



## HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

### Cathedral Campus

212 State St., Harrisburg, PA 17101

717-234-3797

[www.hbgcathelem.org](http://www.hbgcathelem.org)

### Holy Family Campus

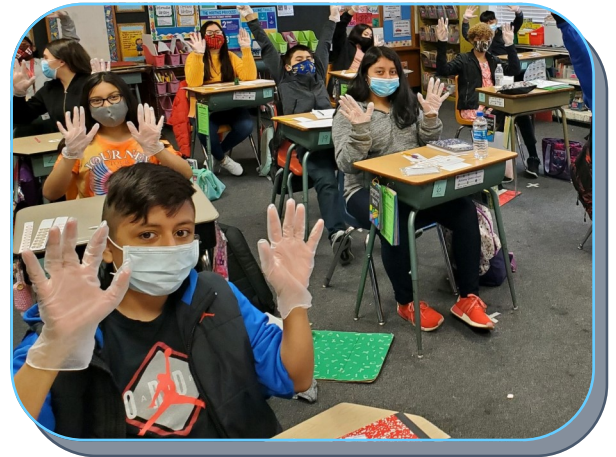
555 S. 25th St., Harrisburg, PA 17104

717-232-2551

November 2020



*Harrisburg Catholic Elementary proudly opened the 2020–2021 school year with both in-person and virtual learners. Our in-person students wear masks and as seen in the photo to the right, when doing special projects, may also wear gloves. Special cleaning and disinfecting are performed at both campuses. Teachers, administrators and students are all working hard to keep everyone safe and healthy.*



Harrisburg Catholic Elementary welcomes new faculty to our rosters this fall. With the retirement of Mrs. Peggy Frank from 4th Grade over the summer, we are pleased to greet Mrs. Beth Hartman as our new 4th Grade teacher. Mrs. Hartman taught at Lebanon Catholic for 22 years and brings with her a wonderful educational background. Our 4th Grade students are happy to see her in their classroom.

Mrs. Heidi Miller is the new Learning Support staff at our Holy Family Campus. This is a newly-created position and Mrs. Miller was able to fit in very quickly thanks to her 21 years of teaching experience, most recently at Good Shepherd.

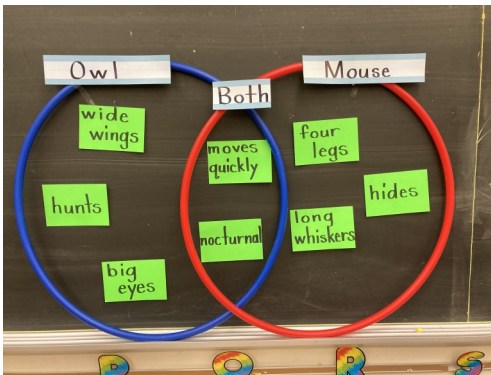
Mrs. Louise Boland is the Art teacher at both campuses. Mrs. Boland worked in the Central Dauphin School District for 28 years. Her background as a trained artist and interest in working with students led her to this part time position at HCE.

Mr. Braden Weachter joins our school family as our new Phys Ed teacher. Mr. Weachter has been a Classroom Aide in a local public school, as well as a football coach at Bishop McDevitt.

