



Holy Spirit
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Saints' Stories & News

October 2, 2009

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL – Raymond E. Johnson



RELATIONSHIPS



I believe members of our school community – students, teachers, administrators, parents and school committee members – have the duty to build and strengthen human relationships. Positive, caring and committed relationships are the glue that holds an excellent school together and enables that school to work.

I am often reminded of an experience I had a number of years ago that left an imprint on me. In summer camp, on a clear, crisp Sunday morning deep in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains in Upstate New York, the visiting pastor shared a personal experience with us. He said he was once teaching a Sunday school class and the topic was relationships with Jesus Christ. “What do you want Jesus to do for you” he asked the class, forgetting momentarily that a blind boy named Chip was in the group. After the question was asked and it started its rounds, it struck the pastor. What if Chip’s answer was that he would like Jesus to give him the ability to see? “I have great faith,” the pastor told us, “but I could not promise Chip his sight.” Young people shared thoughts, ideas, and needs that were comforting. Then, inevitably, the question came to Chip. The moment was awkward and even a little uncomfortable. “I did not hesitate,” the pastor stated. “Tell us Chip, what do you want?” There was a long, uneasy pause and then with mixed apprehension and excitement Chip responded “A friend!” Chip could not see, but he had a need even greater than sight. It was evident to me then (and even more so today) that he was really asking Jesus for a rich human relationship. Chip was asking to become a part of the community defined by such terms as affection, understanding, mutual respect, and sense of duty and concern. I believe Chip’s compelling proof that one’s life is not freely shaped by oneself but instead is significantly shaped by the community in which one lives.

Consider if you will, how important relationships are in a school community. Ponder the findings that recently came from one of the most comprehensive studies done in recent years of the American school system. The study entitled “Voices From The Inside – A report on Schooling from Inside the Classroom” was conducted and reported by the Institute for Education in Transformation at the Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, California. What you are about to read was generated by “the people who work inside the schools and the parents of the students who study in those schools.”

Participants feel the crisis inside schools is directly linked to human relationships. Most often mentioned were relationships between teachers and students. Where positive things about the schools are noted, they usually involve reports of individuals who care, listen, understand, respect others and are honest, open and sensitive. Teachers report their best experiences in school are those where they connect with students and are able to help them in some way. They also report, however, there is precious little time during the day to seek out individual students. Students also notice teachers’ lack of time to speak to them individually. Parents say they want an honest dialogue between themselves and their children’s teachers. Even more important, many parents fear that poor relationships between teachers and their children damage their children’s sense of confidence and vitality. When relationships in schools are poor, fear, name calling, threats of or incidents of violence, as well as a sense of depression and

hopelessness exist. This theme was prominently stated by participants and so deeply connected to all other themes in the data that it is believed this may be one of the two most central issues in solving the crisis inside schools.

My intent in emphasizing the importance of relationships is best expressed by Amitai Etzioni, University Professor of Sociology at George Washington University. Etzioni writes, "Individuals are not viable unless integrated into a web of mutual affection and respect. They must maintain human bonds – or be deformed. To refer to this basic need for interpersonal bonds and to the conduct and disposition that reinforce rather than erode them it is essential individuals work with one another, mutually."

Human relationships are strong at Holy Spirit Episcopal School. In recent conversations with faculty, students and parents I asked them to define the strengths of Holy Spirit Episcopal School. The overwhelming response was this: We are a loving, caring, and supportive Christian community. Teachers are teaching well and students are learning well. We are living our mission as an expression of our core beliefs down to the smallest detail. Fundamental to what we believe is this "I belong to you and you belong to me."

GENERAL INFORMATION



GRANDPARENTS' AND SPECIAL FRIENDS' DAY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH



Since the 1990's, it has been a tradition at Holy Spirit to set aside one morning to celebrate a very special group of people—our grandparents and special friends. Through Chapel services, class visits, and a breakfast reception we welcome and honor these people that have been so important in our lives. This year Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 8:30 to 10:45 AM. We would appreciate your help with extending an invitation to your child's grandparents or special friend. Attached to this week's newsletter you will find an invitation that can be forwarded through email, or printed and mailed or hand delivered to those special persons you would like to invite. In the past, Grandparent's and Special Friends' Day has been a much anticipated and meaningful time for the young and old alike. Thank you for helping make the day a success.



