Ah... its summertime and work in the Holy Childhood six-week summer School Program has a flair for fun!

The classrooms are reading a book written by former West Irondequoit school teacher, Ann Esch. The book is entitled “Pawing Through Rochester-The Adventures of Spike.” The book explores historical sites in Rochester. The adventure is seen through Spike’s eyes, her dog. Spike loves learning about Rochester’s rich history and exploring the many landmarks in the area and telling the students all about it. And, they are very interested in what this little dog has to teach them! Each student has a copy of the book and as they continue to work on their vocabulary (always!), students worked on words they need to know related to the Rochester area. In July, the students and staff were thrilled when Mrs. Esch and the book’s photographer, Mr. Dan Reardon visited Holy Childhood in person.
In an ongoing partnership with United Way of Greater Rochester, we are studying the impact that Holy Childhood’s School Program has on reducing learning loss over the summer. The United Way is exploring the positive influence summer programs, like ours, have on student learning. United Way provides a portion of the funding for our six week summer School Program.

Healthy Highway Curriculum

Again this summer, we have incorporated the Healthy Highway curriculum into our summer program. Healthy Highway has been in use at Holy Childhood for more than a year now. Developed by Wendy Cooper, a local Physical Education teacher for thirty years, the Healthy Highway program teaches students the importance of starting and maintaining a healthy lifestyle throughout their lives. “The Healthy Highway Program is designed to be an easy but comprehensive program that has students up and moving while learning about the importance of healthy fuels for their engines,” says Wendy. “It embraces the natural instinct of students to move for the sheer enjoyment of moving as well as seeking out fun ways to learn about healthy foods.”

New Respite Programs at Holy Childhood

We are happy to announce that Holy Childhood now offers After School Respite Care, each weekday, Monday through Friday, 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Additionally, we also offer Respite Camps during select school breaks from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The first camp began late August and ends on September 1st. Both respite programs give students, ages 5-21, opportunities to socialize and have fun with their friends, while offering parents and families a brief respite.

Holy Childhood’s Respite and Camp Programs offer:
- Fully accessible, full-sized indoor therapeutic swimming pool
- Physical fitness equipment room
- Gymnasium
- Art Room
- Multi-purpose recreation center
- Training kitchen
- Library
- Outdoor playground, picnic area, and ball park

If you are interested in enrolling your child in one or both of these respite programs, please contact Tim Baird, Recreation Program Manager, at (585) 359-3710, ext. 168.

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Summer Fun-Raising for Holy Childhood & Special Touch Bakery

Annual Golf Tournament:
June 19 – Midvale Country Club

It was perfect weather for this year’s 26th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit Holy Childhood. Not too hot, not too cold… just right! We thank our presenting sponsor, Prudential (for more than 20 years!) and our fantastic golf committee led by Mike Seaman and Dave Mattucci, from Christa Construction. Once again, WBEE-FM morning show host and good friend of Holy Childhood, Steve Hausmann did a great job as emcee, and we’re grateful to WBEE-FM for their media sponsorship. Through the generosity of our sponsors, 126 golfers and supporters, nearly $40,000 was raised to support the programs and services Holy Childhood provides to students and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mark your calendar for next year’s tournament on June 18, 2018 at Midvale Country Club.

Row For Hope:
June 22-30 on the Erie Canal

In June, seven young men from McQuaid rowed 340 miles (the entire length of the Erie Canal) to raise awareness and funds for Holy Childhood, specifically the expansion of the Special Touch Bakery. The days were demanding as the weather was not always the best, but it absolutely did not hinder the spirit, perseverance and commitment of this Crew Team. It was the adventure of a lifetime and with the help of many kind sponsors, donors, families and Holy Childhood friends, the $30,000 goal was achieved. To the entire Crew Team and everyone who worked so hard to make this endeavor a success, you have our heartfelt gratitude. We sincerely and wholeheartedly thank this very special group of young men; Joey Marang, Christian Mathews, Sean O’Connor, Alex Patterson, Kevin Reed, Ian Richards and Mike Solazzo for their unwavering commitment and support.

The 31st Annual Ladies Golf Tournament:
July 11 – Penfield Golf Club

What a delightful day it was for this year’s Annual Ladies Golf Tournament. The weather cooperated in a big way with warm temperatures and hazy sunshine, perfect golfing weather! More than $18,000 was raised to benefit Holy Childhood programs and services. We thank Robert and Linda Wayland-Smith for being this year’s Honorary Chairs, our Ladies Golf Committee Chairperson, Sylvia Korn and the one and only Dee Alexander for emceeing our awards luncheon. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our golf committee, all the golfers who participated, and the generous donors who made this day so much fun. Lady golfers, save the date of Monday, July 9, 2018 for next year’s tournament at Penfield Country Club. We’re always looking for new golfers to join our fun group! If you are interested, please contact Holy Childhood’s Manager of Fundraising and Special Events, Samantha Looker at 585-359-3710, ext. 169.
Construction is moving right along at the new Special Touch Bakery

Our new bakery is located at 1999 Mt. Read Blvd. in Rochester. New equipment arrives almost daily, while the painting and flooring are just about complete.

The transformation of this 20,000 sq. ft. building is nothing short of amazing. And what is most incredible is this - when you walk through the front doors and think about what this building is about to become, you are immediately inspired. The legacy and rich history of Holy Childhood is already here. You can feel it.

In July, a very large freezer arrived at the bakery site, on a tractor trailer packed with long panels that were soon to be put together like some sort of gigantic puzzle. Now finished, the freezer measures 70 feet long, 15.5 feet high and 20 feet deep! Just imagine how many Special Touch Bakery pies that will hold!

Also arriving in July, one of five bakery mixers; and this is the smallest one ... amazing!

Needless to say, everyone is anxious to start using all of the equipment and get in there to bake! We won’t have to wait too much longer! Information will be forthcoming related to grand opening events and tours, visit us often on the Special Touch Bakery Facebook page for the latest news, photos and videos.

Job postings for Special Touch Bakery positions can be found at www.holychildhood.org/employment.

If you have any questions about the new Special Touch Bakery, please give us a call at 585-359-3710.