will be cancelled. Parents are welcome to attend the parade. Please remember that children are not permitted to bring any type of toy weapons and costumes must be appropriate for school. No fake blood or scary masks are permitted. All treats must be healthy and nutritious.

Parents attending the parade should park in the front of the school, near the Preschool. Please do not park in the back of the school because it will interfere with the buses.

Babies, Babies Everywhere!

A Few Mind Shifting Tips for Cultivating a Growth Mindset at Home



1. Help children reconnect with a time when they learned something new that was a stretch or a challenge. Point out the developmental nature of “getting good” at something. We all go through the process of making a lot of mistakes, practicing, and then getting better at something.

2. Help children get curious about mistakes. Help them reframe a mistake as it is new information or as a step in the process of learning. In addition, help them incorporate self-correction in their own learning process.

3. Help children learn to hear their own fixed mindset “voice”. Capture and in a gentle and appropriate way, share their own statements with them. Most children are unaware of this self-talk because it has gone on so long and is subliminal.

- That guy is brilliant; he never tries and he gets it.
- I got it wrong again, I’ll never get this.

4. Help children talk back to negative self-talk with a growth mindset voice.

- I am willing to learn new skills to improve, and I know it will get hard at times.
- I get better and better with practice, this is hard, but will get easier.
- Practice makes permanent. I can’t do this yet.

5. Model growth-mindset at the table. During dinner tell your child about a time when you didn’t know the answer to a recent question. Who did you ask for help? How did you learn the answer?

At breakfast ask questions about their opportunities for learning and growth in the coming day or week. What questions do they need answers to? What do they want to learn, practice, and/or get better at today/this week?

6. Avoid labels and give growth-mindset praise

Don’t label yourself in ways that model a “fixed mindset” I’m a terrible cook. I was never good at math. Shift your child’s attention to a process that led to the desired outcome.

Praise and value effort, practice, self-correction, and persistence.
Don't shelter your child from a failed task. Ask "What can you learn from this experience?
What could you try differently the next time?"

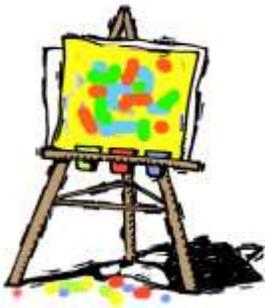
7. Get curious about your child's work through questioning
How did you figure that out? What's another way you could have done that?
How many times did you try before it turned out that way?
What was challenging and how did you figure it out?
What do you plan to do next time?

Our Amazing Kid

Cross Country Team: The Cross Country season is upon us and boy what a team we have! Head coach Mike Roberts stated that the team has 68 runners which is the largest team we have had at HTS. There are eighteen 8th graders on the team who serve as mentors for the younger athletes. The team will compete at the Slippery Rock Invitational on October 14th and the Diocesan Championship on October 21st. Good Luck to our runners.



Budding Young Artists: Holy Trinity will have 30 of our students' art work featured in this year's Student Art Exhibit. The art exhibit will be at Fr. Kelty Hall in the basement of St. Philip Church. There will be a Recognition Prayer Service at 6:30pm on Friday, October 20th. The art exhibit will be open to the public on Saturday, October 21st from 12:00 - 7:00pm and Sunday, October 22nd from 10:00am- 3:00pm. Congratulations to Carrie Betten, Varsha Borra, Lindsay Bressler, Taytem Froehlich, Jenna Gardner, Lexi Kolocouris, Clara Lucas, Rachael Lucas, Averil Ludwick, Joelle Ludwick, Melaina Merlo, Kate Mickle, Gabe Miller, Luke Miller, Vivian Miller, Evie Minzer, Alexis Moran, Luca Neal, Natalie Paluso, Nicholas Paluso, Sasha Planinsic, Marin Reinhardt, Sophia Saginaw, Madi Schiavo, Nicholas Walker, Sophia Wegrzynowicz, Christian Williams, Bailey Ye, Casie Yonker, and Natalie Zurbola. We are so excited for you! Enjoy the spotlight!



Students in grade 4 proudly present their sculptures which will be shown at the Art Exhibit. Pictured are Luke, Rachael, Natalie, Carrie, Bailey and Helene.

Best Robotics Team Competition: The Holy Trinity Robotics team is gearing up for their competition on Saturday, October 14th at 10:00 am at Grove City College. The challenge is titled, "Crossfire". The team is building a robot for use in Fire and Rescue. During the competition, the team will use their robot to rescue a victim ("Manny"), remove cans of hazardous materials, and put out a fire. (All simulated, of course, because safety first!) The demonstration fair is this Saturday Sept 30th at Ross Park Mall from 10am-12pm. The team will do a trial run on the actual course. The marketing presentation is Friday, Oct 13th. The student have a very busy schedule over the next few weeks. Spectators are welcome to attend the Mall day as well as the competition,

Our team make up of boys 23 boys and girls from the Middle school. This year's team is working very hard! The Robotics team has designed a fantastic robot, visited several local Fire Departments, and will be meeting with the Allegheny County Bomb Squad to learn how they use the robot. The team also developed the concept for the exhibit booth all while documenting everything in the engineering notebook. The team is working on their marketing presentation. The Robotics team has put a lot of time and effort into preparing for the competition.

