

Volume 5, Fall 2008



"Service with a Smile!" (Left to Right) Kindergarten students Caitlyn Stevenson, Patrick Dougherty, Mya McGann, & Tyler Santora donate to Merry Mercy.

# "CELEBRATE SERVICE"

Written by: Louise Sheehan, School Principal

"TO ME LIFE IS CHRIST." In teaching our students to embrace these words of St. Paul and be models of Christ's life of helping others, we continue to provide opportunities for them to be involved in service activities. This year, each grade has chosen a specific organization, group, or cause on which to focus. For example, our 6th grade students will provide help to Mother's Home in Darby. Our 2nd grade's service activity will be closer to home – they will serve the school and parish community by keeping the grounds clean.

In addition, the entire school will participate in the Pass the Pig Campaign to benefit Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. Merry Mercy, the pig, will spend a week in each classroom and the students will be asked to make a small donation. The class that raises the most money will be treated to a pizza party.

Mercy Neighborhood Ministries serves the working poor in the Tioga section of Philadelphia. Its programs include childcare, adult day care and adult education.

## "Messages from...

St. Dorothy Student Council 2008-2009:"

Amanda Maile, Erin O'Neill, Meghan Stranick, Charles Vottero & John Wendling



As a member of Student Council, this is not my first service activity. I am also a member of the parish Service Corps. Last year I helped out with Don Guanella Day and Fall Clean-Up and I plan to do the same this year. Student Council is currently working on a few projects including Career Day. We are asking parents who hold fun and/or interesting jobs to come to school to talk to students on January 30, 2009 as a part of Catholic Schools Week activities. For more information, please go to the Student Council page of the school web site.

BY: JOHN WENDLING, CLASS OF 2009

I am proud to be participating in Student Council. I am also a member of the St. Dorothy youth group, an altar server and a member of the Service Corps. Last year I took part in Fall Clean-Up and the Halloween Haunted House. One project Student Council is working on is improving recycling in our classrooms. During the week of October 13-17, we asked each classroom to make the effort to recycle paper trash. Student Council collected all paper at the end of the week and determined how much trash was collected in an average week. We will share the information with the student body to make all of us more aware of the need to recycle. I am very excited about this year.

BY: MEGHAN STRANICK, CLASS OF 2009

I am happy to be a member of Student Council this year. One service project that we are working on is coordinating a school-wide Presidential vote on Election Day. We hope that students will make an informed choice. Student Council members will monitor the election and count votes. The voting process will show students that their voice is important.

BY: ERIN O'NEILL, CLASS OF 2009

I am 13 years old and I am proud to be a part of St. Dot's Student Council. I have participated in Fall Clean-Up, the Haunted House, the Family-to-Family Outreach Program, and Breakfast with Santa. I am excited that Student Council plans to have a ribbon sale this year. We will encourage all students to participate in the ribbon sale. All proceeds will go to an Autism organization to help find a cure.

BY: AMANDA MAILE, CLASS OF 2009

I like to be involved in school by participating in Service Corps. Last year, I helped to rake leaves for the elderly in the parish. This year I plan to be more involved in service inside and outside of school. This year, the 8th grade will be covering topics including Fair Trade in Religion class. Student Council plans to set up a school wide opportunity to help purchase an animal through Heifer International that will go to help those in need in a developing country.

BY: CHARLES VOTTERO, CLASS OF 2009

# SCHOOL NEWS



(Left to Right) Mrs. Lisa Zalusky, Grade 5 & Mrs. Karen Helbling, Grade 7

# "A MESSAGE FROM OUR HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION"

Written by: Jeannine Leggieri, Home & School Treasurer

The 2008-2009 Home & School Association year is off to a great start. Our first fund raiser this year, Market Day's "Silver Bells", has just begun with the traditional holiday giftwrap, gifts, treats, etc.

### Other events include:

- Girls Nite Out
- Prismatic Magic (a high tech laser show to inspire students of all ages to seize the opportunities that science and technology offer)
- Young Author's Day (to create appreciation and excitement for literature of all genre)
- Home & School Board Elections (The new board elections will take place at the General Meeting on Nov. 17 at 7 pm.)
- General Home & School Meetings

All parents are encouraged to come to these meetings to keep up to date on school events and take part in our children's education. Last but not least, we will be kicking off a new recycling program. Look for the new and upgraded recycling receptacles. (More information to come.)

