



“WHAT SETS US APART”

Written by: Louise Sheehan, Principal

Our Catholic Identity

The uniqueness of St. Dorothy School rests in its primary task – communicating the person and message of Christ. One way we fulfill this mission is by exposing our students to service opportunities. Our 7th & 8th grade Service Corps volunteers to aid the elderly in the parish by performing general lawn work in the Fall and Spring. This same group participated in the Delaware County Down Syndrome Interest Group Walk-a-thon where they donated arts and crafts baskets and assisted with games and activities.

Each year the Service Corps also hosts residents of Don Guanella for a day of fun and games. Don Guanella is a local school which opens its doors to any boy, referred from the Offices of Mental retardation throughout the Philadelphia five county area, regardless of their race, color, creed, ethnic background or disability.

Our 6th grade students raised money for Mother’s Home in Darby, a location which provides a safe and caring environment for low-income pregnant women who have no other housing option. They also planned a baby shower for several of the resident mothers.



Locks of Love

Pictured: Maureen Fitzpatrick and Alexandra Scepanky (Top)
Amanda Tolvaia, Briana McCarty, Maddie Williams and Tracie Dinh (Bottom)

Two 8th grade students, Alex Scepanky and Maureen Fitzpatrick, organized a Locks of Love event where a number of our students donated their hair to the organization. Locks of Love provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States, under age 18, suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any medical diagnosis.

Prayer, in its many forms, permeates life at St. Dorothy. We participate in traditional prayers, monthly Mass, Marian devotions, Stations of the Cross, Living Rosary, Living Stations of the Cross and prayer services that celebrate special liturgical seasons and saints.

St. Dorothy School is a gift to the whole community. The school fosters personal growth and development, imbues each child with a sense of self-worth and is guided by basic and essential moral values.



Living Stations

Pictured: Eight Graders, Amanda Maile & Ryan Lamb

“NEW METHODS OF EDUCATING”

Written by: Louise Sheehan, Principal



Students in the Science Lab

Pictured: Amanda Trajano, Joe Sullivan & Hunter Smith

Rigor & Relevance

In order to offer a quality education which prepares all students to take their place in the global economy, we are offering a curriculum which is “rigorous and relevant.” Our goal is to help students develop cognitive skills through problem solving, evaluation, or reflective thought. Students are presented with challenging tasks which help them develop those skills. Academic rigor is defined by the quality rather than the quantity of thinking.

Relevance refers to learning in which students apply knowledge to solve real world problems. Relevant learning is created through authentic tasks that address authentic situations.

At St. Dorothy School, we have implemented the Rigor/Relevance Framework which was developed by the International Center for Education located in Washington, DC. The Framework enables teachers to examine curriculum and plan instruction and assessment.

The Framework consists of four quadrants:

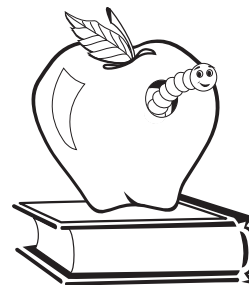
ACQUISITION – students learn new information

APPLICATION – students apply newly learned information to solve practical problems.

ASSIMILATION – students extend their new knowledge to analyze problems and create unique solutions.

ADAPTATION – students have the ability to think in complex ways so that they can apply their knowledge to perplexing unknowns and create solutions.

As students progress through the quadrants, the tasks become more demanding and more student-centered. The teacher’s role becomes one of facilitator.



“WHO’S YOUR BUDDY?”

Written by: Vince Camuti

If you were asked, “What are the assets of St. Dorothy School?” What would you say? The building? The textbooks? Our wonderful teachers? What about the students? Would you think of them as an asset?

Our principal, Mrs. Louise Sheehan does. For the past 11 years all of our students have participated in the school’s “Buddy Program”.

Here’s how it works. A younger student is paired with an older student by grade as follows:

K & 4, 1 & 5, 2 & 6, 3 & 7.

The “buddies” get together during most holidays, Halloween, Christmas, Easter and Catholic Schools’ Week. The older students read to the younger ones, help write letters to Santa and help to make crafts. Grades 2 & 6 make cards for each other as each prepares for his/her sacrament.

The younger buddies benefit by developing a stronger feeling of inclusion in the school community, seeing familiar faces as they move through their day, and by being exposed to a strong role model. The older buddies benefit as well by becoming more sensitive to younger children, developing a sense of responsibility for the welfare of their younger buddies and by making an effort to be a good role model.

“The biggest benefit is the establishment of a strong, caring relationship among the school community,” says Mrs. Sheehan. So, the next time you drive by St. Dot’s and look at the building, don’t forget the 360+ students inside – they are the true assets to the school... and to one another!

