



Holy Spirit
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Saints' Stories & News

September 18, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL – Raymond E. Johnson



“THE FIRST HUNDRED DAYS”



The Board of Trustees and Head of School Ray Johnson are pleased to invite you to a special presentation by Mr. Johnson entitled "*The First Hundred Days on the Job*". It will be on **Thursday, September 24, at 6:30 PM** in the Parish Hall. This will be a frank and candid conversation about where Holy Spirit has been, where we are, and where we are going.

To encourage parents to attend, Mr. Johnson is offering an incentive. If 50% of our families attend, the entire student body will have a free dress day. The date of the free dress day will be determined at a later time.

Our school is experiencing important momentum. This is to be celebrated. We look forward to seeing you on September 24th at 6:30 PM. The program should take no more than one hour.

Free childcare will be provided by the Child Enrichment Center. Reservations are required. Please call CEC (713-973-8150) to reserve a spot.

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 through Chapel services, class visits, and a breakfast reception a very special group of people, our grandparents and special friends. This year Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 22 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 must anticipated and meaningful time for the young and old alike. Thank you for helping make the day a success.

If you have not already sent your child(ren)'s grandparent and/or special friend contact information, please contact Robyn LaRocca in the Admission and Development office or email at rlarocca@hses.org by September 20th.



 **HSES CHESS CLUB** 

It is not too late to join the HSES 2009 Chess Club. Meetings are held on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 PM in Room 505. Contact Virginia Goble, 713-468-5138, Ext. 265 or vzgoble@hses.org for more information.

 **INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP YEARBOOK PICTURES** 



Individual student and class or grade-level pictures will be taken on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009. 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. MS students must wear their blazers.

Schedule: Tuesday, September 22

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

Fifth grade will be off campus. Their pictures will be taken on retake/absentee photo day (date to be announced).

 **CUB SCOUTS—HSES TROOP** 

We are still accepting new members (grades 1-5)! There is a folder in the front office of the school with the sign-up and information sheets. Our next Den meeting will be Oct. 6th. We will introduce our Popcorn fundraiser and have a short Den activity.

Our first campout will be at Stephen F. Austin State Park (overnight camping and fishing tournament) the weekend of the 24th of September. Details to follow in pack email next week.

 **DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

Please know that if your family would like an additional copy of the 2009-2010 HSES school directory, they are available in the front office. One additional directory per family will be available. Thank you for your continued support.

LOWER SCHOOL

 **COME JOIN JUNIOR FCA!** 

Each Wednesday morning, starting September 9, 1st through 4th graders have the wonderful opportunity to meet in room 503 from 7:30 – 8:00 AM for a fun-filled Bible study about our great and mighty God! As we listen to stories, read scriptures and play games, we grow in our knowledge of God's love for us and how He wants us to live for and serve Him each and every day at school, at home and in every area of our lives. We have an awesome God and we want the world to know!



HOLY SPIRIT 4TH GRADERS STUDY THE ENVIRONMENT

To learn about ecology in the world around them, Mrs. Gearhart's 4th grade science students have each built a miniature aquarium and terrarium. Using 2-liter soda bottles, they planted rye grass, mustard seeds and alfalfa to become the producers in their terrariums while elodea, algae, and duckweed are used as the producers in the aquariums.

Consumers in the form of crickets and isopods were added to the terrariums, while pond snails, mosquito fish were added to the aquariums. Once these ecosystems were established, the students, with Mrs. Gearhart's help, joined the two habitats together to form eco-columns. When the terrarium is watered, the water percolates through the earth to become part of the aquarium, just as rain seeps into the ground to become part of groundwater or is drained into lakes and streams. In the next few weeks, the students will test the effects of acid rain, road salt, and too much fertilizer on their eco-columns to see what happens to their beautiful ecosystems when too much pollution is added to them.



(left) A 4th grader gets an up-close view of her eco-column.
(right) A 4th grade student and Mrs. Gearhart put his column together without spilling anything!

