



SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Rosary School Family Communication Newsletter

March 1, 2012

Dear Families,

For this edition of the Academic Corner, I interviewed a member of our faculty, Megan Heuer. I think you will find her perspective both interesting and helpful in gaining a keener perspective of our academic program here at Holy Rosary School. Enjoy!

Sincerely,
Michael Cantu

Interview with Megan Heuer

What is your teaching assignment and how long have you been at Holy Rosary?

I am the 5th – 8th grade math specialist, and I also teach a junior high leadership elective. This is my 6th year at Holy Rosary, but it is the first year in my new position. I previously taught 8th grade English and junior high math.

I understand you attended Notre Dame but you are not the only member of the faculty that attended ND, who else? What were some of the highlights of that experience?

I did go to Notre Dame! Ms. Darcy McLaughlin and Mr. Patrick Barredo are also Fightin' Irish alums. My four years at Notre Dame were some of the best of my life. I made friends from all over the United States who I still talk to regularly. Whenever I travel, I almost always have a ND friend to stay with. ☺ I was very fortunate to attend Notre Dame on a full track scholarship, and my experience running for Notre Dame was amazing. Finally, the football games are such a fun experience. I try to go back every few years to the first football home game.

When did you decide to be a teacher?

I remember tutoring younger students when I was in grade school at Our Lady of the Lake and really enjoying helping kids understand concepts, especially math. But it really wasn't until my junior year at Notre Dame that I decided that I wanted to be a teacher. Right after I graduated, I attended University of Washington for my Masters in Teaching. On another note, I was very excited to get the job at Holy Rosary because my grandfather, mom, and uncles all graduated from Holy Rosary. I also have a cousin who is in the 3rd grade this year.

The faculty recently discussed the Math curriculum during a faculty meeting, how do you see the Math program here at HR? Is this an ongoing discussion?

The math program at Holy Rosary is very strong and effective in preparing our students for the next grade level. The programs have been carefully chosen based on both grade level standards and age development appropriateness. When we update a math program or choose a new curriculum, it is a long process. We critically examine our current program and compare it to other potential math programs. We research different programs, order samples, communicate with other schools that use those programs, and finally make a decision with the grade level teachers and with the administration. It is definitely an ongoing discussion, but when we change a program, we do it with the intention of keeping the program for as long as it corresponds to the standards and our goals.

How does the Saxon Math program fit in both above and below where it is offered?

The Saxon Program fits perfectly into our intermediate grades. The Saxon method involves teaching a new mathematical concept every day and constantly reviewing old concepts. It focuses on incremental learning, so that the students are slowly introduced to new concepts, which are developed throughout the year. The strength of the Saxon Program is in the consistency of the daily lessons and test-taking schedule. The students become accustomed to the routine, and the learning time is maximized. Another strength is the focus on the development of basic math facts. This is so important in the intermediate grades, and this is definitely focused on in this program. Finally, the spiraling nature of the program allows the students to learn new concepts in small increments. They then review these new concepts throughout the year, which helps to cement the learning.

The current 7th and 8th Grade students tested at the 9th grade and 11th Grade levels when they took the ITBS tests last spring. These are great indications of how well the kids are doing, what do you think made this possible?

I am so proud to see how well our students do on the national tests! I think this is possible through the dedicated effort of the students, the strong parental support at home, and the hard work of the teachers. I am always so pleased to see the effort that the students put in both at school and at home. I also think that the parents are aware of the importance of math, and having this support at home is so important. Finally, the teachers are constantly working together to improve their teaching strategies, finding new ways to present material, and creating projects that will produce life-long learning.

What did you learn from your visit to Seattle Prep Math meeting earlier this year? What have you heard from the High Schools on how are kids are prepared?

It was really eye-opening to visit with the math specialists at Seattle Prep about the strengths and weaknesses of incoming students. It made me feel very reassured about the preparation of our students at Holy Rosary. One weakness that was mentioned was how some students struggle with basic math facts. This is something that is a big focus in our intermediate grades in the Saxon Program. Another weakness mentioned was how some students freeze up on story problems; they don't have strategies that can help them get started. This is something that is a huge focus in the upper grades with the Glencoe McGraw-Hill program. We hear back frequently about how our Holy Rosary students are very well prepared in not only math, but across all subject areas. I feel this is a great compliment to all of the teachers at Holy Rosary.

So, how strong is our Math program and how do you think we can continue to improve?

I believe our program is very strong, and it will continue to grow because of the teachers' commitment to professional development. We work together and continue to develop our teaching strategies.

Lent

What to give up?

What to take on?

I have heard many conversations about what people are giving or taking on for Lent.

The following is something I saw in a mission publication and is an approach that has attracted many followers this Lent: it is the kind of fasting the bible talks about.

A SPECIAL LENTEN FAST

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.
Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.
Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.
Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.
Give up worrying: take up trust in God.
Give up complaining: value what you have.
Give up stress: take up prayer.
Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.
Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.
Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.
Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.
Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

Anonymous, Latin America

REMINDER: PARISH ALL HANDS GATHERING ON APRIL 18.

