

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
December 2018

We hope you and your families had a wonderful Thanksgiving! It is hard to believe that December is here already! November was a short but busy school month. Thank you to all the parents who helped make our many November activities go smoothly - we couldn't do it all without you! Some of our activities in November included creating first grade Rudolph sweatshirts, the kindergarten Thanksgiving feasts, our school-wide food drive, and our version of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade featuring second and sixth grade STEM build floats, to name a few! A special note of gratitude to our Parents' Association for providing dinner for our teachers during conferences. We are also thankful for the time each of you took to meet with your children's teachers during conferences. Please remember that additional conferences may be requested and scheduled as needed at any time during the school year.



With the season of Advent upon us, we turn our thoughts to preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This is one of the most important seasons of the church calendar, and we are honored to share this special time with your children here at school. In joyful anticipation, we light our Advent wreath and pray together on the morning announcements each week. We continue to focus on our school theme, knowing that our students will truly grow in faith and service to others during Advent, as they share the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

During this especially busy time of year, we would like to call to your attention some important dates you may wish to take note of now. Our first and second graders will present their Christmas program in Horning Hall on December 12 at 6:30 p.m. Seventh and eighth grade students will have mid-term exams December 17, 18 and 19. December 20 will be our last day of school before Christmas Break, with early dismissal at 11:30 a.m. There will be no lunch periods that day. Christmas Break runs from the afternoon of December 20 through January 2. School resumes on January 3. The second quarter ends on January 4, and the third quarter will begin on January 7. Second quarter report cards will be available to download on Gradelink on January 10. Paper report cards will no longer be sent home. Second quarter interim reports were issued on November 16. Please remember that student progress can be checked any time on Gradelink.

Please plan to attend the Parents' Association general meeting on January 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Center Gathering Area. Again this year, the meeting will be a combined meeting with our School Board. This meeting will feature an update from Mrs. Woodman with a look at the many exciting things we are doing here at school, and all parents are encouraged to attend. If you are considering kindergarten for your child next year, please RSVP by December 27 to 330-867-8720, ext. 343 for our Kindergarten Kaleidoscope event on January 10. This is a great way for parents and children to learn more about our kindergarten program! We hope to see all of you on January 27 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. for our annual Catholic Schools Week Open House. All current and prospective school families are invited to join us! Please watch for more information about all of these events.

There would be no Christmas story without the Holy Spirit's involvement. The Holy Spirit didn't serve as a backstage hand, but rather was central to the whole story. When Mary asked the angel how she would conceive a child ... , the angel Gabriel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:35).

<http://www.gospel-life.net/the-holy-spirit-christmas/>

With Christmas Break just a few weeks away, this is the perfect time to think about some books your child might like to read independently or with you during the time away from school. A book would be a great Christmas gift! Nothing fills a chilly winter afternoon or evening quite like a good book by the fire! We would like to offer some book suggestions that might be wonderfully received if they end up under your Christmas tree! Please see the box for our book picks!

**Great Books Make
Heartwarming Gifts!
Principals' Picks**

Mrs. Woodman recommends for a fun holiday read elementary readers will enjoy, *Santa is Coming to Ohio* by Steve Smallman. For older readers, her pick *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli is a New York Times bestseller that celebrates the power of individuality and self-expression in the face of pressure to conform.

Mrs. Alexander recommends for elementary readers *Earthrise: Apollo 8 and the Photo That Changed the World* by James Gladstone, which chronicles the journey of the Apollo 8 crew to the moon. For junior high readers, her pick is *The Port Chicago 50* by Steve Sheinkin. This book tells the true story of a World War II naval base disaster and the issues of mutiny and civil rights that flowed from it.

Wintry weather arrived early this year, so please be sure your child has a coat, hat, gloves or mittens, and boots for recess. Also, a special reminder for our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students that during the school day, only the school uniform sweatshirt or 3/4 zip pullover are permitted. Hoodies and outerwear may not be worn in school. As needed, school closings or two-hour delays will be announced by our One Call Now telephone notification system, as well as on Fox 8 news, the school website, Facebook, and by email. School closing or delay information will be issued via One Call Now as soon as a determination is made to cancel school. Because many of our families rely on public school transportation and Latchkey at the end of the day, it is highly unlikely that school would ever be dismissed early due to worsening weather conditions once students are safely in the building. However, because so many of our students do ride public school buses from Copley, Highland, Revere, and Woodridge, closings in these districts, as well as other factors, may impact our decision to cancel or delay school in the morning, or even the night before. Thank you for your patience as we consider the many factors that help us to make the best decision to keep our students and staff safe.

Winter brings with it the cold and flu season, so please take a minute to read the health policy in our Family Handbook. Please call the school office by 9:30 a.m. if your child will be absent or late, and request homework at that time. Please note that we cannot guarantee homework to be ready for pick-up before the end of the school day, particularly during peak times of illness. Students should be

symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness. Your co-operation helps us to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all students.

As always, we appreciate your continued support of our school and Catholic education. With our most sincere wishes for a joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, health and happiness,

Mrs. Woodman

Mrs. Alexander

