



# HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## WHAT'S IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE?

Letter from  
Courtney Billig  
Director of Student  
Achievement, PreK-4th

Inclement Weather Days

School News

PTA News

Parish News

## Trapped Time: Turning Car Rides Into Meaningful Conversations

As parents, we often find ourselves navigating busy schedules, juggling work commitments, and managing the endless to-do lists that come with family life. With all this hustle, car rides can easily become a time for silence—where kids zone out on devices, and we miss a valuable opportunity for connection. Enter the concept of “trapped time.”

### What is Trapped Time?

Trapped time refers to those moments when you find yourself stuck in a situation where you can't do anything else—like being in a car. Instead of succumbing to the allure of screens, consider using this time to engage in meaningful conversations with your child. Not only does this foster a closer relationship, but it also promotes their communication skills and emotional development. Research indicates there is a “meaningful difference” in children’s early exposure to language in the home (or car) and that those experiences are related to later literacy growth.

### Why Avoid Devices?

1. Encourages Dialogue: Engaging in conversation allows kids to express their thoughts and feelings. It gives them a chance to articulate their experiences, which is crucial for their social development.
2. Promotes Active Listening: By putting devices away, both you and your child can practice active listening. This builds empathy and understanding, essential components of a strong parent-child relationship.

3. Enhances Problem-Solving Skills: Discussing various topics can help children think critically and develop problem-solving skills as they explore ideas and scenarios with you.

4. Builds Memories: These conversations can lead to shared laughter, stories, and insights that create lasting memories. They can become treasured moments you both look back on fondly.

### **The Impact of Trapped Time**

By prioritizing conversation over screens during car rides, you're not just passing the time—you're actively shaping your child's emotional and social growth. The connection you cultivate in these seemingly mundane moments can have a profound impact on their development and your relationship.

Next time you buckle up, remember: that trapped time in the car is a golden opportunity. Embrace it, and watch as your conversations transform into a beautiful part of your journey together.

Courtney Billig  
Director of Student Achievement, PreK-4th

## **CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

### **Weekend Mass Schedule:**

Sat. : 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:30 am  
11:00 am

Confession:  
Every Sat. : 3:30-4:30 pm

**Parish Bulletin**

### **Vision Statement of Holy Trinity Catholic School**

To be a school of excellence that encompasses the whole child by modeling Jesus through our Catholic teachings, commitment to academics, service to the community, and devotion as life-long servants of God.

# INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

Just a reminder about what happens when we have weather issues that impact school.

The Superintendent of Catholic Schools will make an announcement on the major radio and TV stations.

One of the following announcements will be made:

1. All Catholic elementary schools in Jefferson County are OPEN
2. Catholic elementary schools in Jefferson County will be OPEN BUT ON A DELAYED SCHEDULE. (In this case, Holy Trinity will begin at 9:55 a.m. with doors open at 9:20 for drop-off.)
3. All Catholic elementary schools in Jefferson County are CLOSED

If we do have an inclement weather day, teachers will post the day's assignments on myHTCS Assignment Center. This will be completed by 9:00 am. Teachers will answer emails in a timely fashion from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm. If a student is scheduled to have Resource Day classes on that particular day, he/she will receive assignments from Special Area Teachers via myHTCS.

For grades 4-8, each subject will have assignments that last 20-30 minutes. Assignments will be related to the curriculum being covered in the class. The goal is to provide meaningful and productive work occurring on these Virtual Learning Days.

For grades K-3, the time expectation will be adjusted. Students will be involved in meaningful and productive activities, with self-guided work being assigned as much as possible.

For grades K-8, assigned work on Virtual Learning Days may or may not be graded. If a grade is given, it will not be on the same day as the Virtual Learning Day. This will allow those families who are having supervision or connectivity issues time to complete the work.

K-5 teachers will send iPads home with students when they feel there could be a possible Inclement Weather Day. Parents will be notified of this to make sure everyone is aware of this device being in the student's backpack.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

# IMPORTANT DATES

Please see the school calendar at the button below for the most up-to-date information regarding upcoming meetings and events.

