



HCA Family Newsletter November 2, 2018

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. Prayer for the Souls in Purgatory.

November

1- 9 Library Book Fair

2 – All Souls Day, no school Mass

3 – Confirmation Retreat, teams 1-11; Volleyball Tournament at CORE

6 – Basketball Tryouts (Varsity & JV together): boys @ 3:30; girls @ 5:30

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2nd grade trip to Jamestown

8 – 4th grade Mini-Mall, 8:30 until sold out!; dismissal, 11:30am; parent conferences

9 – no school, parent conferences

10 – Confirmation Retreat, teams 12-22

11 – Happy Veterans Day, with our prayers of gratitude for your dedicated service! Saint Mary Preschool Open House, 9:30-12pm.

12 – Doughnuts with Day, 7:30-8am

We invite all our HCA Dads to join us for coffee and a doughnut with your beautiful children!

13 – HCA Open House, 9am, in the library, please invite family and friends to learn about our school

14 – Transitioning to High School Night, 7pm, library



Recess Duty, 11:35-12:25: 3rd grade 10/31 to 11/14; 2nd grade 11/15-29; 1st grade 11/16-12/5

NOTES

We had a beautiful Grandparents' Day but we know that **all of our students' grandparents could not attend**. We would be happy to send them a letter from our school letting them know that we were thinking of them and praying for them. If you would like us to do this, please send an email to Sr. Susan Louise at principal@holycrossweb.com. Please give the grandparents' names and addresses, and the names of their grandchildren.

If you did **not yet sign up for a conference with your child's teacher**, please contact him or her to do so. The teachers will share the Scantron test scores and other information about your child's progress.

We are **looking forward to having all of you here in school on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning for conferences**. Please feel free to stop by the office to visit Sr. Susan Louise or Mr. Sarchet and let us know how your year is going. Mrs. Dalton and Mrs. Darling will both be available Thursday afternoon until 3:30pm if you would like to stop by and see either of them.

Congratulations to our National Junior Honor Society officers who were recently elected by their peers: *President- Katie Harmon; Vice President- Jasmine Nguyen; Secretary - Kylee Hertrick*. We are grateful for your leadership and your willingness to serve.

It's About the Children!

Stars to honor Veterans and active military: Please remember to decorate and send in your stars to honor our veterans and active military. We will create a large display in their honor in Father Brisson Hall. Please send them in by Nov. 8th.

Congratulations to our **HCA Cub Scout Pack 1410 4th and 5th grade scouts**. Webelos from Pack 1410 won the **Commissioners Cup** for their participation in the Fall 2018 Webelos-ree. It was won by our Pack in 2014. There have only been 2 other packs to win it twice. The kids are graded on the organization of their tent sites, their enthusiasm at each station, how well they do at the stations, and behavior.

Please consider a Square 1 Art gift for friends and family. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the HCA art program. All orders will arrive in plenty of time for Christmas.



Paper Order Deadline: November 2. Online Ordering Extended! Order online through November 7.

Listening Event: Join Fr. Mosimann & our vicar clergy to discuss openly the abuse crisis in our Catholic Church. You are welcome to attend and ask questions or share comments that are weighing on your heart and/or to listen to those in your parish family. Friday, November 16th at 7:00pm in the Church. (Note: Due to the nature of this topic, this event is not suitable for children.) The Arlington Diocese has a great resource that can be found at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/Sexual-Abuse-FAQs-October-26-2018.pdf>

The Order of the Elks are holding an essay contest on the topic: "What Makes You Proud of America". This is open to grades 5 – 8. Students can ask their teachers for an entry form.

Stephanie Cook is available for tutoring for students in grades K-5. She has openings after school and on weekends. Please email her at CooksClass@holycrossweb.com for more information.

The **Virginia Catholic Conference provides information on candidates to assist us as we vote:** <https://vacatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-US-Senate-Candidates-English.pdf>

Have you signed up your Giant card for HCA yet? Our school id# is 02320. This is a simple fundraiser that helps our PTO support the education of all our children.



