

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Genesis 3:19



We look forward with great joy to the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Throughout Lent our school community has been focusing on the importance of this liturgical season as we prepare to enter into the Triduum, the holiest days of the year. The Triduum begins on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. During this Mass we recall that Jesus gave His body and blood and taught us to care for others when He washed the disciples' feet. The Triduum continues on Good Friday with the celebration of the Lord's Passion. During this liturgical celebration we remember Christ's sacrifice for us. On the night of Holy Saturday we celebrate the great Easter Vigil. During this celebration our Savior bursts out of the tomb and on Easter Sunday we continue to celebrate the Resurrection with great joy.

ACRE Testing

Our 5th and 8th grade classes will be taking the ACRE test on The ACRE Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE) which helps to evaluate the faith knowledge of students in Catholic schools. ACRE provides questions related to religious beliefs, attitudes, practices, and perceptions. It measures religious beliefs as it relates to God, the Church, Liturgy and Sacraments, Revelation, Life in Christ, and Church History. The test will be administered to students in grades 5th and 8th on March 13th.

State of the School Address

The State of the School Address will be held on Monday, March 26th at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria. I invite you to learn more about our school by attending this meeting. There will be an overview of the 2017 – 2018 school year and information for the 2018 – 2019 school year. I hope to see at least one parent or guardian from each family at the meeting. Please call the school office by March 23rd to RSVP.

Girls Uniforms

Over the past 6 months your daughter has grown. Many of the jumpers and skirts are too short. As per the uniform policy the skirts and jumpers should be no more than 2 inches above the knee. Please check the length of your child's uniform.

Car Rider Drop Off and Pick Up: It is extremely important that parents **drive slowly** when entering and leaving the school parking lot. Parishioners are entering the parking lot to attend mass and families are crossing the lot to bring their children to Preschool. All students should be unloaded through passenger side doors (Curb Side). This is very important!! Remember no passing is permitted in the car rider zone. Please wait patiently for students to disembark from the vehicle. Students must be ready to exit the car. Parents should remain in the car. Please park in a designated space only. Please pull up to the **first cone** so that many cars can drop off students. We need to speed up the car rider drop off because too many children are tardy.

Camp Invention is back at Holy Trinity: It is hard to believe, but summer is right around the corner and Camp Invention will return in June. Camp Invention will be held at HTS the week of June 18-22, 2018 with programming that will feature mini smart homes, robotic dogs, and biosensor robots.

Register now at HolyTrinityCampInvention.org as a returning Alumni to receive \$25 off the base price. This discount will expire on March 23rd, 2018. Use the promo code 'Ideas25'. Please call [800-968-4332](tel:800-968-4332) to register as well. If you have already registered, I just want to say thank you! I truly appreciate your support of Camp Invention here at Holy Trinity.

If you have not registered yet, is there anything I can do to help you with the registration process? If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.



LabLearner, New HTS Science Curriculum?????

Science education is rapidly changing and I have been researching science curriculums. I am very excited to present information on an amazing but costly science program called LabLearner. The program cost \$85K - \$90K for lab upgrade, new lab materials, the curriculum and teacher training. I am asking for your help in securing companies or individuals who may be interested in helping with funding. Currently I have a donation from the Norbell Foundation in the amount of \$8K. Below you will find information on the LabLearners program. The website address is lablearner.com.

LabLearner Program LabLearner is a 100% research-based, comprehensive, hands-on science education system for students in Preschool to 8th grade. This program was developed by scientists and educators with years of experience and research in their fields. LabLearner aims to promote interaction and experimentation in a laboratory setting to encourage diverse learning and thinking strategies, fostering a community atmosphere of learning!

The LabLearner system is comprehensive. Laboratory set-up, curriculum integration and teacher training are all steps in the process of making science meaningful and enjoyable. Rather than thinking in isolated categories like Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics, the *LabLearner* science curriculum is built on nine core concepts which offers a more useful way to organize elementary and middle school science instruction. It also results in a spiraling curriculum where scientific concepts build upon each other, year after year. This system follows the Next Generation Science Standards.