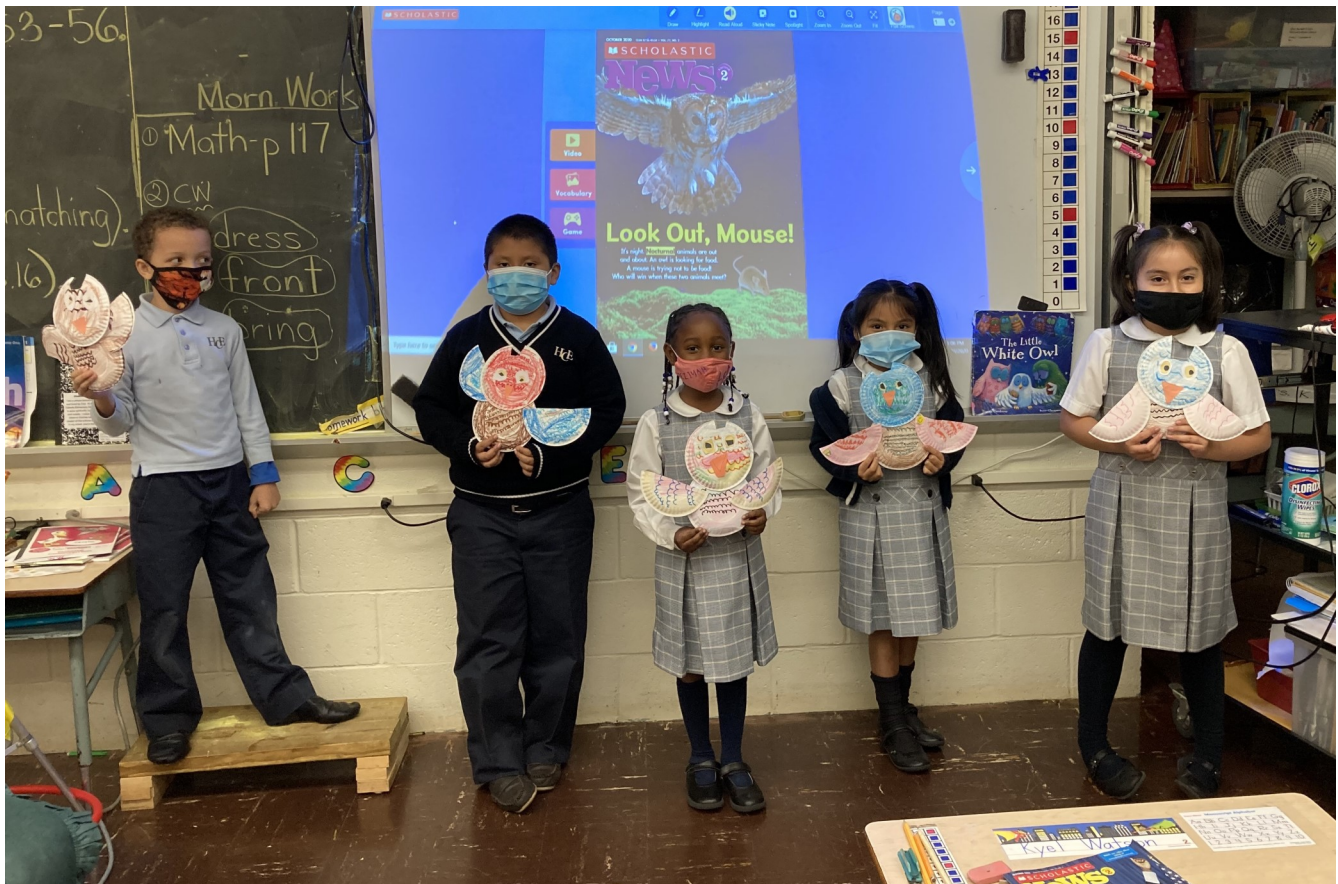
Please join us in giving our new staff a warm welcome. We are happy to have these additions to HCE and we look forward to a successful year together.

# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

Look whoooo the second graders are learning about!



Second grade has been learning about owls. We discussed that they, and many other creatures, are nocturnal animals. Through our Scholastic News we read that animals have adaptations which help them survive. The owl's quiet wings and large eyes are its adaptations. We listened to various owl calls on YouTube. We even learned how to hoot like a barred owl. A Venn Diagram was created comparing the adaptations of an owl and another nocturnal creature, a mouse. As an art project we made owls out of paper plates. Fiction and non-fiction stories were read and discussed. Our class had a hoot learning about owls.



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**Important Dates to Remember** — November 25—December 1, No School, Thanksgiving break

December 8 — Holy Day of Obligation, Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 24, 2020—January 3, 2021 — No School, Christmas break

# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

## Young Painters

The Kindergarten students have been working hard on their letters, numbers, and shapes. We decided to take a break from using our scissors, pencils, and crayons for the afternoon and paint with water instead. The students enjoyed writing and drawing with new tools and discovering that they can paint with water on the building. They were surprised to learn that the water would dry quickly and create new images!

