



All about St. Bart's Home School Association (HSA)

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About the HSA

The Home School Association (HSA) is always at work behind the scenes. In an effort to make our mission and goals clear to all our families, we prepared this packet. We hope that you take the time to become more familiar with such a vital part of our school community. If you have any questions regarding the information, please feel free to contact the HSA via email at hsa@stbartseb. As we represent the families of Saint Bartholomew, we want to do everything we can to accommodate the needs of our children and community.

The HSA is a very active and vital support group of dedicated volunteers (each of you) working, under the direction of the school principal, to help carry out the mission statement and objectives of the school. The fundamental purpose of St. Bartholomew School is to love, educate, and inspire our children to live the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The HSA Board

The HSA is led by an executive board, which consists of a president, vice-president, treasurer, corresponding secretary, and recording secretary. Each position on the board is a two year commitment. Appointment to these positions is accomplished by a two-step process. When a term is near expiration, nominations are sought from the general school population (parents/guardians). Anyone can submit his/her name for nomination. Depending on the number of responses from this request, additional candidates are nominated by a committee comprised of the principal, teachers, and parents/guardians who are interested in being part of this committee. Upon completion of the nomination roster, board members are appointed by the pastor and principal.

Other committees are also included in the HSA. They are the Legislative, Social Concerns, Spirituality, and Publicity, Hospitality, and Fundraising committees. The HSA is can be reached via email at hsa@stbartseb.com.

Executive Board

Position	Name
President	Fran Murtha-O’Connell
Vice President	Candice Molinaro
Corresponding Secretary	Maryann Russo
Recording Secretary	Maryjo Phillips
Treasurer	Denise Uzunis

Non-Executive Board

Fundraising	HSA Executive Board
Hospitality	Sandra Buttons
Legislative	Maria Grosso
Publicity	Tammy Schmidt
SCRIP	Santina D’Esposito
Spirituality/Social Concerns	Susan Kolomyetz

St. Bartholomew has a very active HSA and dispensing information is key to our success. Mrs. Wierzbicki, our principal, graciously allows us to include HSA information in the weekly communication envelope. The HSA board welcomes suggestions. Any feedback you can give the board assists them in planning and executing events throughout the school year.

Volunteering

The Diocese of Metuchen requires that all adults who volunteer in any way must undergo a background check/fingerprint screening and attend a Virtus “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” training session mandated by the Diocese. This includes coaches, class trip chaperones, as well as anyone who would like to volunteer in school with the children in any capacity. The background check process must be done specifically for the Diocese of Metuchen and St. Bartholomew School. Log onto our website at www.stbartseb.com or click [Become a Volunteer](#) to sign up to become a volunteer.

Once you have been background checked, [fingerprinted](#), and have attended a “Protecting God’s Children for Adults” training session, you are ready to volunteer. A list of some of our volunteer opportunities can be found on our website at www.stbartseb.com or by [Clicking here](#). Signup for many of our events can be done electronically by clicking the volunteer opportunity hyperlink (not yet available 6/2/15) that will bring you to our signup sheets.

Fundraising & Service Events

All funds generated by HSA events and fundraisers directly support our children. Because of your support, the HSA is able to help defray the costs of running the school and keep tuition affordable.

The major fundraisers at St. Bartholomew School include the **Magazine and Cookie Sale** in September, the **Basket Raffle** held in November, the **Gertrude Hawk Sale** in January, the **Race for Education** in May, and the **Scrip Program** held throughout the year.

Scrip

The Scrip program makes it possible to sell gift cards through the school that the HSA purchases at a discounted price from a vendor or stores themselves. We sell the gift cards at face value. So, if you purchase a \$100.00 gift card for a store, you receive a \$100.00 gift card. The discount we get from the store is the school’s profit. We offer a large selection of gift cards that can be purchased throughout the year and, during the Christmas season; we offer a special holiday selection. The program is a dollar for dollar fundraiser and really does not cost anything to participate. Our families may use SCRIP gift cards to purchase everyday expenditures such as food, clothing, and entertainment. With every purchase, we earn revenue for St. Bart’s.

A SCRIP order form is available every week in the communication envelope. Fill out the form and send it and your payment into school with your child. SCRIP orders are filled on Tuesday and sent home with your child on Wednesday. A detailed accounting is kept of all of your purchases, but it is important for you to keep your receipts.

This is a very important fundraiser for our school. We made over \$33,000 last year.

Please call the SCRIP Hotline (732-254-4618) for additional information. Santina D'Esposito heads our SCRIP program and may be reached at jdesposito1@comcast.net.

Magazine and Cookie Sale

The magazine and cookie sale begins immediately after the start of school year. For every magazine ordered at the discounted publishing rate or tub of cookie mix purchased, St. Bart's receives a percentage of each sale. Volunteers are needed to ensure order forms are completed accurately. Notice will be sent around when applicable.

The Basket Raffle

Our Annual Basket Raffle is in November. It is our single, biggest fundraiser (netting over \$45,000 last year). A team of volunteers solicit prizes from outside vendors and each family is asked to participate by donating to each of their children's classroom "Theme Basket." This event needs many volunteers to decorate, create and coordinate baskets, solicit, sell tickets, and wrap baskets

****TICKETS FOR THE EVENT ARE SOLD ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED, BASIS.**

This event sells out very quickly. Please do not wait more than one day to purchase tickets. It's a night of fun, food and fundraising that you won't want to miss.