CALENDAR

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Advent Calendar

During this season of Advent we are waiting and preparing for both the celebration of Jesus' birth and the excitement and anticipation of the arrival of Christmas Day. Click [here](#) for an Advent calendar with daily suggestions of how our students, and ourselves, can be more like Christ leading up to Christmas!

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

On Monday, December 9th, there will be an All School Mass at 8:15am to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. There will be no All School Mass on Wednesday, December 11th.

### Thank You From Faculty and Staff

On Wednesday before we left for Thanksgiving break, the PTA treated the Faculty and Staff to homemade soups and salads. It was all so delicious and such a special treat. Thank you to all of those people who provided the food and helped set it up in the teachers' lounge.

Then on that Thursday there was a Kroger card in everyone's mailbox. This was also compliments of the PTA. This was so appreciated by everyone, especially at this time of year. Holy Trinity is blessed with such a wonderful PTA!

# Giving With a Grateful Heart

For our “Giving With a Grateful Heart” service learning drive prior to Thanksgiving Break, our students’ families donated over 2,500 items to local charities! Many grades then sorted and packed the donations into themed bags for their community partner to easily distribute.

🐾 PreK donated 279 food items to Animal Care Society.

🎄 K/1 filled 165 stockings with toiletry items for Schuhmann Center.

🛁 Grade 2 collected 542 bathing products and made cards for Sister Visitor Center.

🍷 Grade 3 packed 115 food bags for those without electricity visiting Fr. Jack Jones Food Pantry.

🍼 Grade 4 collected 144 baby items plus \$380 to buy formula with Golden Arrow.

👤 5th Grade packed over 100 holiday fun bags for those living in assisted living facilities.

👶 6th grade collected 167 boxes of diapers, shampoo, and soap for Migration and Refugee Services. This week, they’ll spend Thursday setting up and organizing Catholic Charities’ Santa Shop.

🏀 Jr. high collected 147 sports equipment and teen stocking stuffer gift items for St. Vincent DePaul’s Santa Shop — and many have signed up with their families or Confirmation sponsors to volunteer at their Santa Shop.

😊 Clifton Campus students packed 90 holiday gift bags for neighbors they visit at Nazareth Home.

🏠 Both campuses also hosted out-of-uniform fundraiser days for Clifton neighbors who lost their home in the neighborhood business explosion earlier this month. We donated over \$2,500!



# PTA NEWS

## Let's Earn Our Extra Spring Break Day!

We need your help, Eagles! If all 700 raffle tickets are sold by December 15, 2024, we will earn Friday, March 28, 2025 off school. We have had a great start, but still have over 290 tickets to sell in less than 2 weeks!

Raffle tickets are \$50 for a chance to win a \$10,000 cash prize! A maximum of 700 tickets will be sold. The winner will be drawn live at the 2025 Eagle Soiree on Saturday, February 8, 2025.

NEW this year...we will have a \$2,500 Early Bird drawing before Christmas! For all tickets purchased by midnight on December 15, 2024, the purchaser has a chance to win a \$2,500 cash prize on December 16, 2024, and all tickets will be returned to the February 8, 2025 drawing. By purchasing a raffle ticket by December 15, 2024, the purchaser will have two chances to WIN!

Winners do not need to be present to win, so this is the perfect opportunity to ask family and friends to purchase tickets and support our school. Use the link below to purchase your tickets and send to supporters: <https://one.bidpal.net/2025raffle/browse/featured>

Supporters will receive an email within 24-48 hours of purchase with their raffle ticket number(s) and confirmation of their student seller name(s). Due to limitations in the BidPal software, we cannot track student seller(s) at the time of raffle ticket purchase. When the Holy Trinity volunteer emails the buyer their raffle ticket number, they will confirm/ask for the student seller name(s) at that time.

Holy Trinity Parish School – Lic # ORG0827

# The Candy Cart is Back!!

We had 99 students earn a trip to the Candy Cart on November 22nd!

Did your student miss the first two Candy Carts? If your family buys/sells TWO raffle tickets, by midnight on Wednesday, your child(ren) can earn a visit to this week's Candy Cart!

Does your student want to make a second trip to the Candy Cart? For every TWO raffle tickets sold, your children will earn a trip to the Candy Cart. Some students have sold 6 tickets, so they have earned 3 trips!

