

## 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 2021



### From the Principal's Desk...

There are so many special happenings at Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School this year!

First off, this is the tenth anniversary of Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School! I can't believe it, but we are 10 years old. The first Pre-School class from 10 years ago will be graduating from HCE this year. How quickly those years have passed! It seems like it wasn't that long ago we formed the school, held our first school board meeting and we welcomed our first class. During the past ten years, we have only grown stronger! Thanks in large part to great pastoral leadership.

Another special occurrence is that construction of The Cathedral Education Center has begun: HCE's new home! Our students deserve and will have in the not-so-distant-future a new building where they will learn and grow. It will contain up-to-date classrooms, a STEM lab, an updated computer lab, an art room, a music room and most importantly a place where our entire student body will fit as one school. Our staff will be able to collaborate together, our students will be able to pray together and staff members will no longer need to travel between buildings. Thank you to the benefactors who already have and who continue to assist in this endeavor.

We also must celebrate that our students have returned to in-person learning! We have been able to switch the virtual learning off and have a return to all in-person learning, which is what we do best! We have a lot of learning to catch up on, but by being in school we will be able to assist our students in closing the gap! Thank you to our incredibly hard working teaching staff for answering the call to assist!

It takes not only a lot of time and energy from our teachers and staff to keep Harrisburg Catholic moving forward, it also takes many financial resources. I am so glad to welcome Mr. Dan Reisteter to our staff. Dan has accepted the position of Director of Development and Advancement. He has the critical role to advance our school's mission to the greater community in order to be sure HCE has the tools it needs to continue our mission.

Thanks for taking the time to look at the great things that are happening at Harrisburg Catholic — these pages are full of student projects, accomplishments and classroom learning! I am so thankful to be part of this school community each and every day.

Mr. Rushinski



# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

## Little Religion Learners

The First Grade students at Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School have been learning about how God created our wonderful world as well as how much Jesus loves them. Our mission this year is to live and behave in a manner that would make Jesus proud: by saying kind words, by doing good deeds, by treating each other kindly and by helping each other. We have had some great class discussions on what we can all do to live more like Jesus did.

We were thankful that this year we were actually able to visit the church to see, in person, some of the things we discuss in our Religion lessons. Last year, we were only able to look at pictures of important objects that can be found in a church. This year we visited the church, sat quietly in the first pew and pointed out many of the items that help to remind us that God loves us. The students stated that they were especially happy to get the chance to see the tabernacle and the sanctuary lamp.

I am extremely proud to say that the five students pictured can perfectly recite The Lord's Prayer. If you should see one of them in the hallway, feel free to ask them to share their knowledge of the Our Father. — Mrs. Lausch



**Important Dates to Remember** — November 24—November 30, No School, Thanksgiving break

December 8 — Holy Day of Obligation, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, School-wide Mass at Cathedral

