

Dear Families,

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

This was the prayer of the Pilgrims, and we will echo that exclamation here at Holy Spirit School in November. We thank God for the saints who are honored this month, models of service, sacrifice and reverence for us all, especially our children. In class, we will discuss many of their lives. We thank God for the goodness of our families who through your service, sacrifice and prayers support all we do here at school. There are organizations who gather us to work effectively in support of the faith formation and education we provide to our students – PSA, school board, parish council, fundraising groups. We thank them for their time, dedication and effort. We thank our pastor, Father O’Brien, for his kind stewardship, prayerful guidance, and supportive presence that is so apparent every day. We are grateful to our teachers, staff, secretaries who bring our classrooms and offices alive every day to serve our children and families with such enthusiasm and skill.

As we thank the people who make up the fabric of our school community, we realize that we are blessed and brought together as a school community by the Holy Spirit, who is our sponsor. We could not accomplish all that occurs during the year here at Holy Spirit School without the “wind beneath our wings” that the Holy Spirit provides. So, praise God from whom all blessings flow this month of November, and let’s be mindful of the joy and blessing of each other. Let’s appreciate the days we have together raising our children together in God’s house.

God bless,

Roger Rooney
Principal

**SPECIAL FRIDAY MORNING
PRAYER SERVICES AT 8:10 A.M.
AND SCHOOL LITURGIES AT 9 A.M**

We extend a special invitation to all parents to join with our Holy Spirit School Community every Friday morning at 8:10 unless we have a Liturgy at 9 AM. Each week a different Grade leads the Prayer Service (We have included which grade is doing the Prayer Service each week on the monthly calendar.)

Also first Fridays and holy days we attend Mass at 9 AM in church. Various classes take a turn preparing the Liturgy.

We hope you can join us for these religious experiences. It means so much to the children to have their parents present.

School Safety

As you know, school staff, and parents work as a team to insure the safety of all of our students. In order to ensure building security and the safety of all of our students we will follow common safety practices in schools today by implementing the following practices starting on the first day of school:

- Please drive slowly when entering the school drive-way and make a full stop at the stop sign.
- Please stop your car in a parking spot in the parking lot area BEFORE your child leaves your car to enter the building.

- The only door that will be opened at 7:25 is the Main Entrance. Students are to remain in the front lobby until they are told to enter the gym area.
- 7:50 AM students will report to their classrooms and all parents and visitors will leave the building.
- All exit doors will be locked and the security system will be activated.
- Parents and visitors coming to the building during the regular school day will enter by the main entrance by ringing the bell and signing in and receiving a badge from the secretary's office.
- **Dismissal** – **At this time** dismissal procedures will remain the same as last year. Special reminder: Parents, please insist that your children remain with you once they are dismissed. They should not be running around the grounds or parking lot.

TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

Thank you for your continued support with the Tools for Schools Program! We have earned 18452 tape value points so far. It is not too late to help our school! If you have not sent in your AdvantEdge card number please send it in as soon as possible. Please send it **Attention: Mrs. Raven**. Thank you!

Help Us Save Campbell Soup Labels & General Mills Cereal Box Tops

Let's keep collecting and see if we can increase the number of box tops and labels!!!

School Information

Report Cards will be distributed to the students on Friday, November 13th. Parent conferences will be scheduled during the month of November and especially on November 20th. Your child's teacher will contact you about a conference time.

Also, it is our obligation to remind you that it is our School Board's policy that tuition payments, fundraising bills and/or any other school-related bills must be current before report cards can be given out.

THE EMERGENCY GO HOME DRILL HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 10th AT 2:20. ALL CHILDREN IN DAY CARE AND PRE-K MUST BE PICKED UP BY 2:00. GRADES K-8 WILL BE DISMISSED AT 2:25. ALL STUDENTS MUST BE ON THEIR BUS OR PICKED UP AT THAT TIME AS THE WHOLE BUILDING MUST BE EVACUATED FOR THIS PRACTICE EMERGENCY DRILL. THERE WILL BE NO AFTERCARE.

Yearbook Announcement

7th or 8th Grade Students interested in joining the Yearbook Committee to create the 2009-2010 Yearbook, please see Mrs. Leverone. Meetings will be held on Friday afternoons. The schedule is yet to be determined.