Go Green!



Written by: Louise Sheehan, School Principal



St. Dorothy School is happy to welcome three new teachers to our faculty. Mrs. Sandra Darville is teaching 2nd grade and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from West Chester University. Mrs. Darville served as a long-term substitute in 2nd grade last year and was thrilled to become a member of our faculty.

Mrs. Karen Helbling is our 7th and 8th grade math teacher. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Education from St. Joseph's University. She taught for 6 years in the public school system in Philadelphia. She is also an adjunct professor at Rosemont College.

Mrs. Lisa Zalusky came to us with 5 years experience teaching in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. She is teaching 5th grade at St. Dorothy's. Mrs. Zalusky holds a Master of Science Degree in Education from St. Joseph's University.

All three teachers are certified by the state of Pennsylvania.

Currently, 7 of our faculty members hold Graduate Degrees and 3 others are pursuing their Graduate Degrees.

# "WHAT'S NEW?"

Written by: Louise Sheehan, School Principal

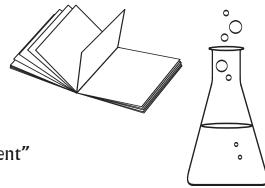


Sister Elizabeth Ann Kelly, our librarian, is delighted with the new tables. According to Sister, "they enhance the look of the library, and the coasters make it easy to move the tables around to form groups."

The library is Sister's pride and joy. She makes sure it is stacked with current, as well as, classical reading material for our students.

### "We Love our Library!"

Sister Elizabeth enjoying sitting at one of the new tables with 1st Graders, Caroline Heffernan and Madison Kane.



### "Checking Out The Science Lab Equipment"

(Left to Right) Justin Keenan, Chris Goggin, Ryan Lamb



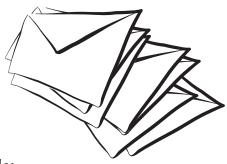
Our science lab is now computerized. A wide screen and mounted ceiling projector were installed this summer. Students in science class will now be able to view dissections and other types of experiments, which will enhance their understanding of concepts being taught.

We also purchased a document camera which will allow teachers to display any document without having to use photocopies or overhead projectors. Not only do these additions aid comprehension, but they also totally engage students in the learning process.

## "SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS"

Written by: Bunny Habicht

At the end of the 2007-2008 school year, all school parents of Kindergarten through 8th grade students were surveyed to gain an understanding of their thoughts on our school and also to seek out any areas of opportunity or improvement. We are happy to report that survey results were very positive. Out of 219 school families surveyed, we received 134 responses.



### Some highlights of the survey results include:

96.1% of respondents feel that St. Dorothy's is a safe environment for their children. Of those, 67% felt very strongly about this.

95.3% of respondents were satisfied with the overall quality of the education.

11.5% of those said that the education 'exceeded their expectations.'

95.3% of respondents were satisfied with St. Dorothy's impact on their children's growth in the Catholic faith.

94.6% of respondents felt that St. Dorothy's is a welcoming environment. Of those, 60% felt very strongly about this.

89.4% of respondents said that they were likely to refer others to St. Dorothy School – of those 47.7% said that they were "absolutely likely" to refer others.

88.4% of respondents felt that their children have grown as critical thinkers because of their St. Dorothy experience.

86.7% of respondents were more than satisfied with parent-teacher communications.

80.7% of respondents were more than satisfied with communications with Mrs. Sheehan, School Principal

80.3% of respondents are satisfied with the quality of non-sports related extra curricular activities offered by St. Dorothy's.

There were an overwhelming number of survey respondents who commented that the sense of community is what they like best about the St. Dorothy School experience. Fr. Murphy, our Pastor, commented that "this is a tribute not only to the school staff, but also to each of the parents, volunteers and anyone else who involves themselves in any way in our school activities." In the written comments section of the survey, many of our

wonderful teachers were also singled out as well as Fr. Murphy's and Mrs. Sheehan's continued efforts to maintain a quality education at St. Dorothy School.

We will continue to work on the areas of improvement as demonstrated in the survey. This includes constantly evaluating our educational experience, our technology and finally the communications process with the parents.