WATCH FOR INFORMATION.

PLEASE JOIN MEMBERS OF THE COUNCILS AND COMMISSIONS OF THE PARISH.

Happy Lent.
Fr John.

2012-2013 School Budget Presentation

Mark your calendars now for the 2012-2013 budget presentation. School Commission will present next year's budget on March 1 at 7:00 in the school hall. We will go over where our revenue comes from, what it gets spent on, and how things are changing for next year. I look forward to seeing you there! Childcare will not be provided. Thank you.

Sherri Chun
School Commission President

Looking Forward to Lent - St. Martin de Porres

Once again this year Holy Rosary students are looking forward to providing lunches and a special toiletry items to the men at St. Martin de Porres shelter on several Fridays during Lent. We will have our first collection day

on Friday, March 2nd. Since lunches can be refrigerated and are often eaten on the same day, perishable items such as sandwiches and fruit are OK. We need Parent Volunteers to drive the lunches and a few students to deliver the lunches each week. If this is something you would like to do, please contact Mary W. or Janise in the main office. Thank you!

Martin de Porres lunch collection dates:

3/2 Lunch/Gloves (Men's)

3/9 Lunch/men's socks

3/16 Lunch/ toiletries (sample size)

3/30 Lunch/toothbrush/toothpaste (sample size)

Auction Decorations Work Parties

Believe me, pal! This year's auction decorations are going to be the bees knees. We need your help to start painting, building and creating the amazing decorations that will transform the school into a platinum-plated gala event – Roaring 20's style! And we need your help. Creativity is optional, but no killjoys allowed! We have 3 dates to choose from:

March 10th, March 24th, or March 31st.

Meet in the school hall

9am till 3pm (or for as long as you can stay)

Come to one, or come to all three. The more who come, the more fun it will be and the sooner we'll get done!

Go to <http://heart.holyrosaryws.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/HRSAuctionov> to volunteer.

Please contact auction-operations@holyrosaryws.org with any questions.

Auction Decorations Items Needed

The Auction Decorating Team is looking high and low for:

- white paint
- white primer
- black paint

- **silver spray paint**
- **used or new roller paint brushes**
- **30 poker chips**

If you have any of these items cluttering your garage next to your new Model A Ford, we are happy to take them off your hands. You can bring them to the office with auction decorations tag on them. Please contact auction-operations@holyroaryws.org with any questions. Thank you!

Donation Update

Jeepers Creepers, folks! We're past the donation deadline, but we still need your loot! We're still taking credit card donations at the HEART auction website at <http://heart.holyrosaryws.org>. Cash and checks can be turned in to the school office. Please make certain your family name and "Puttin' on the Ritz" are clearly marked. Remember, the new HEART Auction family commitment is \$125/family. It takes every family to reach our goal!

Have a great idea for an auction item, but haven't pulled the trigger yet? Want to donate, but haven't come up with that "perfect thing?" Just email auction-procurement@holyroaryws.org for help with your idea, or to hear one of our own.

This Week's HOT Donations

Well aren't these just the monkey's eyebrow?

- Sunset Supper for 12 at Pike Place Market
- A Season of Zoo Tunes for 8 – pack your picnic and take your friends!
- Box seats to the Ellensburg Rodeo
- Ummelina Gift Certificate

How Sweet it Is

Congratulations to the 2nd graders! The families of 2A and 2B turned in auction donations totaling more than \$20,000. To say thank you, the Auction Team is hosting a sweet ice cream celebration for the 2nd graders soon.

REGISTRATION FOR 2012-2013.

Registration for next year's school year will begin soon. Please remember that in order to receive registration papers; you must be current with all tuition, tithing, band and other parent commitment obligations. Also, if you are a member of the parish you must have a "2012 Parish Stewardship....time, talent, treasure" card completed and on file at the parish office. These cards are available in the school or parish office. Questions, please call Thea De Francesco at the rectory office at 937-1488, ex. 211.

Library News

Aloha. On behalf of all the students at HRS, thank you for helping to make the Book Fair so successful! We raised \$2425 to purchase new resources for the Library. We will add additional ebooks, playaways, new books in the 500s, 600s and 700s (yes, the Dewey Decimal System lives), as well as new Everybody picture books and new fiction. Your generosity allows us to meet the needs of students and teachers at each grade level. Your pleasant shopping experience was made possible by more than 24 parent and student volunteers. They were honored with special book plates placed in some of the new books. Watch for this recognition in the books your children check out.

If you want to plan ahead, there will be a Buy One Get One FREE book fair at the end of May held to support summer reading in our community. At this event, all the profits go back to you in free books. **Again, mahalo!**

End of trimester chores

One of the SLEs states that the graduates of Holy Rosary School are Life Long Learners. Statistics from the library demonstrate that everyone is working to meet this important goal. Did you know that at anytime between 800 and 1100 books are checked out from the library? That is something to celebrate. Toward the end of each trimester, these high circulation numbers also cause moments of panic, anxiety, frustration and family conferences. At least at my house because with five children, I was always drawn into my children's struggles of finding their library books.