The Yearbook Committee is now accepting pictures for inclusion in this year's book. E-mail photos to HSSYearbook@nycap.rr.com or drop a

CD in the office for the Yearbook Committee. All digital pictures must be **at least** 500kb to be included in print.

Newsletter Update

This month is the first month that we have sent the newsletter by e-mail to the families that requested it. Please let the office know if you had any problems with the receipt of your newsletter. If you did not request the newsletter to be sent through e-mail and would like to have that done – please send a note to the office with your name and e-mail address.

Classroom News

DAY CARE THREE YEAR OLDS

The three's had a spooktacular October. We learned all about the letters C and D, the color orange, the number 3, the shape triangle, Fire safety and of course, Halloween! Firefighters came to visit us and we got to go on the fire truck! We learned about autumn and the falling leaves. We spent the month discussing our various costumes, and making decorations for our classroom. We had a great time at our Halloween parade and party. Thank you to all the parents for helping out, we could not have had such a wonderful time without you!

November will bring plenty of fun and Thanksgiving fun to the Three's! We will begin the month learning all about farms and farm animals! We will also learn all about Pilgrims, Native Americans, and Thanksgiving. We will learn what it means to be thankful, and talk about what we are each thankful for. In addition, the Three's will learn all about letters E,F and G, the number 4, the color brown and the shape square. We

cannot wait for all of the fun that November will bring!

DAY CARE FOUR YEAR OLDS

Our Halloween party and parade was tons of fun! We learned about fire safety during fire prevention week and enjoyed our gift bags and hats.

In November we will learn about Thanksgiving and the importance of friendship and family. We will exchange family recipes and create our holiday family cookbook!

Our letters of the month will be H,I,J. We will also introduce the numbers 1,2,3,4. The themes will be turkeys, pilgrims/American history, and animals/hibernation.

We will also create holiday placemats for the seniors at local nursing homes as a community service project. This has been a 4 year old classroom Thanksgiving tradition for many years.

Happy Birthday to:

Luke H. – November 12th

Jack B. – November 16th

Ms. Jenny – November 16th

Abbi R. – November 28th

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Nursery School jumped right into the Halloween spirit with 5 little pumpkins, glittery bats and fingerpainted ghosts. Black cats with color eyes and capital letter B's were colored. We had to follow lots of steps to put together a witch. We painted a spooky tree and glued Halloween "people" on it. Hickory Dickory Dock the mouse ran up the clock... and we colored capital letter C's. To get ready for a visit from the firemen, we colored a Dalmation Fire Dog and a capital letter D. We loved to see the firemen put on all their fire

clothes and we even shook his hand. We were not scared one bit. Our next adventure is a trip to Kristy's Barn and a great Halloween party.

Happy Birthday to:

Joscelyn N. – November 1st

Alexis S. – November 16th

Anthony M. – Nov. 24th

John D. – November 29th

PRE-K NEWS

Pre-K is already working very hard on “kindergarten quality” writing with pinchy fingers. Flying bees began letter B week – we “sploosh” painted butterflies, bears and bats.

Christopher Columbus helped us to learn about letter C – he had three ships, Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. Thank you to Kindergarten who sang the Columbus song to us. Cool chameleons with very long tongues and we made our very first storyboard of Big Pumpkin, we can retell the story with a very delicious ending. Dragonflys and dragons abounded the classroom. We also read our first book, If You Meet a Dragon. We had a great visit from the firemen. We practiced stop, drop and roll, fall and crawl, get out and stay out, 911 and each family should have a meeting place. At this writing, we will all visit Kristy's Barn and we cannot wait for the great Halloween party.

Happy Birthday to:

Ava Z. – November 3rd

Anna A. – November 11th

Zachary G. – November 28th

Liliana P. – November 29th

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This year, start sharing the Christmas Spirit early. Come into Pre-K and hang a pair of mittens, socks, a hat, or gloves on the tree. So when you find yourself shopping, please think of the community children who could use some warmth this season. Put yourself in the greatest Christmas Spirit of All, By knowing you made a difference. Dress a Tree, Dress a Child

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kindergarten began the month sailing the ocean blue with Columbus. The class sang about the ships he sailed and the New Lands he discovered. We ended the unit on Columbus by sharing a “New World” snack of food which originated in the Americas. (Corn, Potatoes and tomatoes)

Kindergarten has been batty about bats. The class has learned many interesting facts about bats. Did you know that bats are not blind, they see quite well. Little brown bats can eat 600 insects an hour. In China bats are a symbol of good luck.