Thank you for your candid feedback in a continuing effort to make St. Dot's - "the BEST!"

# WAYS WE RAISE ...

## "Box Tops"

Since 2002, St. Dot's School has earned \$7,460 by clipping box tops! That's easy money for our school. Our goal for this year is \$1,000. Please continue to clip the "Box Tops for Education" found on many of your favorite products and ask your grandparents, family and friends to clip for St. Dot's also. If you still have Box Tops at home, please send them in.

Any questions, please email Marie Andruszko at andruszko@msn.com

CONGRATULATIONS – to the Hayes family (Rebecca & Eric) who won the drawing for a gift certificate to Pat's Pizzeria. Their name was randomly picked from over 50 families who sent in their summer Box Tops.





## "DOT'S DANDY DOLLARS"

Dot's Dandy Dollars is a tuition assistance/fundraiser program. Families can order gift certificates and gift cards from over seventy different retailers. Each retailer offers a discount that is split between the family and St. Dorothy's Home and School. When a certain amount of money is accumulated in the family's account, a check is issued that the family applies to their tuition bill.

If you are interested in purchasing Dot's Dandy Dollars or would like more information about the program please contact Kevin & Stacia Coary at kcoary@aol.com

## "OKTOBERFEST FAIR FACTS"

Written by: Karen Rogers

The 4th Annual Oktoberfest to benefit Saint Dorothy's Parish and School was held this Fall from October 7th through 11th. For the first ever, rainfree week, in the short history of our Oktoberfest, fun was had by all! The beautiful weather proved to be the perfect setting for our community to enjoy good food and good company. Daily food specials generously donated by local merchants, incredible raffle baskets donated by parishioners, and the everpopular "First Pew at Christmas Eve Mass" raffle, along with Friday and Saturday night's adult Bingo, provided something for everyone to enjoy at the Fair. In these troubled economic times, the true



"Having Fun at the Fair"

spirit of the community shown through. Profits were as good as past years with preliminary numbers estimated to be close to \$60,000. As always, the countless volunteers supporting this effort were a true testament of the heart of Saint Dorothy Parish. Many, many individuals worked together to make the week successful. It was certainly enjoyed by all.

# ...FUNDS AT DOT'S

## "St. Dorothy's Cookbook"

The St. Dorothy's Cookbook is currently for sale.

Off the PRESS



## "MARKET DAY"

Market Day is a fundraising food program that has been in operation since 1975. Each month, restaurant-quality food products from the same vendors that supply many upscale restaurants are available for purchase.

Our Market Day program is currently funding the Art Program at St. Dorothy's. We have raised a total of \$81,000 since 2001 - on average we've raised \$12,500 per year. We're always looking for new customers as well as new volunteers to help with this program.

The order sheets are sent home each month through school, and are also available at all church exits. To find out more about Market Day or to place your order online, go to www.marketday.com.

If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Johnson at (610) 449-1788.

Over 800 favorite recipes have been collected from parish families and friends of the St. Dorothy community. The cost is \$15.00 each, and the proceeds will benefit the Family to Family Outreach Program as well as the 8th Grade Graduation Fund. Over 300 copies have been sold.

If you would like to purchase a cookbook, please contact: Helen Stranick at (610) 449-5316 or Stranick@comcast.net.

This book makes a great holiday gift! Thank you for your support!

## "ACME RECEIPTS"

The ACME program is very simple. All you have to do is send in the receipts from your local ACME shopping trip and St. Dorothy's will receive 1% of the total of all receipts collected! One percent may not sound like much but just last year the school received more than \$5,000.00 just from these receipts.

You can send your receipts in thru school or PREP with your child or drop them off in the envelopes marked ACME at any church exit. We have a number of volunteers that count up the receipts and bundle them for delivery to ACME. St. Dot's then receives a check from ACME. Since you are going to shop at ACME anyway, this is a very easy way to help our school.

