



CRUSADER NEWS AND VIEWS

The mission of Holy Cross Catholic School is to provide a setting that ignites a joyful spirit of Christian discipleship in collaboration with families, staff, and the parish in a personalized learning culture.

December 17, 2020

Protecting God's Children Workshops

The Archdiocese of Detroit's "Protecting God's Children" workshop is held periodically throughout the Archdiocese. EVERY classroom or lunchroom volunteer or employee needs to have attended. To find a session that fits your schedule, go to www.virtus.org and select "First Time Registrant." Then choose "view list" of class sites, and choose "Detroit." Scroll through to find your session, then go back to the top of that page to create your login. The training is also available online: if you don't find it on the "Virtus" website, call school.

When attending a "PGC" workshop, be sure to be on time, as the Archdiocese does not allow latecomers to enter.

All volunteers working with children must have attended a "PGC" workshop.

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

If you have recently attended a "PGC" workshop, please send a copy of your certificate to school ASAP so we have it on file--thank you!

got SCRIP?

**Mondays 7-9am and 5-6pm,
and Fridays 7-9am**

Patty Smith 810.434.9557--
Call or text your order ahead of time
to arrange "no-contact" pickup!

Final SCRIP credits for 2020 will be calculated and posted to tuition accounts shortly after the first of the year.

The SCRIP office will be open tomorrow morning and Monday morning as usual, and then closed for a well-deserved rest until school resumes on January 4.

Virtual Christmas Production

Thank you to our music teacher, **Ms. Lissa Volz**, for putting together a virtual Christmas program! When it became apparent we would not be able to do an "in person" pageant, she took the initiative, and has been working with our students on this gift to all of us. The link will be shared with all families when the program is finished.

Mark Your Calendar....

- **F Dec 18: last day of school before Christmas break**
- **M Jan 4: classes resume after Christmas break**
- **Th&F Jan 28&29: NO SCHOOL (teacher prof. development)**

The Third Week of Advent

On Monday, Mrs. Davenport told us "The third Sunday of advent is called 'Gaudete (Latin for "Rejoice") Sunday,' which is represented in the Advent wreath by the pink candle. We light two purple candles and the rose one, rejoicing in the nearness of our Savior's coming."



Visit from Santa and Reindeer!



On Friday afternoon last week, we were surprised by a visit from the Jolly Elf and two reindeer!

"Warming Tree"

Our National Junior Honor Society students and their mentor, Mrs. Wade, send their thanks to everyone who helped fill their "Warming Tree" with hats, gloves, and other winter wear. The items will be given to local needy children. You make a difference!

Thank You!!

...to **the Dixon family** for donating extra Santa hats for our Christmas production!
...to **the Westricks (yet again!)** for their donation of paper towels to the school!
...to **Karen Fleenor** for donating Lysol spray and disinfectant wipes!
...to **Becky Bryson** who has given us sidewalk chalk!

Bingo

Bingo halls are still "on pause," but will be eager to re-open as soon as the "pause" is lifted. To schedule to work bingo on Wednesdays at St Catherine's after the "pause": please contact **Paul Burger** at **734.837.5807**.

Service Credits

You should have recently received a copy of your service credit record (with credits worked to date recorded).

If you have not yet signed up for your service credit work shifts this year...the service credit portion of the "tuition contract" calls for families to be assigned to "Plan A" (simply paying for their service credits) if they have not signed up for credits by September 15. With all the uncertainties this year we have been more lenient with that deadline than in the past. However, as the year nears its halfway point, we need to know our families' plans. Please be advised that **families who have not signed up for their service credit work shifts by the end of December will be assigned to "Plan A" on January 1.**

To sign up for Wednesday bingos (at St Catherine activity center in Algonac), contact **Paul Burger** at **734.837.5807**.

For Auction or Lenten fish fries, sign up at the school office. (Please be advised that there are only a few credits available to be earned via the Auction this year.)

Raffle Calendar Winner

The winner of the 2020 \$1000 grand prize is **Sue Fakult** of Clay Township! Congratulations--and thank you to all who entered.

2021 raffle calendar tickets are available at the school office!

T-Shirts and Hungry Howie Cards

The \$10 Howie card includes a free large one-item pizza along with pizza discounts: a nice gift to include in a Christmas card.

PTO also has a few "vintage" t-shirts (old logo) and caps available at the school office: \$5 each.

Holy Cross on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/holycrosscatholicmc/>

Basketball and Cheerleading

Basketball/cheer season has been postponed by the state until January. We'll keep you posted as to sports seasons' start dates!

Sports Program Fundraiser

So that our families do not have to "pay to play," the Holy Cross Booster Club funds our junior high sports program, from the costs of uniforms through league, tournament, and referee fees. Athletes' parents are asked to help with admissions and concessions at home games to help generate income to cover all those costs.

The Boosters also sponsor a magazine sale every year. This year the fundraiser is entirely virtual, and continues all year! You'll find many popular magazines, as well as gift items (think: holiday time?). Renewals and digital subscriptions can also be processed through this program, so that Holy Cross athletes benefit from items you're buying, anyway. To see what's available, follow this link (or copy and paste into your browser URL line):

<http://www.gaschoolstore.com/landing.aspx?SID=2709251>

Auction 2021

Due to the pandemic, this year's Auction is being planned as a virtual event. This means that fewer service credit work shifts will be available than in the past. Please contact the school office if you are interested in earning credits by working the Auction.

