



# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Holy Angels School - West Bend

*"Come Holy Spirit...You Are Welcome Here"*

December, 2017

Holy Angels Website: [www.hawb.org](http://www.hawb.org)

Vol. 29, No. 4

Greetings,

*As families gather for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, I can't help but think about how quickly time passes...it's Thanksgiving already!! There are so many blessings which have been given to me. I'm more thankful for each day and it's the little things that really make a difference. God has invested an abundance of gifts and talents in our school community...we are richly blessed!*

*The support for the 21st Century Classrooms project has taken so many forms. Many people so willingly shared their talents to continue to make the project a reality and supported the capital campaign to fund it.*

*The actual construction work this past summer again involved Scott Helnes, Jim Schmidt and the summer maintenance crew in ways that I'm sure they didn't imagine. In addition, Tim Heinen and the crew from JL Business Interiors worked around the many twists and turns of the project. It was an amazing effort by everyone to finish Phase 2 in time for the start of the school year and something that I am extremely grateful for!*

*The support of the Stehling Project continues to provide even more opportunities to be a Premier, Unique and Enduring place in which students can grow! Our benefactors have made it possible for our school to more fully embrace technology as a tool for learning. The project's funding also provides the staffing that makes us more effective in meeting the needs of students at all grade levels.*

*Near the top of my list, I am thankful for the wonderful staff here at Holy Angels that gives so unselfishly to provide a caring learning environment for our students. During this past year, an additional effort was called upon to complete the Accreditation Self Study and to prepare for the on-site visit. The visiting team easily recognized the special staff that we have here!*

*I am grateful for the blessings that Fr. Pat has shared with our community, for joining us at Monday Assemblies, and I look forward to many years with his spiritual leadership for our parish.*

*I am also thankful for the season that is just around the corner...the Advent Season which begins next Sunday. It's a time that I try to use to slow down, to reflect more, to pause and drink in the change of seasons and the change in the day-to-day of life. I've sent some wonderful prayer and reflection materials for students and parents in the recent "Friday Email". May these seasons of thanking and sharing bring your family to an even greater appreciation of the many blessings that God provides.*

*As I approach the Advent Season, my mind wanders to the scene in Bethlehem and the image of Joseph and Mary welcoming their newborn who was to bring salvation to all. And I look at our world in 2017 and realize that we are all invited to welcome the Spirit in our lives and, in doing so, bring a new spirit into our world. May your gatherings for Christmas be in those wonderful places where the Spirit fills the rooms with great joy.*

Peace be with you,

*Mike Sternig*

**We belong to a Catholic community which gathers together to proclaim the Gospel, serve others, and praise God. With the help of parents, teachers and others, we are here to grow in faith, knowledge, values and respect.**

## advent: time to begin anew

With Thanksgiving and the emphasis on the holiday shopping season, the beginning of a new liturgical year usually gets lost in the shuffle.

At next Monday's assembly (December 4th), we will review the cycle of the liturgical year...The First Sunday of Advent (December 3rd) marks the beginning of another cycle in which we: await the coming of the Messiah; celebrate His birth; spend some time counting the weeks (ordinary time); re-focus during the Lenten Season; sing "alleluia" (after 40 days of no A-word) at the Easter celebration; recall the power of the Spirit at Pentecost; and count the weeks (more ordinary time) until the completion of the cycle at the Feast of Christ the King (this past Sunday).

The liturgical year reminds us that we always come full circle...starting out with the Advent Season and ending with the celebration of Jesus as King. With the passing of each year, we are reminded that Jesus is Lord of the Past, the Present and the Future.

One powerful (yet simple) symbol of Advent is the Advent Wreath. It would be wonderful if every family took a little time to make one and use it to mark the waiting time until Christmas.

It's interesting to note that this year's Advent Season is the shortest possible with the fourth Sunday falling on Christmas Eve...celebrate Advent in the morning and the Birth of Jesus at night!

Our school's Advent Wreath can be found in the main hallway this year. It is a reminder that the Light of the World is coming into our world and into our lives.

During Advent, we'll be using the song, "Send Us Your Spirit". The words of the refrain, "Come Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit", are a reminder that we long for the coming of Jesus celebrated at Christmas. We also long to renew the face of the earth as we invite the Spirit into our lives.



