



Holy Spirit
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Saints' Stories & News

December 18, 2009

GENERAL INFORMATION



HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Board of Trustees wishes all of you a blessed and merry Christmas and a happy New Year! At this time of year, we are reminded to say “thank you” and count our blessings. The Board of Trustees of Holy Spirit Episcopal School is truly grateful for our students, families, parishioners, faculty and staff. Thank you for your essential contributions to our school’s mission.

Thanks to all of you, we have already achieved many successes in the 2009-2010 school year. We opened in August with a new Head of School, Ray Johnson, at the helm. Ray came to Holy Spirit with an extensive background and a successful record of leading parochial private schools. His impact on our community was immediate. Working together, our volunteer and staff teams made significant progress on many fronts: enrollment grew, we set a new Fund for Excellence campaign record, we hosted a terrific FamFest and numerous performing arts events, and we launched some new technologies to facilitate communication. Our children are happy. Enthusiasm on our campus is palpable. Everyone is pulling together.

These accomplishments provide strong momentum for the goals we have left to achieve this year. Some of our goals include obtaining our 10-year re-accreditation, launching a new Web site, hosting our annual auction on February 6, sending some of our Middle School students to Costa Rica for our unique exchange program, and graduating our wonderful Class of 2010. There is much to do, but we are powered by commitment, dedication and care that are unmatched. Thank you Holy Spirit community – for all you do. Your Board is truly honored to serve this remarkable school.



NJHS FALL BOX TOP WINNERS

The Fall Holy Spirit box top winners are in. The National Junior Honor Society members thank all of you who were able to donate box tops to earn money for Holy Spirit School.

Winners	Class	Box tops	Reward
Nathan Jolly	Mrs. Ziegenbein	713	Pizza
	Ms. Alm’s class	52	Bubbles
Jasi Gates	Mrs. Gardner	1,000 (2008) 250 (2009)	Cupcakes

Jasi Gates and Nathan Jolly will each receive a fifteen dollar gift certificate to Barnes & Noble because they love to read!

Thank you and congratulations!





The readers!



A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church is partnering with Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church (and hopefully many others) to collect:

1. Specific items for distribution to the homeless, through West Houston Assistance Ministries; and
2. Specific items for distribution to disadvantaged youth, through Memorial Assistance Ministries

The collection of items will be under the banner of “Boxing Days”, which will start the day after Christmas and run through Wednesday December 30th (please see the accompanying flyer). The church will provide the volunteers to man the collection site, which will be the Winters Gymnasium (have already cleared that through Gardner Headrick).

As a note, we are only accepting the items listed on the flyer, and only if they are “gently used, or like new”. Giving to this drive is not a substitute for spring cleaning. But, in the end, we are providing items that WHAM and MAM need to assist their constituents.

Hope this is of interest to you.

Robert M. King
713-824-6488
bobking84@comcast.net



GREAT JOB HSES STUDENTS—MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

On Saturday of this past weekend, a group of Third Graders Fifth Graders and spent some time volunteering at the non-profit Kid's Meals, Inc. They prepared over 1200 sandwiches in a two hour span, and then took some time to 'pose' for a couple of pictures afterward.

Kid's Meals is the only 'Meals on Wheels' program for children in Houston, making AND delivering 1200 lunches a day, Monday thru Friday, year-round. The children receiving the lunches are too young to qualify for the school district lunch program and this ONE meal is usually the only nutritious meal of the day for them.

Many thanks to these volunteers,
Christopher B. Smith
Vice President, New First National Bank





Great work volunteers!

LOWER SCHOOL



BOOK CHARACTER PARADE CLASS PICTURE

The class pictures of the Book Character Parade are here! You can view them outside your child's classroom. The Book Fair Committee is now taking orders for the pictures and selling the pictures for \$3.00 each. Order forms will be coming home with your child and will also be available in the library. If you would like to order a picture, please fill out the form and return it to your child's teacher. All forms must be returned by Friday, December 18, 2009. All profits go to the library. Thank you for your enthusiastic support of our school library.

TECHNOLOGY



Tech @ HSES

In a community service effort coordinated by Dottie Hogan, classes from Early Childhood through Eighth Grade participated in creating Christmas cards to send a little holiday cheer to veterans at the VA Hospital this week. Students in Lower School used *Print Shop* and Middle School students used *Publisher* to design colorful Christmas cards from scratch.

On another note—a fun holiday learning website!

In my search for useful holiday websites for teachers I came across this [Interactive Christmas Book](#) and thought I would share with everyone. The [Christmas Book](#) is full of interactive Christmas activities that can be used to reinforce listening skills, reading comprehension and English language learning. It even has an activity to help students learn about *Boxing Day*. Once you're on the site, click on the cover to see an index of activities. During your holiday break, feel free to visit the [Technology SchoolNotes page](#) for more [Winter Fun](#) activities!

PTO



THANK YOU FROM THE PTO TO THE HSES FACULTY

Just before Thanksgiving, the PTO gave a monetary thank you gift to each faculty and administrator of Holy Spirit Episcopal School. Below is the letter that accompanied the gift.



Dear Teachers and Administrators,

Traditionally this is the week we reflect and give thanks for the gifts God has given us. As we take stock in our lives we realize he has given each of us: beautiful, bright children; a traditional, loving school; and you. During this time of thanksgiving, we wanted to take a moment to recognize and thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. You truly make a difference.

Every day we see the blessings you bestow on our children: a hug here, tough love there, and all are given with compassion and warmth. We realize what a blessing you are, and for that we give thanks to both you and to God.

Please accept this as a small token of our gratitude and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Best wishes,
Julianne Mani
PTO President & Board

ATHLETICS



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: HOMECOMING—FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND!

Join us for a great evening! The Girls & Boys Varsity Teams will play, and there will be plenty of food and drinks for all. There will also be a Spirit competition during your art classes for all grades, and the winning grade gets a pizza party! We will also have prize drawings (Rocket basketball tickets, gift cards, toys, etc.) during the games, and T-shirts will be sold in January. Get ready for a fun time!

EVENTS

FCA CARPOOL CAROLLING!



Students arriving at Holy Spirit Episcopal School on Wednesday morning received a surprise—The Fellowship of Christian Athletes group greeting them with Christmas Carols and chocolate to start their day off right!



DROPPING OFF OUR MAM DONATIONS



Photos by Elaine Wertheimer.

The students pictured are delivering the lunches that we made at our Community Service Day to Memorial Area Ministries. Thanks! And great job HSES!

KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS!





Many thanks go out to the Kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Daniels, and to the wonderful performers for putting on a great show.

THE CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST CONCERT!



Many, many thanks to our fabulous cooks and performers!
What a great way to celebrate the Christmas season.



HSES BASKETBALL!



THE 5TH GRADE SOCIAL



Photos by Ellen DeSanctis

Many thanks go out to the 5th grade parents who organized the event, and to Mrs. Ziegenbein and Mr. Liga for joining in the fun.



MIDDLE SCHOOL "SANTA'S FUNKY WONDERLAND" DANCE



Great job Student Council!!!

3RD AND 4TH GRADE PAJAMA PARTY DAY!



Cold but comfortable!

All photos, unless otherwise noted, are by Barton Ballard.