Due, also, to the pandemic causing the event to go virtual, there is a little more time to gather items. The due date for families' donations has been extended to **January 5, 2021**.

"Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest

Our local Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a poster contest to help us remember to "Keep Christ in Christmas." Children in each of three age groups (5-7, 8-10, and 11-14) are invited to create 11x17" posters reflecting that theme. Please put your name, age and phone number **ON THE BACK** of your entry, and drop off **by TOMORROW** at Holy Cross school or OLR parish office. (Posters will not be returned.) Judging will take place at St Catherine's after their 11:30 mass Dec 20. (Students are working on these in art class, too.)

Old Christmas Cards

After Christmas...OLR's Christian Service group has a use for old Christmas cards. When you're done with them, please send any used Christmas cards to school for them (you can tear off the message part: they just need the pictures). Thank you!

Service Credits: Lunch Aides

Thank you to those who have been signing up and working as lunch aides!

Please to sign up for all service credit shift in advance to be sure you receive the credit: if you just show up and we have enough workers already, we can't offer the extra credits. The signup schedule is online at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tqQWXOy86EdecEz7Sq0dzzPy6NK6SUjTd9zNJXEHIFE/edit#gid=1>

--and runs through the end of the school year. You can take any open slot: just fill in your name. However, remember that everyone working at lunch must be an adult, must have taken the "Protecting God's Children" class (which you can do online!--see the first paragraph of this newsletter) and submit to a background check.

Signups have been lightest on Tuesdays and Wednesdays; and we would really appreciate having four aides all days before anyone signs up to be the 5th person on any other day.

Looking ahead, **we will really need your help after the first of the year!**

As a lunch supervisor, you can earn your service credits while seeing your kids! If you are interested (or for more info), please contact the school office.

"Amazon Smile"

Do you shop online? You can designate Holy Cross to receive credit from online shopping through Amazon Smile! We are registered in Amazon Smile as "Holy Cross School Marine City."

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1542098>

East China Buses

Students who live in the East China School District are eligible for free busing through the District. For more information, please contact ECSD's transportation department at 810.676.1100. (Of course, there are no buses running while East China District is entirely "virtual.")

VG's Receipts

Thanks to everyone who continues to save them for us! We're just about half way to our next reward.

Please keep saving the **entire** paper VG's receipts, including the "Direct Your Dollars" paragraph. ("E-receipts" are not accepted.) We are already about a third of the way to our next reward, and will continue to collect receipts until the store tells us to stop! Receipts can be dropped off at the school office (or SCRIP office) when you're out and about, or turned in at the rectory, or in the box at the river entrance at church.

Box Tops for Education

Just a reminder about "how to" digitally save those little box tops...download the app, scan the receipt, and you've done it! For details on the new program, please go to:

<https://www.bboxtops4education.com/newbtfte>

As long as you see "Box Tops" with expiration dates on packages, please do continue to clip and send them in--they will be honored until their expiration dates.

Gym Clothing

TP Logos has come up with school-approved and logo'd PE wear! Here is a link to TP Logos' ordering information for Holy Cross:

<https://holycrosscatholic.itemorder.com/sale>

Look at the bottom of the form, under "accessories," for the T-shirts and jogging pants approved for PE classes.

Gingerbread Houses

Yesterday, our third graders built "gingerbread" houses from graham crackers, and then decorated them with colorful candies. They are so pretty!!



You can follow us on Instagram:
#mholycross

Please complete a "review" on our Holy Cross School Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/holycrosscatholicmc/>

The Day After Christmas (or: Don't Let This Happen to YOU!!!)

by Mrs. Steinmetz

The day after Christmas, somewhere in some house,
a gift-buyer started to whimper and grouse,
"I spent so much money! Made so many trips!
Things would have gone better if I had used SCRIP!

"I bought extra food and made sure I had drinks—
two or three hun-der-ed dollars' worth, methinks;
But I SPENT CASH!! Had I used SCRIP instead, it
would have earned me some tuition credit!

"Johnny's eyes sparkled, imagining the elves;
mine misted--I'd emptied out Toys R Us' shelves!
Another small fortune; and at four percent,
I'd've saved a sum equalling half a month's rent.

"Susie was lovely in her new Christmas clothes.
Kohl's offered me 5% back, but: NO--
I'd forgotten to order pre-holiday SCRIP,
so deeper into my wallet I dip.

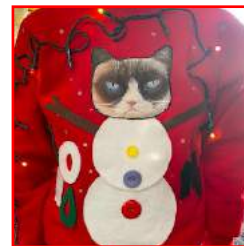
"I did think ahead—sent, to loved ones afar,
certificate gifts--but the toll on my car!
Drove to Applebee's, Best Buy, Old Navy, Lowe's--
and into a world of vehicular woes.

