

A Note from Mrs. Yarber

Happy New Year!!! May 2022 bring blessings, joy and peace to all of our Holy Childhood community! A New Year is also a wonderful time to stop and reflect on all the blessings of the past year, and renew our hope for the upcoming year!

The staff and I are thrilled to welcome all our students back to a new academic quarter of learning and growing in our Faith! Excitement will be in the air as the students come back and see the enhancements to the school! These improvements made over the Christmas break were made possible by a generous donor. We are very grateful for the continued investment in our school.

As we begin a new year, we will also begin our new focus on a virtue and saint each month. This program has been in development for several months, so we are very excited to implement it!

Yes – a New Year brings new hope! With gratitude, I look forward to continuing to be of service to HCS in the New Year!

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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

Angel Tree

Friends of Cairo would like to thank everyone who donated to the Angel Tree. We were able to bless 25 families and a total of 65 children. The families were very appreciative of the wonderful gifts/support Holy Childhood of Jesus has shown their community over the years. Merry Christmas!



Winter Coat Drive

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all who donated to the Coat Drive. We collected 98 items that will be put to good use in keeping others warm.



Virtue of the Month

Virtue is defined as the habit of doing good. Virtues are the essence of our character and when we keep the practice of virtues at the heart of everyday life, we live purposefully as followers of Jesus.

Starting in the new year, we will purposefully focus on a "Virtue of the Month." The main objective of the school virtue program is to offer the HCS family a means to know, value, practice and internalize virtues. We want to encourage our students, staff, and volunteers, to be the best version of themselves, to model Christ by living out these virtues. Our plan is to also study a Saint each month who has modeled the specific virtue.



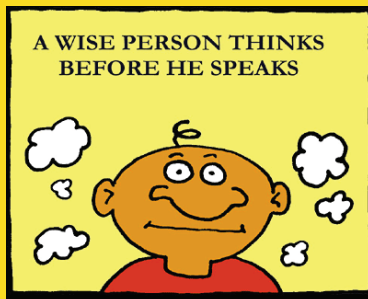
Month	Virtue	Saint
September	Faith	Saint Francis Xavier
October	Empathy	Saint Teresa of Calcutta
November	Conscience	Saint Augustine of Hippo
December	Hope	Saint Nicholas
January	Self-Control	Saint Teresa of Avila
February	Respect	Saint Francis of Assisi
March	Kindness	Saint Rose of Lima
April	Love	Saint Joseph
May	Acceptance	Saint Rita

January Virtue Prayer

Heavenly Father,
I confess that often, I allow myself to be controlled by my desires and my impulses rather than by Your Spirit. Please forgive me and help me to draw closer to You, walking in Your Spirit every moment of every day. This is impossible for me apart from Your grace. Please grant me that grace so I may have self-control.

It's in the name of my Savior, Jesus Christ, that I pray.

-Amen



January Virtue Saint

Saint Theresa of Avila wanted to be a saint from the time that she was a little girl and wanted to go to heaven. She prayed to be a martyr for Christ as a child. As she grew up, she went through a time where she was more interested in being pretty and fashionable than she was in living for Christ. She was fond of gossip and vanity and didn't show self-control when she harmed other people's reputations. Her father sent her to a convent because he was worried about her. (A convent is a place where nuns live.) At the convent, she witnessed good examples and it helped her regain her faith. She used self-control to devote her life to Christ.



Illness and Covid

Please help keep all our students and staff safe. 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. For the safety of our HCS community, please follow the mask guideline and help prevent the spread of Covid.



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.



Empower Illinois

We are extremely fortunate at HCS to have had 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 over twenty families with tuition for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you donors!

Donations for the 2022-2023 school year began 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. Here are two links with more information.

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).

