

# THE SENTINEL

APRIL 2024



**CAMP KAPPE**  
**Fifth graders focus on**  
**God's creation**

page 8



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



## Dear Holy Family Community,

Welcome to the latest edition of "The Sentinel." We are in our second year of providing a quarterly magazine and we hope you enjoy the information that is shared with you. Our goal is to provide a summary of events that have happened since the last issue and a preview of what lies ahead. Every event and every upcoming activity would not fit well in a quarterly publication, so we encourage you to access our social media messages, website, and other updates throughout the year.

In this issue, you will read about our cover story and the wonderful experience that Camp Kappe provides. We also include information about our students' hard work and success through various academic team competitions. They were consistent and outstanding in all areas. In addition, you will learn about the students' commitment to protecting life and giving voice to the unborn. Of course, we also celebrate another accomplishment from our One Act Play crew, the best in the state! Bravo to everyone as you embody and demonstrate the best in heart, mind, body, and soul!

Many people, working with purpose, passion, and persistence make all of this happen. We give thanks to our parents, guardians, teachers, support staff, advisory board, and all others who in some way support our beloved school.

We can see the finish line of the 2023-2024 academic year and challenge ourselves to not only cross it but to do so with energy, hard work, and momentum. Your ongoing prayers and support are felt and appreciated.

Take care and God bless!

TIM CULLEN | PRESIDENT



## DID YOU KNOW?

### DID YOU KNOW HOLY FAMILY STUDENTS WERE RECOGNIZED BY THE DIOCESE OF AUSTIN FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE?

The 2024 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Austin Thomas Aquinas Mass, A Celebration of Excellence in Academics, Leadership, and Service was held at St. Helen Catholic Church in Georgetown on February 22. The Very REv. James Misko, Vicar General of the Diocese of Austin, presided over Mass and recognized academic scholars from across the diocese. Included in this group were four Holy Family students - (left to right) Bennett Walshe, Alan Laya, Principal Erin Vu, Daniela Castillion, and AJ Winkeler.

### ...ABOUT THE NEW HOLY FAMILY KID'S COLLEGE HAPPENING IN JUNE?

The Holy Family Kid's College, taking place this year in June, is a new and unique opportunity for children to engage in fun, safe, and challenging activities. The most exciting part of this initiative is that it opens more options for students than ever before to come to campus and pursue something interesting to them. They can spend a week sampling different courses and growing in their understanding, skill, and love for learning.

We will provide an update in the fall about the number of courses and participants. The expectation is that this becomes a well-attended camp and one that becomes a new tradition at Holy Family Catholic School. Why wait until graduation from high school when you can go to "college" right now? Read more about Kid's College in this issue on page 7 and find more information online by scanning the QR code.



### ... HOLY FAMILY WAS AT THE AUSTIN SCHOOL FAIR?

Lisa Tompot, Minh Nguyen, Violet Tompot, and Cammy Nguyen, Holy Family Director of Admissions represented Holy Family at a booth at the Austin School Fair at the Bullock Museum in January. We thank them for their service!





## Holy Family finishes PSIA as District Champions

Holy Family students competed in the Private School Interscholastic Association (PSIA) District 36AA academic competition on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Schools from the Central Texas area, and as far away as El Paso, competed in this District Meet. Points were awarded for students finishing in the top six places in each event. Holy Family students earned the most points, ending the day as District Champions! Twenty-eight of our students will move on to compete at the State Meet, held on April 13 at Texas State University.