## winterfest celebrated by junior high

Friday, December 1st, is just around the corner and junior high students will have the option of extending their school day by over TWO HOURS! Instead of the usual 2:50pm dismissal, students can choose to stay until 5:00pm.



Of course the junior high staff will make sure that the students have an assortment of activities to keep them busy...3-on-3 basketball with Mr. Draxler, volleyball with Mr. Breunig, board games with Mrs. Sternig, hockey and ping-pong, twister with Mr. Yu, music (some DDR) and food!

The annual Junior High Winterfest is sponsored by the junior high staff to provide a chance for students to kick back and enjoy some out-of-school (but in-school) fun and time together. At the end of the first quarter, students with a clean slate (with regard to missing assignments and detentions) enjoyed an hour out of class with bingo, snacks, and prizes donated by the junior high staff.

## building a house...faculty serves community

The Holy Angels primary teachers are again involved in a service project to benefit the "Family Promise" Organization of Washington County. "Family Promise," is a community-based approach to solving homelessness.

On the evening of Thursday, December 14th, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Ristow, Mrs. Kincaide, Mrs. Altendorf, Mrs. Walter, Mrs. Faehling, Ms. Bender, Mrs. Gibbon and Mrs. Hammen will serve others in need of holiday cheer and support.

The teachers will serve a meal, provide time with Santa, actively engage in arts 'n crafts projects and share gifts for each family member in attendance. About ten to fifteen families will join us at Holy Angels for a night of food, fun and entertainment.

Special thanks to the primary level families and teachers for donating small gifts to help fill gift bags for Santa to distribute. Thanks also to several HAS-HOPE members for playing with the children as their parents are involved with gift selections.



## christmas radio at holy angels

This year our K5-5th grade students will again be presenting their Christmas program in church. The program will be on Wednesday, December 20th, at 6:30pm. The theme for this year's program is *A Holy Angels Radio Christmas*.

The program is set in 1950 (long before your time!) and features songs written during that time period. Some of the songs we all know were written in the 1940's or earlier. Some of the selections include "Frosty the Snowman", "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "Winter Wonderland". In addition to some of the popular songs written during that period, many of the traditional, Christ-centered carols will also be sung by various grades. These include "Away in A Manger", "I Saw Three Ships" and "Joy to the World". Please join us on December 20th for this year's wonder-filled program.

## dads, donuts and lots o' fun

The Five-Year-Old Kindergarten will have some December Donut Delights for themselves and a special guest. The annual Donuts with Dad Day is just around the corner. Mrs. Matthews will welcome some really big kindergartners to the classroom on Friday, December 15th, from 8:30 until 11:30am.

Of course, the dads don't just share donuts with their children. They'll also have a chance to experience a day in the life of a kindergartner. The usual Friday begins with Today's News and Religion, followed by Daily 5. Reading and Language Arts activities lead up to...taa-daa...some special phy ed classes. Dads are encouraged to wear their gym shoes!. There will be lots to do at the various learning stations. The kindergartners always enjoy having so many dads with them for all of the fun!!

## “yes...you are welcome here”

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th celebrates Mary's constant “yes” to God's call throughout her life. We will celebrate this special feast day for the patroness of our country with an all-school Mass prepared by the third grade.

Some people mistakenly think that the feast day has a connection with the conception of Jesus. It actually celebrates the wonderful gift that Mary received as she lived her life completely redeemed...from the moment of *her* conception. Because of Mary's “yes” to God's invitation to be the mother of Jesus, we are able to celebrate God-with-us, Emmanuel. Her words and actions consistently echoed, “Whatever God wants, I want”. Mary is a model of welcoming God's Spirit into her life in a most special way!

## academic honor roll—first quarter

The Holy Angels Academic Honor Roll recognizes students for their academic achievement. Students with a 3.00 or higher grade point average are listed on the Honor Roll, those with a 3.50 GPA are designated as “high honors” (noted with an \*). The GPA is calculated using weighted grades based on the number of classes per week. For example, a “B” grade in physical education or fine arts is weighted 2/5 of a full “B”, compared to a class that meets every day.

Students who make the Honor Roll five times receive a bumper sticker (new design!). Congratulations to the Honor Roll students for the first quarter grading period: Sixth Grade: Hannah Andrews\*, Bryce Barnett\*, Lorna Bonertz\*, Briannah Busch, Teagan Cole, Jade Ericson, Emelia Guse, Emma Hertel, Hailey Kiefer, Olivia Klausmeier\*, Brooke Koebel\*, Cade Kohnen, Cameron McAndrews, Megan Minz\*, Maria Olson\*, Kade Rossebo\*, Tyler Sternig\*, Jack Waala, Kate Wiedmeyer\*, and Brianna Zywicki.