CLASS AND INDIVIDUAL PICTURE SCHEDULE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

Individual student and class or grade-level pictures will be taken on Tuesday, October 13. Please do not make appointments that require your child to be off campus during their scheduled picture time.

Dress Uniform is required on all students. Girls in all levels should have the proper tie, and the loop should be checked to see that it is right side out. MS students must wear their blazers.

Schedule:

8:15-8:25	Staff individual pictures	10:20-10:40	Ladybugs/Dolphins
8:25-8:40	4 th Grade	10:40-11:00	Goldfish/Scottie Dogs
8:40-9:00	3 rd Grade	11:00-11:20	5 th Grade
9:00-9:20	2 nd Grade	11:20-11:40	6 th Grade
9:20-9:40	1 st Grade	11:40-12:00	7 th Grade
9:40-10:00	Kindergarten	12:00-12:20	8 th Grade
10:00-10:20	Clowns/Teddy Bears		



IT'S A BIRD...IT'S A PLANE...IT'S BOOKFAIR 2009! OCTOBER 19TH-21ST



Keep Our Library Strong – Donate a Book

We are looking forward to Holy Spirit's annual library donation weeks. During Monday, October 5 through Friday, October 16, Holy Spirit families are encouraged to become Friends of the Library by donating books to the school library. Donated books will contain a special bookplate designating both the honoree and the one donating the book.

Students will bring home a form indicating a book or books they would like to donate. If you would like to become a Friend of the Library, please fill out the form and return it to your child's teacher or to the library. Your child will be the first student to check out the book or books.

If you prefer to select the books you donate personally, please come by the library between 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM each day during the donation weeks. We look forward to seeing you.

Thank you very much. Your kind donation will support our library and put new books into the hands of our students.

Mrs. Mills- Librarian



COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

Community Day of Service will be here before you know it. On November 24th the entire school will come together to work on a variety of projects that support organizations in the greater community. To make this day a success, we will be asking for donations throughout the months of October and November.

During the month of October, we will be collecting the items to be used to make hygiene kits for Lord of the Streets. For the kits we will need hotel/travel size toiletries including the following:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| shampoo | toothbrushes |
| conditioner | body lotion |
| bar soap | deodorant |
| toothpaste | disposable razors |

The donations may be brought to your child's classroom or the front office. Thank you for your support of what has become a very meaningful annual HSES event.

In November we will be collecting the items needed to make nonperishable sack lunches for MAM (Memorial Assistance Ministries). Last year our students prepared and delivered almost 300 lunches ready for MAM to distribute to those in need.

Also in November we will collect newspapers to be sorted and prepared as cage liners for CAPS (Citizens for Animal Protection). Information about the November collections will come out in a later Newsletter.



FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

Fund for Excellence is off to a great start—\$84,405 in pledges and payments! Our 2009-2010 goal is \$150,000. Way to go Saints! The FFE brochure was sent to all parents, faculty and staff, so look for your pledge cards. FFE Grade-Level Captains will be contacting you in order to obtain your support.

LOWER SCHOOL



FOURTH GRADE ECO-LINK TRIP TO CAMP ALLEN



The release forms and trip fee are due. Please contact Virginia Goble, 713-468-5138 ext. 265 or vzgoble@hses.org if you did not receive this information.

Mark your calendars: There will be a parent meeting to go over the details of the 4th grade trip to Camp Allen following the Thursday night performance of the 3rd and 4th grades' presentation of *The Drum*. The meeting will be held in Room 305 (Mrs. Gearhart's classroom). Students will be supervised in Mrs. Gardner's classroom.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

COSTA RICA EXCHANGE PROGRAM ¡PURA VIDA!