They have also been eagerly awaiting HALLOWEEN. We have been counting down the days and sharing some great Halloween stories. Our favorite story is Big Pumpkin. The children love to retell this tale with puppets.

GRADE ONE NEWS

First grade has been busy this past month! We are working very hard on our reading and writing. We are also working very hard on learning our addition and subtraction facts. In math, we are looking forward to learning how to add three numbers and how to make fact families.

In reading we will be starting unit two titled *Communities*. In this unit, which is connected to our next social studies unit, we will be learning about different communities and the people who help in these communities. We will also learn about animal communities and how they work together to survive in the wild.

In science we are learning about living and non-living things. We are also learning what plants and animals need to survive. We are so excited to start studying different animals and their habitats.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our room parents for putting on our class Halloween party. We enjoyed the sweet treats and wonderful company.

I look forward to working on first quarter report cards and meeting with all of you on Parent Conference Day, November 20th!

Happy Birthday to:
Annie P.– November 13th

GRADE TWO NEWS

A special thanks to our room mothers for the wonderful Halloween party they organized. Thank you to all of our families for sending in the delicious treats!

The second graders are continuing to develop their reading and writing skills. They wrote wonderful

Halloween stories to share with their classmates. They are beginning to write their own books to share with special people in their lives later this month.

We are looking forward to a very memorable month in second grade! Many of the second graders will take part in the Junior Drama Club's production of "*Mr. Popper's Penguins*" on November 12th. We read the book aloud in class, and they are looking forward to showing everyone what they've learned about Antarctica and penguins. A special thanks to Mrs. Hayden and Mrs. Ferrara for preparing them and giving them the opportunity to perform.

On Friday, November 13th each of the second graders will be inviting a "Special Friend" into our classroom for the afternoon. We have many exciting things planned for our special guests!

The second graders will also be required to complete a Thanksgiving project with their family this month. Be sure to check the hallway outside our classroom to see the "prize winning turkeys!"

Happy Birthday to:
MacKenzie B. – November 12th

GRADE THREE NEWS

Mrs. Ferrara enjoyed the Holy Spirit School Faculty Retreat Day and also attended a Diocese sponsored math workshop to help realign our curriculum with NYS standards and new testing dates.

Thank you so much to our classroom coordinators for making our Halloween Party such fun! The students had a great time making crafts and eating treats. Also, thank you to Mrs. Morley for providing 3 caterpillars for us to

observe as they “metamorphed” into beautiful monarch butterflies.

November will be a very busy month starting with our second Book Report Day on November 4th and a Special Adirondack presentation by the Scotia Museum. We look forward to our first report card and parent conferences. Our Pilgrim Museum will be “open” for business on November 18th, and we will have a very special luncheon on the Monday before Thanksgiving.

We have welcomed our student teacher from the College of St. Rose. Miss Kelly will be with us until the middle of December. We hope she enjoys her Holy Spirit School experience!

Happy Birthday to:

Alex B. – November 20th

Michael P. – November 24th

GRADE FOUR NEWS

Fourth grade has been so busy! In Math we’re focusing on Ecosystems. In Social Studies, we are continuing to discuss Native Americans, and we will be moving into Europeans settling in New York.

We have begun some ELA test prep in writing and are working towards becoming great proofreaders!

May God bless your family as we move towards the holiday season!

Happy Birthday to:

Zachary D. – November 9th



GRADE FIVE NEWS

Grade five did a great job on their first major Science test and notebook. Bravo...

We have begun preparing for the New York State test. Be looking for DBQ essays to be completed at home.

In Reading, we are starting a new unit on Doing the Right Things. Our book report fro November will be Newberry Award winners.

Thank you to Mrs. Yaghy for planning our Halloween Party. Thanks to all the parents who brought in things and helped out with the party.

