



HOLY CHILDHOOD  
OF JESUS SCHOOL

# THE BEACON

December 2021  
Volume 1  
Issue 5

## A Note From Mrs. Yarber

What a great time of the year! It is exciting to see the joy in the faces of the students. As the holiday season approaches, take a moment to reflect and feel the hope, joy, love, and peace. As you think about the season of gift giving, find a moment to think about what events over the last year have brought joy to your family. Oftentimes when students are asked to write about a memorable event in their lives, it isn't a special gift they usually choose to write about, but rather a particular experience they have had with someone special.

During this season of the year we would like to say thanks to:

- Parents and guardians who diligently check their child's homework; who are seated beside them as they complete their homework; who organize classroom parties; who transport them to and from activities; who spend quality time with their child.
- All the volunteers who give countless hours to make HCS a better place for students and staff.
- Our wonderful school staff members who are committed to giving their best to your children every day.

I am proud to be a part of this amazing giving community. We have many programs that reflect this caring culture that is growing. We always welcome and appreciate your support in all the endeavors we take on.

On behalf of the HCS staff, members of the School board, and Holy Childhood Parish, have a Joyous Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year!

Blessings,  
Laura Yarber  
HCS Principal



**Father Paul, Pastor**  
*Paul.wienhoff@holychildhoodchurch.com*

**Mrs. Laura Yarber, Principal**  
*lmyarber@holychildhoodschool.com*

**Mr. Eliot Deters,**  
Chairman of School Board  
*Eliot@TheMailBoxStore.net*

**Mrs. Mary Elmore,**  
Administrative Assistance  
*mary.elmore@holychildhoodschool.com*

**School Phone:** 618-566-2922  
**Office Hours:** 7:30am - 3:30pm

## School Hours

**Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri**  
**7:50 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.**  
Bus riders leave at 2:30

**Every Wednesday**  
**7:50 a.m. - 1:50 p.m.**  
Bus riders leave at 1:30

## Snow Days

Holy Childhood School follows the Mascoutah school district's closure due to the shared bus service. If school is closed it will be listed on the local TV channels. I will also send an email to all parents and staff when we have a closure due to inclement weather.



# Community Service Project: Spreading the Spirit of Christmas

Our 'Spreading the Spirit of Christmas Community Service Project' will be to donate care packages to nursing homes in Mascoutah. HCS students and staff want to provide holiday cheer to our elderly in nursing homes. Each class will be making Christmas cards, and students are asked to donate any of the following for the care packages: lotion, socks, decks of cards, Chapstick, Kleenex, fleece blankets (lap blankets), chocolates, cards, colored pencils, coloring books, word puzzle books, magazines, large print books, etc.

One of the nursing home directors shared "We would appreciate anything HCS would be willing to do; it's been a hard year for these residents."



## Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest



The Holy Childhood Council of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Keep Christ In Christmas Poster contest. Participating students from HCS and PSR in three age categories may create a poster supporting the Keep Christ In Christmas theme that displays the slogan, visual message, and overall impact. The KC's will award a \$30 1st prize, and \$20 2nd prize in each category. Posters need to be 11x17 and must be turned in by December 10th. The age categories are 5-7, 8-10 and 11-14 as of Nov 1st 2021. The KC's will provide the paper to the school and PSR.

## Santa's Cottage

On Thursday 12/8 and Friday 12/9, Santa's Cottage will be open until 3:20 each day. Students in all grades will have the opportunity to shop for inexpensive gifts for the special people in their lives (Mom, Dad, Grandparents, siblings, etc.) An envelope for Santa's Cottage was sent home. To help with budgeting, the gifts generally range from \$1.50 to \$10.00; most of the choices for gifts are in the \$3.00 to \$5.00 range. The total amount you send in depends on how many people for whom your child is shopping. This fundraiser is sponsored by the 8th grade and will help fund their 8th grade trip.