— Miss Kopacko

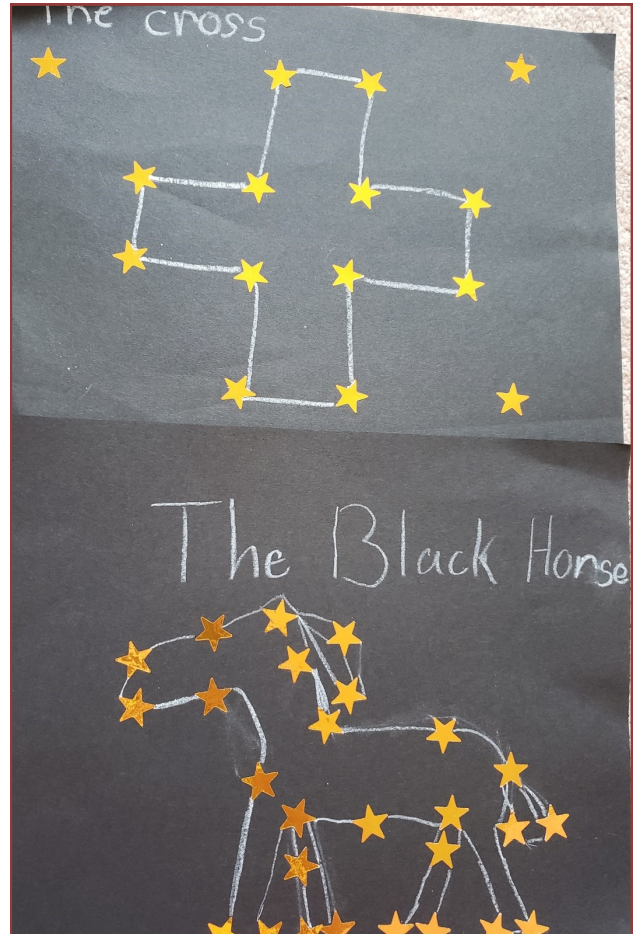
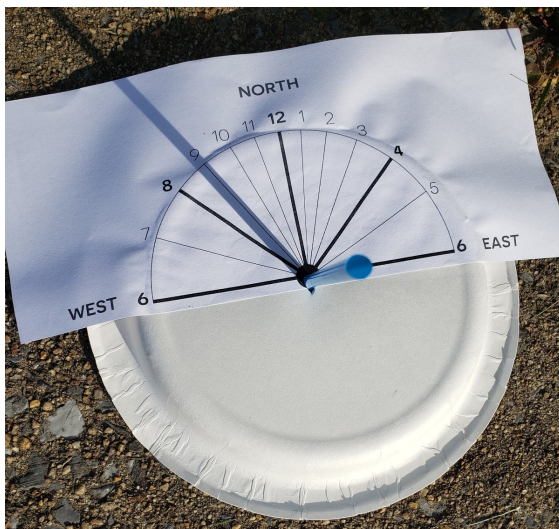


# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

## Shooting for the Stars

In 5th grade, we learned about the stars! As we learned about the different patterns that we see in the night sky, we learned the stories about the major constellations. We even got a chance to create our own star constellations. Each student wrote a small story about their own constellation. As we learned about different patterns of stars, we studied our very own star, the sun! Using our sundials, we made observations on how the sun changes position in the sky throughout the day. We learned the sun doesn't actually move, but the movement is due to Earth's rotation!

— Miss Wrightstone



## Grade 8 News

Well the year started off with a bang! We are working through the COVID crisis and adjusting to the new regulations. As of now we have 11 students in school and 11 in the virtual classroom. It has been an adjustment but we have risen to the challenge. Mr. Boes has been in twice to discuss high school options and shared with virtual and in-person students what they need to do to get ready for high school. The class as a group made cards and wrote letters to the military and Mrs. Nelson is taking care of mailing them out. The teachers are getting used to them not moving from class to class (teachers do that instead) and they look forward to our mask breaks, considering them a must.

