



# CRUSADER NEWS AND VIEWS

*The Mission Statement of Holy Cross Catholic School is to educate tomorrow's Christian Leaders by fostering Academic Excellence in a Christian Community.*

**October 16, 2014**

## A Word from The Word

"They said, 'Caesar's.' Then he said to them, 'Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'" Matthew 22:21

## Protecting God's Children Workshops

The Archdiocese of Detroit's "Protecting God's Children" workshop is held periodically throughout the Archdiocese. To find a session that fits your schedule, go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) and select "Registration." You will be directed to a prompt to search for locations. You will need this to do ANY classroom or lunchroom volunteering. (Please call DRE Mr. K at 810.765.8300 if you need help registering.)

**Remember: you need to complete this workshop in order to volunteer for field day, camp or to chaperone field trips.**

## got SCRIP?

SCRIP office hours:  
Mondays and Fridays, 7-9 am;  
Mondays; 5-7pm; and  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and  
Thursdays 1-3pm  
"Peddlers:"

Patty Smith (St Clair)  
Kelly Glowski (Algonac)

Due to staffing changes and office reorganization, beginning in November there will be no more Thursday SCRIP office hours. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

- Mon. Oct. 20: nacho lunch
- Wed. Oct. 22: school picture retakes
- Fri. Oct. 24: "Trunk or Treat" **from 6-8pm** in the gym
- Tue. Oct. 28: vision & hearing screenings
- Wed. Oct. 29: end of first quarter!
- Th. Oct. 30: mass with Cardinal Mooney (dress for church today)
- Fri. Oct. 31: Hallowe'en; no mass today; dress down in orange and black; no East China buses home
- Nov. 2: "fall back" Daylight Savings Time clock change
- Tue. Nov. 4: no East China buses
- Wed. Nov. 5: report cards go home

## Iowa Tests

Tomorrow is our last day of Iowa testing; I know the students are all eager to be done!

## Girls' Basketball

Our last games of regular season play were this week. On Monday, our girls went to MCA; last night they hosted St Mary St Clair. We're proud of their work over the season, and grateful to their coach for his leadership.

The tournament is scheduled for Oct. 16 & 18 at St. Mary in St. Clair. Our first tournament game is at **6:00 tonight**, when we're paired up with St. Mary St. Clair. The winner of that game plays again, against IC, at 8pm; the losing team comes back Saturday morning at 9am for their next match.

## Cookie Dough Delivery

...is scheduled for **Wednesday, Oct. 29**; your order will go home with your child after school. (We could use a little help sorting orders beginning about noon: are you available? Please call the school office—thanks!)

## Trunk or Treat!!

PTO has collected enough milk jugs to make Hallowe'en decorations—thanks to everyone who sent them in!

This year we'll have a "Decorated Pumpkin" contest—any student who wants to enter is welcome! Carve, paint, decorate your pumpkin any way you want at home, and bring it with you for the contest. The people who come to "Trunk or Treat" will be able to "vote" for their favorite pumpkin with their coins. All money raised will be donated to the parish's Weekend Hunger Backpack program.

This year's "Trunk or Treat" is free and open to all! Doors will open at 4pm to decorate; the event will run from 6-8pm in the gym on Friday, October 24. Anyone who would like to decorate a table: please contact Laura at [lauradookie@yahoo.com](mailto:lauradookie@yahoo.com).

## Boys' Basketball

The boys' season starts around the first of November. Boys in grades 5-8 who wish to play must have had and turned in their physicals before the first practice. If you are playing football this season and want to play basketball next season, please get a copy of your physical to the Holy Cross office ASAP.

## School Picture Retakes

Next Wednesday, Oct. 22, our new photographer will be back to take pictures of everyone who missed the August 25 "Crusader Day" session.

Students who get their school pictures taken on the 22nd will take home an order form with proof photos and package prices that day. You will have a few days to return your order and payment to school—or you may order your portraits online.

Fall sports photos will also be taken on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Information went home with all sports-aged students last week.

## Spring Auction

The annual Auction at Holy Cross is by far the largest single fundraiser for the school. This year's event is scheduled for mid-May and promises to be a blockbuster. The Auction is a huge undertaking for the committee chair, and this year we are fortunate to have Lisa Schulte. As many of you know, this fundraiser requires involvement from everyone possible to be successful. The committee has many positions still open. Please: if you would like to offer your services to the Auction—call Mrs. Schulte c/o school.

## NACHO LUNCH

Next Monday, October 20, Chartwell's will not be here. Instead, we'll have Mrs. Isrow's delicious nachos. If your order isn't in yet, we may not have enough ready for you!—be sure it's in the office first thing tomorrow morning. (As always, if you have to call your student in sick on a special lunch day, his order will be pulled and your money returned.)

## PowerSchool Issues

One of the objectives of the Archdiocese of Detroit has been to bring the Catholic schools under their jurisdiction to be more uniformed in regards to collecting educational data. A strategy that they have implemented to reach that goal is PowerSchool. PowerSchool is a website that allows teachers to record calculate and post grades for their classes.

