

August and September
2017

Parent News

Holy Trinity Catholic School - Learning to Love God and Each Other **Living Faith – Engaging Minds – Embracing Community – Inspiring Integrity –** ***Learning for Life!***

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Virtues for the School Year

We are beginning our seventh year as a Virtue Based Restorative Discipline School. This means that we will try to grow in specific virtues and that we use restorative approaches to discipline.

This past summer we became re-certified as a **VBRD School of Distinction**. Most of our teachers attended a June Institute so that we could grow in restorative

techniques and grow in personal virtues ourselves. We usually work on four virtues during the school year, but this year we are asking everyone in our school community to choose a personal virtue for growth the first quarter. After that we will work on gentleness, generosity and gratitude.

One important tool used in restorative practices is a circle talk, which help

Solar Eclipse Day

This is an exciting school year with our almost total solar eclipse here last Monday, August 21. We purchased eclipse glasses for grades 1-8 so that everyone could watch the gradual covering of the sun by the moon. We planned activities at various levels so that the children could fully participate and enjoy this amazing event. Everyone journaled between going outside or watching the event in the cafeteria and the students are now rewriting and polishing

their experiences for their portfolios.

The preschool children and the Kindergarten were able to view the eclipse on the internet in real time. This was safer than having them possibly remove solar glasses while the eclipse was happening.

Some of our children went farther south so that they could view the eclipse when it was total, and all of them said it was an amazing experience as well.

One of the important ideas we stressed was the positive link between science and the catholic Church. All the older children viewed clips of Vatican scientists and their explanation of how God links all of science into His perfect plan.



Volunteer Forms

Please return the volunteer forms that are being sent with this Newsletter so that we can set our Room Parent List!

Just a reminder that this school year every school family is being asked to **work 30 hours** sometime during the year from now through the end of April. We are sending home the September volunteer forms because so many of

you will be helping with the Family Festival here on the school grounds. **Please return this form the first week of October!**

Finally I am sending home the School Board information about the mandatory volunteer hours forms as a refresher.

Thank you for everything that you do for our school!

Student Accident Insurance Available

Student accident insurance is available to any school family (preK through 8) who may be interested. This coverage is offered through K & K Insurance Group, a very reputable company that has been dealing with student accident insurance for many years. They are an A+ rated company.

To find out more information about the

program, access the website at www.studentinsurance.kk.com

Online enrollment is also available at this site.

If you do not have access to online enrollment please call the school office and we can send you a paper copy of the form.

Expenses for "at school only coverage" begin for

as little as \$29.00 for the school year.



Title Classes Begin in September

Students in grades K-4 (and possibly 5th this school year) who are in need of extra help may have the opportunity to attend **Title I here at Holy Trinity.** Teachers will identify students who are in need of extra help and then Mrs. Mathews, one of our Reading

Specialists, will test them. If they fall below a certain percentage they are eligible for the after-school services and parents of qualifying students will get a letter in the Wednesday Envelope on **Wednesday, September 13.**

Home and School Meeting

Please join us for our September Home and School Meeting held on **Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m.** in the school cafeteria.

It is very important for parents to be involved in the planning of activities and share their ideas through the Home & School organization. Hopefully every parent will attend at least one meeting over the course of the school year. **Meetings count for one volunteer hour!**

At our September meeting new officers for the Home & School will host their first meeting so come up and meet them and get to know these generous volunteers. President is Marie Dahl-Bowman, Secretary is Elena Romero, Treasurer is

Elizabeth Medina, Room Parent Liaison is Nancy Betancourt and Executive Support is Kelly Duncan. Thank you for all you do!

Parents can earn a free dress day pass for their child/children by attending the meeting. The entire class with the highest percentage of parent attendance will earn a special free dress day as well. This year the Home & School has set a drawing for a **\$50.00 Walmart gift certificate** that will be drawn at the November meeting!

Please come! Child care and snacks are provided. The meeting is bilingual! We can't do this without you.

Circle Up for Supper, Sept. 29 6:00 - 8:30

We invite everyone to join us for a SAVE Fundraiser here at school on Friday evening, September 29. The SAVE committee (**Social Action, Virtue Education**), is an off-shoot non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Virtue Based Restorative Practices in the wider community.

Circle-up for Supper runs from 6:00 - to 8:30 and includes dinner with cooking and kitchen tips. **The cost is \$10.00 ahead of time and \$12.00 at the door.**

Several of our school parents are on the SAVE Committee and also work with our VBRD committee here at school.

We have a number of upcoming activities, including

- ⑩ **Washers and Beer on Friday, November 3,**
- ⑩ **Chess and Checkers on Saturday, February 10**
- ⑩ **Wine and Cheese in May**

Help Us Save Money and Get Free Equipment

We are always looking for ways to bring in funds that do not include parent donations. Here are some of our programs that we hope you will participate in:

Big G (General Mills) Program (coupons on the boxes are worth money) Last year we earned almost 700.00 on this program run by a parent volunteer whose youngest child left our school 3 years ago. Thank you, Becky Cates for your hard

work in this program last year!