Happy Birthday to:

Jillian F. – November 2nd

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

From Mrs. Voellm

Middle School Math

Middle School had a great time at Zero Gravity playing Laser Tag on Friday Oct 30th. Each group got the chance to play 3 games of tag. A special thanks to all of our drivers. We look forward to seeing all of our parents at conferences on Nov 20th

Math 6 - Students will be working with fractions with unlike denominators (adding/ subtracting) as well as multiplying and dividing. They will represent fractions as terminating or repeating decimals.

Adv Math 6 and Math7 - Students will be adding and subtracting monomials with exponents of one. They will identify a polynomial as an algebraic expression containing one or more terms. Students will then move on to solve multi-step equations by combining like term, using the

distributive property or moving variable to one side of the equation.

Math8 - Students will calculate distance using a map scale, calculate unit price using proportions and compare unit prices. They will then solve equations/proportions to convert to equivalent measurements within metric and customary measurement systems

Happy Birthday to:
Guiliana V. – November 16th

From Mrs. Stone
Writing/Grammar 8

Eighth grade writing students have been working on vocabulary from a Greek and Latin bank of roots, prefixes, and suffixes.

Each week we also work on our analysis and response writing, which involves reading an important news article and seriously considering its ramifications.

We are beginning a writing journal that will include poetry, prose, and fiction. It is a project that will take the entire year to complete.

From Mrs. Kennedy
Middle School Language Arts

Thank you to all of those who attended the Applebee's pancake fundraiser! The students enjoyed serving their family and friends from Holy Spirit School, and despite being very busy, they were also able to enjoy the delicious pancakes. The morning was a success!

Literature 8 - The students in both classes are reading novels. The students are thoroughly enjoying reading about Philip Malloy, a "typical" ninth grade student who gets himself into a lot of trouble by not telling the truth, from the novel *Nothing but the Truth*. The

other class is beginning the novel *Animal Farm*, a noteworthy political satire that will certainly encourage critical thinking.

Literature 7 - Both classes are also continuing their journeys with novels. In one class, we are reading *Tuck Everlasting*, and we are enjoying every minute of it. The students are wonderful at predicting what will happen next. In the other class, we are reading *The Outsiders* with its captivating characters and plot. We even held a mock trial in class, which explored whether one of the characters was guilty of murder. There are definitely some future attorneys at Holy Spirit School!

Advanced Literature 6 - We have begun reading *The View from Saturday*, which is the story of four sixth grade friends who compete on an academic bowl team. Although they are all different, they all come together for a common benevolent goal. It is a touching story that I hope inspires the students.

Happy Birthday to:
Emily L.- November 8th
Kevin B.- November 17th
Phyllis R.- November 23rd

From Mrs. Wilt
Middle School Science

In Earth Science, students just completed a unit about topographic and geologic mapping. They are now learning about plate tectonics and the boundaries between the continental plates, and have especially enjoyed using candy bars to model the movements of the Earth's crust.

In Life Science, the students finished a unit on the structure of the cell. The students wrote wonderful children's books about cells and the

functions of all of their internal organelles. They are now learning about the internal processes of cells, including diffusion, osmosis, passive and active transport, and metabolism. The students loved studying diffusion with the Gummi Bear lab!

In Physical Science, we completed our unit on the periodic table and bonding, and are now moving on to discuss the states of matter and changes between the states of matter. The students are very excited to experiment with “Oobleck” during this unit, which is a fun substance that demonstrates properties of both solids and liquids.

From Mrs. Valley
Middle School Advanced Science and Algebra

In Algebra this month we completed the end of Chapter 1 and all of Chapter 2. We have been charging up brain cells that help us add and subtract, multiply and divide both positive and negative real numbers. What is a real number you say? Just ask one of our students! (They are just all too ready to find out what imaginary numbers are. We will keep it “real” for now!) We also revisited the properties of real numbers, and discovered how we put these properties to use simplifying expressions. We ended Chapter 2 with an introduction to probability. Dice were rolling, coins were flipping, and we had a great time understanding the basic definitions and vocabulary for probability.

In Earth Science we wrapped up Topic 2 on “Graphing Changes in the Environment”, and have just completed Topic 3 on “The Size and Shape of the Earth”. This topic focused on the history of the first calculation of earth’s

circumference, (you will never guess how long ago that was!), what evidence we have that the earth is round, how spherical and smooth the earth is, and how we map locations on the earth. Please ask a student what an oblate spheroid is – they would enjoy explaining this! In November we will begin a month long topic on astronomy. Hope we have nice clear evenings – take a look to the find the North Star together!

