



THE NEWSLETTER FOR
St. Dorothy
ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Volume 1, Number 3, Fall 2007



Ready and excited to go are: Matthew McKenna, Kerrie Habicht and Kasey Habicht

“2007 ~ A FRESH START”

Written by: Mrs. Louise Sheehan, Principal

Many exciting things are happening at St. Dorothy School. This school year opened with an enrollment of 362 students, which represents an increase over last year.

Ever cognizant of our mission – to partner with parents in passing on the traditions of the Catholic Church and guiding our students to live their faith – we will continue to engage our older students in service activities. We also plan to provide opportunities for our students in grades K-4 to become actively involved in service projects. Our belief is that one is never too young to learn that to be a person of faith one must live a life of serving others.

In an effort to enhance students’ vocabulary and grammar skills, and their overall educational

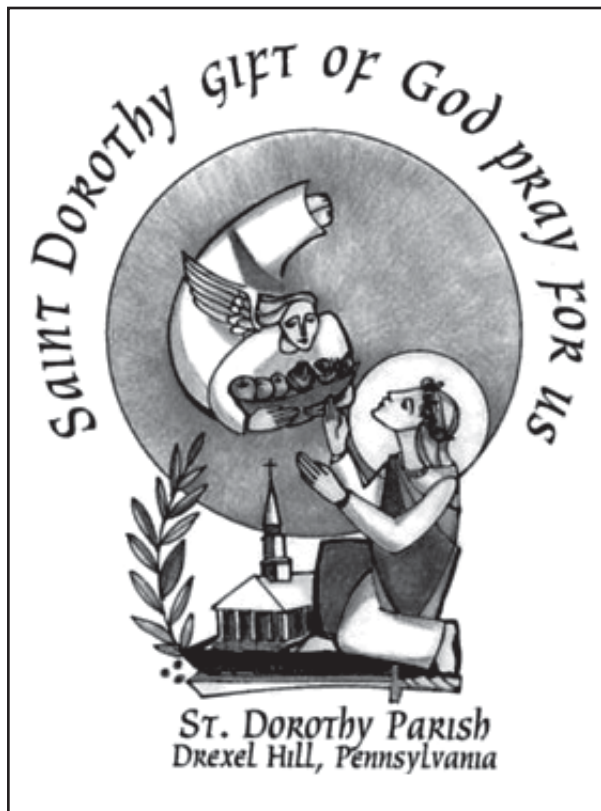
experience, we have introduced Latin into the 7th and 8th grade curriculum. Our students are approaching this new and challenging subject in a serious manner and they are already seeing the relationship between Latin and English.

Technology continues to be used as an instructional tool, and this year we received a grant for United Streaming, a digital video-on-demand educational program with more than 4,000 educational videos available for classroom use. This online teaching service aids students in their understanding of concepts presented in all areas of the curriculum.

This is a glimpse of our beginnings so far, and we have high hopes for continued growth.

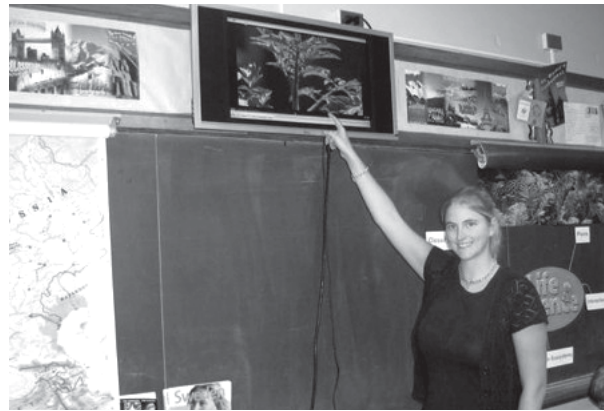
“WHO IS SAINT DOROTHY And What About Those Apples?”

Written By: Amy Sullivan



Saint Dorothy was born in Caesara, Cappadocia (now Turkey), during the time of Christian persecution by the Roman Emperor Diocletian. Dorothy, a young maiden, was sentenced to death (circa 311 A.D.), for refusing to marry or worship idols, and for converting others to Christianity. On the way to her execution, a Roman lawyer named Theophilus mockingly asked her to send him back some fruits and flowers from the garden she had joyously announced she would soon be in. As she knelt at the execution block, she prayed for Theophilus' wish to come true. After she died, an angel delivered a basket of apples and roses to Theophilus. He was immediately converted to Christianity and later martyred for his beliefs, as well.

Saint Dorothy, which means “Gift of God”, is the patron saint of brides, florists and gardeners. Her feast day is February 6th. Images of Saint Dorothy often show her with a basket of fruit and flowers, as depicted on our new gym floor, prayer cards and the cover of the parish directory.



Miss Kristen Spell, Teacher, Grade 6, using United Streaming on the class flat screen TV.

“REFRESHING RENOVATIONS CONTINUE”

Written by: Nick Caramanico

The summer of 2007 was busy at St. Dots. Because of your contributions, Fr. Murphy approved the 3rd stage of our multi-phase improvement plan to the school complex and annex. The progress this summer included the following:

- a new gymnasium floor, greatly enhanced energy-efficient lighting to all areas of the annex, with new ceiling tiles in the computer room, library, and both kindergarten areas
- painting of the entire annex interior, and school building exterior
- new tile on the 2nd & 3rd hall floors and steps, 16 new thermo-efficient annex windows, hand sanitation air-dryers in all building lavatories
- new school doors on the Burmont Road side of the building

Additionally, we are purchasing eight more flat screen televisions to fully outfit every classroom with this new teaching aid. We are also in the process of replacing all 38 partitions in the lavatories, and a new security system for the school and annex is also in final review.

