

The Newsletter for Alumni, Parents and Friends of Saint Mary Interparochial School
Since 1782

SAINT MARY MESSENGER

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HARVEST HOEDOWN ON LOCUST

What a huge success!

Our fourth annual Harvest Hoedown on Locust, held on Saturday, October 16, 2010 brought our largest turnout of St. Mary School supporters. Faces were painted, games were played and delicious food was had by all. This joyous autumn celebration was an opportunity to bring students, parents, staff, alumni and friends together in the heart of historic Philadelphia. This year, thanks to many generous supporters, we raised \$6,000. All proceeds from this event benefit the students of St. Mary Interparochial School.

New this year at the Hoedown was the Cardboard Box Maze and a Student Service Initiative. This creative use of boxes provided hours of joy to tiny explorers and more than 20 students from the seventh and eighth grade classes volunteered their time to create Balloon Fun.

Thank you to all who supported this event by purchasing raffle tickets for our donated prizes or by simply attending the Hoedown. Several special donations (listed to the right) and numerous volunteers were on hand which provided such a great sense of community.



Alfredo Aquilar & Las Cazuelas Restaurant
Kathy Kahl
Reinforced Iron Workers, Riggers, & Machinery Movers, Local Union 405
Michael Anastasio Produce Inc.
Beneficial Bank
Alusiv – Richard Cress
Karen Dinan
The Bridy Family
The Holahan Family
Julie Stoiber and Ballard Spahr LLP
Bistro St. Tropez
Simone Pucca-Fera and family
Rocco Gallelli
Comcast-Spectacor

The Kelly and Eells Families
Bridget Foy's Restaurant
Omni Hotel Philadelphia
Marc Hauad
The Coval Family
Doubletree Hotel Philadelphia
Juju Spa and Organics
Rose Payne & High Level Wellness
Rita Longan-Litzke & Renovatio
Peter Nero and the Philly POPS
Good Dog Bar
The Philadelphia Orchestra
Maureen Coyle & The Pyramid Club of Philadelphia

Garces Restaurant Group
The Philadelphia Phillies
The Fairmount Art Center
The Belgian Café
The Philadelphia Museum of Art
Ruth's Chris Restaurant
The Utrera Family
Tom Ward
Head House Books
Koresh School of Dance
The Philadelphia Dance Academy
The Haciski Family
Mrs. Meredith & the St. Mary Interparochial School Faculty

Dean Weisman
The Dieters Family
Zeke's Deli on 5th Street
St. Mary Interparochial School Home & School Association
Susan Cavanaugh & Sweet Treatz
The Squillante Family
The Lewandowski Family
The Kane Family
Bryan Johnson & the U-HAUL Center of South Philadelphia
Mrs. Mary Ellen Penna
Mrs. Barbara Brown
Chef's Table

From the Principal



Dear Parents, Alums, and Friends of St. Mary Interparochial School,

What a whirlwind of activities we've experienced these past several weeks! School began on September 8th with our enrollment at 233 students. Within one week, we had Back to School Night, Grandparents'/Special Persons' Day with Kindergarten, and the Golf Outing. Shortly after that, we participated in our annual Back to School Mass with Father Carey, our Pastor Delegate, and then a few days later, our first Advisory Board Meeting took place – and that was just September.



As you can see, we're very busy here at St. Mary Interparochial School. Our kindergarteners are getting used to the routine of school and have adjusted very well to the academic program that they follow. Our students in the other grades are adjusting as well and progress reports, marking the completion of the first half of the trimester, have been issued.

With so many activities going on, we must pause and extend our thanks to those who make it all happen – teachers, parents, staff and volunteers who give of their time and talent to create a warm, happy and challenging environment for students to grow morally, academically, and socially.



We welcome you to visit at any time. If you are in the neighborhood, please stop and we'll be happy to take you on a tour of the building so that you can see for yourself some of the wonderful things going on here each day.

Again, thank you for your continued support of St. Mary Interparochial School. Your investment in the students and their academic and athletic programs is affirmation to all of us here that we are living our mission: to create passionate, confident, Christ-centered leaders of the 21st century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Jeanne M. Meredith".

Mrs. Jeanne Meredith
Principal



SCHOOL EVENTS

First Annual Golf Outing – What a spectacular day for all!

On Saturday, September 18, 2010, the first annual St. Mary Golf Outing was held. Several golfers and sponsors helped to contribute to this special event where more than \$3,000 was raised. Currently, 52 percent of St. Mary Students are economically disadvantaged and these proceeds will support many of our families this year through our tuition assistance program. This was a great way to have some fun and support our students in need. Thank you to all of our golfers, volunteers and our special sponsors listed below.