From Mrs. Giabanis
Middle School Social Studies and Literature 6

Literature 6 just finished our first novel of the year, The Cay. Students are learning about the different characters and showing their understanding through class discussion, concept projects, and readers journal entries.

Social Studies 6- We are finishing up our studies on The Fertile Crescent. Currently, we are focusing on Hammurabi’s Code and the first set of written laws among other things. The students are continuing to bring their wonderful energy and love of history to class each day!

In Social Studies we are learning about colonialism. We have covered Jamestown, the New England Colonies, Middle Colonies, and Southern Colonies. Students are enjoying studying how our modern day states along the Atlantic coast got their “start”. Some students have even been sharing personal resources from their family trips to Jamestown!!!

Social Studies 8 is currently looking at Native American groups (particularly the Sioux and the Nez Perce) in the western United States and how they were affected by settlers

and the transcontinental railroad. We are looking at how they were treated by the Federal Government in the late 1800's. We are

Happy Birthday to:
Ethan D. – November 26th

From Mrs. Colangione
Middle School Spanish

Students in grade 6 are finishing their unit of study on numbers. They are starting a new unit on the geography and culture of Spain and Mexico. This unit should prove to be challenging fun, and very informative. While learning new vocabulary, grammar structure, and studying each unit, the grade 6 students continue to build their confidence and knowledge for both verbal and written material. Keep up the good work!

Grade 7 students are finishing their study of the family unit. In this unit, they have also been learning how to use reflexive verbs properly, coinciding with basic “English” grammar concepts. The students have been working on their writing and verbal skills by creating letters and developing conversations using the new and previously learned vocabulary as well as the more challenging grammatical structures within the units of study. It is fun and exciting to be a part of the student’s positive learning. Keep up the good work!

The grade 8 students have been progressing well with their verbal and written communications. They are writing and speaking with more ease every week. The students practice doing conversations with their peers and their teacher and also practice writing letters and conversations on a regular basis. They are also presently working on a

shopping unit of study with much vocabulary that can be used on an everyday basis. In addition, the students continue to learn more advanced grammatical concepts which they incorporate in their verbal and written activities. The class is also looking forward to reading and enjoying the new Spanish magazine we will be receiving shortly. Keep up the good work!

From Mrs. Leverone
Middle School Religion

Thank you for donating food and personal items to our Fund Drive for the Little Sisters of the Poor! Sr. Frances, from the Little Sisters of the Poor in Latham, will be visiting our Middle School Religion Class on Nov. 5th. At this time we will present our donations to her. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to all who helped with our Family Liturgy! Together we make a great community!

Grade 6 During the month of October we learned about the lives of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and St. Francis of Assisi. We focused on God’s covenant and commitment as we read of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We were very excited when our first issue of Venture arrived. The students enjoyed acting out one of the skits. They enjoyed their first lesson with Mrs. Appleby and look forward to continuing the Second Step Program. Grade 6 will be hosting prayer service on **Friday, Nov. 13.**

Grade 7 hosted their first Friday Morning Prayer Service on Oct. 23! They did a great job. They really enjoyed sharing a dramatic skit from Sunday’s gospel. We had our first lesson with Mrs. Appleby and look forward to continuing the program with her over the next few months. The month of October

took us to the Jordan River and the Baptism of Jesus; we journeyed back in time as they shared memories of their own baptism; and we shared the Gospel with our Visions Weekly Newsletter.

Grade 8 is doing a great job representing themselves as leaders in our school community! They are enjoying being reading buddies with our Kindergarten Class. They studied the life of Jeanne Jugan, one of our newly canonized saints and foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor. They helped organize the Fund drive and made presentations to the other classes. They also studied the lives of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Therese of the Child Jesus. They studied the Mysteries of the Rosary and used scripture to pray the Rosary. On **Monday, Nov. 30th** they will be hosting an Advent Prayer Service in the gym.

A Few November Saints to Remember:

1st-All Saints

2nd-All Souls

3rd-St. Martin De Porres

10th-St. Leo the Great

22nd-St Cecilia (Patron Saint of Musicians)

ART NEWS

Pre-K made a cute little green mummy. We glued lots of crepe paper strips to his body and added two scary eyes.

