



December 6, 2018

Dear Parents,

Preparations for Christmas continue throughout the school. Last week, the eighth grade class sponsored Santa's Cottage. While this is a fund raiser for the eighth grade class, it is also an opportunity for all students to purchase Christmas gifts and treasures for family and friends. Hopefully the purchased gifts are still wrapped and will be a surprise on Christmas morning! Also last week, Holy Childhood families donated 350 toys to be distributed to local children and we made 704 sandwiches for the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Our total for the year is 2,762 sandwiches. What a blessing to those in need! The Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest entries are due on December 14. Voting will take place next weekend following all of the Masses. The band, choir and primary students have been practicing for the Christmas concert which is next Wednesday, December 12 beginning at 7:00 in the gym. Next Thursday, students in grades 3 thru 8 will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It has been a custom at Holy Childhood School that any parent/family who wishes to do so donates money that is given to our Pastor, Father Paul for birthday and Christmas gifts. If you would like to donate to this gift, would you please send it to school with your child in an envelope marked "Priest gift"? I know Father Paul does not expect anything, but is grateful for the gifts he receives.

We are registered as a nonprofit recipient for Amazon Smile. If you purchase from Amazon, please log onto Smile.Amazon.com and choose Holy Childhood Church as the nonprofit recipient. Amazon Smile donates one half of one percent of your purchase. Happy shopping!

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a coat drive. If you have gently used coats that no longer fit, would you donate them? Boxes are in school and in church. All donations will be taken to Cairo.

Last week I shared the total from this year's Dinner Auction. I did not include the Fund A Need in that total. Thank you to each person who helped in any way with the 2018 Dinner Auction. The Auction Committee reported that they netted \$78,000! Amazing!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Please mark your calendars adjusting the last day of school. Due to the snow day on November 15, our last day of school will be Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Empower Illinois Scholarship Information** – This past year, many parents applied for Empower Illinois Scholarships. Quite a few received scholarship money from the donations we received. The program is working on year two and sent the following information:

- Part one of the application will be available at [empowerillinois.org](http://empowerillinois.org) on **January 15, 2019 at 7 p.m.**
- The application is a two-part process
- Part one is a brief reservation form which will timestamp applications
- Schools and families will be notified when part two is available

Families can complete part two on empowerXchange and are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible. If you have questions, please contact me at 618-566-2922.

Blessings,

Claudia J. Dougherty, M.A., Ed.S.  
Principal

## **Calendar:**

Thursday, Dec. 6	HOPE Christmas Party 6:30 in the Cafeteria. Babysitting Available
Wednesday, Dec. 12	Christmas Concert 7:00
Thursday, Dec. 13	Out of Uniform – for \$1.00 donation students may wear Christmas shirt/sweater and jeans Reconciliation – Grades 3-8
Friday, Dec. 14	Spaghetti Dinner 4-7p.m. and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade night during basketball games
Thursday, Dec. 20	Feeding God's People sandwich making and Spirit Wear School Board Meeting
Friday, Dec. 21	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter Christmas vacation begins at 3:00
Monday, Jan. 7	Classes resume

Parents and staff,

Please join us in the HCS cafeteria on Thursday, Dec. 6th at 6:30 for dinner and fun at our annual H.O.P.E. Christmas party/December meeting. We will provide the main course, rolls, and drinks. Please bring a dessert, salad, or side to share. We will have a very short meeting followed by food, fun, and socialization. Babysitting will be provided, and we will have pizza for the kids.

Please RSVP to Shelby Brennan on Facebook or at [shlbybrennan@yahoo.com](mailto:shlbybrennan@yahoo.com) by December 1st so that we can plan accordingly.

In lieu of a gift for a gift exchange this year, we ask that you consider bringing a gift card for a HCS family in need. Eliot and Kim Deters are new to our school this year and have a daughter, Zoey, in our Pre-K program. Their baby daughter, Catherine, was born prematurely 2 months ago and just arrived home last week. She is doing well, but we would like to help the family as they face numerous medical bills and many more doctors appointments in the near future for Catherine. In order to support this family we are asking for donations of gift cards for gas, groceries or Target or Walmart to help them out at this time.

Purchasing gift cards in the office through our Scrip program would also benefit the school. If you cannot attend the Christmas party but would still like to donate, simply bring your donation to the office.

## **SCRIPS**

Scrips gift cards may be purchased in the school office or following each weekend Mass.

The HCS School Board Marketing committee is working on a project that will highlight "HCS Alumni". We are wanting to highlight the accomplishments and lives of both recent alumni and alumni spanning multiple decades. Participation is easy and will simply entail a quick interview, a couple of written questions and a simple photo! We hope to have an alumni section on our website beginning in Jan. We will also be highlighting alumni on the official FB page. Please nominate yourself or someone you know by emailing Amy Uptergrove at [amyuptergrove@yahoo.com](mailto:amyuptergrove@yahoo.com) or text/call 314-482-5565.