

CHERUB CHAT

A PUBLICATION OF HOLY ANGELS PRE-SCHOOL & ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

MINISIPAA SCHOOOLS OF DISTINCTION 08



MISSION STATEMENT:

Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic education ensuring educational quality for all families willing to enter into a partnership to develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential.

Upcoming Events:

JESUS' BIRTHDAY

JOY

PEACE

FAMILY TIME

PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS COOKIES

ALL DAY PJ's

SLEDDING

SNOWMAN MAKING

HOT CHOCOLATE

REST

Monthly Beatitude

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Our Prayers Are With . .



- ♥ Or GTACS families, may we all feel the PEACE and JOY of this Christmas season the whole year through.
- ♥ All those in our school and church family that are battling illnesses.

Thank you, Sweet Jesus for

Published December 21, 2011

Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is Thursday @ 11:00 a.m.
Please email information for the Holy Angels newsletter to Nikki Kleinrichert at nklein@gtacs.org
Please email information for system-wide distribution to Cathy Nelson at enelson@gtacs.org

From The Desk Of Mrs. Troppman

The Kindergarten classes supported the Saint Francis Students For Life by participating in "Deck the Dresser" event which is helping celebrate women who shared in Mary's "YES" to life. The Holy Angels students earned money in a variety of ways to purchase baby supplies to help "fill the dressers" for four local women who have chosen life this Christmas season. What a beautiful way to teach the children to be Jesus' hands by reaching out to others!



This week we were able to enjoy five Advent Programs that were performed by our Preschool and Pre-K children! Each one was cute as can be and the children were filled with excitement to present their gift to their parents!

Nikki, Shannon and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for all of our wonderful gifts that we received. Your children bring us such joy each day, that they are the best gift of all! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The Staff and I want to wish you all very holy and safe Christmas. We pray that you can all rest and enjoy your beautiful families and friends as we continue to celebrate this holy season. May this upcoming year be filled with much love, laughter, good health, and daily glimpses of our heavenly Father! God bless you all and may His angels surround your homes this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

Serving Children and Christ,
Janet Troppman

Lunch Duty Schedule 10:30-12:15

Please visit the GTACS website under the Holy Angels section to see the 2011-12 Playground Calendar				
<u>Monday 2nd</u> NO SCHOOL	<u>Tuesday 3rd</u> Ratajczak, W. Kerr, Josh Shafer, Bryce Sub Needed	<u>Wednesday 4th</u> Nowasacki, Beth Lawson, Shane Wolff, Audrey Byrne, Molly	<u>Thursday 5th</u> Chuinard, Inga Kerry, Theresa Harris, Philipp Weitzel, Michael	<u>Friday 6th</u> Schurg, Holly McManus, Sam Mullet, Garnet Sub Needed

The Difference Is Prayer

Box Tops Collecting Tip!

The holidays make a perfect time to ask far-away relatives to save Box Tops for your child. Children find great joy in receiving envelopes in the mail filled with Box Tops from loved ones, as we all know that every Box Top helps our school, 10 cents at a time. You should have received a template letter for your child to fill out and give to a relative or family friend to inform them about our Box Tops program here at Holy Angels. Have your child pass them out, making more copies if needed. Thanks for your continued support, and keep saving those Box Tops for our spring competition!

Raising Compassionate Children-

One area we work on each year at Holy Angels is to develop skills in the children that ensure their kindness to one another. We do this in a number of ways. We kicked off the school year with each classroom making a flag (which you can see hanging over each classroom door) The flag reads: "In God's School we..." The children came up with wonderful ideas about how we want to treat one another at school. We have ongoing FROG Time, classroom lessons, and small group work as needed to help all of the kids be the best they can be. As part of our program, we want to communicate with you our continued effort to stop meanness and spread kindness throughout Holy Angels Elementary School.

How can you help? Consider the following things you can do to raise a truly compassionate child...

Boost your child's "feelings" vocabulary

Ask them how they are feeling in certain situations or better yet how others might feel. Ask them how the clerk at the store might feel if they made a mistake, for instance. For young children, working on basic feelings such as, mad, sad, happy, and afraid are enough. Then move to more complex feeling words as they get older, such as, surprised, irritated, confused, etc.

Volunteer

Some parents worry that exposing young children to the painful realities of life will be too upsetting. Actually the opposite is true. This helps kids feel grateful for what they have and proud to help another person. On a particularly self-centered holiday season at my home, we took our kid's shopping for hand cream, socks, & Christmas cards. We then went to a local assisted living facility to visit the elderly residents and give gifts and spend time. This was a most memorable Christmas at our house. We still fill a basket with gifts each year to give a family in need. Just having your child spend time with an elderly relative/person who is lonely, will teach caring as well.

Celebrate Difference

Look for opportunities to have conversations about tolerance and respect. If you see a child with a medical issue or a special need, have a discussion about the fact that these children need friends and acceptance like every other child. Promote sitting with a new student or one who may need a friend at lunch time. Praise your child when they show compassion and caring for those in need.

Praise each other

Use mealtime as a time to reflect on the day. Have each family member share a compliment or thank you with someone in the family. It's a nice way to connect, and a fine way to teach manners and caring.

Check yourself

Your children notice how you treat the waitress when she brings the wrong order. Try to be understanding and model that, when others make a mistake. Your children are watching and learning. Also, check older sibs teasing of younger children and give the older kids the responsibility of modeling good behavior and kindness for their little brother or sister.

Live your faith

You are the most powerful teacher by far that your child encounters each day. These ideas are just a few ways to help your children develop empathy, kindness, and a sense of responsibility. We are in this together!!

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

Wishing you and your precious children a Merry Christmas!

Nancy Brown, Holy Angels School Counselor