December 23, 2021—January 3, 2022 — No School, Christmas break

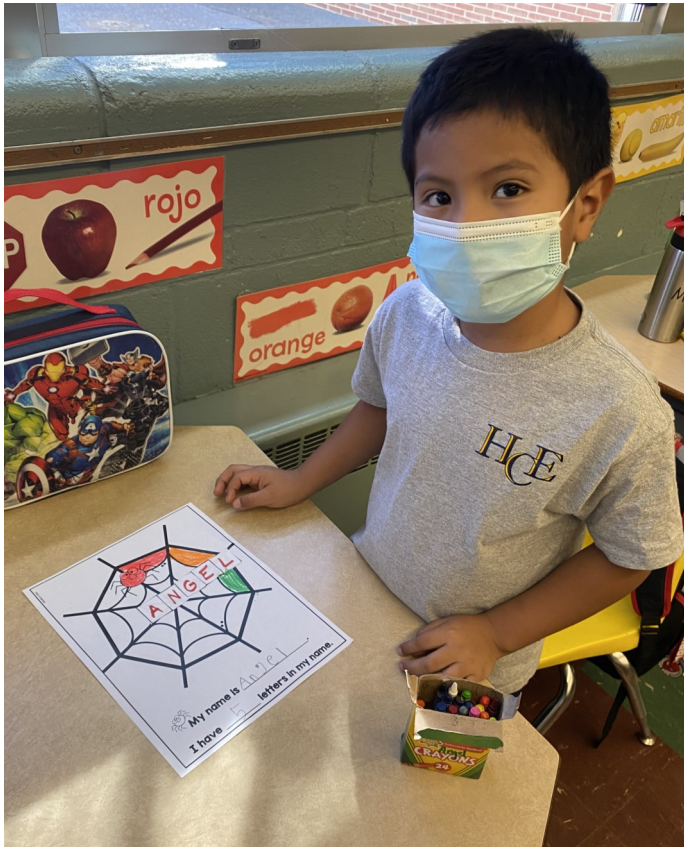


# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

## Learning About Arachnids in Kindergarten

The Kindergarten class has been learning all about spiders! The students had the opportunity to use magnifying glasses to look at three different spiders and a scorpion. They also enjoyed learning about spider webs and had the chance to catch their name in their own spider web. The last part of our spider unit taught them about the life cycle. The students were very interested to learn about how spiders catch their food and lay eggs.

— Miss Kopacko



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## Welcome Dan Reisteter

We are pleased to welcome Dan Reisteter to our staff. He is HCE's new Director of Development and Advancement. In this new position, Dan will network with business executives throughout Central Pennsylvania to make known the various opportunities to support Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School.

Dan brings with him a broad wealth of knowledge of the financial world after 30 years of working for the PA Bankers Association. His background in lobbying members of the PA General Assembly, as well as a multitude of fundraising activities for several service organizations, has helped Dan form relationships in government, business and non-profit arenas. In addition to his employment, he has been a long-time volunteer at the Central PA Food Bank and has been involved in several missions of the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick. Dan has been a member of HCE's Development Committee (now called the Community Outreach, Marketing and Fundraising Committee) and is looking forward to transitioning into his new position.

# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

## Painting is Fun in Pre-K



The beginning of the year is always such an exciting time for our youngest learners. Tell them they are going to get to paint and the excitement grows. We began our year exploring colors and discovered that they can be mixed to create new ones. We started with the primary colors of red, yellow and blue. We learned we could make green, orange and purple with just the right combination of color. So cool! Our color mixing sessions then led to the opening of our class easel. Everyone loves to spend time here painting on the big paper. There is lots of color mixing plus the creation of paintings that tell a story. We have a great class full of artists. — Mrs. Rushinski



Harrisburg City Firefighters visited both campuses in October, Fire Safety Month. Fourth grade students pictured at right enjoyed seeing the fire trucks up close and personal.



## Fourth Grade News

It is so nice to have all the students back in the building this year. Not only are we able to learn together and play together but we are able to celebrate Mass together. The sound of all the children worshipping and singing at Mass is so uplifting.

Fourth grade has been very busy learning about the Ten Commandments, nouns, place value, reading strategies, PA history and so much more. We are having a great year! — Mrs. Hartman



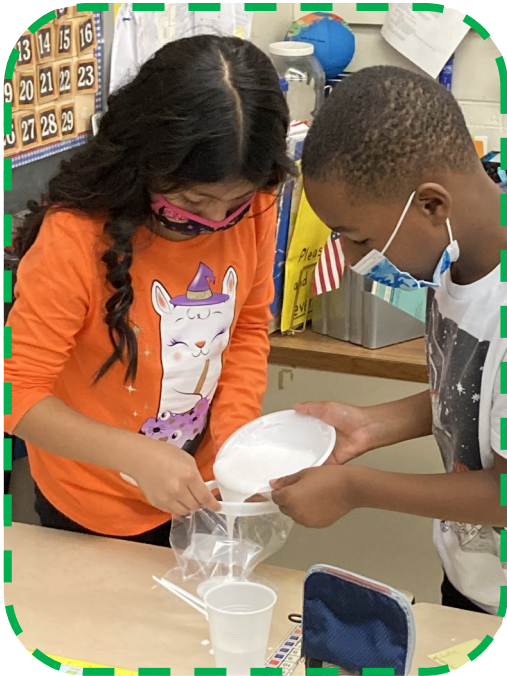
# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS



## Second Grade's Been Slimed

It's almost Halloween. There couldn't be a better time to learn about, make and experiment with class made slime. Using our Scholastic Science Spin magazine we read about, discussed, and watched a video about how slime is helpful for and used by numerous creatures such as snails, parrot fish, Komodo dragons, and even humans because it is sticky.