Yes, it was very busy at St. Dots this summer. Thanks to many who have made the commitment to continue to strengthen the educational experience of our children.

“A WELCOMING EVENT”

Written by: Patty Dwyer



Pictured: 5th grade teacher Mrs. Marianne Salerno discusses expectations with Tish, Mike and Chris DeStefano. Chris is one of 14 students from St. Charles this year.

The Development Committee hosted its 2nd “Welcome Night” on Thursday May 31, 2007. This event was to welcome 41 new families to our St. Dorothy's school community. We are happy to say that over 200 people attended this event. Father Murphy and Mrs. Sheehan spoke briefly to welcome our new families. Many of our existing families were there to help welcome and mentor them into our school community. A good time was had by all.

“ST. DOROTHY SCHOOL WELCOMES FORMER ST. CHARLES' STUDENTS”

Written by: Vince Camuti



If you no longer reside in the Drexel Hill area, you may be confused over why St. Charles' students would now be attending St. Dorothy School. If you do live in the area, you know all too well the disappointing news that St. Charles Borromeo school was forced to close in June of 2007 after more than 100 years.

While we at St. Dorothy's were deeply saddened by this event, we were also encouraged that so many St. Charles families have chosen to continue their children's education in the Catholic school system. We consider ourselves blessed that 14 students from 9 families have enrolled at St. Dorothy's.

The closing of St. Charles School is a sobering reminder of the pressures faced by Catholic Schools in this area. However, we can more importantly look to these families who continue to value a Catholic education for their children and be inspired by their faith and fortitude.

Mrs. Sheehan, Principal of St. Dorothy, had this to say: “We are aware of the sacrifices that many of our families make to send their children to our school, and we are most grateful to them. In addition, we recognize our responsibility to continue to be the forum where the Catholic story is told and to provide many opportunities for our students to encounter God.”

“HOOPS FOR HOPE 2007”

Written by: Kathie McGonigal



Pictured (L- R) : Kayla Gerace, Alicia Young, Carly Gerace, Gretchen Nolan, Emily Konczewski and Colette Nolan

February 2007 showcased the inaugural event of Hoops for Hope, a basketball marathon sponsored by St. Dorothy Athletic Association to benefit the American Cancer Society and Alex's Lemonade Stand. It was a 16-hour basketball marathon, in which different teams comprised of grade school and high school students and folks in their 60's played games every 45 minutes. Students in grades K, 1, and 2, supported the event by manning Alex's Lemonade Stand and the First Aid Station. Hearts were hung in the gym representing loved ones and later blessed in Church.

The goals of this event were to enhance community spirit by recognizing and supporting those affected by cancer, provide an activity that would encompass a large diverse group of parishioners, educate the community, raise money for a worthwhile cause, and do something fun.

Highlights of the event include the now famous Brawl of Drexel Hill, featuring the football moms vs. the field hockey moms, the 2nd grade dad's game (who knew they could sweat so much?), the Fitzpatrick Clan, and Funchion's Famous Food court.

This event raised over \$7,500 for the American Cancer Society and \$250 for Alex's Lemonade stand.

Please keep President's Day weekend open for the 2008 edition and get your teams ready!!!!

“ST. DOT'S SERVICE CORPS”

Written by: Grace Kulsik, 8th Grade

Saint Dorothy School has a service corps made up of seventh and eighth grade students with the help of parent volunteers. When the service corps was founded in 2000, their mission was to identify needs within the community, then organize activities and events to help those needs. Our activities help parishioners, the elderly, students, and Don Guanella students.

In previous years, the service corps has been involved in many activities. Fall clean up for example is an activity designed to help those who cannot rake their leaves in the fall. We rake and bag the leaves.

Another activity is Don Guanella Field Day, where the Don Guanella students get a chance to come to Saint Dorothy's school and have a fun day with our students. At the field day, we play a big game of kick ball, Don Guanella versus Saint Dorothy and play parachute games. After our games on the field, we go up to the gym and have pizza and then play some carnival games.

Other activities we are involved in are the CARES after school program, the Saint Dot's Challenge, Baby Bottle Drive for the Mother's Home in Darby, collecting money for the “Souper Bowl” of Caring, and provide breakfast for the residents of the Ronald McDonald House of Philadelphia.

To me the service corps means helping others who are less fortunate than I am, helping the elderly, and helping myself. When I do community service it makes me realize how good my life is and see that there are people who might have disabilities or are less fortunate than I am. The best part about doing community service is during the activities I end up having a lot of fun helping others.



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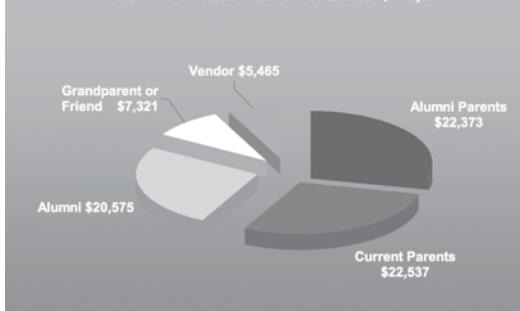
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“3RD ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST-IVITIES”

Written By: Karen Rogers

The Third Annual Oktoberfest was held from October 9th through the 13th. As in the past, the fair was a raging success full of fun for all! Volunteers of all ages came together! New friends were made and old friends reunited during a week full of entertainment. As evident in the generous donations from family and business sponsors, Saint Dorothy Parishioners recognize the value of community. For the past 3 years, the money raised during the Oktoberfest has helped to maintain the Parish buildings and to aid with the ever-increasing costs of educational, technological and cultural improvements for the Parish. Although lucrative, the community-building the event produces is priceless! Thanks to all who helped through donations and volunteerism!



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