Schnucks (a percentage of each purchase, regardless of how you pay, goes to the school)

As we go through the year we will send more complete information about all of these programs.

Please help your school and the environment, by joining us.

We Practice Safety

Just a reminder to Parents that we practice a number of drills throughout the school year so that we are ready for any emergency. In September we will

practice fire, tornado, earthquake and intruder drills. While we do not expect an emergency we are prepared!

Student/Parent Handbook

The new Parent/Student Handbook will be sent home on **Wed., September 20.** Please throw out your old Handbook pages (in the black binder) and replace them with the new pages when they come.

The most important part of the Parent/Student Handbook is our Mission Statement and Philosophy on page one. It is very important that every

parent and student understand that the reason we exist as a school is to help all of us grow in grace and eventually reach heaven. It is our most important pursuit in this life and should be evident in everything that we do as a school. **If you feel that anything we are doing does not lead you towards grace, please let us know.** We will try individually and as a

Holy Trinity Parish Family Festival, Sept. 16 and 17

Please join us here on the school grounds for the annual Holy Trinity Parish Family Festival. It will be held on Friday evening, **Sept. 15 from 6:00 pm until 11:00 pm and on Saturday, Sept. 16** from 1:00 until 11:00. On both nights the rides and the children's booths will be open until 10:00.

Discount presale tickets for the booths, rides and food will be available **September 5-14** before and after school. They will also be on sale on the school grounds on Friday, September 15 until 5:00 pm. On Saturday night a chicken dinner will be

served at the festival and we are in need of **donated cakes that do not need refrigeration!** (You get one hour of volunteer time for a cake!) During both days of the festival authentic Mexican food and a variety of quick foods such as hamburgers, funnel cakes and other treats will be available.

We are still in need of workers for the various booths. Volunteers may choose a two-hour shift in almost any time frame. Anyone willing to help out in this way should call **Jessi Livengood at 471-9887** and she will give you more details.

Room Parent Meeting

All volunteer Room Parents, Please join us on **Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00** pm for our yearly Room parent Meeting. We will discuss parties, how to collect party money and other important information for our school year.

Come join the fun!

Testing Week, September 18-22

Every year the Archdiocese of Saint Louis sets standardized testing for the third full week of September.

Some parents have asked why we test in the fall rather than the spring. This is not a decision made by our school; it is a requirement of every St. Louis Archdiocesan Catholic School. The reason for the fall testing is because the information gathered from a fall test is more useful for teacher planning. The results will help us understand where the strengths and

weaknesses are in each class and help us to plan curriculum accordingly. **Testing in the fall does not change a child's Achievement scores.** Thousands of children throughout the United States are tested in the fall and our results are compared only to data normed from students tested during the same week. The tests are devised so that student scores are consistent regardless of when the tests are given.

Students in grades 3-8 will participate. Because testing can be rather tiring, no homework will be given during testing week to those in grades 3-8, nor will students have any other tests during that week. It is extremely helpful if parents see that each student gets plenty of sleep and has a good breakfast during testing week. **Please do not schedule any doctor's appointments during the week.**

We will receive the results in late October and they will be shared with parents at conferences in November.

Musical Performance Dates for 2017-18

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Students in Kindergarten through eighth grade have a musical performance once each school year. In grades K-7 the children are dropped off at **Holy Trinity Parish Center** on the morning of the performance for a practice. These dates were just set and did not get on the yearly calendar so please **save the date**.

Second, third and fourth grade will perform on **Wednesday, December 13** at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity Parish Center.

Kindergarten and first grade will perform on **Tuesday, February 20** at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity Parish Center.

Fifth, sixth and seventh grade will perform on

8th Grade Right S.T.A.R.T. Parent Meeting

Every year Holy Trinity Catholic School eighth grade students participate in an Archdiocesan program called Right S.T.A.R.T.

This program is a chastity and pro-life program that will help prepare our

eighth grade students for high school and beyond. Our mandatory parent meeting is at **Sacred Heart in Florissant on Wednesday evening, October 4 at 7:00 pm**. Please put this important date on your calendar!

Second Grade Sacramental Dates

Parents and second grade students preparing for First Eucharist are asked to attend two important events in September. The first is a REAP retreat for parents and students at

6:30 in the evening on Thursday Sept. 21. The second is a Rite of Enrollment at all three parishes. This Rite is scheduled on **Sunday, September 24** at 10:00 at

Website!

See us at:

<http://holytrinity-stann.org/>

Grandparents Day

We are looking forward to Grandparents Day on Thursday, Nov. 2.

We will start the day with a prayer service at 8:00 am followed by a light breakfast and a classroom visit and activity.

Medication Reminder

This is just a reminder that children are not to carry or bring any type of medication to school at any time. The only exceptions are **emergency inhalers** (with an asthma plan on file) and **cough drops**. If students carry medication and it is dropped or lost it can pose a serious threat to other children in the school.

The office will be glad to give out medication with proper parent and doctor authorization.