

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to all the parents, students, staff, parishioners, and community members who volunteered their time to make our Fun Fest a wonderful success. May God bless all of you for your generosity! We truly appreciate all your support.

Spring – finally got here! We may still experience cold days so we encourage students to continue to dress warmly enough for the weather, keeping in mind that temperatures fluctuate quite a bit during the day. As warmer weather approaches, please be mindful of the dress code regarding footwear and length of shorts. Students need to wear appropriate shoes in order to participate in recess and PE safely. Information about attire can be found on page 12 of the student handbook.

A few thoughts on Living the Word of God:

Stones can be symbols of death or life. In the Bible people wanted to use stones to kill a woman. Peter, in his first letter, calls Jesus “a living stone . . . chosen and precious in the sight of God.” If we come to Jesus, we, too, can be living stones built into a spiritual house. Have each family member find a stone outside. Write or draw something on it as a reminder that we should never throw stones at others, but instead be grateful that God is merciful and wants to build us into something holy. (taken from *Celebrating Sundays for Catholic Families*)



Mrs. Carol Vogel

TRASH BAG FUNDRAISER: Time for spring cleaning! We will **not** be placing another order for trash bags this spring but all sizes of trash bags are still available. The trash bags will still be available for \$11 per roll.

White: 15 gallon; 24” x 33” – 65 bags per roll

Yellow: 39 gallon; 32” x 45” – 25 bags per roll

Blue: 55 gallon; 38” x 35” – 16 bags per roll

Thank you for your support!



The Americanism Essay Contest is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. This year’s question was “How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?”

Americanism Essay winners: Class I, grades 3 and 4 – 1st Ava Koliha, 2nd Cole Bayer, tie for 3rd Maura Cada and Addison Beeks. Class II, grades 5 and 6 – 2nd Taylor Steffensmeier, 3rd Ember Hemmer



Upcoming Events:

April 5 – Field Trip to Joselyn, grades 1-2-3

April 3 – Plant sales turn in date

April 10 – Plant Sales end

April 12 – Mid-term 4th quarter

April 17 – Late Start

April 19 – No school, Good Friday

April 21 – Easter Sunday

April 22 – Easter Monday, there will be school.

April 28 – First Holy Communion, 10:00 St. John

April 30 – Field Trip to Aurora, grades 4-5-6

What's happening at HCCS?

- ❖ **MID-TERM REPORTS** will not be sent home 4th quarter. If you have a concern, please come in to visit with your child's teacher. An appointment would be appreciated. Encourage your children to keep trying their best clear through to the end of the school year.
- ❖ **JANET'S JUNGLE first plant sales are in.** Sales are off to a good start. Sales will continue through April 10 – with your support, we can reach our goal of \$15,000 in sales.
- ❖ **EASTER – April 21;** no school on Good Friday, April 19. We will have school on Easter Monday, April 22.
- ❖ **FIRST COMMUNION:** The 2nd Graders will receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday, **April 28th.** They will be in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for this special day. The 2nd Graders **only** will **not** have school the following day, Monday, **April 29.**
- ❖ **CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** Every year the **Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha** offers scholarship money to help families provide their children with a Catholic education. We strongly encourage you to consider applying online at www.csfomaha.org. This program not only assists families with their portion of the tuition, but also provides financial aid to our school. **Deadline is May 3.** Tax documentation and other financial documentation does need to be uploaded to the site for the application to be complete. If you need help or have questions, please contact Mrs. Carol Vogel at cvogel@hccs.esu7.org.
- ❖ **Looking ahead: 6th GRADE GRADUATION** will be on Wednesday, May 15 at the 8:15 am Mass at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church.
- ❖ **Stay informed!** To check dates, event details, news updates, and other information, please visit our website www.howellscatholic.org.

Women's Club Writing Contest winners: *STORY* -- Grades 1 & 2 – 2nd Aiden Mastny; Grades 3, 4, & 5 – 2nd Isabella Wegner, 3rd tie Addison Beeks; Grade 6 – 2nd Adyson Krupka, 3rd Jade Bayer. *POEM* – Grades 1 & 2 – 1st Addison Heard, 2nd Axton Brabec; Grades 3, 4, & 5 – 1st Kelsie Coufal, 2nd Isaiah Coufal.