### Holy Family PSIA : By the Numbers

**113** students participating at the school level

**26** parents and teachers coaching students

**88** student entires qualified for districts, with 163 entries

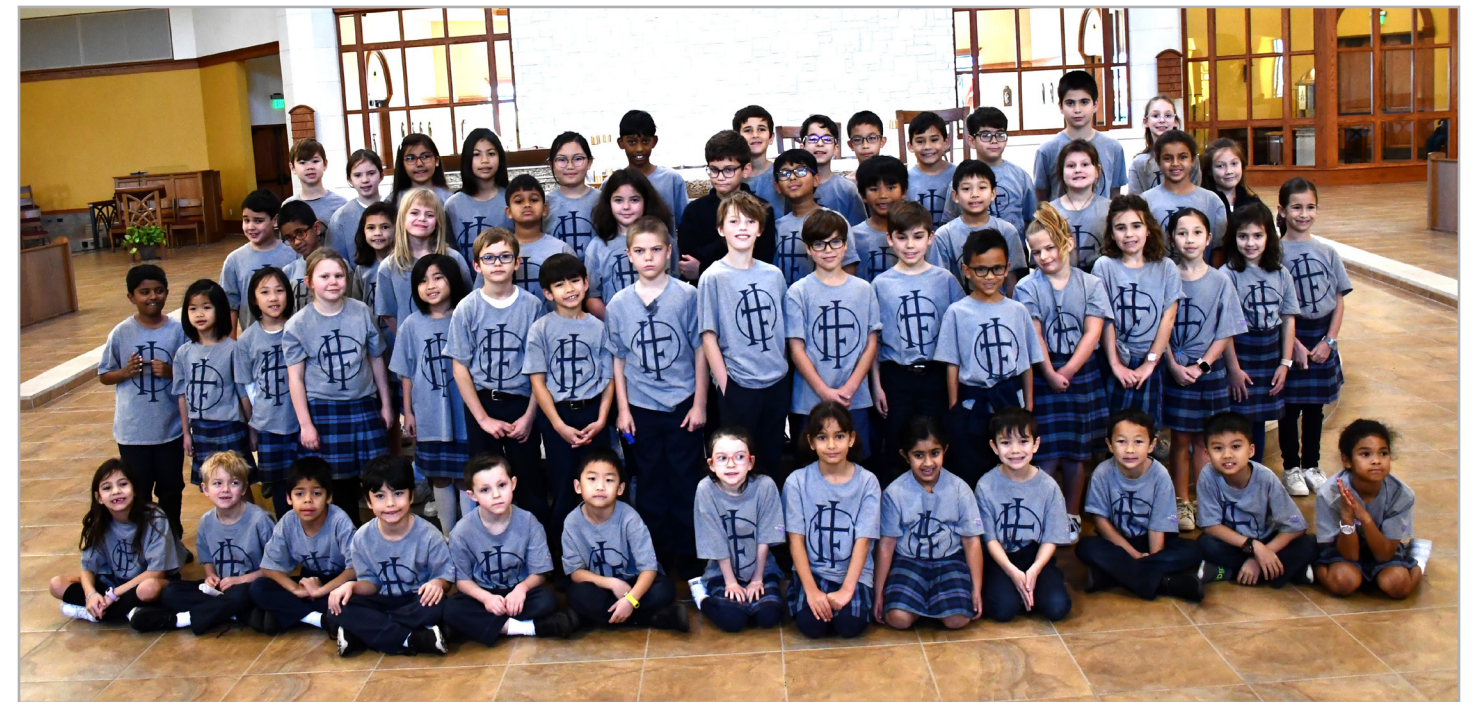
**65** parents and teachers volunteering at the District Meet

**28** students going to PSIA State competition, with 38 entries

**1** amazing school community dedicated to student success!



*Clockwise from top: PSIA middle school students; PSIA group award winners at the District 36AA Awards Ceremony; PSIA elementary school students; yard signs celebrating Holy Family's First Place win as district champions; Mrs. McCauslin, retired Kindergarten teacher returns to coach the students competing in the Speech contests. Pictured here with Laina Pereira, 8th grade, who will compete in three contests at the State Meet.*





# Angels for Life



## Students voice support for life at state-wide rally

Written by 8th grader, Maggie Heyl

Called to uphold the preciousness of human life, members from our pro-life club at Holy Family, Angels 4 Life, parents, siblings, and friends joined their voices and feet with thousands of other Texans on January 27, at the Texas Pro-Life Day.

