

Important for the Weeks of April 8 and 15, 2024

Dear HFGS Families, Faculty, Staff, Students, and Friends,

Welcome back.

I hope this message finds you refreshed and rejuvenated after a joyful Easter break spent with loved ones. As we return to school, I extend a warm welcome back to each and every one of our students, families, faculty, and staff.

The Easter season reminds us of the promise of renewal and new beginnings, and I am excited to continue our journey of learning and growth together. As we embark on the remainder of the school year, let us carry with us the spirit of Easter – a spirit of hope, resilience, and community. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated teachers, staff, and parents for their unwavering support and commitment to our students' success. Together, we create a nurturing environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

As we resume classes, let us remain focused on our goals, continue to support one another, and strive for excellence in all that we do. I look forward to the exciting opportunities and achievements that lie ahead for our school community.

Monday's Solar Eclipse

Tomorrow, Monday, 4/8/2024, some regions of the United States will be treated to a total solar eclipse, while many areas in California will witness a partial eclipse. According to Kyle Watters, a professor of physics and astronomy at Sacramento State, Californians can expect approximately 35% coverage of the sun, even at the peak of the eclipse.

Unfortunately for eclipse enthusiasts on the West Coast, the Griffith Observatory reported three days ago that Californians will only experience a partial eclipse. From our state's vantage point, the moon and sun won't be perfectly aligned, resulting in only a portion of the sun's disc being blocked.

For those observing the partial solar eclipse, it's essential to remember that even when most of the sun's surface is obstructed, the remaining visible crescent remains intensely bright and should not be viewed without proper eye protection.

One option for safely viewing the eclipse is NASA's DIY (National Aeronautics and Space Administration Do-It-Yourself) cereal box viewer. This project utilizes common household items such as a cereal box, cardboard, foil, paper, scissors, and tape or glue. To create the viewer, cut a square hole in one end of the box and cover it with aluminum foil. Then, poke a small hole in the center of the foil using a pin or needle. Finally, tape a white piece of paper inside the box opposite the hole.

Remember, never look directly at the sun without adequate eye protection, as it can cause severe damage to your eyesight.

Reference:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamiecartereurope/2024/04/05/how-to-make-a-safe-solar-eclipse-viewer---according-to-nasa/?sh=1c7cf5f11945>

April 8, 2024 — Total Solar Eclipse — Glendale, California, USA

Global Event: Total Solar Eclipse

Local Type: Partial Solar Eclipse in Glendale, California
Begins: Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 10:21 am
Maximum: Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 11:16 am 0.377 Magnitude
Ends: Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 12:14 pm

PTO Board Nomination Form

Before our Easter break, a physical PTO Board nomination form was sent home with your child. We kindly ask that you take a moment to nominate someone from among our school parents who you believe can effectively support our school goals and contribute to our fundraising efforts. Please ensure to fill out and return the form this Monday when we return to school. Thank you for your participation and support in this important process.

Divine Mercy Sunday

As we celebrate together on this Divine Mercy Sunday, let us take a moment to reflect on the boundless love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, we are reminded of the unfathomable depths of God's compassion and forgiveness, which are freely given to each one of us. Let us strive to emulate the example of mercy set forth by Jesus, showing kindness and understanding to one another in all that we do. May we extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us and seek reconciliation with those we have hurt. On this special day, let us also remember to lift up in prayer all those who are suffering and in need of God's mercy, especially during these challenging times. **Fr. Anthony**, our Pastor, has an inspirational message about today's Divine Mercy Sunday.

2nd Graders' First Holy Communion

As our second graders prepare to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday, 4/13, I want to extend my heartfelt support and prayers to both our students and their families. This special milestone marks a profound moment in their faith journey, as they are called to receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the first time. It is a moment of immense joy and spiritual significance, and one that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

To our **dear second graders**, know that you are surrounded by love and support from your school community as you prepare to receive this sacred sacrament. May you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding you and filling your hearts with peace and joy. To **parents, families, Fr. Anthony, his brother priests, Mrs. Alexa Soliman, faculty, and staff**, thank you for your commitment to nurturing each child's faith and for entrusting us with their spiritual formation. Your love and support are invaluable as we journey together in faith. Let us continue to lift our second graders in prayer as they embark on this beautiful and sacred journey of faith. May their First Holy Communion be a source of grace and blessing, and may they always remain close to our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Reminder on School Uniforms

Each child looks particularly sharp when dressed in the school uniform. I hope that you were able to purchase new school shoes during the Easter sale, ensuring the **shoes are plain black athletic shoes**. We would like to inform you that starting next school year, this will be a requirement for full its implementation. **Plain black athletic shoes**, available at the Dennis Uniform Company on San Fernando Road, maintain a clean and uniform appearance for all students, avoiding the issue of soiled or dirty white stripes. **Girls' skirts** should be knee-length, while **boys' shirts** should be tucked in with a belt. **Sweatshirts and sweaters** should bear the HFGS logo /mascot and adhere to the school colors. For further details, please refer to our **Parent Handbook** posted online. Thank you.