The preK-8 LabLearner Program consists of some 60-plus individual science units called Core Experience Learning Labs (CELLs). Each CELL takes approximately four or five weeks for a class to complete, working in teams of four to six students. In grades one through eight, students complete a pretest, taken before the CELL begins and a posttest, taken at the end of the CELL. Pre/post assessments are fixed response evaluations where identical questions presented in an adjusted sequence are asked in both the pre-test and post-test documents. Questions on the pre/post-tests reflect the science concepts taught within the investigations of a CELL. Questions require students to apply their knowledge of a CELL concept to a new situation, interpret experimental results from a table, graph, or mathematical formula, and correlate experimental observations with scientific concepts.

Family STEM Night: The HTS Technology committee is proud to present our first Family Stem Night on March 7th from 6:30 – 8:00pm. Come and enjoy an evening of fun and hands on activities in STEM for the whole family. You will work together to complete challenges in science, technology, engineering and math. Activities will be held throughout the school. Each family will receive a STEM Passport and a STEM Notebook to track your progress and reflect on the activities.

We are excited to have the Oakland Catholic Robotics team joining us for the evening. They will talk to the family and demonstrate what the team does. Oakland Catholic along with students from Bishop Canevin and OLSH will help to facilitate the activity challenges.

The event is FREE so send in your RSVP and spend some quality family time participating in the wonderful world of STEM.

Growth Mindset

Each month since school began the school community has a monthly mantra. The mantras are little affirmations that the students say every day during morning exercises. Repeating these affirmations help to cement the positive thinking in the children's minds. Here are the mantras for each month. You may want to review them with your child.

September: Everyone can learn!	February: A goal without a plan is just a wish.
October: My brain is like a muscle that grows.	March: Mistakes are opportunities for learning.
November: I am a valued member of the community.	April: There is a difference between not knowing and not knowing yet.
December: We love a challenge.	May: I got this!
January: Feedback is a gift, accept it.	June: I can't take care of others if I don't take care of myself.

Calling All Realtors: Are you or a family member a realtor? The HTS PR committee is interested in speaking with you concerning a marketing idea. We are working to prepare a flyer about our school and were hoping they could be placed in the real estate folder. Many of the families moving into the area chose the school first and then look for housing. Please contact Erin and Matt Miller at erinsmiller@verizon.net to discuss this possibility.

Festival Chairs Needed: The Festival meeting held in January brought some fresh ideas and the school is optimistic about the event going forward but we still need your help! It is extremely important to keep this event as a fundraiser unless we can find something to replace the \$20k it brings to our fundraising budget. Remember that tuition only accounts for 60% of our operating budget, so fundraising is very important in keeping HTS financially strong.

We are still looking for chairpersons for the following parts of the festival. Please contact Mrs. Stevenson at principal@holyltrinityrobinson.org or Sarah Smith at sarahmarshallsmith@hotmail.com if you are interested in being a part of the Festival committee or would like to chair any part of the Festival. If we do not have volunteers soon we will have to cancel the event. The positions not filled are:

1. Volunteer Chair
2. Overall Chair/Logistics/Parking

Maybe you can't give 4 days to the Festival but you have a group of parents that can work together to split the days up. A group of people can chair as well. The Festival has been a wonderful and financially successful event for the school and it is a wonderful community event. Please consider stepping forward to help.

If the above positions don't interest you how about getting involved in another aspect.

1. **Food** contact Heather Murray at hmurray322@aol.com
2. **Marketing/Sponsors** contact Julie Loehlein at loehleinj11@gmail.com
3. **Setup/Teardown** contact Bill Leininger at william.leininger@pnc.com
4. **Games/Children's Area** contact Nikki Jamiolkowski at nikki.jamiolkowski@gmail.com
5. **Money Room** contact Heather Pessy at heatherpessy@gmail.com

Our Amazing Kids



Post-Gazette Spelling Bee Winner: On Friday, February 9th, 5 eighth graders and 5 seventh graders competed in a school spelling bee.

The Holy Trinity bee lasted 21 rounds. Seventh grader, Katie Mickle, was the winner after spelling 11 rounds with eighth grader, Ethan Williams. Kate will now compete at the regional level on March 10th. The bee at Robert Morris University will determine Western PA's representative to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May, in Washington, D.C.

Good Luck, Kate!