The Costa Rica trip deadline is approaching!! It's a wonderful part of Holy Spirit's rich educational offerings, so don't miss this opportunity. Holy Spirit must let our sister school in San Jose know how many students plan to visit by the end of October at the *latest*.

Students will be in Costa Rica from Feb. 24th through Mar. 5th, 2010. They do *not* have to be fluent in Spanish. The trip is open to fifth through eighth graders.

If you are interested, please contact Connie DuPre, Costa Rican Exchange Director, at cldupre@hses.org for forms and information, or Brooke Frank, Assistant Director, at bbfrank@pdg.net. Forms are available at Lona Wong's desk in the front office. A \$50 deposit is due when you sign up. The first payment is due on December 14th and the balance is due January 11th.

Do not hesitate to email if you have questions. A second opportunity for information concerning the trip is scheduled for Teacher Conference Day on Nov. 16th. There will be a Costa Rica Exchange Trip table set up in the middle school hallway so that parents do not have to make an additional trip to school.

STUDENT YEARBOOK COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We are currently forming a Middle School student yearbook committee that will be offered to students on *Thursdays from 7:45 - 8:15 AM*. Interested students are asked to submit a paragraph telling why they would like to be a part of the committee and what skills they will use to contribute to the group. The students will be responsible for taking and gathering pictures for next year's yearbook, as well as writing brief descriptions about activities of interest that they would like to see included. *All submissions should be turned in to Ms. Robinson no later than Wednesday, October 7, 2009.*

REDCLOUD PARENTS' MEETING

Parents of 6th and 7th graders—please join us from 6:30 - 7:15 PM on Tuesday, October 6th for an informational meeting about our trip to Camp Redcloud. Please bring your final payments and any medical documents that you have not submitted.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

KINDERGARTEN PLAY NEWS!

Mark your calendars! Save the date! The wonderful presentation of the kindergarten play *The Baby in the Manger* will be here before you know it, and you won't want to miss it. Joyful sounds of Christmas are now filling the air as our kindergarten angels, shepherds, wise men, animals and Bethlehem families are joined together in song. Following are the dates for their upcoming debut:

Wednesday, December 9th at 10:00 AM (CEC/EC/Parents attend)

Thursday, December 10th at 10:00 AM (LS/MS/Parents attend)

Friday, December 11th at 10:00 AM (Parents/Community attend)

There is no Sunday evening performance.

We look forward to sharing our Christmas joy with you!

SHOWCHOIR AND ENSEMBLE CHOIR

Please mark your calendars for the *Showchoir* performance dates first semester 2009. These events include:

Monday, October 19 – “Sundae Monday, Frito Pie Night” 6:30 PM Gym

Tuesday, October 20 – Grandparents' and Special Friends Day – 8:30 AM Church

Sunday, November 8 – Episcopal School Sunday – 10:30 AM Parish Hall, Contemporary Service

Thursday, December 10 – Community Christmas Breakfast – 7:30 AM Parish Hall

Friday, December 18 – Service of Lessons and Carols – 8:30 AM Church

The *Ensemble Choir* first semester performances include Eucharist on November 3, the Community Breakfast on December 10, and the Service of Lessons and Carols on Friday, December 18. The Church and school community are always invited to all of these occasions.

 **“THE DRUM”** 

The Holy Spirit School and Church Community is cordially invited to the third and fourth grade presentation of *“The Drum”*, scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, at 10:00 AM and Thursday, October 15, at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. All performances are in the Parish Hall. *“The Drum”* is a folk tale from India, recounting and celebrating the generous nature of humankind. The students in both the third and fourth grade classes are connecting with this folk tale by participating in a service project for an orphanage in Bangalore, India. We hope you will attend the performances of this show, and support the students on the stage and with their project.



 **“SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK”**

Here is a wonderful opportunity for students in grades K-8th grades to participate onstage with the Memorial High School thespians. MHS is offering a *Kids Theatre Camp* on Saturday, October 10, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Participants will have the opportunity to be in the Saturday afternoon performance, live! Enrollment information is available at www.mhstheatre.com. Forms are located outside room 503.

