



# MONTHLY MEMO



HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

MR. JEFFREY M. M<sup>C</sup>CUSKER, PRINCIPAL

OCTOBER 2020, ISSUE 1



## MR. M<sup>C</sup>CUSKER'S SCHOOL UPDATE

As we enter into our seventh week of school, I would like to thank everyone for all of their support for a successful school opening. Students, teachers, and parents have adjusted well to our new routines, and everyone has been working together.

To date, we have welcomed twenty-seven new families and thirty-nine new students into our Holy Trinity School community! Fourteen students have qualified for our Transfer Grant, with twelve students accepting, and three Finder's Fees have been granted.

We look forward to welcoming some of our virtual students back into school on Monday, October 26. Our next opt-in will be on Monday, December 7.

Progress Reports will be sent home on Wednesday, October 21, and Virtual Parent Conferences will take place on Thursday, October 22 in the evening and all day on Friday, October 23. This is a good time to note individual student strengths and develop a plan to address any concerns.

Some important upcoming dates to note:

- Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>:  
Family Decorated Scarecrows  
Due (3:15-5:00PM)



- Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>:  
Grade 1 - All Saints Parade

- Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>:  
Confirmation - 4:00PM  
- Grade 7: no school  
- Noon Dismissal for rest of school



- Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>:  
Modified Halloween Parade  
(more details to come)

I wish you all a beautiful season of Fall, and we continue to keep all of our families in our prayers each day. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to reach out to me.



## GREAT NEWS TO SHARE!



### NEUMANN SCHOLARSHIP NOMINEE

- Jolene Morath (Grade 8), will sit for the Neumann Scholarship Exam this Friday. Good luck, Jolene!

### NDS SLOGAN CONTEST WINNER

- Congratulations to Elizabeth Howatt (Grade 6), whose slogan, "Make sure you eat, so you'll be quick on your feet!" is featured on the November NDS menu!

### SACRAMENT RECIPIENTS

- Congratulations to our 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students who celebrated their First Holy Communion and our 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students who received their First Penance!

### SCHOOL LEADERS

- Kudos to our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who were installed as members of our various leadership groups. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for purchasing Bibles for the Class of 2021.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



MISS SAMANTHA GLITZ

**TEACHES:** PreK-A

**YEARS AT HTS:** 2 years

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** Matilda

**FAVORITE SONG:** "Ho Hey" (Lumineers)

**FAVORITE BOOK:** *Where the Wild Things Are*

**FAVORITE COLOR:** Light Blue

**FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM:**

Philadelphia Eagles

**GREW UP IN:** Fairless Hills, PA

**SOMETHING UNIQUE ABOUT ME:** I love arts and crafts and DIY projects!

**My SECRET TALENT:** I am good at skiing.

**Family:** Mom, Dad, Brother, and dog, Kayla

**FAVORITE THING TO DO WHEN NOT IN SCHOOL:**

Take walks, drink coffee, and nap

**FAVORITE QUOTE:** "Fill your life with adventures, not things, and have stories to tell!"

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:**

The beach!

**FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER:** Timon (Lion King)

**Why I LOVE TEACHING:** "I love teaching because I love how a smile, a hug, or a laugh from one of my students can turn my whole day around!"

**ONE MORE THING I'd Like to Tell You:** "Holy Trinity has brought so much fun into my life!"

## Keep It Up!



6 feet



## NEWS FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

MRS. ELAINE MCDOWELL

Education is one area of business in our country where we must always be moving forward. Through the help and generosity of private donations, grants, Holy Trinity parishioners, and Home & School, we have several new and improved programs in the school.

**Technology** - This year our one-to-one tech plan now includes grade 5, so grades 5 to 8 all have Chromebooks, with grade 4 already on order to be delivered as soon as production allows. Presently, I am working on a grant and donation to help us to move this program to grade 3, with iPads being moved to PreK-3 to grade 2.



**Science** - We have now expanded the Science Fusion Program to include grades 4 through 8. This will be year two for grades 6 to 8, and year one for grades 4 and 5.

**Religion** - Grades 3 to 8 are in year 2 of Sophia Institute's very rigorous program, which has a strong emphasis on Scripture and writing. Grades PreKA and PreKB continue to use *Stories of God's Love* and Grades K to 2 use the new *Christ in Us* program.

**ELA** - Grades PreK through Grade 4 are this year engaged in the Fountas and Pinnell Literacy Program, which is a comprehensive, integrated program including phonics, word attack, fluency, comprehension, writing, and reading. Already, we are seeing students more interested and involved in the program.

**IXL** - is a rather costly online program we have purchased this year; one we have wanted to get for several years but one which a grant has helped allow this year. The program can be used to pinpoint skills of Reading and Math in grades PreK to grade 8, as a class in whole group instruction, in small groups, and also in individual students to help target skills needing reinforcement as well as challenging students who need to move quicker.

### What is a Director of Development?

The job of a Director of Development is to secure funding opportunities to help the school progress both academically and social-emotionally, as well as to secure and allot financial aid. Over the past six months, we have received well over \$60,000 to assist families. During this year of 2020-2021, we have already distributed funding to assist 52 families.

A second part of this position is to assist and support the academic advancement of the students and staff of Holy Trinity. Thus, I am involved in all formal assessments in all subject areas, direction of academic program, and selection and implementation of new resources and programs. So, I will be working - sometimes up close in the classrooms, and sometimes from off the premises - to continue the excellence of Holy Trinity. I look forward to continuing to work with the staff, students, and families of Holy Trinity. I can be reached at [mcdowell@holytrinitypa.com](mailto:mcdowell@holytrinitypa.com).