

# Merry Christmas



Dear Holy Family Elementary Parents:

Christmas is right around the corner, and many people are thinking about gifts for those who contribute so much to our children's lives each day. If you are new to HFE we would like to explain our Gift Fund.

If you are planning to buy or make a gift for any of the teachers and staff, the Home and School Association asks you to instead consider giving a cash gift to our gift fund. As in prior years, all contributions to the Christmas gift fund will be combined and distributed equally among the teachers and staff as a Christmas bonus that would not otherwise be possible. Individual donors' names will not be disclosed, and the monetary gifts will be presented at the Christmas party for the teachers and staff on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Here are a few comments from our teachers regarding this Christmas gift fund:

*My husband and I are very grateful for the Christmas bonus each year. It helps cover the little extras that add up around the holidays-Christmas gifts, extra food for when the kids come home, and gas for traveling to visit family out of town. I feel so blessed to part of our special school! Thank you for your generosity.*  
-Ann Weber

Last year (and this year) I decided to be selfish and keep the money for myself (with my husband's full permission). #1 on my bucket list has always been to go to Rome while I am still able to get around well. The fund took a big hike when I could add my Christmas bonus. Heretofore, I used the bonus for gifts and food for Christmas. Well, that brought me great enjoyment, that's for sure! But the family is in total agreement that Rome is calling my name! Christmas is still just as special because we just made a few adjustments. And in a way, a large amount of the needed money to go to Rome has come from my second family - Holy Family Elementary, and how special is that?!!!

Thank you, dear family, for helping to make a dream come true! Sincerely, Mrs. Shirley Dinkel

*I've witnessed the time donated by so many people employed in this school. The head cook balances the books off the clock. Custodians come at god-forbidden times to fix something last minute. Teachers' vehicles litter the lots after the school has been locked up tight. The Office often comes in early and leaves late. This is not an 8 to 5 job. Every person here is a piece that makes this school work.*

*The last several years, I have been the happy recipient of a Christmas bonus. I would never trade my vocation in this school for anywhere else, but we just don't have the money for the salaries that other schools can offer. Home-made cookies? Send those definitely! But a Christmas bonus makes for an awfully-merry Christmas! -Teresa Schrant*

The Christmas fund/bonus is HUGE to me! I am able to budget my money to take care of my financial needs through my HFE pay check and my "on the side" work to make up the difference. My needs are taken care of and that is a blessing. But, the Christmas fund/bonus is **UN**-budgeted money that I get to use however I **wish**! I remember one year I took my Christmas bonus and bought new tires for my car--it was **AWESOME**--I didn't have to save forever, I didn't have to make a payment plan with the business--I just walked in and said I want 4 new tires and I paid for them in full! I would **never** get to do things like that if it weren't for this special money! I appreciate all HFE parents do for me and I am truly grateful for the Christmas fund/bonus. **THANK YOU** for your consideration of this amazing gift! -Miss Helget

When I came to Holy Family and learned about the Christmas fund I was so blessed! So many of our employees work behind the scenes but are just as essential to the success and well-being of our school. Through the Christmas gift fund, we share the monetary gifts just like we share the work load—evenly. Your contributions give me one of the greatest blessings of the school year—to bless our hard working employees. ~Rachel Wentling

If you do wish to participate, please return your contribution to the school office in a sealed envelope marked **“Christmas Gift Fund” by Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2017.**  
Make checks payable to HFE Home and School Association.

There is no obligation to participate in the Christmas Gift Fund project; this is simply a way to express appreciation for the efforts of our teachers and staff. The money you may have used on one gift can be combined and shared with many.

We thank you for giving back to those who make our children's education their priority!

Sincerely,  
HFE Home and School Association