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Message from Empower Illinois:

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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

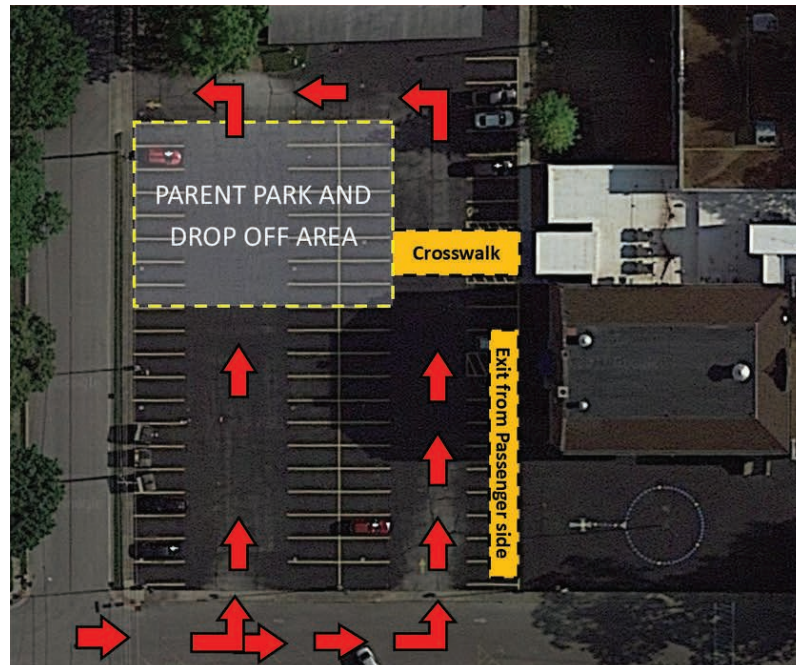
- Mr. Shining, thank you for accompanying the K-5th grade students as they sang at Mass. Your time practicing with the students and Mr. Patriquin, as well as your talents, helped our students shine.
- Thank you, Mike Brennan, for fixing the outdoor Christmas Star decoration outside by splicing together the torn wires.
- WOW!!! The success of the Polar Express could not have happened without Kim Satterfield spearheading the event, 8th grade parents' support, and the energy and imagination of our 8th grade students. Thank you to all who were a part of this successful event!

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 below. 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](#)

Dates to Remember

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

Jan 3	Classes resume
Jan 7	Report cards will be ready by 5:00pm
Jan 5	Technology meeting @ 6:00 pm
Jan 12	Empower Illinois Reservation Night
Jan 14	JR Beta 2:50-4:00
Jan 17	No School MLK Day
Jan 19	School Board Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Jan 21	Spirit Day - (out of uniform w/school spirit items or colors)
Jan 30	Kick off to Catholic Schools week (Jan 30-Feb 4)
Jan 31	First Reconciliation for 2nd grade @ 6:00 pm
Feb 2	Technology Meeting @ 6:00 pm
Feb 4	Munchkin Basketball
Feb 7	Freshman Orientation (More details to follow)
Feb 9	8th grade student visit to MHS (More details to follow)
Feb 15	8th grade high school registration (More details to follow)
Feb 16	School Board Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Feb 18	No School - Teacher inservice
Feb 21	No School - Presidents day

Luke 18

More details will follow with an invitation to attend a Luke 18 information meeting.



Featured Activities

Holy Childhood Knights of Columbus Council #4380 recently sponsored a local 'Keep Christ in Christmas' poster contest, as part of the KC's international poster contest. Entries were judged in three age categories; 5-7 year old, 8-10 year old, and 11-14 year old. Each poster needed to display the 'Keep Christ in Christmas' slogan, and were judged on the visual message and overall impact of the artwork. There were 115 poster entries from HCS students, PSR students, and St. Liborius students. Over 420 votes were cast to select this year's winners. The winners from left to right are:

- Alaina Welsh- 4th grade (Not pictured)
- Taylor Cahill - 8th grade
- Gianna Woodrome - 2nd grade
- Caroline Schubert - 2nd grade
- Rylee Smith - 4th grade (Not pictured)
- Marlee Hubbard - 8th grade



The winning local posters will advance to the next round of competition at the district level.

The 8th graders at Holy Childhood school held the first Polar Express at the park on December 3rd. Kids came to see dancing chefs and elves, drink and eat hot chocolate and cookies, and read the classic Christmas tale, "The Polar Express." The students even had a special visitor, Santa Clause! "It was very heartwarming to see the kids faces when they saw us act out the story," said Crispin Shining, who played the role of the Conductor in the event, "to see the little children believe we are the real thing and believe in the magic of Santa is always a wonderful thing." Written by Avery Beer- 8th grade



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