The Texas Pro-Life Day was a day full of pro-life activities. The Angels 4 Life club organized the day for our school. The Angel 4 Life members worked for months to get transportation, design shirts to wear, and share the event with the whole school to get people to come.

At 8:30 a.m., everyone met in the Holy Family parking lot to get on the bus and go to St. Louis Catholic Church for the Mass. Bishop Michael Mulvey came up from Corpus Christi to host this Mass. Along with Bishop Michael, there were the parish priests, Fr. Craig, Fr. Jose, and Fr. Saji.

There were a lot of people at the Mass to pray for all the mothers thinking about giving up their babies to abortion. After Mass, The Knights of Columbus were nice enough to volunteer to host lunch for everyone and so we ate burgers before they rode over to the rally. The rally was awesome, with thousands of people coming to support the movement.

“My favorite part of the rally was seeing all the people of our state gathered in one place to voice our shared beliefs and celebrate our success,” said Allison M., eighth grader.

The rally went around downtown and ended in front of the capitol. There were booths lined on the sidewalk with pamphlets talking about abortion. They had speakers talking, and one speaker was an abortion survivor.

In the end, this day was very fun and powerful all together, and participants were glad they went.

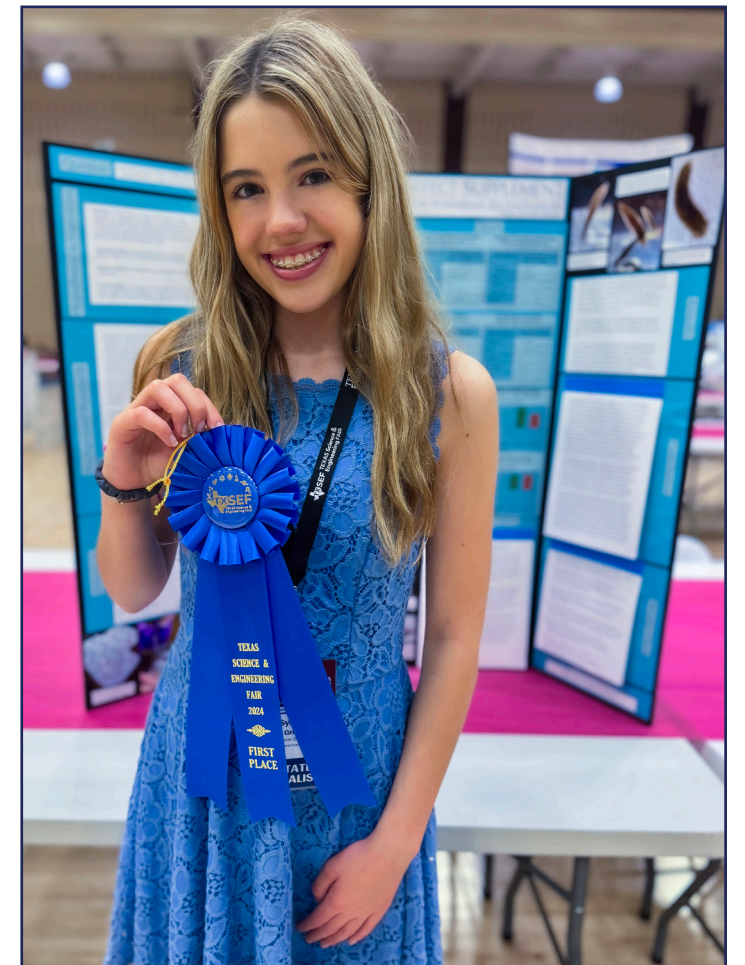


## 8th grader wins first place in state science fair

Holy Family eighth grade student Sydney Griser won First Place at the Texas State Science and Engineering Fair in her category of Animal Sciences.