FOURTH GRADE ECO-LINK TRIP TO CAMP ALLEN

The parent packet of information for Camp Allen was sent electronically last Tuesday. The release forms and fees for the trip are due on Friday Oct. 2. Please contact Virginia Goble, 713-468-5138 ext. 265 or yzgoble@hses.org if you did not receive this information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

5TH GRADE TRIP TO SKY RANCH

Our 5th grade class leaves on Tuesday, September 22nd for a four-day and three-night ECO-link trip to Sky Ranch in East Texas, approximately 1½ hours from Dallas. Look for some news and photos from their trip in the next newsletter!

8TH GRADE CHICAGO TRIP PARENT MEETING DATE CHANGED

The Parent Meeting date, originally scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th, has been changed to *Wednesday, September 30th from 6:30-7:15 PM.*



 **STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS** 



Our 2009 Student Council officers! (from left) Treasurer, Vice-President, Secretary, President, Chaplain, and Historian.

 **DUKE UNIVERSITY TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM** 

Congratulations to the following Middle School students for qualifying for the Duke TIP. These students have been invited to participate in the program based on their strong intellectual abilities as demonstrated on the Stanford Achievement Test.

The students are *Michael Actkinson, Nicholas Care, Anna Lee Carothers, Casey Craft, David Guefen, Daniel Guerrero, Alden Herrera, Samuel Linton, Tobi Oguntona, Sarah Oldfield, Maneill Parekh, Nicholas Skoumpourdis, and Austin Willbern.*

These students will receive motivation, support, resources, feedback, and encouragement to continue to challenge them educationally through this program. The information they receive will help them in their educational development and college planning.

 **COSTA RICA EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARENT MEETING** 

Parents of 5th through 8th graders who are interested in participating in Holy Spirit's Costa Rica Exchange Program should mark Tuesday, September 22 on their calendars. The introductory meeting to the program will be held in the LRC at 6:30 PM and run until about 7:15 PM.

The meeting will cover basics such as how the program is run, who can participate, responsibilities of students, tentative costs, dates, and what Holy Spirit students can expect during their visit. *Even if parents are uncertain whether this is an experience for their child,* they should come to get first-hand information, keeping in mind that 5th and 6th graders will have another opportunity to visit Costa Rica in 2012. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Mrs. DuPre at cldupre@hses.org.



VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

SHOWCHOIR AND ENSEMBLE CHOIR

Please mark your calendars for the *Showchoir* performance dates for the 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 17, 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 Holy Eucharist on September 15 and November 3, the Community Breakfast on December 10, and the Service of Lessons and Carols on Friday, December 18. The Church and school communities are always invited to all of these occasions.

“THE DRUM”

Make plans to attend the third and fourth grade musical, “*The Drum*”, on Wednesday, October 14, 10:00 AM and/or Thursday, October 15, 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. The performances are in the Parish Hall. The *Visual and Performing Arts Council* will be selling flowers at the Thursday, 7:00 PM performance for all the young thespians.

“DEAR EDWINA” AUDITIONS

The MS 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are invited to come this Saturday, September 19, and audition for “Dear Edwina”. Times are from 10:00AM until 12:00 NOON in room 503, MS Building. “Dear Edwina” is the MS Production Broadway Jr. Musical scheduled for the end of April, 2010. Come join the fun!

ATHLETICS

PEP RALLY

Fall Sports and FamFest Pep Rally, Friday, October 2 3:00 PM- Gym. Everyone is welcome! Show your HSES Saints Spirit and meet our Volleyball and Soccer athletes.





(top left) A 7th grader returns a ball while the JV Volleyball team looks on.
 (top right) An 8th grader stretches for the ball while teammates look on.
 (left) An 8th grader wins a header in the midst of two defenders!
 (right) A 5th grader takes down the opposition!

♥ **YOUTH SPORTS SOCCER IS UNDERWAY!** 🍃

Come see our lower school teams playing on fields all over West Houston, Saturday afternoons on a field near you, beginning September 26th!



4th Grade girls have their first practice!

HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL 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 x 201 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!



PTO SECTION

♥ PTO FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, SEPT. 18 🍃

It is not too late to join the fun this Friday night as the PTO presents Willy Wonka on BIG SCREEN on the HSES soccer field. Tickets are \$10.00/family. Purchase a concession for \$1.00 and the Popcorn is included. The gate will open at 7:15. Enter from the main parking lot through the gate by the gym. Bring a blanket and watch a movie under the stars!

