

PTO Particulars: Nov/Dec

Seasons greetings, Holy Cross families! This year is flying by and we sure have been busy! We hope everyone enjoyed and fulfilling Thanksgiving with their loved ones!

Our second fundraiser of the year, the **Achatz Pie Sale**, was a smashing success thanks to **Deb Callahan**! We hope everyone is enjoying their sweet and/or savory treats. Thank you, **Deb**, for all you do!

The **Fall Book Fair** was November 7-11 and was headed by **Bridgette Pennington** with amazing support from **Sunni Olivier** and **Jenna Tucker**. We sure hope everyone found some great books and trinkets to cherish and we are so grateful for the classroom support these Book Fairs offer! There will be a spring book fair as well, so keep an eye out for that in the next few months.

Also in November was our **Thanksgiving Feast**! This is an annual tradition cherished by students and staff alike. Hopefully everyone walked away feeling full of both food and blessings! **Adrienne Meldrum** worked tirelessly to make this event a success and she was joined by an incredible cast of assistants: **Sunni Olivier, Lisa Mackaluso, Rachel Arlow, LeeAnn Brennan, Rita Cherro, Julia Paton, Valerie Heath, Katie Phelan, Angela Sankuer, Josie Thomas and Laura Bailey**. We couldn't do the things we do without dedicated volunteers such as yourselves!

The **MC Holly Jolly Christmas Parade** was on Tuesday, November 22nd. Wow, what a turnout we had!! We hope all our Crusaders and their families enjoyed participating in the parade! A big shout out to **Jason Borys** and **Melissa Blanchard** who graciously organized everything and lent us the necessary equipment.

Coming up in December we have **Santa Shoppe** which runs Wednesday, 12/14 and Thursday, 12/15 during the school day. We have once again partnered with Fun Services (the original Santa Shoppe) and **Bill and JoAnn Westrick** who generously donate tons of goodies to our shop! Plenty of volunteers are needed to make this a pleasant shopping experience and I can tell you the joy of watching these students pick out things for their loved ones is a pretty awesome experience! Here is the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AACA72AA7FE3-santa>

Also in December is our schoolwide **Christmas Program** on Tuesday, 12/13 at 6pm in the school gym. This production will be a collaboration between the Music Department of Mrs. Volz and the Drama Club. The kids have been hard at work and we can't wait to see the show! Raptors Den will film the event and their recording will have a far superior sound quality to that you will get on your cell phone...plus you get to sit back, relax and be present in the moment!! These recordings make a great gift for family members. And Raptors Den generously donates 20% of the sales back to the Drama Club!

Looking forward into January and February we have some fun events coming up: **Hot Chocolate and Chat, Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad**. Hot Chocolate and Chat is a TBD date-we play it by ear depending on the weather! It's a chance to break up the monotony of winter and get out of the car to come socialize with your fellow parents! Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad are both wonderful events that give families a chance to connect with each other during the cold winter months. Though the names say "mom" and "dad", we welcome and guardian figure in the Crusader's life to come join the fun!

We apologize for any inconvenience of the cancelled December PTO meeting and look forward to catching back up with everyone in January!!

Do you find yourself wondering about certain things such as...how do Dress Down Days work, what are appropriate sock colors, how do service credits work, etc.? We would like to present a lifeline for these questions and more! If your child is in Lower Elementary (TK/K-4th grade) please contact Becky Bryson (757-334-9662 or beckybryson123@gmail.com) or if your child is in Upper Elementary (5th-8th) Suzy DeVeny (810-434-3454 or csdeveny@gmail.com) and we will be happy to answer your questions or even just chat with you about your experience at Holy Cross. We would love to hear from you!

We hope you will join our next meeting, which is Tuesday, January 10th at 7:30am via Zoom. Please contact Sunni at sunshinemariemphotography@yahoo.com with your email address so we can get the Zoom meeting codes to you! We ask this instead of a sending out a blanket invitation to the whole school to try to avoid any hacking incidents.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year-HC PTO