There were 20,000 regional science fair candidates and only 1200 winners advanced to the State Fair with only 21 able to place in first in their category. Because she won at the Texas State Fair, Sydney was also nominated again for the Thermo Fishers competition in Washington DC. Those results will be announced in September.

A nationwide panel of scientists, engineers and educators will select 30 Thermo Fisher JIC finalists from the Top 300. Later this fall, the finalists will convene in Washington, DC to compete for over \$100,000 in prizes, including the \$25,000 Thermo Fisher Scientific ASCEND (Aspiring Scientists Cultivating Exciting New Discoveries) Award; \$10,000 Broadcom Coding with Commitment TM Award; \$10,000 DoD STEM Talent Award; \$10,000 Lemelson Award for Invention; and \$10,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Award for Health Advancement.



## Students will learn to grow at first HFCS Kid's College

This June, Holy Family Catholic School will be hosting the first ever Kid's College. During the weeks of June 10-14 and June 17-21, students are invited to learn and grow by attending sessions. The Course Catalogue offers options ranging from music to STEM to writing to learning a new language. The courses are being taught by a team of dedicated educators who are passionate about their sessions.

The registration is currently open, and families are registering their scholars for



this great experience. The Kid's College is open to all children who are excited about exploring their passions. Scan the QR code for the catalog and registration information. Space is limited, so register today!



[holyfamilycs.org/kid-s-college-registration.cfm](https://holyfamilycs.org/kid-s-college-registration.cfm)





# CAMP KAPPE

## Students experience nature, learn stewardship at camp

It's one of the most fun and original rites of passage at Holy Family Catholic School where fifth-grade students attend an overnight camp that focuses on God's creation known as Camp Kappe.

On February 20, this year's fifth-grade students, faculty, and chaperones boarded the bus to take the two-and-a-half-hour drive to Plantersville,

Texas, where the Archdiocese of Houston maintains a youth retreat facility on 130 acres of heavily wooded land.

Once settled in their cabins and all beds were claimed, students received a schedule of events for the next four days and three nights. Not a moment is wasted beginning with opening prayer before embarking on environmental studies of the

pond. They determine if the pond water is in good condition by checking the nitrates, pH balance, and ammonia before dissecting a fish from the pond.

Farm and gardening are additional environmental topics taught, as the boys and girls learn the importance of being good stewards of our animals.

"We do get our resources from our animals, and they rely on us too," said Nathaniel Wooten, Director of the School of Environmental Education at Camp Kappe. "We also teach entomology where the students study insects and learn the importance of those insects in our ecosystems."

In 1998, Wooten was a student who attended Camp Kappe in fifth grade and says he remembers the homesickness he felt, which gives him a personal



understanding of what it takes to leave home at that age and be without family.

There was plenty of time for fun too as students learned archery and canoeing, played soccer and basketball, had a bonfire, and performed skits on their last night at camp.

Before departing, they prayed the Stations of the Cross on Friday, February 23. When the bus arrived home in the late afternoon, a large group of families welcomed them back home, and the students seemed strangely a bit more independent than before they left.



## Quotes from our fifth grade campers

"So fun, not even one word can describe it!" - Eusebio D'Mello

"It was a really fun time. I liked getting to find scripture passages and canoeing." - Bryce Buechler

"Canoeing was fun and relaxing. I enjoyed it because it was peaceful and quiet on the water." - Ian Duncan

"When dissecting the fish I liked seeing the heart, swim bladder, and seeing the whole X-ray of the fish. Plus we got to shop in the gift shop." - Sebby Marroquin

"I liked farm and garden because we got to pet and hold the chickens and baby chicks. I also liked petting and feeding the goats. Iggy the goat was my favorite she even headed butted me!" - Lyric Segura

"At pond study, we saw a water moccasin in a tree sunbathing and staring at us. I thought it was cool because I've never seen one before!" - Luke Bogner

"I liked getting to be silly in a skit we got to perform." - Lucien Costello





# Cast, crew take home first place at PSIA state

Congratulations to our Middle School One Act Play troupe for winning First Place with their production of Lindsay Price’s adaptation of Washington Irving’s *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* at the PSIA State Competition in Kerrville on Thursday, Mar 7, 2024.