“ACCOMPLISHED READERS”

Written by: Louise Sheehan, Principal

Reading Olympics

Delaware County, PA, recently held its first Reading Olympics competition and St. Dorothy School students in grades 5-8 participated in the event. The goal of Reading Olympics is to increase the quality and quantity of books students read for enjoyment. Teams of students collaborate to read 40 to 50 books that have been selected by a committee of librarians, reading specialists and classroom teachers. These professionals read the books and write questions, which the teams answer during the competition. The Olympics are primarily a celebration of reading

We are proud of our students’ performance. In competing against Radnor Middle School our team won two out of three rounds. Way to go, St. Dot’s!



Reading Olympics Participants

Pictured: Annie Young, Bobby Lukaszewki and Molly Kilker



“Hands On” training in the 6abc Studios

Pictured: Meteorologist, David Murphy, with 5th Graders, Jennie Alessandrone & Kayla Gerace

St. Dot’s Morning News

From Kindergarten through 8th grade St. Dorothy School students are engaged in public speaking; therefore, it follows that we would extend that experience to TV broadcasting. Thus – the birth of our TV News Station.

Each morning, following prayers, students report on local, national and school news. They talk about current events, sports, the weather and school events. In order to be better prepared for this activity, the students were trained by Philadelphia 6abc Action News newscaster and meteorologist, Mr. David Murphy. Mr. Murphy, a current St. Dorothy School parent, arranged for students to tour channel 6’s studio and he offered advice on ways to present the news.

“BROADCAST NEWS...”

Written by: Louise Sheehan, Principal

The Arts at Dot’s

A vital part of education is the involvement of each child in the arts. In addition to regularly scheduled art and music classes, students are provided with a variety of experiences which enrich their understanding of the arts. In the Fall, the students participated in Young Authors’ Day. Through this program, musicians, authors, and actors share their craft with the students. The day ends with a storyteller. St. Dorothy School is the only Catholic School in this area to host Young Authors’ Day.

This Spring, through a grant from the Connelly Foundation, students in 5th & 6th grades spent 10 weeks working on “choral singing” with professional musicians from Musicopia, a non-profit organization which provides musical instruction to children in the Greater Philadelphia Area. The training culminated with the students and professionals performing together on stage.

Two of our students performed at the Kimmel Center with a choral group as part of the Archdiocesan Festival of the Arts.

“2009 ANNUAL FUND HONORARY CHAIR” ROSE DIBONA, CLASS OF ‘59 ~ 50TH REUNION



For those who don't remember me, I was raised in the Aronimink section of Drexel Hill at the corner of Blythe and Marvine and was one of six children. I graduated from Archbishop Prendergast High School and Cabrini College. From 1973 to 2001, I was employed with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, in both Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services in Delaware County, Chester County and finally Philadelphia County. I became a volunteer for the American Lung Association from 1989 to 1999 and helped launch the National Asthma Education Program.

After rejoining Aronimink Swim Club in 2005, I took on the challenge of planning the 50th Reunion for my class, the Class of 1959. Forming a Committee and meeting monthly, we produced a very successful celebration, like no other, which was held on May 9, 2009.

Our honoree for the evening was William E. Hooper, M.D., our pediatrician, who took care of our sport teams. We presented him with a plaque for his dedication and support of our students; and especially our teams. To my surprise, I was crowned “May Queen” after a short processional of ladies who sang “Salve Regina .”

Based on the calls and notes I have received since our reunion night, it is evident that our class became a warm, loving, circle of friends to each other between the ages of six and thirteen; we now have rekindled those connections again.

Here are some post-event comments that I received:

“...The reunion was over-the-top fabulous! I hope it was everything you and your tireless committee anticipated it would be. It truly was for us. Your time and efforts were evident with every detail. The invitations, decorations, music, menu, photo display, and name tags (greatly appreciated) were perfect. To reconnect with so many St. Dorothy families was a thrill for the Hooper's. The fond memories came flooding back and, we added more. Dad was deeply moved by your recognition and presentation of the plaque. Watching him enjoy talking with so many old friends and patients warmed our hearts. How very thoughtful of you to afford him that very special opportunity. It was the punctuation to a nostalgic night we won't forget.”

“...We were the first class of Baby Boomers and, for the most part, the majority of us maintained our beliefs in Catholic values and resisted the social perils of the post-Vietnam era. This is truly a testament to the principals of Catholic education.”

Please share your news with us, so we can share St. Dot's news with you!
Email us at: stdotsalumni@yahoo.com
with address changes, questions or any newsworthy information.



A BLAST FROM THE PAST ~ CLASS OF 1959

“GENERATIONS OF FUN”

Written by: Bunny Currie Habicht '81

It was a family affair for the Matteo family at the recent St. Dot's All Class Reunion at Maggie O'Neill's, in Drexel Hill, PA, held over Thanksgiving weekend. Attendees included Rosemarie Matteo Zamarin '56, her daughter, Gena Zamarin Faith '84, nieces Bernadette Matteo Naab '66 and Diann Matteo Re '71 and nephews Richard Matteo '68, Stephen Matteo '69, and Michael Matteo '73. Bernadette's daughter-in-law, Kate Roche Naab '92 also joined the family and other friends for a fun evening.