Seventh Grade: Jack Bell, Aislinn Carey, Madeline Ciriacks\*, Sophie Dahlberg, Natalie Daute, Ellie Eckert\*, Amber Georgenson, Allison Glaszcz\*, Delanie Heinen\*, Thaddeus Jamieson, Jonah Nagel, Nicholas Paul, Caroline Peplinski\*, Emily Rauch\*, Kaylee Schiller\*, Fiona Shaw\*, Calen Stanek\*, Tyler Tennies\*, Olivia Walker, Nora Walter, and Samuel Wiedmeyer\*.

Eighth Grade: Riley Becker, Ericka Beistle\*, Lydia Bollen, Lola Chemer\*, Richard Conlin\*, Jonathan Dorow\*, Isaac Fichtner\*, Alex Gonzalez, Aiden Guse, Joseph Held\*, Michael Kleinhans\*, Daniel Krause\*, Hailey Matenaer, Will Mueller\*, Leah Nagel\*, Brandon Reichardt, Jenna Rondorf, Leah Rosene\*, Konnor Sadownikow\*, Owen Schmidt\*, Hannah Schroeder\*, Calen Spartz, Isabelle Sternig\*, Keegan Tennies\*, Nicholas Whittle, Caitlin Wohlt, Avelina Wolfe, and Greta Zier\*.

# basketball games to begin after t-break

A new basketball season is again upon us as Holy Angels sponsors nine interscholastic teams this year. The interscholastic program includes fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade boys and girls basketball teams.

At the fifth, sixth and seventh grade levels, there is a single boys and girls team for each grade. Holy Angels will have two teams for the eighth grade boys; the eighth girls will add some Cabrini students to their team. Needless to say, the Holy Angels gym is constantly being used for practices or scrimmages again this year. The teams have been practicing since the beginning of November and now it's time for the games to begin as Holy Angels hosts the first conference games beginning December 2nd.

The emphasis for the fifth grade teams has always been on development of skills and team play and placing a greater emphasis on balanced playing time and opportunities for all participants. The program intends to blend the best of intramurals and interscholastic competition. At this year's league meeting, participating schools made a commitment to a "balanced playing time" approach at both the fifth and sixth grade levels for the 2017-18 season.

The Washington-Ozaukee Catholic Conference consists of teams from St. John XXIII-Port Washington, St. Francis Borgia-Cedarburg, St. Joseph-Grafton, St. Gabriel-Hubertus, St. Kilian-Hartford, St. Frances Cabrini and Holy Angels.

Most of the games will be played at one location on weekends, although some games are scheduled during the week to provide for double squad teams. Because of the number of schools in the league, each team will play the other on a home-and-away basis.

The complete schedule of practices and games can be found on the school website by following School Links to the Athletics information. It is updated regularly...check the date!

Parents are reminded to check with their team coordinator regarding the concessions and admissions schedule. This year, parents are assigned to their son or daughter's home games. Parents are needed for regular season games and also for the HA Classic (Classic signup will be online).

This year's Royals include...The 8th grade boys team includes: Owen Schmidt, Isaac Fichtner, Nick Whittle, Riley Becker, Jayden Omernick. Joe Held, Chase Koebel, Alex Gonzalez, Danny Krause, Zach Kiefer, Aiden Guse, Jacob Rauch, Caelen Spartz, Konnor Sadownikow, Will Mueller, Keegan Tennes, Blake Ericson, Michael Kleinhans, Ricky Conlin, and Jonathan Dorow. They are coached by Gary Held, Mike Kleinhans, Jeff Gonzalez, Scott Sadownikow, Todd Guse, and Kevin Mueller. The 8th grade girls team has HA and SFC students: Jenna Rondorf, Avelina Wolfe, Greta Zier, Hailey Matenaer, Izzy Lutz, and Zoe Koepp. Tabetha Wolfe and Dean Wolfe are the coaches.