 **“DEAR EDWINA”** 

The cast for *“Dear Edwina”* has been posted outside room 503. A big thank you and congratulations to all the students who auditioned for roles in this Broadway Jr. MS production, scheduled for April, 2010. The first cast meeting will be the ‘all-day read-through’ rehearsal and lunch on Monday, November 16 during MS Conference Day.

ATHLETICS

 **SPIRIT YARD SIGNS!**

Did you notice the fun "spirit" yard signs in the main carpool area? They are awesome and are great to show school spirit while supporting your child and your child's school. If you would like to order your personalized spirit yard sign, please contact Eli Olguin, Director of Athletics, at emolguin@hses.org. Order forms (attached) can also be obtained in the School Office.

 **SPORTS TEAMS UPDATES**

We would like to thank all of you who have supported Holy Spirit Athletics by attending games and cheering on our teams! Keep up the good work!

Upcoming events:

- * Winter Sports Meeting – October 21, 3:35 PM in the Parish Hall
- * Basketball tryouts – October 22 – 23, 3:30-5:00 PM in the gym

TECHNOLOGY

 **LS NEWS**

- ☪ K through 1st grade students enjoyed reading the [interactive story](#) about *Johnny Appleseed* and drawing a picture about the story using *KidPix*. Pre-K students are exploring the website [starfall.com](#) as they continue to reinforce letter and sound recognition while learning how to identify the letters of their name.
- ☪ 2nd through 3rd grade have been learning the basics of using *MS Word*, by learning how to use toolbars to insert clip art and format text by creating *fall* flyers.
- ☪ 4th grade students reinforced their knowledge about the *Texas Regions* by drawing and labeling a map of Texas.



Pre-K students use name cards to identify letters in their name while working on [starfall.com](#). Photo by Allison Robinson

MS NEWS

- ☪ Middle School students in *class 5B* have sharpened up their online safety skills and are becoming budding journalists as they create newsletters using *MSPublisher!*
- ☪ Students in the 1st quarter Web Design class have completed their mock practice website using [Microsoft Expression Web](#) and are busy working on their final websites. Students will create a final website that demonstrates their ability to use layers and images, create style templates, interactive button hyperlinks and more! Their final sites will include an *All About Me* page, an *e-cessory* (electronic accessory) page that tells about an electronic accessory that has had the greatest impact on them, and two pages of choice to complete their final project.

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH



MORE BURNT OFFERINGS PLEASE!

The Church & School Cookbook, "Burnt Offerings" was a smash hit last year... So we would like to add some *new* recipes for 2009! Do you have a favorite recipe that you would be willing to share? Well, we will happily publish it for you. Please submit your recipe by October 15 to Shari Watson at iswatson@comcast.net or drop your submissions off at the church office in KariAnn Lessner's box. The new and improved cookbooks will be available for purchase later in the fall. Those who own the cookbook already will be able to purchase the insert of additional recipes at a reduced price. Thank you for your support.



SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING

Safeguarding God's Children is training for the prevention of sexual abuse of children and youth. The program provides participants information they need to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and the ministries in which they serve. If every adult can protect just one child, they will forever change one life. If we can all change one life, together we will make a difference in this generation of children.

Any adult who works with children for more than six hours per year is required by the Diocese of Texas to take this three-hour course. This includes coaches for Youth Sports, vestry, parents who volunteer at the school, ushers, tutors and staff. We will be offering two more on-site sessions during the 2009-2010 school year:

- Wednesday, November 4, 2009 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM in the Youth Room
- Saturday, February 27, 2010 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Youth Room

To attend the November training, RSVP as soon as possible by emailing KariAnn Lessner at dcfm@hsechurch.org. Please note that there are alternate times offered throughout the diocese; for more information on those offerings, visit the diocesan website at www.epicenter.org.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Come to Trunk-or-Treat on Sunday, October 25 from 4:00—6:00 PM in the east parking lot of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. What is it? A safe fun-filled, “no fear” night out for kids of all ages! How does it work?