Kindergarten children dressed as a colony of bats today. We put on little bat ears and garbage bag wings to flap and swoop through the halls and, of course, outside too.

Grade One Halloween Dracula kits were made from construction paper crayons and crepe paper streamers. These were fun to run with outdoors.

Grade Two students made a Mr. Bones from strips of white paper. You can see our skeletons juggling pumpkins in the front lobby of the school.

Grade Three children are working on a Christmas card contest hosted by the Catholic Schools Office. Wish us luck! Our topic is "We are so thankful." We have chosen a drawing of some children at the Christ child's manger.

Grade Four has begun stories of bravery and helpfulness that will be drawn in Indian picture language on the front of our Indian ghost shirts. The shirts are cut from paper bags and the decorations will be in oil pastels.

Grade Five students are painting a zebra in the complimentary colors. The zebra's head has been traced in heavy crayon to make it easier to paint.

Grade Six students are finishing up Cave Art drawings. These mammals are drawn on to paper bags (rock wall) and traced over with sticks from the backyard and black paint. We will accent these painting with craypas.

Grade Seven has just completed our calacas for the Day of the Dead. These dancing skeletons have been drawn on light cardboard and jointed at the arms and legs with metal clasps. Look for us in the Lobby.

Grade Eight students are working on tessellations in the style of M.C. Escher. These repeating figures colored in marker and crayon are both clever and colorful.

LIBRARY NEWS

Kindergarten kids are reading Halloween books for a treat
First graders think playing fiction & nonfiction bingo is neat!

Deciding which books are fact and
which ones are fiction—
They look at the covers and to the
contents they listen.

This month in grades two and
three we've been learning a lot
About fiction books and
the call numbers they've got
We sang a song to help us remember
We'll continue to work on library
organization through November

Grades four & five have been
reviewing book parts
locating and using the index in non-
fiction to start
research skills we will visit again
to prepare for the middle school research
that is ahead.

Eighth grade students have been
having research fun
With practice papers on school year
length for everyone
Learning about the resources available to
them
And how to summarize and cite them.

Grades six and seven are reading
fiction books
And submitting a reading log weekly
To help us remember the details
completely
So that the students will be prepared to
“sell the book” to their class
In a project that will culminate in book
talks
At last!

My Teddy Bear Friends, last but
not least
Are an absolute delight each week!
We're reading through the alphabet with
a sign for each letter
To help us learn and remember them
better!

Keep up the great work and keep
reading!

MUSIC NEWS

Our **Kindergarten and First Grade** classes have begun learning the songs for our Christmas pageant. Some of the songs are rather challenging. We are learning them a little at a time. The First Graders have been an enormous help to our Kindergarteners. We are also singing Halloween songs.

The **Second Grade** class has started working on our Christmas mini-musical. This class has very enthusiastic singers. We will also be singing fall-themed songs, especially in the weeks leading to Thanksgiving.

The **Third Grade** class has begun a recorder song we hope to play at the concert. They are doing great! We are also singing all our songs for the mini-musical.

The **Fourth Grade** class is also rehearsing a recorder piece for the concert. The students are doing a great job of remembering their recorder techniques from last year. They are also beginning to learn the songs to sing at the concert.

The **Fifth Grade** class just had a great week of try-outs for parts in the mini-musical. So many students came to the front of the class to read and sing for us. They all did a fantastic job. As we get closer to the time of the concert, you will receive a letter if your child needs something special to wear.

The **Sixth Grade** class is enjoying playing percussive rhythms. We will even use classroom objects such as staplers to play our music. We have had a lot of fun with this.

The **Seventh Grade** class is completing a unit on music in the Middle Ages. We have just reached the end of the Middle Ages and are nearing

the Renaissance. We have also been singing songs in two and three parts.

The **Eighth Grade** class has been working on percussive rhythms, and we are also singing several songs in two parts.

If your child is in our Handbell Choir, please note that our rehearsals are extremely important, and your child needs to attend each one. Thank you!