The 7th grade boys team is coached by Steve Stanek and Dave Tennes. Players include: Jack Bell, Tyler Tennes, Nathan Ratzel, Thomas Arndt, Cal Stanek, Matt Zier, Sam Wiedmeyer, Jonah Nagel, Jackson Davies, and Tadd Jamieson. The 7th grade girls team includes: Sophie Dahlberg, Amber Georgenson, Fiona Shaw, Caroline Peplinski, Ellie Eckert, Kaylee Schiller, Macey Steier, Estella Lambie, and Nora Walter. They are coached by Chris Walter and Mark Steier.



At the 6th grade level, the boys team is coached by John Barnett and Rob Michels. Players include: Bo Tennes, Tyler Sternig, Cameron McAndrews, Bryce Barnett, Jack Waala, Brady Barnes, Kade Rossebo, Adam Deppert, and Aydan Busch. The 6th grade girls team includes: Lorna Bonertz, Tess Laforest, Brianna Zywicki, Hailey Kiefer, Maria Olson, Claire Cegielski, Megan Minz, Kate Wiedmeyer, and Briannah Busch. They are coached by John Minz and Kris Bonertz.

In their first year of interscholastic competition, the 5th grade boys are coached by Matt Ciriacks, Phil Dahlberg and Katie Gruber. Players include: Henry Peplinski, Andrew Demmer, Gary Fichtner, Jeremy Dorow, Jack Dahlberg, Jimmy Schiller, Zach Behn, and Sam Ciriacks. The 5th grade girls team includes: Grace Peters, Paige Guse, Chloe Goratowski, Ava Roell, Maddee Bell, Lyra Keegan, Maya Beistle, and Bridget Kiefer. They are coached by Chris Guse and Chuck Beistle.

The 40th annual Classic continues to focus on offering the best in West Bend area boys basketball. This year's event will again feature seventh and eighth grade teams from area Catholic schools. Eighth grade teams will play during the week of January 15-20 while seventh grade team compete the week of January 22-27. The first round action each week will take place on Monday, second round games will be played on Wednesday, and final round each week and championship game are played on Saturday morning.

**Find the complete  
schedule of  
practices and  
games at :**

**www.hawb.org  
follow the school  
link;  
go to School Links  
to Athletics**

## advent time to serve others

The season of Advent is for sharing and caring. Students are encouraged to personally do something special in reaching out to others as they try to continue last year's theme of "building a house (anywhere) where love can grow".

The primary students are opening their hearts to help Family Promise of Washington County (our neighbors across the street). Family Promise helps struggling families achieve independence through providing food, shelter, and support services. Students will provide small gifts to help fill gift bags for the children involved in Family Promise (see related article for faculty involvement).

Intermediate students are reaching out to the community that gathers at St. Ben's in Milwaukee for meals and everyday living support. Although often overlooked, there is a need for disposable food containers like cool whip bowls (and covers) or cottage cheese containers. These make it easy to provide "take home" meals. Students are also gathering new mittens, hats and scarves for the St. Ben's program.

Junior high students have been involved in an effort to provide food for others with the Holiday Food Box Drive for St. Ben's in Milwaukee. Eighth graders will also be supporting the Heifer Project again this year.

## preparing for season of sickness

Television commercials are again running the latest remedies for the cold 'n flu season. Parents are asked to simply use common sense when deciding to send their "sick" child to school. A simple rule of thumb might be: Would you want someone with the same symptoms sitting next to your child all day? Here are some repeat suggestions...

**Fever:** a child with a temperature higher than 100.6 should stay home, they should stay home until they are fever-free without medication for 24 hours; **Cold:** keep a child home if there is a hacking cough or heavy nasal congestion; **Sore Throat:** keep child home and contact a doctor if white spots can be seen, if fever is present or if sore throat lasts more than two days; **Vomiting:** keep child home until able to keep food down for 24 hours (yes, 24 hours!); **Diarrhea:** keep child home (repeat...keep child home); **Rash:** keep child home unless cleared by a doctor; **Pink Eye:** keep child home if eye is pink/bloodshot with white/yellow discharge and/or eye tenderness (may attend school with clear drainage and no tenderness).



In an effort to help contain flu and cold viruses and other nasty things, students are urged to wash their hands. In addition, there will be portable hand sanitizing stations in the lunchroom area for students as they enter the lunchroom. The question of the day, especially during cold and flu season, is: "Have U Washed Your Hands 2 Day?"