1. Be a “Trunk-or-Treat” vehicle. Bring a lawn chair and a bowl of candy OR decorate your vehicle, bring LOADS of candy, and hand out treats to the children as they go from car to car.
2. Come in a fun, positive (not scary) costume. Bring a treat bag & Trunk-or-Treat.
3. Bring a friend... Get the word out about how great Holy Spirit really is!

This is a FREE event. Dinner is served too—hot dogs & drinks for everyone! To reserve your spot or to find out how you can help, please call KariAnn Lessner @ 713.468.7796 x201 or email dcfm@hsechurch.org.



ST. FRANCIS BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Sunday, October 5 at 2:00 PM come celebrate St. Francis Day at this annual event for our pets and their humans. Bring your cats, dogs, horses, goldfish, parrots and dragons (yes... dragons are welcome too!) If you can't bring your pet, bring a picture instead – all are welcome to join us at the outdoor altar for their blessing. Please bring a donation of dog/cat food or treats for CAPS (Citizens for Animal Protection Society), our local animal shelter. If you have any questions, please call KariAnn Lessner at 713-468-7796 x 201 or email dcfm@hsechurch.org.



HOLIDAY HULLABALOO

Please save the date Thursday, November 5 at 12:00 PM for a spectacular luncheon featuring holiday fashions and vendors with everything that's *hot* for your 2009 festivities! If you have a home-based business and would like to feature in our incredible line up of vendors, please contact KariAnn Lessner by emailing her at dcfm@hsechurch.org. Tickets for the Holiday Hullabaloo will go on sale in October! Until then... start thinking about who you want to share this super fun event with!

This is a reminder that the October Dove Tales (the church newsletter) is posted on line at our web-site, www.hsechurch.org. Please click the link and once on the opening page scroll down and select the Dove Tales icon at the lower left side.

EVENTS



**PTO FAMILY
MOVIE
NIGHT!**





A big thank you to all of the 40 plus families who attended HSES' first Movie Night! Thank you so much for your support! It was wonderful to see the children enjoy watching a classic with their parents and having a great time as a community.

A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with set up, concessions, ticket sales, clean up and everything in between! These include Anne Vachon, Birgit Determann, Christy Lock, Courtenay McNew, Ian Watson, Irene Madriz, Jim Miller, Julieanne Mani, Kathy Blick, Kryshon Bratton, Lisa Mack, Louise Lucena, Ranelle Johnson, Reba Reid, Sid Wall, Wendy Wall and Francisco.

Thank you all for your support of the HSES PTO!
 Connie Hill

Below are some raves about the evening!

Ashley Miller - The first thing Ashley said this morning (Sat) was, "Last night was fantastic!"

Britt & Pia Determan and family - A big THANK YOU from all of us. It was a great evening and we really enjoyed it. Thanks for all of your hard work and effort. It was worth it!

Michael Bratton - Michael said, "It was one of the Top 5 best events that we have been to at school."

I have heard from several people that everyone who attended has in some way asked when the next movie will be showing... They have been told maybe Spring, but for some, that is not soon enough!

🍁 5TH GRADE SKY RANCH TRIP! 📖

Our 5th grade class spent last week on a four-day and three-night ECO-link trip to Sky Ranch in East Texas, approximately 1½ hours from Dallas. The trip was an outstanding opportunity for our 5th grade students to develop a deeper appreciation of nature and learn about their responsibilities as caretakers of the Earth. Students also faced challenges that helped them push beyond what they believed they could do. As you can see in the photos below, they had a great adventure!



5th grade students having a blast at Sky Ranch!
Photos by Gene Liga and Pam Ziegenbein.

 **HAVING FUN AT SCHOOL!** 



HSES students having fun outside during some nice Fall weather.

 **HSES YOUTH SPORTS!** 



The Pre-K team gets ready for their big game on Saturday!

 **HSES VARSITY SPORTS!** 



Left: The JV Girls get some last minute advice from Coach McKim.
Right: The Varsity Girls try to finish off a rally.



Left: Varsity volleyball players and fans celebrate a victory!
Right: A Varsity player fights off two defenders!

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