Physical and Wellness **Education**

This month the students have been very active in physical education class. We have been increasing student's flexibility by introducing new methods of stretching. We have also started each class in every grade level with a nice four to six minute warm up jog. We have also been using the student's own body weight as resistance to build muscle and improve the student's motor skills. I have been encouraging the students to perform these exercises at home rather than staring at a computer monitor or a television screen. If you see your child exercising, be positive and encourage them to be active and stay healthy.

In class we have been discussing the role the skeletal system, the nervous system, the muscular system and the cardiovascular system have in physical education. These systems are developing in the student's everyday and through physical education class the student will increase the potential of all these systems. One of my goals this school year is to help the student become as physically fit as possible and providing the students with the education about how these systems are effected through physical movement will encourage the students to learn how

important fitness is and why they are exercising.

I want to thank all of the families who have been supporting our student athletes this school year. Holy Spirit's sports programs have parental support that is truly second to none. Thank you to parents of all of the soccer players and of our basketball players, without you we could not do it. Have a great month and I will see you around school.

SPANISH NEWS

The Kindergarten students have been adjusting very well to our routine and warm-up activities, practicing colors, numbers and sing-a-songs. We are continuing with the Brown Bear book "Oso Café". We learn one animal every class and practice the words. Keep up the good work!

Grade One children did a great job with classroom items. We practiced the words with worksheets to reinforce the lesson. We started with the Polar Bear book in Spanish "Oso Polar". The students will learn more about animals and practice pronunciation of the words. Keep up the good work!

Grade Two and Three students have finished the units of months and seasons of the year. Students are working with classroom objects, vocabulary words, crossword puzzles, word searches and worksheets to reinforce the lesson. Keep up the good work!

Grade Four and Five students have been working with units 3 and 4, classroom commands and numbers, practicing vocabulary words, pronunciation skills and exercises in the book. We are continuing counting by 10's. The students did a nice job with numbers.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

KINDERGARTEN – GRADE EIGHT have been learning the keyboard and practicing their typing skills. The first ten minutes of each class are devoted to typing.

Kindergarten – Grade 2 are using the *Type2Learn CD*. Grade 3 – 8 are accessing the website <http://school.learn2type.com/>. They each have their own user name and password. They can access this website anywhere there is internet service. I will receive a report of their progress.

KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 2 are having a wonderful time accessing Halloween websites. They are also using the graphics program, KIDPIX to create Halloween pictures.

GRADE 3 has been working on the Interactive Website <http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/interactives/class.html>. On this website they are categorizing different plants and animals. This enhances their study of plants and animals in the Third Grade Curriculum.

GRADE 4 has been using the Smart Board to learn about Microsoft Word. They are learning the function of the various icons on Microsoft Word. They have fun moving the icons around on the Interactive Smart Board.

GRADE 5 created a WIKI about their Favorite Vacation. A wiki is a database of pages which visitors can edit live. They each wrote about their favorite vacation and then they were peer edited using the interactive wiki.

GRADE 6 has been learning how to use the various drawing tools of Microsoft Power Point 2007. They must copy the pictures exactly. They are

drawing shapes while using the various tools on Power Point 2007.

GRADE 7 has been learning how to use Power Point 2007 by creating a slide show about things that happened the day they were born. They are including news items, TV shows, hit songs, headlines etc.

GRADE 8 has been using Microsoft Publisher to create a website for Holy Spirit School. They are including a calendar page, sports page, current events and faculty page. These websites will be reviewed and might be integrated into our current Holy Spirit website, <http://www.holyspiritschooleg.com>.

PARENT/SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Please mark your calendar for the following events:

- **Monday November 2: PSA meeting , 6:45 PM in the School Library**
- **Saturday November 14th: 5K Race**
- **Friday December 4th: Holiday Shop**

K ART Program and 5 K Race

The health and wellness of every child at Holy Spirit School is extremely important to us! All of the KART committee members strongly encourage every student to participate in the KART program. If you signed up for the after school program, you are automatically registered for the race on **Saturday, November 14th** and all students who participate in the race, whether involved in the after school program or not, will receive a t-shirt and out-of-uniform day sometime after the race as long as you are registered.

For those of you who are not coming to KART after school, there are registration forms in the school office, the library, and with Mr. Groff in the gym. So everyone, please pick up a race registration form, if you do not already have one, and come run in the race on November 14th! The cost for registration is \$20.00 (student rate) for the 5K race and \$10.00 for the 1 mile Fun Run.