Director Jeanne Lyman said, “This is my 13th year directing Holy Family’s One Act Play and competing in PSIA, and it is our first time to ever win first place at the State competition. I’m extremely excited and proud of our entire cast and crew for their hard work, dedication, and talent!”

Coming home with individual awards are:

**Best Actor Overall**

Danny Sabo

**All-Star Cast**

AJ Winkler & Bennett Walshe

**Honorable Mention All-Star Cast**

Laina Pereira & Ana Sofia Cogwin

**All-Star Tech**

Daniela Castillon

## *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

### State-Winning Cast & Crew

Icabod Crane: Danny Sabo  
Brom Bones: Bennett Walshe  
Mr. Van Tassel: Carter Ofofibe  
Dolf: Korey Fitzgerald  
Peter: AJ Winkler  
Mrs. Van Tassel: Ellie Wong  
Mrs. Closson: Laina Pereira  
Katrina Van Tassel: Tricia Johnson  
Maret: Ana Sofia Cogwin  
Lena: Carly Jane Mackowski  
Britt: Vada Rieman  
Anke: Caleigh Pish  
Chorus: Daniela Ruiz, Jack Meza, Nathan Scully, Clara Scully  
Crew: Daniela Castillon, Maciek Goertz, Jack Meza, Luukas Landon, Gabriel Ryan  
Understudies: Rachel Dobson and Shepard Hanford  
Art/Set Design: Marissa Smith and Chloe Perales



# Fall Season Highlights

Holy Family was proud to be represented in nine divisions in the CAPPS league this season. The nine teams are made up of eighteen coaches and eighty-five players.

The season’s highlights included a First Place win in the TSD Ranger Classic by our 7/8 6A girls, coached by Chris Tovar and Billy Lepak.

Our 5/6 6A girls fought hard in the Ranger Classic to bring home a third place finish. Then they finished the season strong with an outstanding first place finish in the Conference and walked away with the championship trophy at the CAPPS tournament.

The 5/6 6A girls basketball team (*on right*) won first in the CAPPS conference play and took first place in the CAPPS tournament against Veritas.



## Congratulations to the MVP and Most Improved Players for each team:

### Boys Basketball

5/6 3A MVP: Joseph Madathil  
5/6 3A Most Improved: Theo Roberts  
5/6 4A MVP: Alex Flores  
5/6 4A: Donovan Fitzgerald  
5/6 6A MVP: Liam Tompot  
5/6 6A Most Improved: Matthew McCullough  
7/8 6A MVP: David McMurray  
7/8 6A Most Improved: Jack Tachjman

### Girls Basketball

5/6 3A MVP: Samantha Rodriguez  
5/6 3A Most Improved: Aashi Chintalapati  
5/6 4A MVP: Theresa Winkeler  
5/6 4A: Claire Warren  
5/6 6A MVP: Claire Larsen  
5/6 6A Most Improved: Gabby Salmon  
7/8 4A MVP: Anna Sophia Cogwin  
7/8 4A Most Improved: Ivy Swan  
7/8 6A MVP: Cassidi Tovar  
7/8 6A Most Improved: Claire Bierschenk

### Cheerleading

5/6 MVP: Lucy Cogwin  
5/6 Most Improved: Ella Atkinson  
7/8 MVP: Elia Saenz  
7/8 Most Improved: Skye Olvera

*Pictured below: Most Valuable Player and Most Improved Players for boys basketball, girls basketball, and cheerleading.*







we plan to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our founding. We hope to bring together as many of those who laid the firm foundation that we continue to build upon every day. This will include members of the Kellerman family, past administration, faculty and staff, alumni, and their families.

