

K-8 PARENT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1, 2023

UPCOMING DATES

- Sunday, **December 3**: Advent begins
- Wednesday, **December 6**: St. Nicholas Day
 - ◆ Students can wear Santa Hats!
- Wednesday, **December 6**: HCPA meeting
- Thursday, **December 7**: Spiritwear. 8th Graders go to ECEC for Mass with our preschoolers!
- Friday, **December 8**: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Masses
 - ◆ **December 12**: Middle School
 - ◆ **December 13**: Intermediate
 - ◆ **December 14**: Primary at 9:00 AM
- Thursday, **December 14**: Primary Campus Advent Concert
- Monday, **December 18**: HCA PJ DAY!
 - ◆ Students can wear pajamas to school!
- Wednesday, **December 20**: Early Dismissal and end of 2nd Quarter

PRIMARY CAMPUS!

At the **Primary Campus**, November was a busy month. We met some of our future Kindergarten students at our Kindergarten Exploration, led Mass with our parents, learned about and participated in voting, shared a Thanksgiving feast with our friends, learned and played outdoors with the lovely weather, practiced receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, visited all the Churches of the Academy, and so much more! Ask your children about all the learning they have been doing in homeroom as well as in all of their special classes. Our second grade students will make their First Reconciliation in the next week. We are praying for them as they participate in this sacrament. As Advent approaches, we will be preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas in a variety of ways as well as sharing with you how you can participate at home. Finally, I had my first lunch with some amazing Holy Cross Angels. If your phone rings around 10:15 AM or so on a Friday morning, I may be calling to share that your child has been a great example of living out our core values here on the Primary Campus.



Life at the Intermediate Campus has been great lately! We spent the month focusing on **Academic Excellence**. Students did a great job recognizing their classmates for **working** hard, being **attentive**, and helping one another **learn**.

We celebrated the **Feast of Our Lady of Providence** by inviting parishioners to lead our school Mass with us. We made special **holy cards** for all the students and parishioners, and we had a bonus **treat** at lunch, too. Our 5th graders went to the Arch, and many of our teachers had a blast at the HCA Gala!

We also had some fun **visitors** to campus. One of our 5th grade **Wonder groups** investigated recycling, and a representative from **Aspen** came to teach them about the recycling process. They shared what they learned with our students. **Mr. Terry Cochran** came to work with our 4th graders on **sportsmanship** and healthy **competition**. Finally, **Fr. Kevin Callahan** from SHF has been visiting to help a couple of our new students prepare to receive their **Sacraments!**



November was a very JOYFUL month at the middle school! STUCO worked hard to raise money for our Christmas collections for Wellston! We had so many wonderful raffle items for students to bid on! I love this tradition at the middle school!

We also had a lovely Review article written about Mrs. Hasten celebrating her 50th year in Catholic Education! She is an absolute joy and a gift from God who makes every day brighter!





Today, Mrs. Smyka talked to all the students regarding electives for next semester. They were given a hard copy of the elective descriptions (also on google classroom). This semester we are asking parents to review each elective offered per grade/per day and discuss with your child the best fit for them! Students must submit these forms by Wednesday, December 6th in order to register students for their second semester electives. Please direct any questions regarding electives to Mrs. Smyka @ ssmyka@hca-stl.org. Thank you!

We are looking forward to December! Have a fabulous weekend!



The Advent Committee is Pleased to Present...

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

WEEK & THEME	PRAYERS	BIBLE STORY TO READ	ACTIVITY	EXTRA RESOURCES
HOPE WEEK ONE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger Kids: The Sign of the Cross Older Kids: The Hail Mary 	The Annunciation • Luke 1:26-38 Questions to Ponder: • In what ways does Gabriel describe Jesus? • What is Mary's response to God's question?	The Advent Wreath • Printable Wreath for Kids to Color and Instructions • Advent Wreath Prayer Booklet • Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advent Symbols coloring page Advent Music Playlist Intro to Advent Video (younger kids) Advent in 2 Minutes Video (older kids)
PEACE WEEK TWO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger Kids: The Hail Mary Older Kids: The Our Father 	The Visitation • Luke 1:39-56 Questions to Ponder: • How do Mary and Elizabeth rejoice when they seen one another? • What is your favorite line from Mary's prayer?	Advent Visio Divina • Use these pieces of art to pray and discuss the events of Advent and Christmas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December Feast Days: Choose some Saints of December to Celebrate Advent Sacred Music Playlist
JOY WEEK THREE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger Kids: The Glory Be Older Kids: The Apostles Creed 	The Preaching of John the Baptist • John 1:6-8, 19-28 Questions to Ponder: • How does John prepare the way for Jesus? • How can we prepare our hearts for Jesus to come?	Share Your Joy • How can you bring the joy of Advent to others this week? Make a plan as a family to send cards, make a phone call, hang up Christmas lights, etc. to share Jesus with others!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Advent Jeopardy Advent Coloring Page The First Nativity Video (younger kids) One Solitary Life Video (older kids)
LOVE WEEK FOUR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger Kids: The Our Father Older Kids: The Hail Holy Queen 	The Nativity • Luke 2:4:-15 Questions to Ponder: • What surprises you about how Jesus was born? • What gift would you have brought to baby Jesus?	O Antiphons • The O Antiphons are traditional prayers that begin on Dec. 17th. Sing the verses of O Come, O Come Emmanuel and read the Bible verses included in this coloring book , or create your own ornaments using these printables • Listen to the chants in English here or Latin here	