"To think: all I needed to do was to call—
the SCRIP office could have ordered them all!
My friends got their gifts, but I got no break.
(My mechanic, though, loves the fortune he'll make.)

"I finally get it!--next vacation fare,
I'll be calling for Hyatt and American Air;
I'm learning to plan: gonna take a long trip.
So happy holidays, all: don't forget to buy SCRIP!

"Ugly Sweater" Contest

On Tuesday, we got to dress down and show off our "ugly" holiday sweaters. (Actually, some were very pretty!!) Then we had a contest: each grade chose its representative (who got to choose from Mrs Davenport's prizes), and then we voted on the top "Ugly Sweater" for the school! Sixth grader **Dylan Davenport** "won" first place (including a trophy!); coming in second and third were fourth grader **Paige Arlow** and third grader **Preston Davenport**. It was a lot of fun! Here are the "winners" (in no particular order):



**From all of us to all of
you: we wish you a
blessed Christmas and
a happy and healthy
new year!**



Seen peek-
ing into a
classroom
window on
Wednes-
day...

Calendar Raffle

It is time for our annual **Calendar Raffle** to raise money to help our wonderful school with financial support used toward educational needs to best support the students. If you are new to this fundraiser, the **Calendar Raffle** is full of prizes, with 34 cash drawings totaling \$4,300 available. Drawings will be held on the second Monday of each month throughout 2021. There are a total of 33 drawings at \$100 each and one grand prize winner drawn in December 2021 of \$1,000. And--yes, if your ticket is drawn, it is re-entered into the raffle for the next drawing, giving each entry multiple chances to win. Tickets are \$25 each and make great gifts for family, friends or that special teacher. Tickets are available in the school office with Mrs. Steinmetz or at the church office.

A Plea On Behalf of Your Parish:

Your parish needs you now more than ever. Please keep your pastor and his staff in your prayers during this pandemic crisis. You are invited to join in Our Lady on the River's daily and weekend services. However, if you prefer not to venture out into crowds just yet, please continue to send in your "tithe" or weekly donations, as you are able. Just as your household has ongoing expenses regardless of governmental orders, your parish, also, has such needs, and no other way to meet them than its parishioners and other donors.

To give online to Our Lady on the River go to:
<https://ourladyontheriver.weshareonline.org/>

What's on the Menu?

Holy Cross Lunch Menu: January LUNCH IS AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE FOR ALL STUDENTS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Chicken Tenders w/Dinner Roll Golden Oats Pineapple Choice of Milk	5 Pepperoni Pizza Oat Salad Orange Wedges Choice of Milk	6 Bacon Cheeseburger Baked Fries Fresh Apples Choice of Milk	7 Popcorn Chicken w/Breadstick Mashed Potatoes Sweet Peas/Beans Choice of Milk	8 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Applesauce Choice of Milk <i>Treat with Lunch</i>
11 French Toast Sticks w/Sausage Ham Brown Apple Turn Choice of Milk	12 Meat & Cheese Nachos Taco Salad Ch. and Peas/Beans Choice of Milk	13 Chicken Nuggets w/Dinner Roll Baked Beans Mixed Fruit Choice of Milk	14 Lasagna Roll Up Green Beans Roast Potatoes Choice of Milk	15 Mini Corn Dogs Pulao Rounds Fresh Apples Choice of Milk
18 Chicken Drumstick w/Breadstick Baked Beans Rusty Applesauce Choice of Milk	19 Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza Cucumber Slices Sweet Peas/Beans Choice of Milk	20 Mozzarella Cheese Sticks w/ Dipping Sauce Baked Tots Orange Wedges Choice of Milk	21 Popcorn Chicken w/Breadstick Garlic Vashed Potatoes Snow Peas Choice of Milk	22 Pasta w/Meatballs <i>Treat with Lunch</i> Steamed Carrots Dried Peas Choice of Milk
25 Bisco Sticks w/Sauce Cinnamon Cazed Carrots Hot Apples Choice of Milk	26 Walking Taco Refried Beans Pineapple Chunks Choice of Milk	27 Beef Hot Dog on a WG Bun Pulao Rounds Chili Peas Choice of Milk	28 No School	29 No School



Vegetarian



Locally Grown

NOW HIRING

Apply at:

<https://yourjobs.compassgroupcareers.com/>

Search by key word: East China Schools

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Lunch: A full student lunch includes a choice of entree supplying grain and/or protein, two (2) side dishes and choice of milk. Milk choices include 1% white and 1% chocolate.

Questions or
Comments?

Please contact

Julie Humphrey @
810.676.1112 or

jhumphrey@ecsd.us

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 Back to class!	5 Sch. Comm. meets 6pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 PTO meets 7:30am via Zoom	13	14	15 Nonperishable food & paper goods drive for parish pantry No East China buses home	16
17	18 No East China buses	19	20 End of second quar- ter TENTATIVE: PTO "Memories with Mom" 7am cafeteria	21	22 Winter sports pictures	23
24	25	26	27 Report cards go home	28 NO SCHOOL--- teachers' profes- sional development	29 NO SCHOOL (professional development for teachers)	30
31	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5 Next week--Camp Leelanau visits stu- dents in grades 5-8!	Feb 6