Now STEM has been turned into STEAM by having Mrs. Boehm and the art classes helping with signs for the competition. The team can't wait to show off the robot and their presentation at the school Pep Rally on October 10th at 10:45am. We wish our team the best of luck!

Girls Volleyball: Holy Trinity is excited to welcome our new volleyball coaches, Dana Heidenreich and Katie Gestiehr. Both of the girls are Bishop Canevin Alumni. Holy Trinity has both a JV and a Varsity team. There are 13 girls on the JV team and 9 girls on varsity team. The girls have learned a lot under the instruction of their coaches and have a lot of team spirit. Being a young team, the coaches took the teams to Bishop Canevin to practice their skills with the BCHS team. The teams have games at home on Friday, Sept 29th, Wednesday Oct. 4th, and the last game in on Friday Oct. 13th. The JV team plays at 6:30pm followed by the varsity at 7:30pm. Come and cheer on our Lady Tigers!



Dig, Spike and Bump, Girls



Service Project: HTS students in grades 3, 4, and 5 collected monetary donations to help students at two Texas schools who lost school supplies and band instruments because of flooding due to Hurricane Harvey. The homerooms collected \$430 for Mauriceville Middle School in Orange, Texas. About 320 students attend the school, and their school buildings received between 12-30 inches of water. The donations collected will help them to replenish the supplies that were lost. Our students also made cards for the Texas students to send along with the donation. Thank you to the teachers who coordinated this project and to Miss Golden who was instrumental in researching this service project. Thank you to all our families and students for their contributions. I am proud that our children are learning the importance of helping those in need.



Did You Know?

Chairperson Needed: I am looking for someone to share this easy rewards program. Entenmann's® Little Bites® snacks has teamed up with TerraCycle® to help eliminate waste and provide us with an opportunity to earn money for our school. Every time you enjoy a Little Bites® snack, you just save the pouch and send it to the office. We will collect the pouches. The chairperson will bundle the pouches and send them in, Entenmann's even takes care of the shipping costs! Please contact me if you are interested in chairing this easy rewards program. This is a great opportunity for working parents.



Save Your Pennies: Start saving your pennies for our Catholic School Penny War Contest. All proceeds from this activity will be donated to the Diocese of Pittsburgh for the Chimbote Mission, A Bridge of Hope. Last year we donated \$1,581.20 to the mission. So start saving your pennies. Additional information will be in the January Principal's Page.

Birthday Book Program: The Birthday Book Program is run by the Girl Scouts which helps to update the HTS library. On your child's birthday they will receive a letter inviting you to donate a new or gently used book or a monetary gift to the school library.

Your child will have the opportunity to be the first person to check the book out. If you choose to contribute with cash, a book will be purchased in your child's name. The book will have a special sticker with your name in it to honor your birthday.

Facebook Page: Have you checked out our Facebook page? If not take a look and "like" Holy Trinity Catholic School on Facebook. I want to thank Mary Ann Jones for maintaining our Facebook page for us. It is amazing!



Apples for the Students Reward Program

For more than 29 years, Giant Eagle® has supported local schools through our Apples for the Students™ program. This year, Giant Eagle will donate \$1.1 million to area schools for purchases made with registered Giant Eagle Advantage Cards. Shop and earn points September 2, 2017 through March 16, 2018. All you have to do is register your card at www.GiantEagle.com/AFTS. Next, put in the school code 0473 or look for Holy Trinity School in McKees Rocks. Each time you shop at Giant Eagle you earn points for your school. Earning points is simple! With every scan of your registered Giant

Eagle Advantage Card at the cash register, points are automatically credited to your selected school.

Print Cartridges: HTS is participating in the Print Cartridges and Cell Phones Recycling program. The school receives money for these items. This is another great way to raise money with very little effort. This program joins our Easy Fundraising list. Please take a look at this list and help the school raise money by simply cutting labels, registering rewards cards, and scanning receipts.

Camp Invention Returns: I just wanted to let everyone know that the nationally recognized nonprofit enrichment summer camp will return to Holy Trinity School the week of June 18th – 22nd. The camp is for incoming kindergarten – 6th grade. The Camp Invention modules are Mod My Mini Mansion, Robotic Pet Vet, Optibot and Stick To It. More information on the camp will be sent out in early spring.

McTeacher Night



L – R Front Row: Miss Castello, Mrs. Stevenson, Miss Golden, Mrs. Boehm
L – R Back Row: Mr. Loftis, Mrs. Wallover, Miss McGuire and Mrs. D'Itri
Missing from the photo is Miss Folino, Miss Holleran and Miss Sutton.

The McTeacher Night was a huge success. There was a constant flow of people from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. I am still waiting for the check from McDonalds but it appears we made around \$500.00. Not bad for 2 hours of work. I want to thank all of the parents, teachers and family members who attended our first dine in event.