The Candy Cart visits will be on Fridays from November 15th – December 20th. The 2nd raffle ticket needs to be bought/sold by midnight the Wednesday before Candy Cart Friday to give volunteers time to organize the data.

Questions? Email Molly Willer at [mwiller@ht-school.org](mailto:mwiller@ht-school.org) or Jennifer Kuerzi at [Jennifer.Thomas@cbh.com](mailto:Jennifer.Thomas@cbh.com)

## Nominations

It's that time of the year when we recognize our faculty and staff. We are seeking nominations for 5 awards listed below, please read carefully as we have some changes this year. Nominations are due by January 8th to Molly Willer at [Mwiller@ht-school.org](mailto:Mwiller@ht-school.org). These outstanding people will be honored during Catholic Schools Week.

Teacher of the Year award at St. Matthews Campus:

[St Matthews Teacher of the Year](#)

Staff of the Year at St. Matthew's Campus. Includes instructional assistants, office staff, nurse, and admin: [St Matthews Staff of the Year](#)

Educator or Staff of the Year award at Clifton Campus. Includes all Clifton Campus [Clifton Campus Educator/Staff of the Year](#)

Parish Staff of the Year award. Includes Parish, Maintenance, and IT [Parish Staff Award](#)

Volunteer of the Year Award: [Volunteer of the Year Award](#)

# Christmas Collection

Dear Holy Trinity Families,

As you start thinking about Christmas gifts for your children's teachers, we would like to offer an OPTIONAL collection for teacher gifts again this year. Contributions will be divided accordingly between your teacher(s) and assistant teacher(s) and will be from the whole class. An additional collection will be taken for the resource day special area teachers. If you would like to participate in this collection, please send your gifts to the appropriate contact(s) listed below no later than Tuesday, December 17th. They will accept cash or check via backpack mail or Venmo donation. Thank you for your support and best wishes during this holiday season! If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca at [cobb.rebecca@gmail.com](mailto:cobb.rebecca@gmail.com) or 502-592-9088.

Rebecca Dydynski  
Room Parent Chair

Teacher/Grade Room Parent/Venmo account/last 4 digits of phone for verification

PKA – Kaitlin Sullivan - @Kaitlin-Sullivan-1 (1112)  
PKH – Susan Saylor - @Susan-Saylor-9 (6833)  
PKP – Sara Kulyan - @Sara-Gentry-K (5499)  
KB – Abby Thompson - @Abbythompson85 (7411)  
KG – Natalie Miller - @Natalie-Miller-99 (6459)  
KM – Lauren Colyer - @Lauren-Colyer-3 (9746)  
KP – Katie Vacca - @kgvacca (8841)  
1K – Susie Jackson - @susie-jackson-5 (4027)  
1P - Kelly Sienkowski - @Kelly-Sienkowski (3235)  
1S – Christina Weinstein - @Christina-Weinstein-2 (2809)  
2B – Jada Wilson - @Jada Wilson -78 (7222)  
2M – Jennifer Schmidt - @Jennifer-Schmidt-60 (6499)  
2Z – Bailey Robinson - @Bailey-robinson-3 (6566)  
3B – Brittany Metten - @brittany-metten (9055)  
3G – Kirsten Russell - @Kirsten-Russell-12 (7286)  
3H – Ashley McKiernan - @Ashley-McKiernan-1 (6650)  
4th Grade – Jennifer Kuerzi - @Jennifer-ThomasKuerzi (3637)  
5th Grade – Amy Sugg - @amy-sugg-3 (6407)  
6th Grade – Jennifer McDevitt - @Jennifer-McDevitt-2 (5539)  
7th Grade – Charlotte VanHimbergen - @charlotte-vanhimbergen (6063)  
8th Grade - Emily Adams - @emilyadams710 (3129)  
Special Area Teachers – Rebecca Dydynski - @Rebecca-Dydynski (9088)

# PARISH NEWS

Today is the  
Day!

Tuesday,  
December 3

## Reminder

Visit our #iGive Catholic site and  
donate today for new kneelers!  
We need \$20,000 but we have a  
donor that will match our first  
\$10,000

Donate

Donated



NEW KNEELERS