Please send in those receipts!! Thanks for your help. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Lalor at kcc438@comcast.net

## "Enrollment Remains Stable!"

Written by: Mrs. Louise Sheehan & Bob Young

### Here are the enrollment numbers:

Kindergarden - 37
1st Grade - 48
2nd Grade - 41
3rd Grade - 34
4th Grade - 43
5th Grade - 33
6th Grade - 50
7th Grade - 33
8th Grade - 41
Total = 360

During our early meetings in 2005, the Development Committee realized that enrollment stability was vital to the success of St. Dorothy School. While declining in many other Catholic schools, St. Dorothy's enrollment has stabilized. The focus of our efforts centered around Kindergarten and increased marketing of the school. In 2006, we added a second Kindergarten and began marketing the school more aggressively. Our Kindergarten Open House held every November and the activities surrounding Catholic School's Week every January have helped to stabilize our enrollment. It should be noted that our current 6th grade class of 50 students is the largest grade since the Graduating Class of 2006 with 56 students. Enrollment stability and growth remains a top priority.

# St. Dot's Community News

### "BLOOD DRIVE"

Written by: Amy Sullivan

The St. Dorothy Blood Drive on September 22nd was very successful with 101 productive pints of blood donated. From these 101 donations, 303 patients lives were touched. The blood inventory for September is always extremely low because of Labor Day weekend; however, the American Red Cross was able to meet its monthly inventory. This would not have been possible without St. Dorothy's help. Thank you for your donations.

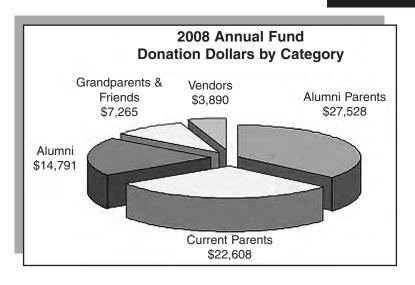
### "4TH ANNUAL KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE"

Written by: Patty Dwyer

Our 4th annual Kindergarten Open House was held on Sunday November 2, 2008 from 12:30-2:00 pm in the Church Annex. Future St. Dot's Kindergarten students and their parents and friends, had an opportunity to tour the Kindergarten classrooms and meet the teachers, Miss Kymberly Bennedict and Mrs. Audrey Neill. Our Pastor, Father Murphy and our Principal, Mrs. Sheehan also joined in the fun of this annual event!



## ANNUAL FUND



On June 30, 2008, the Development Committee concluded another successful Annual Fund. With donations from Alumni, Current and Past School Parents, Vendors, Friends and Grandparents, we raised \$76,082 for St. Dorothy School. We want to thank everyone for their continued support of St. Dot's. Your donations help to keep tuition stable, while adding to the educational experience of our children through such additions as our new Science Lab and TV Channel. Since the fund's inception in 2006, we have raised over \$220,000 through the Annual Fund. Our school children thank you! A list of our donors is included in this issue of the Newsletter.

## 2008 Saint Dorothy's Annual Fund Contributors

#### Msgr. Helduser Society \$2,500

Daniel & Lisa O'Mara '77 McLoughlin Plumbing & Heating

#### IHM/MERCY CLUB \$1,000 TO \$2,499

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## ANNUAL FUND CONTINUED

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## ANNUAL FUND CONTINUED

### ANNIVERSARY PATRON (CONTINUED)

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## "LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION"

Written by: Vince Camuti



"No TV on a school night honey."

"But Mom..."

"No 'buts!' ...wait 'til you get to school in the morning, you can watch TV then."

Yes, coming soon to your child's fall lineup, "St. Dot's TV!"

In keeping with our commitment to technology, St. Dot's will be implementing our own in-house TV channel. Produced in our newly created studio in the school library, morning announcements will be broadcast daily to all classrooms.

"And what celebrities will anchor the broadcast", you ask? Why, our students of course. Initially a small group of Student Council members (based on rave reviews from their "Summer Stage" performances) have been chosen. Throughout the year, the

broadcast team will be expanded so that more and more students will be able to benefit from the experience.

Announcements will include updates on school service projects, inspirational words from St. Paul in this his year, birthdays, prayer intentions and various other newsworthy items for the school and the world in general.

Mrs. Sheehan, our school principal, who first envisioned this program, had this to say: "I will also oversee the program to ensure the students develop the skills needed as they embark on their new broadcasting careers."

Look out Regis and Kelly!

Visit our website: www.saintdorothy.org

1225 Burmont Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026