The Archdiocese offered PowerSchool to their schools three years ago, strongly encouraged schools to use it last year and beginning this year all schools were charged a fee per student for PowerSchool whether they used the service or not. Up to last year PowerSchool was supported by an outside vendor by the name of Computer Logic. In the spring of last year AOD announced that it would no longer offer the support free of charge and if schools opted for continued support from Computer Logic it could be purchased by the schools at a per student cost.

When establishing the school budget for the 2014-2015 in February the support from Computer Logic was not yet an option. Looking back on the matter it is my thought that the expense for PowerSchool and support was too much for the school to incur. When it became an option, I decided that to forego the support was the best decision at the time. In retrospect I feel that my decision was the correct one for Holy Cross.

We have encountered issues with PowerSchool this year and I appreciate your patience on this matter. We will continue to do our best to keep parents informed of their child's progress in class and hope to iron-out any and all problems that arise in regards to the system. In the meantime, the Archdiocese is listening to our concerns and taking them into consideration. Keeping that in mind, please contact the office if you are experiencing any difficulties with PowerSchool and we will do our best to clear them up as soon as possible.

## "Snow Days"

...two words that bring happy smiles to students' lips! It's the time of year to start thinking about nasty weather. When the weather seems "iffy" to you in the morning, please tune in to local radio stations WPHM, WJR, WHLS or Detroit TV channel 4 or 7: **whenever East China School District closes its schools due to bad weather, Holy Cross School and Preschool are also closed.**

(More "emergency school closing" information is on page 29 of this year's School Handbook. Be prepared!)

## CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

...for October were: Aggie Lacombe and Ron Smith of Algonac and Susie Senger of East China. Congratulations!!

## Vision and Hearing Screenings

The St. Clair County Health Department will be here on Tuesday, October 28 to do these annual screenings. Students in grades K, 2 and 4 are scheduled to have their hearing checked, and students in grades 1, 3, 5 and 7 will have their vision screened. If your child isn't scheduled for a test you'd like him/her to have, please call the school office; or if you'd prefer your child not be screened, please let us know that as well. (Note: students who wear glasses or contact lenses should use them during their vision screening.)

A warning from the Health Department: please let the school know if your child has digitally programmable shunts or any other medical device that contains magnets. Those children should NOT have their hearing screened as the screening equipment contains magnets with large field gradients.

## Achatz Pies

Orders and payment for those delicious Achatz pies need to be turned in by Friday, October 31. Delivery will be on Tuesday, November 18, right after school. (Checks should be made payable to 'OLR'.) Thank you to Mrs. Vandebossche for chairing this function for the PTO!

## Motivation Methods That Work

### Offer praise

Never underestimate the power of a "Good job!" Children crave approval from their parents. A positive response, such as a hug or a smile, can be a great incentive. Whether it's for washing a sink full of dishes or passing a math quiz, a word of encouragement will show your youngster that you notice his hard work. His self-confidence will soar, and he will want to keep trying.

**Can-do tips:** Let your child overhear you bragging to a friend when he cleans his room without being asked. Hang tests on the fridge, or send copies of a good report card to relatives.

### Create excitement

When your youngster needs help getting motivated for a task, find a way to make it enjoyable. For example, if you make reviewing for a test entertaining, you're not only helping her study, you're teaching her that learning doesn't have to be boring.

**Can-do tip:** The next time your child is preparing for a test, turn studying into a game. *Example:* Draw a baseball diamond on a piece of paper. Ask her questions related to what she's studying. Tell your youngster that she gets a base hit for every correct answer and a strikeout for every incorrect one. For every three base hits, she scores a home run.

### Show interest

Let your child know that what he's involved in is important to you. When you express

curiosity about the new computer game he's playing with his friends or you regularly attend parent-teacher conferences, your youngster will see that you're interested.

**Can-do tips:** Ask your child questions about his day.

*Examples:* "How was the field trip?" "What was the score of the game?" Attend extracurricular and school functions, such as music recitals and parent nights, whenever possible.

### Give rewards

Simple rewards, like extra privileges, can be powerful motivators. But rewards should be used sparingly. Bargaining too much can limit your child's natural motivation by putting the focus on getting something.

**Can-do tips:** Offer your youngster a special snack or extra TV time when she finishes her homework quickly. Or surprise her with a thank-you card in her lunch bag for helping you clean the garage.

### Use consequences

Experts agree that punishing kids for not doing what they're supposed to do doesn't always produce improved results. However, linking consequences to performance can provide a reason for your child to get the job done while giving him a greater sense of control over his life.

**Can-do tip:** Try to connect what your youngster needs to do with an outcome. *Example:* "After you rake the leaves in the yard, you can go skateboarding." This way, it will be an action on his part, rather than you, that lets him do something he wants.