Front L-R: Chiara Golomb, Isaac Huang, Kate Mickle, Nate Schmid, Karolina Lucas and
Back L- R: Andrew Feeley, Danny Miller, Ian Lecker, and Ethan Williams



8th Grade Recognition

Holy Trinity School held its 8th Grade Recognition night on February 20th in the school gym. Students from the 8th grade class were honored for their academic and athletic achievements, and service to the church and community. The students along with their parents and guardians were introduced as they walked through a balloon arch and had a family picture taken. Eighth recognition was followed by basketball games played by the varsity girls and the varsity boys.

Special thanks to Mr. Flanagan for the Recognition Booklet and to the Athletic Association for organizing this event.

HTS Honor Roll



8A



8B



7A

Holy Trinity Catholic School proudly announces our Honor Roll for the 2nd quarter. All students in grades 6th – 8th can earn a place on the quarterly Honor Roll by meeting the following criteria.

Honors: Quality point average of 3.25 – 3.74 High Honors: Quality point average of 3.75 – 4.0

8A High Honors: Connor Bridges and Ethan Williams

8A Honors: Vanessa Betten, James Haseleu, Averil Ludwick, Andrew Marcello and Madeline Schiavo

8B High Honors: Connor Callahan, Audrey Flanagan, Chiara Golomb, Ian Lecker, and Joseph Rees

8B Honors: Tony Cicchino, Jillian Frosell, and Ethan Minzer

7A High Honors: Alan Betten, Kara Bridge, Collin Cimino, Corinne Ludwick, Kate Mickle, Evie Minzer, Nathan Schmid, and Olivia Wegrzynowicz

7A Honors: Lily Barbisch, David Gallagher, Luca Michnowicz, Sage Sonnett, Nick Walker, Allison Weaver, and Lexi Zurbola

7B High Honors: Stephen Baker, Vincent Frank, Sammy Gaffney, Isaac Huang, Danny Miller, Clare Mulvay, Lorin Planinsic, and Amanda Strub

7B Honors: Gianni Domenico, Jimmy Gaffney, Tyler Gaffney, Marco Iacchetti, Kyle Janas, Joseph Leininger, Karolina Lucas, Melaina Merlo, Olivia Mulvay, and Kyle Rooney

6A High Honors: Luke Baker, Dominic Bodek, Sofia Davoli, Bianca Golomb, Ryan Saginaw, Samantha Sawayda, and Michael Smith

6A Honors: Deven Kumar, Grace Murray, and Marie Pigoni

6B High Honors: Eliza Bell, Anthony D'Orazio, Jenna Gardner, and Aaron Williams

6B Honors: Maddie Ashbaugh, Reighan Bean, Maria Cicchino, Julian Myron, Julia Seng, and Contessa Tripodi



7B



6A



6B



PJAS: On Saturday, February 3th, 2018, 8 Holy Trinity 7th and 8th grade students participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science 84th Annual Regional Competition.



The competition was held at Duquesne University, where the students were required to present their experimentation to a panel of professional judges.

Lorin Planinsic received a 2nd place award in the Biology field for his project titled, “What Kind of Produce is Best for Your Health?” Isabelle Kulak also received a 2nd place award for her project, “Does exercise really make our brains function better?”

In the chemistry field, Marco Iacchetti received a 2nd place award for his project titled, “Which sunscreen is the most effective?” Melaina Merlo received a 2nd place award for her project “No Eggs in Cornbread”. Ian Lecker received a 1st place award for “Optimizing the Electrolysis of Water to Increase Efficiency”.

In Engineering, CJ Mawhinney took a 2nd place award for “Binocular vs. Monocular Vision” and in Physics, Ethan Williams took a 3rd place award for “Sink That Putt”.

Danny Miller received a 2nd place award in the Computer Science and Math category for his project “What Materials Can Block a Wi-Fi Signal?”

These students dedicated themselves to their experiments and represented Holy Trinity Catholic School with pride. Written By Brenda Ford.



A special congratulation goes to Marco Iacchetti and Ian Lecker who both received special medal awards for their presentations. Great work!!



A special thank you goes to Vincent Frank who represented our school as a technician. He timed the presentations for the students.



Ian Lecker will now move on to participate in the state competition held at Penn State University in May. Good luck Ian!