

CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM UPDATE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

December 1, 2012

Below is information regarding upcoming service opportunities. Please review it with your son(s) and encourage him/them to participate whenever possible. Information about service projects is announced at lunch, at morning meetings, in the daily announcements, and through flyers posted on the service bulletin board on the second floor of Cornwells Hall. If your son(s) has already completed service applicable to this school year, please ensure that your son(s) has obtained a service verification form, completed it, and remitted it to me. **Verification forms are available on the Service page of the school's website – www.holyghostprep.org - along with the Program's Brochure and a listing of approved volunteer agencies and internet links to some.**

Upcoming Service Opportunities

1) Saint Francis Inn

HGP will send 4 students to this Philadelphia soup kitchen to help serve the evening meal. A van will leave HGP at 3:40 and return @ 7 PM. Students who are interested in this service project should sign up with Mr. Fitzpatrick. The next trips will occur on December 4 and December 18. Students may bring casual clothes into which to change.

2) Holy Family Regional School

HGP will send students to this Levittown School on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of most months to assist with the after-school CARES program. Van transportation will leave HGP @2:50 and return circa 5:30. See Mr. Fitzpatrick to sign-up and obtain a permission form. The next trip will occur on December 6th.

3) HGP Fathers' Association Christmas Blessings Project

Each year, the Fathers' Association matches HGP families with needy families in the area to provide food and gifts for Christmas. Volunteer teams of fathers/sons will be needed on December 16th (Sunday) from 9AM -1 PM to deliver donated items. Sign up with Mr. Fitzpatrick to volunteer.

4) Sisters of the Holy Redeemer Community Gardens (Huntingdon Valley)

Volunteers are needed to complete hothouse projects and garden maintenance. Brother Joe will be chaperoning a group on December 11th. There is space for 9 students. Van will leave HGP at 2:45 and return between 5:15-5:30. Sign up with Mr. Fitzpatrick.

5) March for Life

The HGP Respect Life Club will be participating in the March for Life in Washington, DC in January. If your son is a member of the club, please discuss the possibility of his participating with him. Service hours are awarded for participation in the march.

6) Community Service Corps Tutoring

The CSC continues to coordinate tutoring at Our Lady of Grace (Penn del), Nazareth Academy Grade School, and St. Matthew (Cottman Ave. – NE Philly). See Mrs. Flynn in C 315 if interested.

7) **Ghost around the World**

This HGP group, which works to support overseas Spiritan missions, will be packing books for mission schools and collecting technical/trade manuals for a trade school for the disabled in Tanzania. These events will take place early in 2013. Interested students should listen for announcements/speak to Mrs. Posey in F 303.

8) **Students Against Violence and Injustice Everywhere (S.A.I.V.E.)**

This student-lead service group of 11th graders is in the process of planning service projects for members of the junior class for the spring semester. Stay tuned for more details.

9) **HGP Band Concerts**

Mrs. Vilsmeier coordinates band concerts at area nursing homes during the Advent Season to help spread some holiday cheer. Many thanks for her efforts! If your son is in the band, he should already have details of these upcoming events.

A Note about Operation Santa Claus

Due to archdiocesan budget cuts, the Office of Youth and Young Adults, which had coordinated Operation Santa Claus, has been closed and the event cancelled. There is the possibility that the Spiritan Seminar class might undertake a toy collection as a class service project. Stay tuned for more details.

Upcoming service and travel opportunities

1) Trip to West Virginia with Mr. Fitzpatrick – March, 2013; open to seniors and juniors only; **Information sheets were distributed to interested seniors on November 27th.**

2) Trip to Dominican Republic with Mr. Ryan & Mr. Griffin – June 30 – July 8, 2013. **Parent Meeting December 4th at 7 PM in the Dining Hall of Cornwells Hall.**

3) Trip to Tanzania with Fr. Chris – summer, 2013; **Meeting on December 11th at 7 PM in Spiritan Hall. Please RSVP by e-mailing Mrs. Kathy Posey a kposey@holyghostprep.org**

NB – Sometimes, HGP learns of service projects in the interim between publications of this monthly bulletin. So, it is important that students listen to announcements and check the PowerPoint presentation in the dining hall for additional service opportunities.

Thank you for your attention to this update. If you have any questions about the Service Program, please contact me via e-mail me at jfitzpatrick@holyghostprep.org

Respectfully,
Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Eckerle