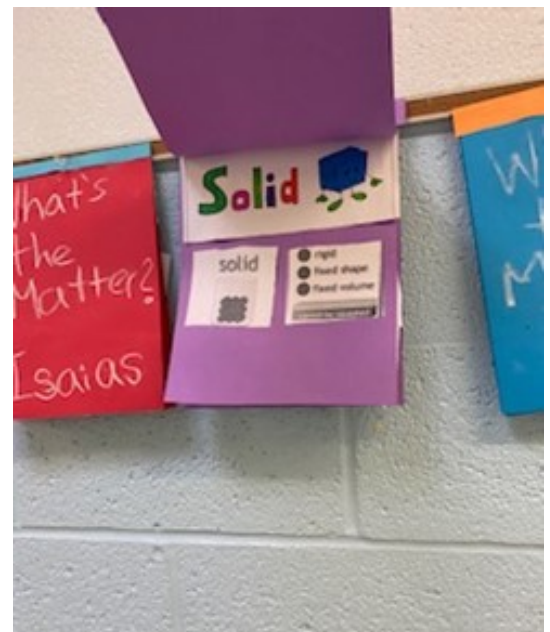
The second graders then became slime scientists. They got into groups of two and measured out the necessary ingredients to make slime. They, of course, had the opportunity to play with it and then we discussed its properties. The children conducted experiments with the slime and a variety of class-room objects to see which items the slime sticks to and then they recorded their results. You could say that they had a great "slime"! — Mrs. Kreiser



## Third Graders Wowed by Science

This year the third grade has been busy learning exciting scientific discoveries. So far, the third graders have done a project on the States of Matter and learned about electric currents. Their project on the states of matter described the three different states using pictures as seen here.

— Miss Ryan



# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

## 5th Grade Studies the Stars

In Science, 5th grade made observations and learned about the different patterns that are found in our sky both during the day and night. We made observations of the sun by making a sundial to watch the sun's shadow change throughout the day due to Earth's rotation. We also made shadow drawings of objects to observe the changes that the sun made throughout the day.

At night, we made observations and studied the pattern of the moon. We learned that we see different phases of the moon due to the amount of light that is reflected from the sun. With our knowledge of the moon phases, we made the moon phases out of Oreo Cookies!

Fifth grade also learned that the different groups of stars that we see at night are called constellations. We read about the different stories of the constellations and made connections to Greek Mythology. Students got to pick one of the 88 recognized constellations and researched information about that constellation. They presented their information on a poster. Lastly we designed our own constellations! Each student drew, named and wrote their own story about their constellation!

— Miss Wrightstone



Please continue to save Coke product caps for our school. Last year, HCE earned several hundred dollars from the codes from Coke, Sprite, Fanta and Barq's soda caps, 12 pack cardboard and 24-pack plastic wrap. HCE is still limited in our fundraisers due to COVID, but collecting Coke caps is one fundraising project that can safely continue. Another source of fundraising that can continue is Box Tops. Although this program is completely different (no more clipping emblems from products), HCE can still earn money from the Box Tops program.

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

## Heart and Sole



Nine girls from grades 6 through 8 have been participating in the Heart and Sole: Girls on the Run Program that lasts for ten weeks under the direction of coaches Miss Wrightstone and Mrs. Vogt.

In the Heart and Sole program, lessons are designed for middle school girls where they can learn about themselves and develop life skills as they move through adolescence. Through various activities, the program addresses the

whole girl: body, brain, heart, spirit and social connections. The girls work on important skills such as team building, creating friendships, dealing with stress and developing a strong support system. At the end of the season, the girls will participate with their running buddies in a 5k at HACC on November 21st. Good Luck Girls!