Back Row: Jade Bayer, Adyson Krupka, Isabella Wegner, Isaiah Coufal, Kelsie Coufal
Front Row: Axton Brabec, Addison Heard, Aiden Mastny, Addison Beeks.

Women's Club Art Show winners: grades 1-6 Best of Show: Riley Svehla; Grade 1 – Blue – Aiden Mastny, Red – Sam Rocheford; Grade 2 – Blue – Addison Heard, White – Levi Cada; Grade 3 – Blue - Riley Svehla; Grade 6 – White Isaac Koliha



Back row: Levi Cada, Isaac Koliha, Riley Svehla
Front row: Addison Heard, Aiden Mastny, Sam Rocheford

VOCATION AWARENESS DAY: The sixth grade students were among several students attending the Archdiocese of Omaha Vocation Awareness Day on March 27 held at the St. Benedict Center, Schuyler.



The students heard consecrated men and women (Sisters, Brother Monks, seminarians, and priests) talk about their lives and how they discerned their callings. The students began their day listening to two keynote speakers – seminarian Kyle Loecker, and religious Sister Clarice from Norfolk Monastery. After the large group gathering, girls and boys were split into groups for presentations from members of consecrated life, including sisters from Norfolk Monastery, monks who reside at St. Benedict Center near Schuyler, and Benedictine Brother August Schaefer, a member of the Benedictine Brothers at Mount Michael Abbey near Elkhorn. The day also included Adoration in the Chapel with music and prayer. Lunch was sponsored by the Norfolk Knights of Columbus. The day concluded with Mass celebrated by Archbishop George Lucas.

Students attending from HCCS included: Jade Bayer, Matt Brester, Dylan Brichacek, Carson Heard, Ember Hemmer, Nile Jones, Isaac Koliha, Adyson Krupka, and Taylor Steffensmeier. Also accompanying the sixth grade class was Miss Nicole Ohnsat, sixth grade teacher, and Mrs. Carol Vogel, Head Teacher.

Comments on Vocation Day:

My favorite part was –

...Adoration because we see Jesus in the Monstrance. Issac

...Adoration because it was time to come closer to Jesus. Carson
 ...Mass because I get to learn more about the Archbishop. Matt
 ...listening to the monks because they talked about Africa. Dylan

I learned –

...about the monks because I didn't know who they were. Nile
 ...that everyone has a vocation. Adyson
 ...that nuns wear habits, not cloaks. Taylor
 ...that nuns don't always have to wear a habit. Jade
 ...that being one with God is important for your relationship. Ember



The **FUN FEST** on March 17th was again a tremendous success. Over 575 meals were served and many bidders stayed for the auction, with friendly competition for the highest bid. The winners of the main raffle were \$2000-Eugene Brester, \$1000-Brandon Wiemann, ½ beef-Dalton Brichacek, whole hog-Sally Baumert, \$150-Chris Yosten, \$100- Christi Mastny, \$100-Ron Baumert. God bless you for your support!

QUILT RAFFLE: Thanks again to Mary Svitak and Arlene Svitak for making the beautiful quilt. We appreciate it very much. The Kevin & Cindy Steffensmeier family was the top ticket seller. Taylor Steffensmeier received \$25 in Howells Bucks as a prize. Paul Coufal was the winner of the quilt. Thanks to everyone who sold and purchased tickets, and thanks to Kevin Gall for printing pictures of the quilt to show when the students were selling the tickets.

Tornado season is upon us. We practice tornado drills at school, but have you practiced at home? How to prepare for a tornado:



- Stay informed, listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio.
- Know your community's warning system. Communities have different ways of warning residents about tornados, with many having sirens intended for outdoor warning purposes.
- Pick a safe room in your home where household members and pets may gather during a tornado. This should be a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.
- Practice periodic tornado drills so that everyone knows what to do if a tornado is approaching.
- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.
- Watch for tornado danger signs:
 - Dark, often greenish clouds – a phenomenon caused by hail
 - Wall cloud – an isolated lowering of the base of a thunderstorm
 - Cloud of debris
 - Large hail
 - Funnel cloud – a visible rotating extension of the cloud base
 - Roaring noise



LENTEN DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who is participating in the parish Lenten Corporal Works of Mercy by bringing food and other items to church.



Thank you for collecting Boxtops! Students receive 50 cents for every 50 Boxtops.