Easter Candy (Gertrude Hawk)

Last year we made a profit of over \$3,300. This fundraiser averages a 40% return from sales to our school and requires a small amount of volunteers to ensure the order forms are completed accurately and to distribute the candy the day it arrives at school. Gertrude Hawk is our company of choice. It's an "easy" way to fill Easter baskets and a great way to help St. Bartholomew School. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available in January. All candy will be delivered just in time for Easter.

Race for Education

Race for Education is an annual jog-athon. The students walk, jog or run around a designated area for an hour. Before the event, letters are sent to each student's family members and friends to ask for donations to support the race. Our school receives donation in excess of \$15,000 each year.

Costume and Party Fundraiser

Purchase costumes for Halloween, parties, plays and more, as well as party supplies for Birthdays and all occasions at www.costumeandpartyfundraiser.com. Shop 365 days a year and use Promo Code: **FUN3103** at checkout each time you shop and 15% of your purchase goes to support our school and you receive 15% off your order.

Service Events

The HSA plans social events and activities in addition to the various fundraisers.

St. Nick Sale

The St. Nick Sale is a wonderful opportunity for our children to do some Christmas shopping in a fun, safe environment. The sale is held for two days at the beginning of December. The sale is available for Pre-K through eighth grade students.

Mission Fair

The **Mission Fair** is an opportunity for our children in grades Kindergarten through 8th to raise money to aid the missionaries. The Fair takes place during February. It is a fun-filled day of games and challenges and also includes a bake sale and auction. Admission to the Fair is either a can of food, which is donated to the local food bank or \$1.00. A small baggie filled with quarters is enough for your child to have a great time. This is an all-day event and again, many volunteers (approximately 30), are needed.

Sweetheart Dance

We call this event a FUN RAISER! The princesses of our school will have the opportunity to put on their party dresses and take out that someone special in

their lives (dad, uncle, grandpa, guardian etc) for a night of dinner and dancing. Food will be catered by one of our local restaurants.

Event with the Boys

We cannot forget our princes for this FUN RAISER. They will have a chance to spend some quality time with a special lady (mom, aunt, grandma, guardian, etc.) for a day fun! We have had bowling and baseball events. We are always looking for new ideas - feel free to submit any idea you may have to hsa@stbartseb.com.

Pancake Breakfast

Held twice a year, the Pancake Breakfast offers a great way to meet the families of your child's class. Come celebrate the return to school without "Welcome Back" breakfast and join us in January for our "Kick Off to Catholic Schools" week breakfast. The children act as servers while their parents/guardians (*hopefully you*) help cook in the kitchen.

Field Day

Held in June this is another day full of fun and food. Mrs. Dudra, our physical education teacher, provides the games and the HSA provides the food. Many volunteers are needed to make Field Day a success. It is a wonderful way to bring the school year to an end – on a high note!

Kid Stuff Coupon Book & Entertainment Book

This is a simple fundraiser that pays big dividends. Purchasing one book makes a difference. A book will be sent home to each family in the fall – we alternate between the Kid Stuff and Entertainment books. We hope that you purchase one (or more), but you may return if you do not want it. These books have many valuable coupons and make great gifts. St. Bart's makes 50% for each book sold. Last year our profit was over \$2,600.

FREE FUND RAISERS

The HSA runs many fund raisers throughout the year that do not cost you anything. Refer to the HSA section of our website for complete details.

Box Tops for Education

Box Tops are the little pink coupon found on over 250 participating products. It's easy to find Box Tops; in fact, you probably have some in your home right now. Participating products include, but are not limited to, General Mills Cereals, Food Storage Bags, Paper Products, Green Giant Produce, Frozen Foods, Baking and Bakeware, School and Office Supplies.

The school receives a check twice a year for submitted Box Tops and our school family has been doing a great job of saving their Box Tops. Clip and tape your Box Tops to the BTFE sheet then submit them to our school so that we can receive additional monies. Ask other family members to collect Box Tops as well. Head over to www.btfe.com for additional collection sheets.

Coke Rewards

Our school participates in the My Coke Rewards for Schools program. That means that every time you enjoy a participating Coca Cola product you can donate the caps and labels to our school. The donations will help give our students things they need, such as, sports gear, creative supplies, books, classroom tools and more. Collect caps from other family members as well. You can now easily enter your codes using your smart phone at www.mycokerewards.com. Designate St. Bartholomew School as the recipient of your points to give our school credit.

Stop and Shop A+ Program

A+ School Rewards are points that supporters earn with each purchase made using their Stop & Shop Card. At the end of each month, the points earned are used in a calculation to determine your school's cash total, which is then automatically credited to our school's account. Online registration for new parents/supporters begins September 10, 2015. Registration information will be available in the Communications Envelope. Ask other family members to sign up for A+ School Rewards as well.

Schoola

Schoola allows us to raise money for our school by you donating your children's gently used clothing for resale. You get a clean closet, big savings on gently used

kid's clothes if you make a purchase and we get \$2 of every \$5 spent, which is used to fund school programs. Register at www.schoola.com.

Shoparoo

To participate, snap pictures of your receipts from any store, big or small, that sells grocery items to earn Roo Points (cash donations) for our school. It doesn't matter whether you're shopping at a supercenter, dollar store, or local convenience store, or what items you buy, Shoparoo will make a cash donation for every receipt! Download the free app at www.shoparoo.com.

Closing

As you can see, life is busy around St. Bartholomew School. To have a successful school year with our fund-raisers and social events, **we need you**. If you have not done so in the past, please consider volunteering some time to one of these activities. For those of you who are familiar faces, we thank you for your continued support. Remember, the HSA exists for our children. Any suggestions, questions, or comments that contribute to making the school year better are always welcome.

Thank you again for your support and interest.

The HSA Executive Board
hsa@stbartseb.com