## in case the snow ever falls hard in west bend

During possible snow emergencies, we will post the latest information on our school website. Parents are able to get the information they need without tying up the phone lines. We also pass information along to parents using these Milwaukee radio and television outlets: WTMJ-AM, 94.5 KTI-FM, or TV4. The web site <[www.touchtmj4.com](http://www.touchtmj4.com)> also carries weather emergency information.



As soon as we hear anything about a closing or a delay, the first step is to post it on the school website (the principal can do that from home on a cold and snowy morning!). Information about emergency closings during the school day will also be posted first on our school's web site...check the Holy Angels web site. Emergency announcements during the day will also be emailed to parents on the bulletin/newsletter email list.

Because we rely on Johnson Bus for transporting many students, any time the West Bend Public Schools call off school, delay a starting time, or close early, Holy Angels is automatically included. Be sure to listen to the radio or check the website for details.

Many families make it a point to start the day by checking the Holy Angels home page "just to make sure"!

It should be noted that other school activities are NOT automatically cancelled because of a weather-related school closure. Often, conditions improve during the day and there is no longer a safety concern for an evening practice, game, meeting or performance. A separate determination is made for evening events.

## students serving others...has-hope

Fifth through eighth grade students at Holy Angels actively demonstrate their willingness to be “angels to others” by answering the “call to serve” as part of HAS-HOPE. Throughout the first quarter, students who are part of this service team at HA, have participated in several volunteer opportunities, reaching out to Help Other People and the Environment (“HOPE”).

As the cooler weather finally caused leaves to fall, Holy Angels students helped those who couldn't take care of the leafy mess in their yards. Members also participated in a candy collection to raise money for outreach projects. They also prepared thank you cards which were sent to Wisconsin troops stationed overseas.

Where else will you find HAS-HOPE? On the Saturday after Thanksgiving students will ring bells in front of Shopko for the Salvation Army from 10am to 12pm. On Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> the Hope Club will be volunteering their time at Enchantment in the Park selling concessions in support of Senior Citizens Activities. The Holy Angels Chorus will also provide entertainment at Enchantment in the park on December 14th.

HAS-HOPE members are also helping out at the Family Promise Christmas celebration sponsored by several of the Holy Angels teaching staff.

Hope Club is open to all students in grades 5-8. Their next meeting will be after the Christmas Break. Many thanks to Nicole Eckert and Mandy Sadownikow for coordinating the group this year.



## reconciliation for second graders and parents

As part of our parish-based sacramental preparation program, second graders and their parents will have the opportunity to spend a morning together in a Reconciliation Retreat on Saturday, December 9th, 9:00-12:00 noon. The retreat will help the family reflect on the loving forgiveness and peace that God offers us and the celebration of spiritual renewal through the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The morning concludes with the celebration of the sacrament in church.

## students want to play, we want them to be safe

This year, the signup process for Playground Supervisors attempted to make sure that there were at least two volunteers each day in addition to Lead Supervisor Sonia Muckerheide. Ideally, three volunteers each day would provide even better supervision. The really great news is that we have at least two volunteers to work with the Lead Supervisor every day of the school year!

As we approach the cooler winter months, there are a number of additional volunteer openings which would provide a third supervisor on particular days. We are grateful for all of the parents (and some grandparents) who have been so generous with their time in providing a safe place to play. If you could help out with a few more days, please contact the school office. The Hot Lunch calendar indicates the days where there is a third spot open (only two days in December!). Please note: hand warmers will be provided!

## accelerated readers...but which class is truly on top?

The first quarter saw this year's seventh grade jump into a commanding lead in the tally of Accelerated Reader points. As of November 8th, they have amassed a whopping 1218.6 points! This is the same group that jumped into an early lead last year when they were in sixth grade.

Next in point total is the fourth grade with 916.7 points. The fifth and eighth grades are next with 764.3 and 651.7 points respectively. Sixth graders have earned 377.9 points and the third graders have tallied 191.9 points.

Of course some grades simply have more students so here's the “per student” point total for each grade: Grade 3...7.11; Grade 4...32.74; Grade 5...30.57; Grade 6...14.53; Grade 7...32.93; Grade 8...17.15. It looks like grade 4 and grade 7 are neck-and-neck!

Students earn points by reading books on the Accelerated Readers list and answering questions about the book. A list of AR books and more information for parents can be found on the school website following the School Links.