



# The Good News

Winter 2014

**Singapore Math, Riggs Phonics, Composition/Literature, History, Latin and the Arts Are Hallmarks For Academic Success.**

## Singapore Math

During a recent in-service, we teachers were able to hear the condensed version of the secrets to Singapore Math's success: repetition of a few targeted skills within the context of teaching math reasoning skills, especially concerning problem solving and number sense. Parents should keep this in mind as they oversee their children's homework. The textbook in Singapore Math does not provide an algorithm. Rather, the student is guided through the steps necessary to perform the operation within the actual problem. The practice for each skill progresses quickly to a problem solving application of the skill. Integral to the whole learning process is the use of the bar model approach to visualizing the algebraic logic associated with the problem.

Included in the parent version of this newsletter are the grade level summaries of the various teaching approaches for the book your student's class is currently on (the year is divided into an A book and a B book). Also included are the algorithms that are implicitly taught for each skill (although the students never see them). Remember, the Singapore program also involves a problem solving workbook and a mental math component.

## Riggs Phonics, Composition/Literature, History and Latin

The key to success with our language arts curriculum is the two-pronged approach of both taking care of the basics and taking a holistic approach towards the understanding of great literature and great historical accomplishments. Basic instruction that allows students to grow exponentially in their ability to decode words and develop an instinct for the structure of language is integral to a classical school. This is why such an emphasis is placed on phonics, spelling, grammar, composition and Latin! It also helps for students to become their own best ally for academic advancement by learning how exciting a good book or a great historical concept can be. Tying all these things together is mimetic instruction, or the idea that God has made man to learn and to become virtuous by beholding and imitating that which is good. By beholding, and truly trying to understand the essence of something good, HCCS students can prepare for much more than the next test or career hoop to jump through: they can learn to recognize and appreciate God's perfection & beauty!

## The Arts

In order to fully appreciate God's gifts, we want our students to learn how to evangelize the culture. Art, drama, debate, vocal music, instrumental music and even physical education help our students bring their faith to the culture. They also are important for developing the ability to think deeply about a subject. Excellence in these areas requires attention to detail and perseverance that allows our students to test their limits and develop high ambitions at an early age. If they can truly offer up their efforts for the Greater Glory of God, they will learn a life-lesson that will bring them everlasting joy.

**A Charlie Brown Christmas: A K-2nd Grade production of the Holy Child Drama Club**

**7:00 PM, Friday, December 12th.**

**Directed by: Damian Sagastume**



## Calendar

- **Dec. 16th Keep Christ in Christmas Bonfire 6:00**
- **Dec. 18th School Spelling Bee 2:00**
- **Dec. 19th 12:00 Dismissal Christmas Break**
- **Dec. 24th 3:30 Youth Choir Concert/Mass**
- **Jan. 5th School Resumes**
- **Jan. 8th School Geography Bee 2:00**

## Build A Computer

Holy Child will be starting a computer club in January to construct seven more computers. We have already built two prototype computers from scratch. Thank you to Doug Coombs and Jim Gibson who are taking on this project. The meeting dates for putting together the hardware will be announced in January. The software installation will also be handled by the students. As classical educators, our focus is not necessarily on technology as would be for a technological magnet school (we mainly use technology to write and present with). However, the truth and beauty we seek is prevalent in all the science and engineering that God gives us as well as all of His other gifts. It certainly doesn't hurt to know how to hold your own with these practical skills!

## Students Raise Money for World Mission Day

Holy Child students raised money for the World Mission Day on October 19th. A friendly contest between the Saint houses led the students to really rise up for the cause of the poor, contributing over \$280 in change. The St. Therese of Lisieux saint house, captained by Abby Valdez contributed the most. The students had fun counting the change on October 21st. The World Mission day is organized by the Society for Propagation of the Faith's Children's Missionary Society, which has been serving the poor in all seven continents for over 65 years.

## SDVP News

Students in JSVDP (Junior St. Vincent de Paul Society) volunteered to help parishioners with yard work on Sunday, October 15th. Twelve hard-working students, along with three confirmation students, cleaned four parishioners' yards. The students then came back and celebrated with a pizza at the church. Thanks to Sharon Lautenschleger and Mrs. Dowling, the adult SVDP sponsors of the club for organizing the day's activities. The students also brought gently used toys, clothes and books to the Barrett House on December 4th.

**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR DOING YOUR PART TO MAKE THE CHRISTMAS WREATH FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS. THANKS ESPECIALLY CHAIRS SHANNON SCHWEBACH AND PAT MCDANIEL!**

## Fine Arts

Art and violin instruction is going strong at Holy Child. Below: Mrs. Emily Gray performs with her Holy Child students at Family Gathering. Below right: our students at work in Mrs. Daugherty's Art class. The class has been set up to elicit optimal performance and concentration for our budding artists. Right is a sampling of the wedding cake project drawn by Mid-schoolers. Other pictures are now posted on our web site and more can be found on page 4.



## *Student Page*

*The mission of Holy Child Catholic School is to advance the development of the soul, mind and body through implementation of a rigorous classical curriculum; to foster spiritual and intellectual growth; to develop stewardship of God's gifts and inspire a love for the Eucharist, the Church, and evangelization.*



Above: 1st and 2nd graders re-creating Ancient Egypt

Left: 3rd, 4th and 5th graders toasting with ambrosia: the food of the gods.

Top left: preschool classes with Mrs. McCleave

Top Right: Kindergarten All-saints party.



### Highlights of the 1st and 2nd Quarter

- Congratulations Mrs. McCleave, HCCS's teacher of the year honored at the Archbishop's Dinner on October 13th.
- 5th-8th Grade Field Trip to Acoma (pictured at right)
- 8th Graders lead rest of school in an emphasis on Respect, Reverence and Responsibility
- All Saints Day Contest: Students Dress up as Saints (see picture on p. 3)
- List of student achievement in books read (novels) and math, science, Latin, history and theology concepts learned amazes vis-à-vis grade-level norms.



Thanks Tony Macias for the Pumpkins



7th/8th Graders Pulley Experiment

### School Council Update

Our Consultative School Council is busy this year updating the Strategic Plan and participating in the Parish Facilities Committee's efforts to develop a long-term master plan.

Foremost amongst these activities is to ensure that our school's recruitment efforts capitalize on our recent successes so that our optimal enrollment goal of 85 students is met. Continuing to plan for both short and long-term facility adjustments to accommodate this growth has been our priority. Even more important is the goal to provide the best possible instruction and curriculum through our teacher training, compensation and recruitment efforts.

#### Needs List

A great thanks to all our benefactors who have donated so much time, talent and treasure since our last newsletter. Each year goes by with help from literally hundreds of people: tutors, computer specialists, monthly envelope donors, a lady who provides Halloween treats, ACA donors, yard crews, donated computers, SDVP and Knights of Columbus help, etc. There are too many to recognize individually in this format, but rest assured you are in our prayers. You also inspire us and give us motivations to make sure that we all are proud of our school.