Ideas from www.looktohimandberadiant.com

[Click here for the pdf with live links!](#)

Breakfast with Santa

OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE SCHOOL CAFETERIA



CASH ONLY PLEASE

SPONSORED BY
OLP MEN'S CLUB

ADULTS	\$12.00
KIDS	\$6.00
UNDER 4	FREE

HCA KIDS WITH GOLDEN TICKET EAT FREE

Primary Campus



HCPA SANTA'S WORKSHOP DECEMBER 13th

Where: Primary Campus cafeteria

What: A "store" will be set up in the cafeteria where the children will be able to do their own holiday shopping. Each class will come to the store for a 20 minute shopping spree. The list of items is included on this page and range from \$1.00 to \$9.00. A variety of gifts appropriate for Parents, Grandparents, siblings, friends and pets are available.

What you need to do:

Your child should come to school with the shopping envelope containing the money that they can spend that day, along with a list on the outside as to whom they are shopping for.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING THIS ENVELOPE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to extend I.O.U's on the day of the event. Please remind children that the intent of the event is to shop for others in the season of giving.

Elves will assist little shoppers with buying and wrapping their gifts. If you would like to help your own children, please plan to join at their scheduled time.

Shopping Schedule for Primary Campus

8:20 – 8:40 a.m. Mills
8:45 – 9:05 a.m. Howe
9:10 – 9:30 a.m. Fields
10:05 – 10:25 a.m. Hackbarth
10:30 – 10:50 a.m. Fehrenbach
10:55 – 11:15 a.m. Oldani

Intermediate Campus



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Shopping Schedule for Intermediate Campus

10:00 – 10:20 a.m. Amelotti

10:30 – 10:50 a.m. Simpson

12:00 – 12:20 p.m. Rankin

12:30 – 12:50 p.m. Mueller

12:50 – 1:10 p.m. Scheipeter

1:20 – 1:40 p.m. Robbins



HCA Summer Camp is **BACK!**

June 3-7 Happy Campers

June 10 - 14 Wide World of Sports

June 17 - 21 Under the Sea

June 24 - 28 Out of This World

Mark your calendars for June 3-28, 2024!

Cost - \$185/week

Location - St. Michael the Archangel

Ages - Students leaving grades K-5

Time - 8am-3pm

Questions?

Contact Summer Camp Director

McKinley Robbins: mrobbins@hca-stl.org

HCA Cub Scouts Pack 914



Cub Scouts spent November visiting the Endangered Wolf Center, learned how to assemble tents, prep and cook food, learned knife safety, earned Whittling Chips, visited the Lemay Fire Department and delivered and picked up bags for Scouting for Food!

Upcoming Events:

- Pack Meeting - Reindeer Games Party! 12/2, 3pm @ OLP
- TJ's Pizza Pickup - 12/6 4:30pm @ OLP

Interested in joining? Email stlpack914@gmail.com for more information, pack and den schedules or register here: [Pack 914 Registration](#)

Follow us on Facebook: [HCA Pack 914](#)



Aftercare Workers Needed!

CALLING ALL AVAILABLE PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS, UNCLES,
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND
COLLEGE STUDENTS!

We are especially looking for
substitutes who can fill in once
in a while.

Contact: Debbie Trudzinski
dtrudsinzki@hca-stl.org

HCA Little Lambs

Fall 2023



September 22 🍁

🍊 October 20

November 17 🦃

🎄 December 5

St. Michael's Gym

9-10:30 AM

Children birth to preschool age welcome with their caregivers.

No signup needed, just come ready to play!

Questions? Contact Marie Laury, marielynnlaury@gmail.com.