♥ GOT FAMFEST? 🍃

FamFest is Oct. 2 from 3:30-6:30 PM. This is a fun filled event for HSES families and their friends. Got your t-shirt? Students may wear their FamFest 2009 t-shirts with the school uniform on Fridays through Oct. 2 (Sept. 18, Sept. 25, Oct. 2)

FamFest is a huge undertaking and takes lots of volunteers to be successful. If you have not already done so, contact Courtenay McNew (themcnews@sbcglobal.net) or Connie Hill (constance_hill@yahoo.com). They would love to get you involved.



3rd Grade teacher Rebecca MacKinnon and her son are ready for Famfest!
Photo from Rebecca.

ADVANCEMENT

♥ SISSY GREGORY AUCTION PHOTOS! ✨

Back by popular demand: Sissy Gregory, our favorite Holy Spirit photographer, will once again be taking 11" x 14" black and white pictures for the auction this year. Since 2003, Sissy's portraits have been a big hit and a cherished auction item. Sign-up will be available in the front office beginning Monday, September 21st. Each individual portrait is \$100; additional siblings in the picture add \$25 each. Sign up early as Sissy will only be taking 50 pictures this year!



LIFE AT HSES



(left) Early Childhood girls play on the playground.
(right) Early Childhood boys relax on a ride.



(left) A 4th grader works hard and is well protected!



(right) 8th graders write an original play in Theatre Arts, which they will perform later in the year.

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



*Please join us for
Grandparents and Special Friends Day*



*Tuesday, October 20, 2009
Holy Spirit Episcopal School
12535 Perthshire Road
Houston, TX 77024*

Summary of the day's events by Division:

**All activities are for grandparents, special friends and students*

Child Enrichment Center

<i>9:00 - 9:15</i>	<i>Classroom Visitation</i>
<i>9:15 - 9:40</i>	<i>Continental Breakfast in Parish Hall</i>
<i>9:45 - 10:00</i>	<i>Chapel Service in the Children's Chapel</i>
<i>10:05 - 10:45</i>	<i>Book Fair in the Gym</i>

Early Childhood & Kindergarten

<i>8:45 - 9:10</i>	<i>Continental Breakfast in Parish Hall</i>
<i>9:15 - 9:45</i>	<i>Chapel Service in the Church</i>
<i>9:45 - 10:20</i>	<i>Book Fair in the Gym</i>
<i>10:20 - 10:45</i>	<i>Classroom Visitation</i>

Lower & Middle School

<i>8:30 - 9:05</i>	<i>Chapel Service in the Church</i>
<i>9:05 - 9:45</i>	<i>Book Fair in the Gym</i>
<i>9:30 - 9:40</i>	<i>Middle School Theater Arts Presentation in the Gym</i>
<i>9:45 - 10:10</i>	<i>Continental Breakfast - Middle School</i>
<i>9:45 - 10:15</i>	<i>Classroom Visitation - Lower School</i>
<i>10:15 - 10:45</i>	<i>Continental Breakfast - Lower School</i>





Holy Spirit
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

got tickets?

Mark your calendars, get ready to play.

FamFest is only weeks away!

October 2nd, 2009

Prepurchase tickets, don't wait in line!

But of course you can always buy more at the gate.

Be sure to stop by and celebrate!

All preorder forms, along with your payment, are due **Monday, September 28th**. Tickets sold through September 28th are 25 tickets for \$20! So preorder yours today and save!

Tickets sold at gate \$1.00 each!

Questions? Contact Connie Hill at constance_hill@yahoo.com
Courtenay McNew at themcnews@sbcglobal.net

QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.

FamFest Ticket Preorder Form

Order by Sept. 28th \$1.00 each or 25 tickets for \$20.00 (preorder only)

If ordering for more than one child, please put eldest child's info below.

Child's Name

Teacher

Parent Phone

TOTAL NO. OF TICKETS

Rides and attractions are 1 - 3 tickets

Concessions are 1 - 3 tickets

General Store items are 1 - 4 tickets

Drawings are 1 ticket per chance... you can enter as many times as you want!

CASH

CHECK # _____

Please make checks payable to HSES; memo: FamFest Tickets

ALL PRE-ORDER TICKET SALES FINAL