This year will be different for all concerned--no trout in the classroom this year due to the disinfecting spray used at the end of each school day; no trips to the Museum or Strawberry Square; no field trips; no Cultural Day due to the restrictions on food but, we are making the best of it. This is their last year at Harrisburg Catholic and we will do our best to make it memorable. Just Stay Tuned!!!!

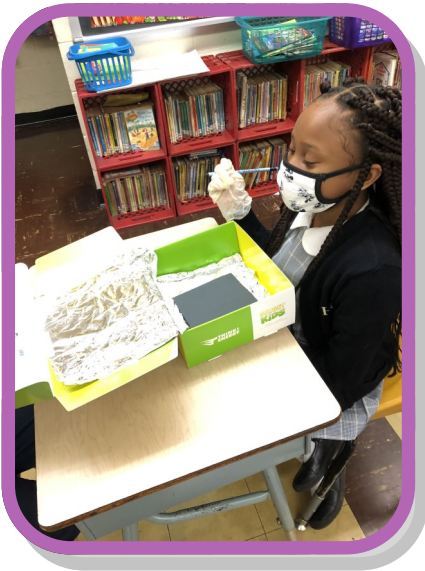
— Miss Mahnken

# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

The third grade class always kicks-off our energy unit with a visit from PPL. This year, due to COVID stipulations, we completed our visit remotely. In a PPL video we learned about alternate forms of energy, using energy wisely and conserving and recycling energy. We also acquired information about insulators and conductors of electricity. As one of our classroom experiments, we used an energy rod to determine if objects in the school were



conductors or insulators. Later, we built closed and open circuits which turned an electric light bulb on and off. An especially entertaining experiment was learning how to make and fly paper airplanes. This experiment showed us the power of wind energy. Finally, after watching an episode of *Generation Genius* we were introduced to energy transfer. In order to fully understand energy transfer, we built our own solar ovens. Then, as a yummy experiment, we put S'mores ingredients inside. Next, we put them out in the sun, and checked on them at the end of the day. We found that the energy from the sun was transferred to our solar ovens. Our experiment was a success! S'mores for all! — Mrs. Nelson



## Pre-K Students Explore Balances

Do you remember the days of riding a teeter totter up and down? It was great fun when the sides were close to equal, not so much if the weight wasn't evenly distributed. We read a story called *Balancing Act* by Ellen Stoll Walsh in which the animals kept wanting to ride the teeter totter but it kept getting off balanced. They eventually figured it out so it was fun for everyone. We figured it out too, as we experimented with balances and bears. We first sorted our bears by size- small, medium and large. We then discovered they were each a different weight and just like in the story, different combinations of weight created an equal balance. There was a lot of excitement as they successfully created balanced sides with the bears. — Mrs. Rushinski



# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

Welcome back to a new school year! The fourth grade students at Harrisburg Catholic have been very busy the last few weeks. After getting into the swing of being back in school after a long break due to COVID-19, the fourth graders are learning all kinds of new things. They have been studying Sacred Scripture, place value, types of sentences, and cells just to name a few. This year may look a little different from past years but one thing is still the same: The fourth graders are happy to be back at school with their friends. While mask breaks and social distancing are a must, we are still able to study our academics and thank God for all the great things He has given us! — Mrs. Hartman



Please continue to save Coke product caps for our school. Last year, HCE earned just over \$400 from the codes from Coke, Sprite, Fanta and Barq's soda caps, 12 pack cardboard and 24-pack plastic wrap. With limited fundraisers due to COVID, this is one fundraising enterprise that can safely continue. Another source of fundraising that can continue is the new Box Tops points.



