

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! What a beautiful December we shared with our students, your children. Advent, St. Nicholas Day, A Christmas Carol, concerts and the Christmas Pageant, art and decorations, prayer, Mass, and the classroom celebrations. Basketball began its season too. We thank all the staff who worked with the students, and we express gratitude to all families and volunteers who helped with any aspect of this month of special moments.

We thank Dan Murphy for the opportunity this month to have our fifth grade students give the questions on the Channel 4 TV show, Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students and the school. Also, we are grateful to the Evangelist newspaper for the full page story in December on Holy Spirit.

In January, we take a moment to thank all school volunteers. If you watch over the children at recess, help at the library, assist with extra curricular activities, add your effort to classroom work or celebrations, work actively in PSA – the list at Holy Spirit goes on and on. That’s what makes the school a community. That distinguishes our school as vital and full of activity. It could not happen without you.

The move of state testing in English Language Arts to the spring will make January a more consistent month of instruction. Teachers appreciate the block of regularity in the months ahead, time they will use well to boost the achievement of our students. Thanks to families for making the consistency of completing homework assignments and study so much a characteristic of our school. This is so essential to students doing well. Research has proven this time and again.

We wish our Future Cities Team well this month. On January 16th, they will travel to their competition with other schools in the Capital region to present their vision of a city of the future replete with the innovations and positive characteristics that we would hope for in any environment of the years to come. Rehearsals for Alice In Wonderland begin this month. Holy Spirit School musical productions have been great – a tradition that Alice will not break.

Stay warm this winter month. Stay close to your school. You are always welcome.

Please note the prayers below written by the sixth grade science class of Krystal Wilt. We say these in the morning sometimes as a whole school.

“O Mighty God, you give us everything we need to live a long and happy life. Come and take away sin.” – Tommy M.

“O Father of the Messiah, you sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary and she learned the good news. You guided her to shelter when the inns were full. There she gave birth to the Son of Man. Come to us Lord, and fill us with the Holy Spirit.” - Brevin F.

“O Lord of Kindness, you keep me safe and keep me from sin. Teach me right from wrong, and yes from no. Teach me how to be loving, caring. Let me demonstrate kindness. Come and free us from sin.” - Jacob P.

“O Holy Lord, you do so much to me. I love you. Thank you for everything you provide for me. I know you are my Savior. Help me to show respect that you have shown for everyone.” – Danny Y.

“O Lord God, you gave us life. You kept your promises to Abraham and Noah. You give only good things. Come

and help us with our everyday needs.” – Stryker R.

“O King of Kings, you died for us and gave us life. You reached out with a loving hand of hope. Come, help us to be able to give our own hand to the hopeless.” - Christian E.

“O Lord God, you sent us Jesus, the Messiah, and sacrificed Him for our benefit. Help us sacrifice things for others.” - Jessica P.

FUTURE CITY 2009 COMPETITION

The Capital District Region Future City Competition will be held on January 16, 2009 at the **McDonough Field House at Hudson Valley Community College**. The competition starts at 8:00AM and ends when the finalists are announced about 3:00PM

Future City is a competition for middle school students to explore their creative and innovative imaginations to design a city of the future. Our students learned how to apply math, science, engineering and technology to develop a realistic future community and compete for regional prizes, including a trip to Washington, DC to compete in the National Competition. This is the sixth year that Holy Spirit School has participated in this event. Come to lend your support to our Future City Team.

Our Team Members are: **Phyliss R., Roan F., Carianna V., Sydney W., Kaitlin M.y, Cullen U., Reid L., and Brevin F.**

BOOK FAIR POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations! We are very proud of you!

K-3 Winners:

First Place: Eli T.

Second Place: Julia B.

Third Place: Brianna H.

Gr. 4-8 Winners:

First Place: Jake E.

Second Place: Christian E.

Third Place: Casey B.

SKI CLUB

This year Holy Spirit is working with the Schenectady Ski School at Maple Ski Ridge. Lessons begin January 5th-8th, all lessons are 1 hour in length. 1st & 2nd year lessons are held at 4:30pm; 3rd year and above lessons are at 5:30pm. The \$120 price includes the 1 hour lesson and a twilight area use ticket (3pm-9pm) for six weeks. Lessons are available Tues - Friday nights. Ski rentals are \$10/week, snowboard rentals are \$15/week. Rentals must be fitted during the Christmas break at the Maple Ski Ridge Rental Shop. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Annie Geiger at 477-1151 or ageiger1@nycap.rr.com.