You all should have received running logs, so be sure to log your miles and get your friends and family to donate money for every mile you run. This will help Holy Spirit School, our Athletic Department, and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. "Children helping others while helping themselves."

The class with the most participation in KART and the class that raises the most money will win a pizza party with bouncy bounce in the gym with Mr. Groff one day after school once the race is over.

So everyone get involved, get healthy, and we hope to see you at the race!

Second Annual Holiday Shop

On Friday **December 4th** the PSA will be sponsoring our Second Annual Holiday Shop for grades K-5. The children will have an opportunity to go shopping and all proceeds will be donated to "Catholic Charities" in Columbia County and "Concerns-U" in Rensselaer County. **If you would like to make a donation or receive additional information please contact Ruth P. at 286-3122 or rpiperata@hotmail.com.**

Family Liturgy and Ziti Dinner

Our annual Family Liturgy and Ziti Dinner was a great success.

Everyone enjoyed the special video created by the Piddocks . The video highlighted our students, faculty, staff, and everything else that makes our school so special – **Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Piddock!** This event would not have been possible if it were not for all of the people who volunteered their time and efforts. We would like to thank all those who helped with the invitations, decorations and set up and clean up. A special thank you to all who helped prepare and serve the dinner and to **Lauren C., Louis D., Joe M., Michael S., Bill R. and Phyllis D. for all of their work in the kitchen.** **We would also like to thank Connie S. for providing the beautiful flowers for the table centerpieces.** We greatly appreciate the time you gave to this special event.

A special thanks goes to **Kelly L.**, for planning the Liturgy and for coordinating the music - The Choir and Grades K, 1 and 2 sang beautifully! Many thanks also to Father O'Brien for celebrating our Family Liturgy.

Fall Fundraiser

The Fall Fundraiser Raffle drawing was held at the Dinner and the winners are as follows:

1 st Prize	\$1000.00	- The Lopez Family
2 nd Prize	\$500.00	- J. Lamson
3 rd Prize	\$250.00	- The Parascandolas
4 th Prize	\$100.00	- P. Duncan

Overall the Fall Fundraiser was a big success! The proceeds from the

fundraiser help to support our school. A special thank you goes to **Jenn Y.** and **Patty E.** who coordinated the Fall Fundraiser. Congratulations on a job well done!

Movie Night

Holy Spirit School PSA Committee held their first Family Movie Night on October 9th. It was a wonderful evening with over 40 students and parents attending "Monsters vs. Aliens". The PSA would also like to send out a special thank you to **Mr. and Mrs. Chouinard** for donating the popcorn machine, **Dan and Jackson M.** for donating tattoos and stickers, **Mr. Dave** for setting up the movie and **Mrs. Delmerico** for helping with the concession stand. Again thank you to all who attended and helped to make Family Movie night a fun evening.

Genevieve Catalogue Fundraiser

Thank you to all who participated in the Genevieve's Catalogue Sale. The proceeds from this sale go directly to the teacher and staff appreciation luncheon/dinner. All excess funds not spent on the luncheon/dinner are given to the teachers as a Christmas Bonus. If you did not participate in the catalogue sale but would like to contribute to our great teachers and staff you may make a monetary donation. **Please send any donations to the school office, attention Libby R.**

Lunch Program

Please remember to utilize our school lunch program through **Mary Lou Chestera**. The program needs your support in order to be successful. The lunches are nutritious and a variety of sandwiches are offered at a great price.

Please consider ordering lunch for your children through this program. **On behalf of all of the Parent School Association we would like to thank Mary Lou for her hard work, dedication and support of our school and our children.**

School Banking

Please remember school banking is every Thursday. The drop box is located in the school lobby. If you wish to open a new account for your child please contact **Heidi F. or Mrs. Ritz**

Roller Skating

The Parent School Association would like to thank **Karen W.** for running the concession stand at the Roller Skating Party on Thursday October 15th. Thank you for volunteering your time!

Next Meeting

The next **PSA Meeting** will be **Monday, November 2nd at 6:45 PM** in the Library. All parents are invited. If you have any questions please call Patti P. at 479-3016.



*Wishing you and your loved ones
a Happy Thanksgiving!!*