The 4th grade Mini-Mall is back! The 4th graders have been working hard to create products to sell that will benefit Catholic Charities and their many services. Items only cost \$0.50 and your child can bring in their money anytime, including the morning of Mini Mall, Thursday, Nov. 8. Please help the 4th graders in their endeavors to raise money for this wonderful charity.

Aviat Care is hiring an after-school childcare worker. The hours are 2:45-5:00pm. We are looking for someone who loves to be around children and is willing to lead them in play and guide them in completing their homework. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Sr. Miriam Elizabeth at aviatcare@holycrossweb.com.

Thanks to all who came out for the haunted house...it was a great time! Student Council will be selling "cookie-grams" for Thanksgiving. Look for more information next week. The 7th grade has been doing a fantastic job with the school store. They will be adding Christmas items so it may be a great way for your students to get their holiday shopping done affordably! Student Council has been very successful with all of the activities and will be able to help purchase and plant new trees to replace our shade trees that died and had to be removed. **Way to go, SCA!**

Please see the flyer for the St. Mary Craft Group open to students aged 4 – 11 years. There are many different craft opportunities, along with the chance to make new friends.

Crusader Corner: Since our Fall seasons have now ended, all uniforms must now be returned. Please return cleaned uniforms in a bag with the athlete's name to Mrs. Meskunas or to the front office.

Basketball tryouts will be held on Nov 6 and 7 in Father Brisson Hall. Please turn in your forms as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements for the number of players in tryouts. See the times of the tryouts above!

Come one, come all to support your HCA Crusaders Volleyball team! On November 3rd, the Crusaders will battle other VCAC teams to try and bring home the championship trophy. The tournament will begin at 9 am and is at Core Volleyball Club, 1127 International Parkway, Suite 141, Fredericksburg, VA 22406. Wear your maroon and grey proudly! Hope to see everyone there!!!

SCRIP News – Gifting that gives back. Find gifts for everyone on your gift list while raising funds for Holy Cross Academy with the Scrip holiday gift guide. Shop gift cards from over 750 top brands, including Best Buy, Amazon, The Home Depot and more. Whether you buy the gift cards to give as presents to family and friends, or use them to buy your gifts – Holy Cross Academy earns with every gift card purchased. It's simple, it's thoughtful and it's truly the gift that keeps on giving. Start today and buy a couple of gift cards each week, it's a great way to budget for Christmas and avoid the last-minute rush. Check out the Scrip holiday gift guide at ShopWithScrip.com/GiftGuide or email questions and/or orders to scripcoordinator@holycrossweb.com

PTO Corner: Many thanks to Tara Durant and the rest of the team behind **the triumphant return of Trunk or Treat.** One of the greatest things about this school and this community is that, rain or shine, we know how to have a good time. If you missed it this year, mark your calendar for next year and start dreaming up something frightening to make those kids earn that candy!

Save the Date of December 9th! The Holy Cross Academy Barnes & Noble book fair will be held that day, with a portion of all sales from the Central Park Barnes and Noble coming to our school as a fundraiser. If you're available to help wrap gifts, direct shoppers or even to entertain the masses with a special talent, please contact Brian Fannin at attorney@brianfanninlaw.com to volunteer. This year we will have teacher wish lists available in advance, so if you don't know what to get that special teacher for

“It's About the Children.”

Christmas, this will help you know what is needed for the classroom. And don't forget: cheesecakes! Watch this space for more information shortly.

Anyone up for an adult night out? The **fantastic Murder Mystery Dinner Show** may be coming to Holy Cross Academy to raise money for Drama Club and PTO.

Contact amyuriell@mac.com or skaggs13@aol.com to learn more about this evening of fantastic food, wonderful wine, and a touch of deductive reasoning--you may even get to pick whodunit!