One of the policies at HRS is that before report cards are issued, student accounts must be cleared and this includes library books. A date is chosen toward the end of each trimester. Any book or other resource due on or before the chosen date must be returned or renewed to clear the student's library account. This trimester that date was February 24. Any book due on or before February 24 will be on the "report card overdue list". If you can't find the item, you must pay the stated amount. Those funds are refunded when the book is returned. The library computer software handles all the records. Please email Mrs. Harris your questions. Thank you.

Sue Harris
Teacher Librarian

Attention Student Musicians! The upcoming Art Show, March 13, would love to include some student musicians to perform while guests are viewing the visual art on display. Instrumentals (no vocals) would be best. A piano will be available. Auditions will be arranged on an individual basis. If your child is interested in being part of this special addition to the show, or if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mudge asap at jmudge@holyrosaryws.org Thank you!

Parents' Club Corner

We currently have an opening for Vice President for Parents' Club for the 2012/13 School Year. As Parent's Club Vice President you will serve on the Parents' Club Board, School Commission and have the opportunity to participate in other important committees such as Development.

This is a great chance to get more involved and help be a part of what makes Holy Rosary such a great and strong community.

For more information please contact Currie Baker at curriebaker@yahoo.com

Next Parent's Club meeting will be Thursdays, March 8th at 6:30pm and we are trying something different.

The first half hour of the meeting will be general Parents' Club business and then from 7:00 to 8:00 Kim Estes will be back to discuss "Tween Safety."

You must pre-register for Kim's portion of the meeting aimed at ages 10 - 14. The link to register online:

<http://holyrosarytwins.eventbrite.com/> The discount code is "Holyrosarytween" and that takes \$20.00 off the ticket price. "enter promotional code" is located just above the green "order now" button.

Blessings, Currie Baker
Parents' Club President

Ambassador Families

If you would like to be an ambassador family for our new incoming families for the 2012-2013 school year please contact Kamila Kennedy at kennedykamila@yahoo.com. Thank you to the families who have already volunteered! We still need many more! Thank you.

2012 HRS Father – Daughter Glow Bowl

This year's Father – Daughter Glow Bowl will be Friday, March 30th. Please complete the attached form and return to the school office no later than Friday March 16th to ensure your spot!

HRS Track and Field

Hello Parents and families. Spring is in the air. The St. Patrick's Day Dash is on a Saturday the 17th this year! My good friends and owners of the event say, "record crowds, lots of Green and the real distance, well...never been told...!" So, join me and other CYO coaches for a good warm up race with your kids before Track Season begins.

Our first practice is Tuesday, April 3rd and this will also be the ANNUAL BROOKS **TRUCK LOAD EVENT**; shoes for kids and adults at slashing great prices. Sale starts after practice at 5:30 ish to 7 PM.

All practices there after will be Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6 PM.

Track is for 4th thru 8th graders only. Fee is \$25.00 per athlete. Our coaches are John Slee, Paul Moseley, Larry Swegle, Geralyn Bertolotti, and Katie Cunningham. We could always use more for field events too: long jump, turbo jav, shot put, high jump (I'm desperate) and relays...Please don't hesitate let me know if you can help us at practice. All meets are on Saturdays in May, except the 8th grade Pentathlon (8th grade only 5 events) which is Mother's Day! Yes, they are long but there are only 4. It is very similar to High School Track meets or Swim meets. We cheer each others events and learn how to race ourselves with time to visualize and really think about strategy. It is great sport for kids who want a more individual aspect rather than playing on a team. (except relays, of course) Hope to see lots of kids turn out this year. We pride ourselves in our positive and energetic program where kids love practice as well as the purity of the sport of running. Concerns or ?? Again, please let me know. Shelley Neal, Head Track and Field Coach, CYO Sports Holy Rosary/West Seattle

HRS families and supporters,

The 7th/8th grade Drama Elective invites you to enjoy their fantastic rendition of the Magical Land of Oz! We have been working since September to bring this production to you and I promise the acting, dancing, music, and set design will not disappoint!

Performances take place Thursday March 15th and Friday March 16th at 7 pm in the School Hall. Tickets are free so bring as many friends/family members you'd like! Yummy treats will be served during intermission.

We look forward to wowing you!

Miss McLaughlin and the 7/8 Drama Elective.

Community Postings

Tuesday March 6th: ALIENS ON PLANET TEEN & TWEEN

Dr. Anthony Wolf, best-selling author and teen psychologist, provides a survival guide for parents on adolescents and new rules for effectively communicating with today's teens and tweens.

Town Hall, Seattle, 7-9pm. \$20. Use discount code LSSCH12 to get \$3 off!
Visit www.parentmap.com/lectures for details and tickets

Mar 1	Budget Presentation
Mar 9	End of Second Trimester
Mar 13	Art Fair
Mar 15 &16	Magical Land of Oz Play
March 16	St Patrick's Day Mass
Mar 22	Report Cards go home
Mar 23	Deanery In-Service meeting – NO School
Mar 30	Auction Donation due to school
Mar 30	Father Daughter Glow Bowl