## HCS Library News

A BIG THANK YOU for a wonderful Scholastic Book Fair!! It was very successful and couldn't have been done without wonderful parent volunteers, 8th grade Book Buddies, & 7th grade clean up!! BOOK BINGO for Nov/Dec is due Thursday Dec 16. January sheets will be available after the holidays. Donations of gently used books, toys, games, etc are always appreciated for the Library Store. If you're cleaning before Santa arrives, send items into the library. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

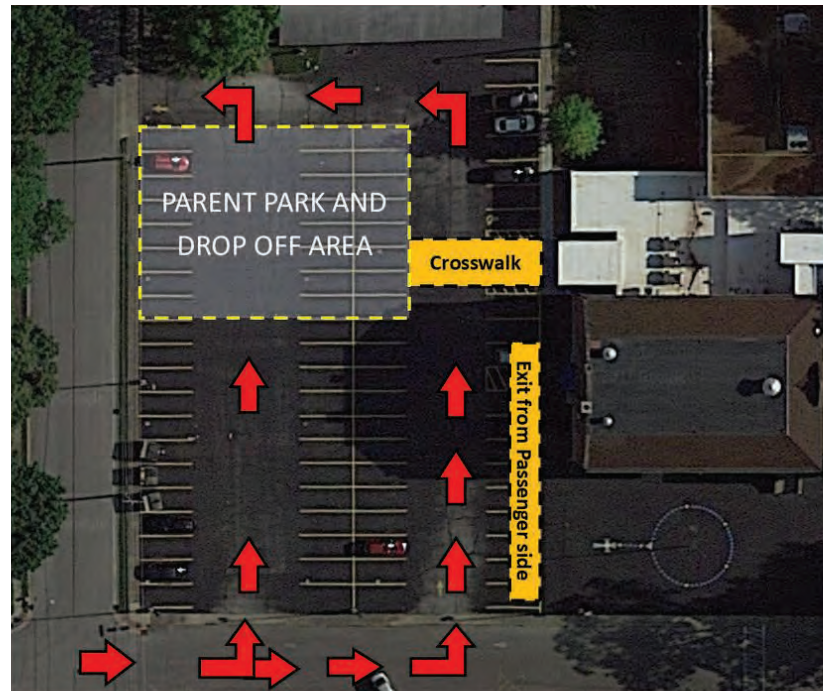


# Drop Off Procedures

To help keep everyone safe during morning drop off and to prevent our students from walking in between vehicles, we are implementing a drop off procedure. We are asking all parents who would like to park to drop off their students, to park their vehicles in the parking lot closest to the playground area. The students should then proceed to the crossing area which will be marked off with orange cones.

For students who are just being dropped off in the drop off line, we would like them to exit the vehicle on the right hand side closest to the school building.

Please refer to the picture. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Yarber.



## Middle School Homework Link

On the website under “Current students” there is a new selection of “Middle School Homework”. To help communicate and connect with students and parents, the middle school staff will daily share homework and/or classwork on this document. The table is split among the grade levels and content areas. The hope is this link will provide support if there is confusion on homework assignments, details of classwork, or if students had time in class to work or complete homework.

[Click Here for Link](#)

## Angel Tree

November 12th through December 12th

Our Parish Friends of Cairo will sponsor the Angel Tree for families in need in the Cairo, IL area. This sustaining project is essential for the families in need and we need your assistance in providing new clothes and toys for our delivery to Cairo in early December. Please pick an angel tag from the tree and return your gifts under the tree. The Angel Tree will be located in the lobby of the school. Please look for opportunities to help in preparing the gifts for delivery. Contact Stacie Cornman to join the Angel Tree team.



## Winter Coat Drive

Holy Childhood Knights of Columbus is conducting its annual winter coat drive. Please place new or gently used coats in the boxes located in the lobby of the School or Parish Center until December 12th.



# Empower Illinois

Invest in Kids Act was a law which provided up to \$100 million in scholarships for children. Empower Illinois' scholarships provide opportunities for families to apply for tuition assistance. We are extremely fortunate at HCS to have about twelve individuals donate last year, which raised a little over \$30,000. With an anonymous matching donation from a catholic family in northern Illinois, HCS was able to support numerous families with tuition for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you donors!

Donations for the 2022-2023 school year begin December 1. Donors who give to Empower Illinois receive a 75% state tax credit for the amount of their gift, up to \$1 million. In addition, any portion of the tax credit may be carried forward for up to five years. Donors are able to select Holy Childhood School as the place to receive the donation.

If you or someone you know would like to make a donation and take advantage of this state tax credit please guide them to call HCS.

## Impact of Empower Illinois

## Empower Illinois Donation Info

### Announcing Reservation Night 2022!

Mark your calendars! Reservations for a 2022-2023 tax credit scholarship will open Wednesday, January 12 at 6:30pm.

Like previous years, the reservation will be a two-step process. At 6:30pm, the reservation form will open, giving families time to enter their information before submission at 7pm. Once families reserve their time stamp, they will receive an email to log into their EmpowerXChange portal and complete the application when it opens on Friday, January 14.