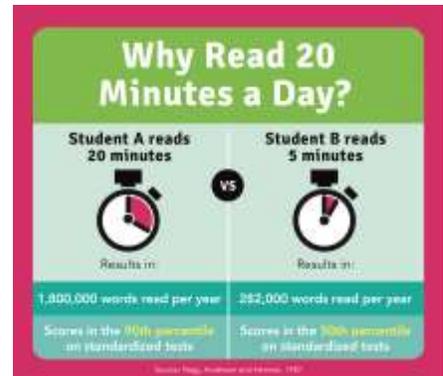
You may have noticed the **chocolate that came home with your youngest child!** Many thanks to all of you who have already sent in your chocolate money--these funds go directly towards all of the many activities that we sponsor, so let's all do our best to get the money in on time this year. On time means before the end of November, which this year falls on Friday, November 30th--we know you can do it by then! If you are having trouble thinking of places to go to sell chocolate, contact attorney@brianfanninlaw.com and the PTO president will share all of his favorite entrepreneurial tricks for 10-year-olds (yes, the red wagon works going door to door in your own peaceful neighborhood--Cute Sells!). **Four more cases in the office just waiting to be sold!**

And **do I hear fifty, fifty-five, sixty fun-filled hours volunteering to lead the Auction in 2020?!?!?!?**

Please give a thought to whether you could make the 2020 auction magically efficient, beautifully decorated, memorably delicious or just the most well-oiled fundraiser ever to support our school. The time is now to volunteer yourself and your friends for this fun, social event.

Many activities are already happening, and we especially need volunteers for Scrip Coordinator and helpers; Yearbook Coordinators, Photographers, Editors and Helpers; and many other key positions. Please contact Brian Fannin at attorney@brianfanninlaw.com to express your interest in these or any other positions.

Dear Parents and Families: Did you know? Reading just 20 minutes a day exposes your child to about **1.8 million words** per year. Reading helps students develop a stronger vocabulary, and in addition, students who read for pleasure average higher grades in English, Mathematics, Science, and History! Encourage your child to read books for fun by attending our upcoming **Scholastic Book Fair**. Allow your child to choose the books they want to read! It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. **Mark your calendar!** Book Fair dates: **November 2-9, 2018** Shopping hours: **7:30-3:30**



NEW digital payment option: eWallet! Now your student can shop the Fair cash-free! Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and to create an account:

<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/holycrossacademy1>

If you are unable to attend the Fair in person, we invite you to visit our Online Fair at scholastic.com/fair. Our Online Fair is available from **October 27** to **November 12**. We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school. Thank you for supporting our readers!

Kaleidoscope Occupational Therapy LLC is offering FREE developmental screenings for students at Holy Cross Academy! As an Occupational Therapist, I am professionally trained to identify challenges in an individual that may be unseen to the common eye and address those areas through functional and engaging therapeutic tasks. OT is unique in that it helps individuals gain or regain the skills they need to perform tasks necessary for them in day-to-day activities (eating, dressing, playing, socializing, performing academically, etc.). For example: Some children seem clumsy, unmotivated, or constantly on-the-go. Others have difficulty concentrating and behaving well in school. OTs are trained to see beyond the symptoms to the underlying challenges, which - if addressed - could change everything for that child! A screening is a short (5-10 min) observation of a child performing various tasks, assessing their fine motor skills (small movements/precision), gross motor skills (large movements/motor planning), and sensory-motor tasks. After the screening, the child will be sent home with a note indicating whether or not a full OT evaluation is warranted and why. If, after an evaluation, further treatment is deemed necessary, we would be honored to partner with you, the parent and/or legal guardian, by working directly with your child and providing you with the skills and resources needed to help your child succeed! Please contact me, Christiana Cooper, OTR/L Founder, and Occupational Therapist at 540.324.5330 or Christiana@gmail.com if you would like more information. My website is www.KOTfxbg.com.

Please join us at **Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School, the newest of the four diocesan high schools for our Fall Open House:** Sunday, November 4 from 1-4pm, 17700 Dominican Drive, Potomac Shores, VA 22026. You can register online at jpthegreat.org. This is a great chance to tour our amazing facility, meet and chat with teachers and coaches, and learn all about what our GREAT school has to offer. Email: admissions@jpthegreat.org if you have ANY questions!

From Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School Come enjoy **an official 5K run or a Fun Run/Walk** on Saturday, November 10th at 17700 Dominican Drive, Potomac Shores, 22026. The race starts at 9 with the Fun Run and other great activities for the whole family immediately after, followed by a pancake breakfast! All proceeds benefit our Special Services Programs: "Options" for our intellectually disabled students and "Laudare" for our students with learning disabilities. *Sign up now and receive a T-Shirt at runsignup.com/jp5krunwalkforoptions.*

“The Saints were what we are now.”

St. Francis de Sales, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, Part 5, Chapter 12

By Fr. Lewis Fiorelli, OSFS

This week we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, one of the most beautiful feasts of the entire Church year. The early Church called all believers, “saints.” And the Second Vatican Council reminded us that the call to “holiness” is a universal one: we are *all* called to become saints. But how do we actually become saints? That is the question that I would like to look at in this reflection.

“It’s About the Children.”

For the answer, I turn to St. Francis de Sales who, early in his celebrated Introduction to the Devout Life, strongly affirms the universal call to holiness. Later in that same book he reminds us of this very important fact: all the saints, he writes, **“were at one time what we are now.”** This means that they were husbands and wives; parents and children; teens, single people and widows; they were housewives and CEO’s; they served in the military or farmed or worked in an office. Like us, they worked hard to earn a living for their families; they loved deeply and showed that love in everyday ways; they were kind and caring towards others, even strangers, and especially the poor and the marginalized; they readily forgave hurts and slights, and were willing to begin each day afresh. Like all of us, they too suffered the diminishments of age and health with patience and grace. Like us, they confessed their sins, sought the grace of the sacraments and throughout the course of their lives tried as best as they could to develop and deepen their loving friendship with God in prayer, sacrament and the practice of Christian virtues.

In short, in all ways the saints **“were once what we are now.”** And now they are saints in glory. From their place in heaven, they urge us to persevere to the finish line, to keep our eyes focused on Christ, and to hear and heed their example as well as the voices of the angels.

In another of his writings, Francis de Sales describes the saints in this way:

“What else is the life of a saint than the gospel that is put into practice?” He continues, “There is no more difference between the written gospel and the lives of saints than between music that is set down in notes and music that is sung or played!”

This is a very important insight. Even if we were to lose all of our four Gospels, we would still be able to reproduce them by studying the lives of the saints. For example, we would recover the poverty and simplicity of Jesus in the life St. Francis of Assisi. We would understand the gospel teaching on the love and service of the poor in the example of St. Theresa of Calcutta and in her tender care for the poorest of the poor. We would appreciate the zeal of Jesus for sinners in the life and ministry of St. Ignatius of Loyola. We could recover the burning love of the heart of Jesus in the life and teaching of St. Margaret Mary. Closer to home, we would see Jesus’s self-sacrificing love for others in the countless sacrifices of parents for their children. We saw an example of that in the recent canonization of Louis and Zelig Martin, parents of the Little Flower. The examples could be multiplied a thousand-fold but they would all say the same thing: The lives of the saints are simply the gospel of Jesus that is lived and practiced by ordinary people in everyday situations of life!

Thus, on the yearly feast of All Saints we are reminded that the secret of Christian holiness is simply to live out the spirit of the Gospel in the nooks and crannies of our daily lives with one another. Yes, the saints were once what we are now. So if we imitate their example in our own lives now, we will one day become what they have become: saints!

One day the feast of All Saints will not only be a feast that we celebrate in hope. For one day we believe that if we live as they lived, we will be among the saints who are celebrated on this feast: for **all** are called to holiness!

The Summit Academy

Fall Forum: What Makes the Great Books “Great”?

A Catholic Education equips us to engage in a shared life dedicated to the pursuit of wisdom. How does our educational heritage help us realize the Liberal Arts’ promise of freedom and human flourishing?

Join us for a conversation on effective life-long learning, critical thinking, and real-world skills.

All are welcome to attend!

Visiting Speaker:

Dr. Joseph Wysocki, Dean of the Honors Program at Belmont Abbey College

Date and Time: Tuesday, November 6 6:30 – 8:00pm	info@thesummitva.org www.summitacademyva.org (540) 684-3989	Address: 5888 Plank Rd. Fredericksburg, VA 22407
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