



# Fourteen Holy Helpers School News

SEPTEMBER 29, 2011

Living the Gospel Message

VOLUME 5

## **SCHOOL STORE OPEN!**

The Fourteen Holy Helpers School Store is open for business! Pens, pencils, rulers, erasers and SO much more are available at great prices! Please refer to the School Store Inventory enclosed with this week's family envelope to see the full array of items available to your children!

## **THE ISSUE OF BULLYING**

The recent tragedy in Williamsville focuses attention once again upon the effects of intolerance in our schools and in our community. Bullying and harassment may take many forms: physical, psychological, emotional, verbal, and it can affect everyone: children and adults.

Steeped in the Gospel message, we at Fourteen Holy Helpers should be free of the specter of bullying, but we are not. We are imperfect and as such, vulnerable to the intolerance and jealousy that can lead to bullying and harassment.

On July 1, 2012, the NYS Dignity for All Students Act will take effect. It is intended to give students an educational environment free from discrimination and harassment. It will protect against all forms of harassment, particularly those based upon a student's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation or gender. The Dignity Act will prohibit activities that create a hostile environment at school and school sponsored events. These activities can include aggressive conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse that unreasonably and substantially interferes with another student's educational performance. The Dignity Act also creates a framework for promoting a more positive school culture through sensitivity training and classroom curricula on diversity and acceptance. Our school code of conduct (found on p. 25 of the Parent/Student Handbook) is based upon *respect for self, respect for others and respect for the environment*, but will be amended to include a plain language version of the statute. Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, incidents of bullying must be reported to the NYS Education Department.

We currently deal with cases of bullying and harassment as they are reported to us, by speaking with the students involved and incorporating conflict resolution; by contacting parents when there is a concern; by having students self-document (using "Think Slips") inappropriate behavior for review by teachers and parents; and in some cases, by in-school suspension. In the weeks ahead, we will be presenting age appropriate programs that describe bullying and its consequences at all levels, and we will be inviting parents to preview or join their children when presentations take place.

In the meantime, we encourage you to talk with your children about bullying: avoiding it and reporting it, and to continue to model behaviors grounded in acceptance and compassion.

## **CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY**

As an outreach to parishioners, the students of 14HH regularly send cards, prayers and warm wishes to a number of 14HH homebound community members, to our veterans in Batavia Hospital, and to those who receive Meals on Wheels. We are grateful to their teachers, proud of their thoughtfulness, and hope that they will continue to be reinforced and blessed by their compassionate outreach to the lonely and the elderly.

**OKTOBERFEST – SPONSORED BY THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY**

All are invited to the Fourteen Holy Helpers **OKTOBERFEST**, this coming October 8<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Pre-sale tickets (\$5.00) are available after all Masses, or at the Rectory, or \$8.00 tickets may be purchased at the door. Music, dancing, great food and the warmth of the Fourteen Holy Helpers community are guaranteed!

**HSA GIFT-GIVING PARTIES**

Please see the flier enclosed and consider hosting “the fun party of the year” – a **SNOWBALL** gift-giving party!

**CAFETERIA AIDES – CAN YOU HELP?**

Many, many thanks to our cafeteria aides: **Tina Maziol, Kim Michalski, Trina Hibbs, Colleen Sikora, Kristen Reinhardt, Bev Bojarski, Carol Loniewski, Allyn Weisenberg, Korri Spadone, Sheba Delozier, Jill Zimniewicz, Lynne Frier, Heather Bateman, Cindy Rosinski and Valerie Gaszewski.** We can still use more help, and “Mrs. Bev” has included a schedule with openings that we’d love you to fill! Thank you for your consideration!

**MEDICAL AND OFFICE FORMS**

Look for a bright orange tag in your family envelope – if you have one, it means we’re missing some important medical or office forms! Please be sure to complete them and return them to the office ASAP! Thank you!

**HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES**

Several area high schools have already hosted Open Houses for prospective students. Here is a list of the upcoming Open Houses:

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>OPEN HOUSE DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
<b>Co-educational Schools</b>		
Cardinal O’Hara High School	Sunday, October 2	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
	Monday, October 3	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Niagara Catholic High School	Thursday, October 6	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
<b>Boys’ Schools</b>		
Canisius High School	Sunday, October 16	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
St. Francis High School	Sunday, October 2	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
	Monday, October 3	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute	Sunday, October 2	10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
	Monday, October 3	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
<b>Girls’ Schools</b>		
Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart	Thursday, September 29	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
	Sunday, October 2	11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Mount Mercy Academy	Sunday, October 2	12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
	Monday, October 3	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Nardin Academy	Sunday, October 2	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
	Monday, October 3	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

We encourage 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to visit schools of interest and to learn more about their choices!

***HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!***