Duane Morris LLP
Beneficial Bank
Hewlett Packard
Northeast Total
Communications
Oblates of St. Francis
De Sales
Patricia M. Lampert,
CFP®
Devenish Painting
The Dieters Family
The Cammisa Family
Ondik-Evans Agency
Nationwide
Insurance

Tir na Nog Irish Bar
and Grill
Copeland Plastering
Professional
Consultant
Service, Inc.
Kennelly Carpentry
Alusiv
Marathon Printing
Old Saint Joseph
Church Community



Save the date for the second annual golf outing, tentatively scheduled for *Saturday, September 17, 2011.*

Upcoming Events

Mass in Thanksgiving for our Many Benefactors

Thursday, December 9, 2010
Old Saint Mary Church
9:30 am

Students and staff of Hispanic descent are invited to dress in traditional garb and participate in the entrance procession to honor our school's patron saint Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego. All are welcome!

Lunch with Santa

Saturday, December 11, 2010
Sponsored by Home and School
School All-Purpose Room

Christmas Pageant and Las Posada

Thursday, December 23, 2010
Old Saint Joseph's Church
10:00 am
All are welcome!

Open House and Registration

Sunday, January 31
for the 2011 - 2012 School Year
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Catholic Schools Week

January 31 - February 5, 2011

Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Alumni Breakfast

Wednesday, February 16, 2011
School All-Purpose Room
8:00 am to 9:00 am

All St. Mary Graduates are invited to this special breakfast.

Flea to Fifth

Saturday, April 16, 2011
Our Second Annual St. Mary School
Flea Market

Introducing the Charter Advisory Board

On September 29, at 6:00 PM history took place in our school gym when our Charter Advisory Board successfully met for its Board Orientation, lead by the consultants at Churchill Institute on Leadership and Development. At this initial meeting, members discussed the strategic goals and confirmed the six committees to help complete these goals: Catholic Identity, Academic Program, Governance, Finance,

Advancement, and Buildings and Grounds. The committees consist of Advisory Board Members and individuals from the St. Mary and Philadelphia community. They have begun working on the actions steps for this year and will meet in between Advisory Board meetings. The Advisory Board will meet for the second time on November 30.

Charter Advisory Board Members

Ms. Debra King Grady
Chairperson
Mr. Alfredo Aguilar
Ms. Donna Bridy
Ms. Millie Cammisa
Dr. Thomas W. Gamba
Ms. Kristine Jaeger
Sister Rose Martin,
RSM, Ph.D
Ms. Kathy Nelson
Ms. Fran Ritter
Fr. Daniel Ruff, S.J
Ms. Joann Sullivan
Mr. Dean Weisman

Ad hoc Members

Rev. Gerald P. Carey
Pastor Delegate
Ms. Jeanne Meredith
Principal
Ms. Christina Haciski
*Director of
Advancement*

*Advisory Board
biographies will
be highlighted on
our website.*

ANNUAL FUND KICK OFF 2010-2011

Supporting our Students and Living Our Mission

Mission Statement

St. Mary Interparochial School challenges its diverse student body to grow morally, academically and socially into passionate, confident, and Christ-centered leaders of the 21st century.

This newsletter was designed and printed with the support of Alusiv communication design and Marathon Printing

Five Reasons to Support St. Mary's Annual Appeal

1 The Annual Appeal is a yearly fundraising drive that reaches out to local businesses, major corporations, parents, alumni, etc., for the purposes of raising much-needed funds to benefit St. Mary Interparochial School's building and infrastructure. This important fund forms the foundation for all other development efforts.

2 When you make a contribution to the Annual Fund, 100 percent of your contribution will be applied to our general fund.

3 Your support encourages giving by demonstrating to potential donors in the business world that St. Mary's is a viable and worthy institution with the backing of our alumni, parents and friends.

4 Giving to the annual fund is the most convenient way for individuals to share in the mission of our unique school where children grow morally, academically and socially into passionate, confident, and Christ-centered leaders of the 21st century.

5 Of course, the most important reason to contribute to the Annual Fund is the children of St. Mary School, who benefit greatly from all contributions.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Donate online at www.saintmarys.us, use the enclosed envelope or call 215-923-7522.
- Double your impact by asking your company's personnel office whether your employer will match your gift.
- Designate a gift through United Way using our donor number **48922**.
- Spread the word about our Annual Appeal to others who, like you, believe in an excellent Catholic education for all children.

The rich academic and historic heritage of St. Mary Interparochial School dates to the early days of Philadelphia, as Catholics and Protestants engaged in a spirited debate over educational practices. Founded in 1782 by the Jesuit fathers of Old St. Joseph's Church, St. Mary is known as "The Mother School" of catholic parochial education and is credited with influencing Catholic educational patterns in this country. Situated near Independence Hall and other pivotal sites in old Philadelphia, it served children for more than a century before closing in 1902 after a devastating fire. St. Mary's reopened in 1968, again with a distinction: With students drawn from six different parishes, it was the first interparochial school in the nation. St. Mary Interparochial School is situated in Independence National Park and serves 250 children from all over the City of Philadelphia and its suburbs.

History of Saint Mary Interparochial School

Saint Mary
Interparochial School
Fifth and Locust Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.923.7522
www.saintmarys.us

Since 1782



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