Download the Box Tops app to your phone, scan your store receipts whenever you purchase an item with the new digital Box Top logo (at right). If you prefer, just save your receipts and turn them in to the school in an envelope marked "Box Tops" and receipts will be scanned for you. Please



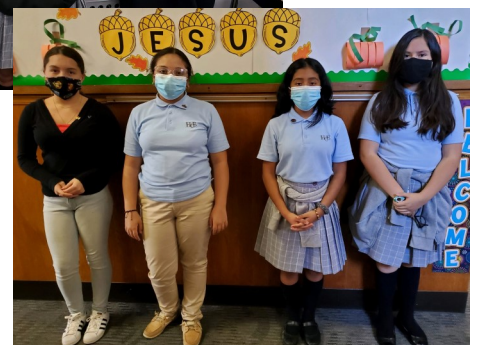
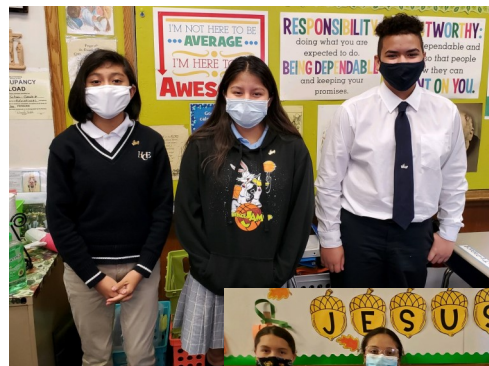
also turn in empty Little Bites pouches as the school earns points for them as well. By saving these small items, you help us earn big money for our school. Thank you!

# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS



At Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School, the First Grade students have spent the first month playing catch-up for all of the months that they missed of Kindergarten. In Math, we have spent a lot of time working on number recognition and understanding numbers, as well as letter recognition and letter sounds in ELA. Practicing writing our letters and numbers has also become an important part of our day. In order to take a break from all of the fast-paced lessons and practice, we took a day in September to celebrate the birthdays that the students celebrated over the summer months. The five students we celebrated enjoyed wearing a birthday crown for the day. A special snack (all purchased and individually wrapped) of muffins was also enjoyed, along with a juice box. Although there was no singing, we also shared a special birthday song that helped all of the students learn when their birthday is celebrated. — Mrs. Lausch

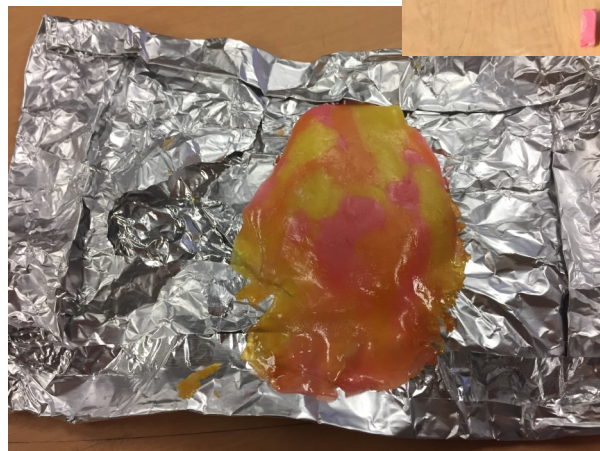
Like everything else in 2020, this year's Student Council has had to make concessions and adaptations. Nominations, speeches and elections were all conducted differently but have been completed and we are now able to move ahead. We are still managing to meet (thanks to Zoom) and plan some safety-approved activities including a door decorating contest, pennies in a jar competition, and guess how many candies in the jar. We hope to find some fun ways to keep HCE students entertained and engaged even during these strange times. — Miss Bearley



# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

## 7th Grade News

Despite the challenges that this school year poses, seventh grade managed to explore the rock cycle in a couple of hands-on investigations in science class. Our first challenge was to make sedimentary rocks from crayons. Students did this by using a penny and an unwrapped crayon, scraping it into many small sediments. A more challenging investigation was then undertaken. The students cut up a piece of Starburst candy into sediments, rolled it into a ball, warmed it up in their hands, squished it with a book, then melted it over a candle flame, and let it cool and harden. This enabled the seventh graders to mimic the different processes that occur in the rock cycle, changing a rock from sedimentary to igneous then to metamorphic just by using a simple piece of candy. In other news, the students are learning how to use prefixes and suffixes to decode vocabulary words, and are reading the novel *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan, which is about a young Mexican girl who overcomes many hardships when she and her mother escape to California and a chance at a better life. — Mrs. Vogt





## HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

*Thank you to everyone who supported Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School throughout this past year. Your financial support, donations of supplies, and prayerful consideration of our students, faculty and administration are immeasurably beneficial. Thank you for your support and generosity.*

Mary Pompei	Rita Wombach	Marcelina Abuel, Jr.
Linda & Robert Pugliese	Rose Marie Updegraff	Christine George
David & Susan Johnson	Kristi Shorr	Carolyn Mundy
Pat & Bob Carnathan	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McKay	Marcia Hajduk
Zenobia Howard	Al Romejko & Lynn Burkholder	Mr. & Mrs. Luis Martinez
Theresa Dickey	The Malesic Family	Georgianne Fitzgibbons
Peggy Morehead	Carolyn & David Kulp	Teresa Chapin
Sarah Copley	Susan Wohlbach	Mary Phillips
Sue Bauman	Connie Sansone	Mary Jo & Dave Telep
Betty Curtis	Christine Sansone	Sheila Folk
Joseph Carduff	Helen Grills	Debbie Domitrovich
Joanne Cawley	Joan Langendijk	Deacon & Mrs. Thomas Lang
Richard Summers	Molly Milford	Greg Kerbaugh
Dawn Beisel	Mary J. Skala	Carole & Jerry Bush
Lubiann Reichert	Ms. Pat Leiendecker	Stephen & Kristel Hemler
Janetta Brenner	James Donahue	Deacon Phil Ladouceur
Mary Ann McCann	Dan & Lisa Reisteter	Alan & Pat Chace
Carolyn Holenick	John & Maggie Giannelli	Len Bennett
Marlene McGee	Louise Stepanic	Amy Hill
Kathy Possinger	Andrew Stiteler	Keith Possinger
Lois Eckerd	The Winegardner Family	Lauren Muglia
Kathy Kann	Todd & Wendy Merlina	Yvonne Chupa
Irene Woodard	Zenoria Owens	Loretta & Dave Miller
Mary Mills	Susan Samuels	Robert O'Donnell
Mike Modica	Ann Shepos	The Davalos Family
Theresa Darrow	Joyce Bodlovich	Melissa Payne
Andy Gassandy	The Massaro Family	Kathy & Stan Quade
Mary-Kate S. Lee	The Pottinger Family	Sandra Knoble

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# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

Anthony Forlizzi	Elizabeth Balaban	Ray & Katherine Evelan
Kevin & Margaret Peters	Susan Wohlbach	Timothy & Anne Morris
Shirley Kirkwood	Gregory Schnacky	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Fritz
Mary Lambert	Mary Fox	Kevin & Cindy Cicak
Brian & Naomi Whittaker	Kathy Speaker-MacNett	Brian & Evylon Dougherty
Ann Marie Judson	Carl & Lois Helstrom	James & Marybeth Cottingham
Joe & Marcee's Studio West	Katrina Allangba	Richard & Betsy Esser
Joe Lucia	Mary Jo Skala	Tom & Laura Schultz
Paulette Kozlosky	James Kurtz	Lynette Motter
Gilbert Parthemore	James & Nancy Cochran	James Daly, Jr.
Janet Horntrop	Sarah Cotton	Gail Fleagle
Carlos & Irma Garcia	Kathy Wrightstone	
Mechanicsburg Area Community Fund		

*Our sincerest apologies if any names were missed at this time.*



# Thank you!

## **Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School**

Reverend Joshua Brommer, Executive Pastor

Reverend Orlando Reyes, Pastor

Mr. David Rushinski, Principal

[www.hbgcathelem.org](http://www.hbgcathelem.org)

This newsletter is provided by the Development Committee. For more information about the committee, please contact a school office.