Save the Dates:

*First Holy Communion - **Saturday, 4/13**

* PTO General Assembly, GS Auditorium - **Wed. 4/17 at 7:00 p.m.**

*Orientation Days for New Families - **Tues. 4/23 & Tues. 5/21 3:30 p.m.** - Zoom with all faculty and **Tues. 6/11 5:00 p.m.** - In-person, GSA

*Spring Dedication Book Sponsorship submissions - **April 8 start**

*VIRTUS Training - Re-certification of 1.5 Hour Training on **Friday, 4/19, GSA 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Keeping The Promise Alive)**

TreeMachine by Mrs. Nelson

Continuing to promote our vision of Green School, HFGS is partnering with USAgain by hosting a TreeMachine for the collection of reusable clothes, shoes, linens, and accessories.

USAgain is a clothes collection company whose idea and purpose is to do good for PEOPLE AND PLANET. USAgain collects material from people in areas of surplus to whom the material has little value and transform it into great value for people in parts of the world where the need is abundant.

USAgain influences, educates and build ties with Generation C, the Climate Generation, who will shoulder the enormous task of guiding humanity through global warming and climate change. For every filled TreeMachine collection box, a tree is planted, water is saved, and CO2 emissions prevented in addition to earning funds for our school. You fill the TreeMachine. USAgain will plant one tree. Over 1 Million Trees Planted Worldwide.

The TreeMachine box is located on the small playground and ready for your donations. Please consider helping our school fill the box many times when you are “spring cleaning”.

Attachments

Enclosed you will find the schedule of school activities for the upcoming two weeks, along with the names of the fortunate winners of our March Madness fundraisers. Additionally, I have included the March Madness calendar once more for your reference, ensuring that all winning prizes have been claimed at the office. I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to our incredibly generous prize sponsors, PTO Board, and to all our families for their unwavering support and partnership in our fundraising efforts.

Important for the Weeks of April 8 and 15, 2024

Sun. 4/7 - Divine Mercy Sunday

Mon. 4/8 - Classes resume and welcome back. Recycling Day. STAR Testing Window 3 begins.
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Church Staff Meeting

Tues. 4/9

8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.n. - School Mass

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - 2nd Grade FHC Individual Photos, GS Auditorium

12:00 p.m. - Noon dismissal

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Faculty Meeting

6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. - PTO Board Meeting

Thurs. 4/11 - 4th Quarter begins.

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Spanish Exhibit and Opening Day #1

8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. - Welcome to our Spanish Program: A Celebration of Diversity - Spanish Prayers, Verses, Songs, and Dances, GS Auditorium

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Meeting for all 6th and 7th graders who wish to run for the Student Council, 8th Grade classroom

Fri. 4/12 - Loaves and Fishes / 8th Grade Retreat at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center, Sierra Madre

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Spanish Exhibit Day #2

Sat. 4/13 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - 2nd Grade FHC, First Holy Communion, HFCC

Mon. 4/15

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - 8th Grade Field Trip to the Museum of Tolerance

Note: Student Council applications are due.

Tues. 4/16

8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. - School Mass

3:30 p.m. - Faculty Meeting

Wed. 4/17

12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Talent Show Dress Rehearsals

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - PTO General Assembly, GS Auditorium

Thurs. 4/18 - Jeans for Jesus

12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Talent Show Dress Rehearsals

Fri. 4/19

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Talent Show

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - VIRTUS Keeping The Promise Alive 1.5 Hours for Recertification, GS Auditorium

Sat. 4/20 - SHARP Cheer and Hip Hop Competition, Sierra Vista High School, 3600 Frazier St. Baldwin Park, CA 91706

A prayerful meditation to begin the week

Lord Jesus Christ, through your victory over sin and death you have overcome all the powers of sin and darkness. Help me to draw near to you and to trust in your life-giving word. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and strengthen my faith in your promises and my hope in the power of your resurrection.

Psalm 118:1-4, 13-15, 23-24

1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

3 Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

4 Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

13 I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me.

14 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

15 Hark, glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,

22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner.

23 This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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May the message of Divine Mercy fill our hearts with hope and joy, and may we be inspired to share God's love and mercy with others in our community and beyond. Welcome back.

Dr. Suelto

References:

Fr. Anthony's Message

School Calendar

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

[2024/04/MARCH-MADNESS-2024.pdf](#)

[2024/04/March-Madness-Winners-SY-23-24.pdf](#)

[2024/04/PTO-Board-Letter-to-Parents-for-Nomination.pdf](#)