Mark Your Calendars for February 22, 2025, for our 25th Anniversary Heart of Angels Gala as we honor and celebrate the founding and amazing accomplishments of Holy Family Catholic School.

# EVENT BREAKDOWN

**\$200,000+ raised**

**\$66,000**  
to the Holy Family  
General Fund

**\$85,500**  
to Fund-A-Need  
to purchase a new van

*You helped make a difference!  
And for that, we are most grateful.*



## 2023-24 gala breaks another fundraising record

On February 6th, over 230 members of the Holy Family community gathered together for fun, fellowship and fundraising at the Renaissance Hotel Austin for one of our most important community building and fundraising events we have annually to support the advancement of the school's mission.

The event itself raised over \$200,000; netting over \$66,000 for the Holy Family general fund and \$85,500 for our Fund-a-Need appeal that will allow the school to purchase at least one van, if not two. As President Mr. Cullen communicated at the event, our commitment to enhancing student transportation opportunities for activities like field trips, retreats and after school sporting events will significantly reduce the costs

**"Each year I am  
astounded by the  
generosity of our  
parents, grandparents,  
friends, faculty, and staff  
at this event."  
Gina Kerley  
Director of Advancement**

of renting buses and eliminate the challenges of coordinating parent volunteers for these off-campus activities. Additionally, the purchase of a golf cart for campus will improve security, assist with student transport in cases of illness or injury, and support various departments such as art, music, PE, and admissions.

Our elated Director of Advancement, Gina Kerley, remarked: "Each year I am astounded by the generosity of our parents, grandparents, friends, faculty, and staff at this event. It is a true testament of who we are as a community and how much we all value our students and the Catholic education they receive every day at Holy Family Catholic School." It is time now to start preparing for next year as





# UPCOMING EVENTS

**APRIL 5**  
Coffee & Community

**APRIL 9**  
Angel Boutique

**APRIL 13**  
PSIA State Meet

**APRIL 16 & 17**  
CAPPS Golf  
Tournament

**APRIL 17**  
8th Grade Field Trip to  
Lexington

**APRIL 19**  
No School  
Faculty In-Service

**APRIL 19 & 20**  
CAPPS Track  
Championship

**APRIL 22**  
CAPPS Soccer  
Tournament

**APRIL 26**  
Run with the Angels

**MAY 2**  
May Crowning

**MAY 3**  
Middle School Dance

**APRIL 14**  
Angel Boutique

**MAY 15**  
Choir, Band &  
Orchestra Concert  
6:00 p.m.

**MAY 24**  
Last Day of School

**MAY 24**  
Parent Association  
Parent Social

**AUGUST 12**  
First Day of 2024-25  
School Year

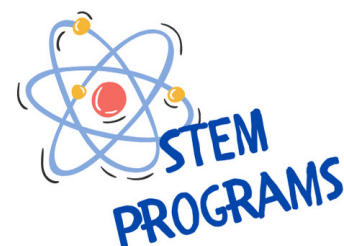
Scan to see more  
events on the  
school calendar:



# Holy Family Catholic School Kid's College

Summer 2024

REGISTER TO JOIN THE FIRST-EVER HOLY FAMILY KID'S COLLEGE!



WRITING



MOVEMENT!

SESSIONS: JUNE 10-14 & JUNE 17-21



**Fun!**

**April 26!**

**Run!**

**Prizes**

**RUN WITH THE ANGELS**

**FUTURE WORLD CHANGER**

**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2024**

**Saint Charms**

**First Communion Rosaries**

**Baptism Rosaries**

**Confirmation Rosaries**

**Key Chains**

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**Becky Cook, Owner**

**Holy Family Mom**

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## SOUND IN MOTION

Mrs. Dailey's first-grade class uses their scarves to show the different sections of "The Syncopated Clock" by Leroy Anderson during Sound in Motion on Friday, March 8.