Girls on the Run will be available in the spring for grades 3-5 at the Holy Family campus on Monday and Thursdays after school. Sign-ups will start in January. Stay tuned for more information!

— Miss Wrightstone



## A Busy Seventh Grade

Seventh grade has been very busy so far this school year with some challenges thrown in our direction. One big adjustment is dealing with the construction noise right outside our classroom. We know the end result will be awesome, even though right now it is a challenge.

During our science lessons, students had the opportunity to explore concepts of friction and gravity while racing Matchbox cars down ramps covered with sandpaper and comparing that with ramps without sandpaper. They also completed a STEM challenge where they had to build towers out of newspaper and tape that would support a regulation size basketball for at least 20 seconds. We talked about tower design in preparation for that challenge. Most of the groups were successful.

When we had our school fire drill, students were able to get their picture taken with the firemen afterwards. We also enjoyed a fun afternoon courtesy of the JEM Group during Construction Safety week.

In Language arts, students are busy learning vocabulary and how to decode words based on their prefixes and suffixes. They are creating Google slide presentations about scientists and discovering where Jesus grew up and lived during his lifetime. We have just completed reading our first novel, *Esperanza Rising*, a story about an immigrant family adjusting to life in southern California. All in all, it has been a busy couple of months in 7th grade. — Mrs. Vogt



# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

## Grade 8 News

Our school year has begun with masks up and we are all doing our part to stay safe. This year the Chromebooks are front and center with our learning experience. We are able to use them in all of our classes for research, classwork, and assessments. In Math class we have signed into Xtra Math for Math facts drills and into Freckle Math which is a part of the Renaissance testing program. This allows us to improve our math skills in several areas. Our goal is to improve our Math levels in the Star testing we do throughout the school year.

Mr. Boes has visited our class to discuss our alternatives to High School. The schools we are looking into are Bishop McDevitt, DC Tech, Sci Tech, Steel High, CD East, Susquehanna Twp., and CASA. Harrisburg Catholic Elementary is a partner school with McDevitt and on Friday, October 22, a group of McDevitt students visited our class to share their experiences of attending McDevitt for high school. On Tuesday, November 2, the McDevitt staff returned to help the interested eighth grade students register for McDevitt for the 2022-2023 school year.

In Science class we are preparing to start a unit on rocks and minerals. Our recent lab was mining for gems (chocolate chips). Due to the use of the sanitizer sprayer in the classrooms we are unable to do Trout in the Classroom for the second year in a row. The use of the sprayer at the end of the school day is to kill off any germs in the room (we don't want to cause a negative impact on the tank).

On September 17 we celebrated safety week with The JEM Group. A slice of pizza with a juice pouch and a frozen ice was provided for lunch. The afternoon was spent taking part in different activities with the crew from The JEM Group. We really enjoyed ourselves, especially the closing activity which was two teams competing to wrap mummy-style Mr. Rushinski or Father Brommer the fastest. The team who wrapped Mr. Rushinski won the contest.

Stay tuned for more exciting news from our class--HCE Class of 2022!

— Miss Mahnken





# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

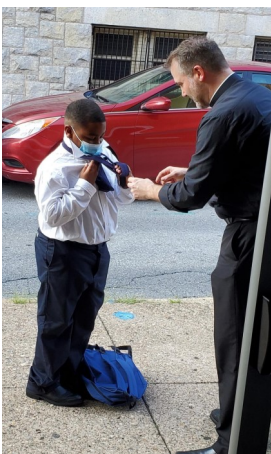
## 6th Grade Time Travelers

Recently the sixth grade from Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School was able to travel through time to an ancient flora and fauna from the Precambrian to Cenozoic periods. The area is now a rich oil field created by the lush vegetation in the forest of the Carboniferous. Thanks to our friends at the Pennsylvania State Museum this trip only took an hour and a half, saving us a million years of travel time. Our students were able to actually step in the forest that led to the fossils that created the natural resources that we use today. — Mr. Hicks



## Student Council Has Big Plans

Like anything and everything during COVID, adjustments need to be made to accomplish what we want to do, and Student Council was no exception. From giving campaign speeches to holding our Induction Ceremony in our parking lot, Student Council adapted and was able to see 10 kids join this year's Student Council. Our 8th Grade class truly stepped up with six students from that class on Student Council. This year's leadership has big plans — from door decorating contests to Valentine treats, from collecting food for the homeless to saying thank you to our construction workers, there are many great projects ahead. Congratulations to Christian, Jennifer, Brissia, Adrianette, Giannah, Ameera, Evelyn, Alisson, Jazmin and Jayce!





## HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

The look of HCE's Cathedral Campus is changing! Under Father Brommer's leadership, the Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick began work on the Cathedral Education Center with the official ground-breaking and blessing at the end of May. Bishop Gainer joined Father Brommer, Mr. Rushinski, donors and other dignitaries for the ceremony. Demolition was the first step in the building process and that began in June on parts of the existing school and Shanahan Building. New construction began once demolition was completed. Students and faculty are learning a lot while watching the first phase of this project unfold right before our very eyes. The JEM Group has gone out of their way to include HCE students in the construction process, even providing lessons, games and lunch for everyone during Safety Week. With our first-hand view and a construction team willing to include our students in the building process, this is an experience none of us will soon forget. To track the progress, check out these photos, as well as updated pictures on our school website (<https://hbgcathelem.org/construction-photos>). Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Capital Campaign to make this project come to fruition. Great things are happening here!





## HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

*Thank you to everyone who supports Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School. Your financial support (scholarships, Annual Appeal, Run 4 Fun, memorial gifts, etc.), Apple Tree donations of supplies, and prayerful consideration of our students, faculty and administration are appreciated. Thank you for your support and generosity.*

Rocco Ortenzio  
Mary Pompei  
Nancy Ortenzio  
Linda & Robert Pugliese  
David & Susan Johnson  
Pat & Bob Carnathan  
Zenobia Howard  
Theresa Dickey  
Bill Balchunas  
Sarah Copley  
Sue Bauman  
Betty Curtis  
Carol Salwocki  
Lena Giannelli  
Richard Summers  
Darlene Fritz  
Don & Ann Deegan  
Janetta Brenner  
Theresa Mack  
Carolyn Holenick  
Marlene McGee  
Rose Wagaman  
Lois Eckerd  
Amanda & Bill Hennessey  
Irene Woodard  
Mary & Robert Mills  
Mike & Mary Modica  
Polly Kozlosky  
Mary Fox  
Wood & Donna Stortzom  
Virginia Kuhn  
Rob Castelli  
Doug & Cathy Keith  
Mary Jo Skala  
Stephen & Kristel Hemler  
Kevin & Cindy Cicak

Robert Ortenzio  
Rita Wombach  
Colleen Weldon  
Steve & Deb Mercurio  
Paul & Lisa Rabon  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McKay  
Sarah Varma  
The Malesic Family  
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Rick Townsend  
Helen Grills  
Helen Townsend  
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Joseline Fajardo  
Stephen & Kristel Hemler  
James Donahue  
Dan & Lisa Reisteter  
John & Maggie Giannelli  
Anthony Bruno  
Gary Walls  
John & Michelle Winegardner  
Todd Merlina  
Loretta & Dave Miller  
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Betsy Dum  
Kathy & Stan Quade  
Melanie Balchunas  
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James Kurtz  
Jerome O'Leary  
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Martin Jackson  
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Marcia Hajduk  
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Betty Fundalewicz  
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Carole & Jerry Bush  
Bryanna Monteith  
Deacon Phil Ladaceuer  
Andrew Bruno  
Len Bennett  
Amy Hill  
Cliff & LouAnn Mills  
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Yvonne Chupa  
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Ann Gregoire  
Keven Cable  
Marthe Williams  
Jon Castelli  
Linda McKinney  
Peggy Swab  
Gilbert Parthemore  
Isabella Knapp  
Ann Marie Judson