NURSERY/PRE-K THANK YOU

Thank you to all the Nursery and Pre-K families and to all Holy Spirit School families for their donations to our hat and mitten tree. We collected over 100 hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks to send to Concerns-U. What a very special Christmas – you have given to so many!

Love – Mrs. Williams
and Mrs. Farnan

SPECIAL PARKING LOT SAFETY NOTICE

When dropping off your child in the morning, please pull into a regular parking spot (in the parking lot next to the building) before allowing your child

to vacate your car. If you do not have enough time to walk your child into school, please alert them to be careful of the other cars.

Please do not drop them off in the “No Parking” area in the road in front of school. If you do not find a parking spot next to the building, please park your car in the parking lot across the street and walk your child to the school entrance.

We have been having some near accidents lately in the parking lot. If we all follow the above rules, hopefully, we can avoid an accident.

ALUMNI NEWS

Brittany C., a 2008 graduate had a first quarter average in her sophomore year at Loudonville Christian School of 100.3%, including 100% average in Spanish 3. She thanks all her Holy Spirit teachers. Brittany recently completed Beauty and the Beast drama at school.

Nicholas D., a 2006 graduate, went on to attend high school at CBA where he has maintained 1st honors throughout school. He has achieved the rank of Major and Commander of Honor Company. Nick played football and lacrosse all 4 years of high school. He is a member of the Honor Society since grade 10 and won the American Legion award for Leadership. Nick attended Boys State during the summer of 2009.



LOOK WHAT WE ARE DOING WHEN WE ARE NOT AT SCHOOL.....

KINDERGARTEN

Emma D. takes dance class.

Jordan G. plays soccer, hockey, piano and takes gymnastics.

Emma H. takes tap, ballet and jazz lessons at Isabelle’s School of Dance. She plays soccer and is a level III swimmer at the YMCA.

Alena H. participates in gymnastics.

Amelia K. takes tap dancing lessons at Faxon School of Dance, participates in the St. James Children Choir, and is in the Daisy Scouts.

Gabriella P. takes dance lessons.

Lauren P. plays under 6 youth soccer and participated in the KART program for Holy Spirit.

Nicholas S. participates in Tae Kwon Do at The Kinderhook Martial Arts and Fitness. He recently earned his Junior Yellow Belt.

GRADE ONE

Baltazar D. obtained his green belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Michael F. played flag football this fall and is currently on the East Greenbush Travel Soccer Team for U 8. He also plays basketball for East Greenbush.

Hannah K. played “Greta the Penguin” in Mr. Popper’s Penguins (Holy Spirit Junior Drama Club production). She enjoys gymnastics, swimming lessons, and learning how to speak Italian.

Makayla M. participated in the KART program, plays soccer and is in her second year of Daisies.

Joseph P. has been playing soccer for 2 years and bowling for 1 year.

Jack U.r plays East Greenbush Castleton Little League and soccer.

GRADE TWO

Julia B. is in her first year of Holy Spirit School hand bells, third year of dance at Robin's Dance Academy, and first year of Brownies. Julia plays East Greenbush funball and participates in drama club.

Mackenzie B. is a high purple belt in Tae Kwon Do. In November Mackenzie competed in the 2009 Capital District Tae Kwon Do Tournament and received a first place trophy. She also participates in Holy Spirit drama.

Ryan D. plays soccer and received his First Reconciliation.

Haley E. is a member of Girl Scout troop 1286 and likes to make jewelry at home. She was a cast member of Mr. Popper's Penguins and has been taking dance lessons at Robins since she was three. Hale also plays soccer.

Colby F. is working towards obtaining his red belt in Tae Kwon Do. Colby won 2nd place in creative wood breaking in the Northeast Open.

Brianna H. spends time enjoying gymnastics.

Paul H. is a member of the Cathedral of all Saints Choir of Men and Boys. He also is on the All Star baseball team in Northern Columbia county.

Jaden H. has danced since she was 2 years old and now takes ballet, tap, and hip hop classes. She has done competition cheerleading and pop warner cheerleading for three years and loves tumbling. She won the "Best Tumbler" award for her pop warner team at this year's fall awards banquet. Jaden

has taken tennis lessons every summer since she was 1 ½ years old. She can't wait to play on the team for Holy Spirit.

Sarah I. is taking dance class for the second year. She loves it and performed in a dance recital at the EGG! She enjoyed being in the Christmas Choir at our parish. She had fun as a KART member this year as well.

Kimberly J. participates in Hip Hop dance class lessons at Dance Dimensions in Albany. She enjoys dancing to various types of music. She attends Girl Scouts and she is also a member of the Holy Spirit Grade 3 / 4 Basketball team.