Keep an eye on subsequent newsletters for updated resources. In the meantime, please direct any questions to our helpline (800-616-7606, [schools@empowerillinois.org](mailto:schools@empowerillinois.org)).

## Illness and Covid

Please help keep all our students and staff safe. If your student is not feeling well, please keep them home. If they have any covid symptoms, please get them tested before returning (per the IDPH guidelines). Possibly due to the season, we have had more illness and a few positive Covid cases. Again for the safety of our HCS community, please follow the mask guideline and help prevent the spread of Covid.

As a reminder, please check your child's temperature each morning and verify that he or she does not have any symptoms. Please have your student wear the lanyard into school to signify he or she is symptom free.



## Singing in Church

Our kindergarten through 3rd grade students are invited to sing Christmas songs at the 5:00pm church service on Saturday, December 18th.

Students will be practicing two songs during music class with Mr. Patriquin and will sing them after communion during Mass.



# Service Shout Outs

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."*

*1 Peter 4:10*

- Mrs. Wendy Uhl and all the volunteers for your countless hours of support of the book fair. Due to your commitment, time, and effort, the book fair was a success!!!
- Through the help of Clara Mae Wilhelm and Mary Moll, we have systematically been migrating our finances to Quickbooks and preparing the accounts for online bill pay. This has been quite a large task, and with these ladies' expertise and attention to detail we are closer to our end goal of a more efficient accounting process. Thank you Clara Mae and Mary!!

## Dates to Remember

*Please check the school website for the most up-to-date calendar. The calendar is under "Current Students" and "School Calendar".*

Dec 3	Polar Express Day - provided by HOPE
Dec 3	Jr Beta 2:50 - 4:00
Dec 5	8th Grade Rite of Enrollment of Confirmation
Dec 8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Students will virtually attend mass
Dec 8	Santa's Cottage
Dec 9	Santa's Cottage
Dec 15	School Board Meeting 6:30 PM
Dec 17	Early Dismissal 10:50 AM
Dec 17	End of 2nd quarter
Dec 18 - Jan 2	Christmas Break



## VFW Patriot's Pen Winner

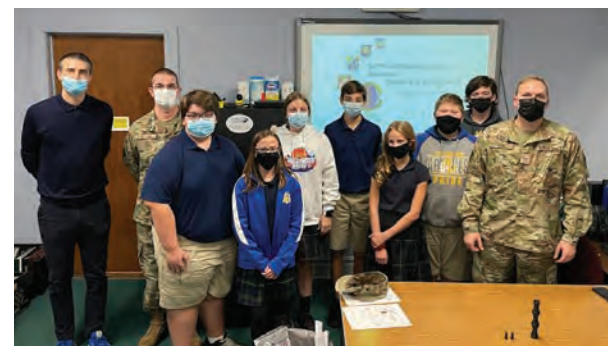
Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. 2021-2022 theme is "How Can I Be A Good American?". The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. The area winner is Isabella Flores from Holy Childhood School. She will be attending the VFW district regional award ceremony in December.



## The Dangers of Social Media Presented by SAFB to HCS middle school students

The Holy Childhood students learned about the dangers of social media through a visit from the 837th Cyberspace Operations Squadron from Safe Air Force Base. In addition to the discussion around Tik Tok, Snapchat, and Reddit, information was shared about ways for students to protect themselves on social media. "I like how they taught us a lot about social media and the Internet. These are things that we run into in our everyday lives." - Quinn Ford - 8th Grade HCS student

"Two uniformed Air Force personnel gave their time and rearranged our definitions of "privacy;" we are enmeshed in a near-invisible user-data economy which crosses international borders. Our children's actions are recorded, measured, and sold, and the internet never forgets." Josh Patriquin, Middle School STEM Teacher



# Thanksgiving Community Project

Holy Childhood students participated in a community outreach project for November to provide food for those in need in our local community. To support the Mascoutah Food Pantry, the students participated in a 'dress out of uniform day' for a donation. The students raised over \$500, and worked with both the director of the food pantry and Tom's Supermarket to use the money to purchase perishable items. Darren Klein and Luke Meng shopped and delivered the items to the pantry. In addition to the purchased food, HCS Students gathered canned goods and non-perishable items and delivered the donated items as well. Luke Meng reached out to Prairie Farms for a corporate donation. Through his effort and coordination, Prairie Farms will be making a delivery of milk, cottage cheese, and sour cream. Holy Childhood School is blessed to be a part of the community, and this project enabled our students to express their gratitude through support of the Mascoutah Food Pantry!



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