*Continued on next page...*

# HARRISBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY NEWS

Georgianne Fitzgibbons	Christine Olarte	Charles Young
Leslie Knepp	Dottie Wright	The Dunlap Family
Shane Rooney	The Pottinger/Macut Family	The Dillon Family
Alex Sonski	Doug & Lisa Colson	Judie & Joe Nicola
Connie Jendrzczak	Chris Chiampi	Amy Anderson
Elizabeth Lanzino	Mel Shaffer	Elizabeth & Aaron Glabus
Abigail & Ben Loose	Natalie Sheer	Anna Bianco
Joe & Judy Murphy	Mary Ann Baranowski	Sister GERALYN Schmidt
Kyle McKrnan	Eileen Young	Mattea Fera
Richard Peiffer	Lucas Slusser	Amanda Karelugo
David & Sonia Wachtman	Shirley Kirkwood	Bryan & Evylon Dougherty
Carl & Lois Helstrom	James & Marybeth Cottingham	Katrina Allangba
Lynette Motter	James & Nancy Cochran	James Daly, Jr.
Janet Horntrop	Sarah Cotton	Gail Fleagle
Tom & Laura Schultz	Rev. Jonathan Sawicki	Mary Fox
Julia & Tom DeCesar	E. Laird Vey	Ross & Cynthia Shiraki
Kathleen Holder	David & Kate Pettegrew	Darnell & Antonia Bowman
Rudy Duttry	Mark Webb	Dolores Doud
James Barnacle	Caroline Enos	Drew Schuckman
Edward Bucher	Christine Sansone	Constance Sansone
Robert & Tania Kroboth	Carolyn Holencik	Anthony Forlizzi
Elizabeth Balaban	Ray & Katherine Evelan	Margaret & Kevin Peters
Timothy & Anne Morris	Gregory Anton Schnacky	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Fritz
Mary Lambert	Frank Misti	Thomas Duszak
Leah & Sean Ferguson	Bridget Berick & Glenn Carnicelli	Pauline McIntyre
Nicholas DeTullio	Thomas Gates	Yvonne Abela
Philip Sherrick	Dona Beshore	Chuck & Stacey Hughes
Shawn Kenney	Rose Evans	Rosalie Conti
George Bedwick	Marguerite Fitzgibbon	Herman Banks
Joe Antonacci	Michael Notarangelo	Karen Balaban
Mark & Paige Morabito	Charles Zadakais	Raymond & Mary Ann O'Leary
Marie Lindsey	Lora O'Connor	Maria A. Hernandez
Frank Mazzoni	Anna Roberts	Harold Murphy
Lauren Chavey	Joseph Cincotta	Cecelia Anderson
Tania Srouji	Robert & Irene Woodard	Leroy Zimmerman
Edwin Cosgrove	Reuel Deppen	Chuck Frank
INA	Intellenet	Kris & Greg Knauf
Hubert & Kuzmich	Dwight McKee	Robert & Mary Seurkamp
Brent Lee Stine	Maureen & James Waldron	James & Kathleen West
John Wright	Michael & Deirdre Jarman	Joe & Marcee's Studio West LLC
Anna Marie & Patrick Berry	John & Anne Brixius	James & Constance Carino, Jr.
Richard & Betsy Esser Fund/Mechanicsburg Area Community Foundation		



*Special thanks to these foundations for providing financial support to Harrisburg Catholic Elementary! If you would like information on how your business can also support HCE through one of these scholarship organizations, please contact Dan Reisteter at 717-234-3797.*

Leon Weiner Foundation

Bridge Foundation

Malady and Wooten, John Malady

South Central Foundation

Rocco Ortenzio

Robert Ortenzio

Martin Jackson

Bravo Foundation

Senator John DiSanto

Neumann Foundation

Select Specialty Hospital—Erie, Inc.

Concentra Health Services, Inc.

Select Unit Managements, Inc.

Mid-Penn Bank

Select Medical Corporation

Information Network Associates, Inc.

Donald and Dorothy Stabler Foundation

Boyd Foundation

Hall Foundation

Kremer Foundation

Henkels Foundation



**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 Community Outreach, Marketing and Fundraising Committee. If you would like information on how to participate in this committee's activities, please contact a school office.