Emily V. is a member of Brownies. She takes tap and jazz lessons at Isabelle's School of Dance in Schodack and is a member of the Holy Spirit Garden club. Emily was a cast member of Mr. Popper's Penguins and a member of the beginner hand bell choir. Emily is looking forward to participating in Mrs. P's basketball camp in the spring.

GRADE THREE

Allison B. attends a Tap/Jazz class at The Isabelle School of Dance. She also enjoys playing basketball for Holy Spirit School.

Sebastian G. enjoys skiing. He also plays the following sports: Ice Hockey, Baseball, Lacrosse and Basketball. Sebastian is learning to play the piano, too.

Grace H. plays Greenbush travel soccer, East Greenbush travel basketball, and the piano. Grace also plays basketball at Holy Spirit and is in the hand bell choir.

Sarah L. is a member of the Sacred Heart Children's Choir and also the Holy Spirit School Choir. She plays Greenbush Soccer and CYO Basketball.

Sarah is also a member of the Drama Club.

Michael P. plays for East Greenbush Castleton Little League and for the Holy Spirit 3rd/4th grade basketball team. He participated in the fall KART program for Holy Spirit.

Michael James R. plays East Greenbush Castleton Little League baseball, Greenbush soccer, Columbia Youth Lacrosse, and basketball for Holy Spirit. Michael also takes part in ski club.

Abby U. is a Brownie, takes gymnastics and plays piano. Abby is also a member of the 3rd/4th grade basketball team.

GRADE FOUR

Casey B. participates in drama club, Girl Scouts, and East Greenbush Funball. She is a Holy Spirit Parish altar server. Casey is in her second year of Holy Spirit basketball and her sixth year of dance at Robin's Dance Academy.

Zachary D. plays on the 3rd/4th grade boys' basketball team.

Allison G. takes hip hop dance at Isabelle's School of Dance and participated in the KART program at Holy Spirit. Allison plays soccer and plays basketball at Holy Spirit and in Syracuse.

Alexandra M. is a Girl Scout and plays basketball. She participates in dance, drama club and the KART program.

Lilia P. is a member of Girl Scout Troop 1720. She participates in the baking club, oil painting club, hand bell choir, and the band (drums). Lilia plays the piano, soccer, and funball and was in the production of A Christmas Carol.

Ruth P. has enjoyed playing basketball for Holy Spirit for 2 years.

Cora R. plays basketball and softball, and also participates in dance, hand bells, and drama club.

Billy R. is a Webelo I in Cub Scouts where he earned the Light of Christ Award. He was a cast member in A Christmas Carol and plays the hand bells and the snare drum.

Katie S. is a Girl Scout and is a member of Holy Spirit's Junior Drama Club. She participated in KART and enjoys skiing and snowboarding. Katie also plays basketball for Holy Spirit.

GRADE FIVE

Tucker B. sings in the Men and Boys' choir at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany. The choir was established in 1872 and is the oldest continuously performing choir of Its kind in the U.S. The past two summers Tucker has attended the Royal School of Church Music's Training Course in Montreal. In February of 2011 he is scheduled to perform in Italy with the choir.

Becca L. is a member of the Sacred Heart Choir and also the Holy Spirit School. She also is a member of the Drama Club.

Julia M. is a member of the Holy Spirit 5th grade basketball team. She also takes hip hop dance at Isabelle's School of Dance.

Laura R. plays piano and hand bells and sings in the choir. Laura also plays basketball and softball and takes oil painting.

Cameron S. plays basketball and lacrosse, and he has his black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

GRADE SIX

Jacob P. is a member of the Holy Spirit 6th/7th boys' basketball team and the 6th grade boys' travel team for

East Greenbush. Jacob also plays Junior Pee Wee Pop Warner football and East Greenbush Youth Lacrosse. Jacob is an alter server at Holy Spirit Church.

GRADE SEVEN

Ethan D. received his black belt in Kokorokan Karate in June. He was an All Star for Twin Town Little League and was on the National League Majors Division Champions.

Jacob L. plays on the Holy Spirit School Soccer team and the 6th/7th Grade Basketball team. Jacob enjoys playing in the Twin Town Baseball League also.

GRADE EIGHT

Shayne B. plays basketball at Holy Spirit and is a member of the light crew for Drama Club and A Christmas Carol.

Zachary D. was the MVP for the Upper Northeast Region in the Pee Wee Reese Division in baseball. His baseball team came in 1st place in the Opening Day tournament in Aberdeen, MD in 2009. Between April and August 2009, Zack played in 70 baseball games, hit 50 homeruns, and had a .650 batting average.