According to Rosemarie, "St. Dot's has always held a special place in the hearts of the Matteos. My parents, Tony & Clara, and older brothers, Guy and Henry, were members of the parish when it was first founded, and my father was custodian at the church and school in the '60s and '70s." Many of the family are still members of the parish today. She added, "St. Dot's will always be home to all of us."

Special thanks to Maggie O'Neill's owners/St. Dot's grads Justin Reger '90 and Michael O'Kane '90 for sponsoring the event which brought many, many alumni siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and even alumni spouses together to celebrate St. Dot's and share memories of their time spent there. Food and drink specials, named after favorite teachers and coaches were featured, as was St. Dot's memorabilia. The turnout was a huge success and the evening will be fondly remembered by all.

For Tricia McCalla Gallagher '86 and husband Brian Gallagher '88, both in attendance, the evening meant "celebrating lifelong friendships and sharing childhood memories."

If you missed it...you were missed! Hope to see you at the next event!

"A VIEW FROM THE END ZONE"

50 YEARS OF THE TURKEY BOWL

Written by: Joe Sullivan



This past November marked the 50th anniversary of the friendly neighborhood rivalry known affectionately as the "Turkey Bowl." On Thanksgiving Day for the last 50 years, St. Dorothy School has squared off with St. Bernadette School to decide a year's worth of bragging rights and possession of the trophy that accompanies the win. The 7th and 8th Grade boy's Varsity football game kicked off at 10 AM and it did not take long to see that this year's Dot's team had too many weapons for Bernie's to handle. Dot's victory capped off a fine season. The 5th and 6th grade JV game was competitive right to the end. Add in a controversial call and we have a game the kids and adults will be discussing for some time. Dot's came out on the winning end in this hard fought battle. Truly a sign of many action packed Turkey Bowls #51, #52 and beyond.

But for the many adults that line the sidelines, the football games are only a part of the reason this event is special. The games provide an opportunity for alumni from both schools to come out and see old friends and classmates. Many are returning from college and spend time catching up with others that have been away. Others who have a long history with game have made the game part of their Thanksgiving Day ritual.

Personally, I now come to each game with my rooting interest split. I was a member of St. Bernadette Parish for 25 years and played in the '76 to '79 games. Those were some lean years for us and often we knew defeat was imminent when we saw green helmets lined up from 20 yard line to 20 yard line. I am currently a member of St. Dorothy Parish and my sons are now competing in the games. I now like to stand in the End-Zone, on neutral ground. I enjoy the victory no matter which school comes out on top.

Pat Funchion, on the other hand, is an unabashed supporter of the green and white. Pat played for St Dorothy's and now has sons who have played in the



A Play in Action!

Pictured: St. Bernie's Alex Brady & St. Dot's Daniel Goggin

games. Pat truly enjoys being part of the Turkey Bowl experience. Pat noted "the Turkey Bowl isn't really about football. It's an event that bridges generations and neighborhoods alike." He added "I feel privileged to be part of the Turkey Bowl history. Either lining up as a player at the bottom of the hill or watching as a proud parent at the top of the hill, the atmosphere surrounding the Turkey Bowl rivals that of any football game we would otherwise pay to see. For a Dot's or Bernie's alum, the Turkey Bowl is as much a part of Thanksgiving as Thanksgiving dinner itself."

My long time friend, Mark Brady, has been a member of St Bernadette's Parish for 42 years. Like Pat, Mark has played in the game and now has a son competing, but for St. Bernie's. For Mark, the game takes on more importance with each passing year. Mark provided the following insight into his evolving view of the game "I now look on as a proud father of a St. Bernadette player. Unfortunately, my son has suffered two consecutive losses to St. Dorothy. Win or lose, the game plays a big role on the 'day of thanks.' It brings friends and family together to reminisce about the old days. We are thankful for the memories and the friendships that have evolved through the years."

Next year, St. Bernadette will be hosting the game at Dermond Field. I'll see you in the End-Zone.

"FUN IN THE SUN" WALK-A-THON '09

Written by: Louise Sheehan, Principal

All of our students, faculty and volunteers had a wonderful time at this year's Walk-A-Thon. It was a wonderful, fun-filled day! Thank you for your support. Because of your generosity, the Walk-A-Thon raised over \$16,000. This money will be put to good use to benefit the children.

Many individuals were involved in planning and organizing the day. Special thanks to Mrs. Bright for overseeing and coordinating the day, Mrs. Hayes for ordering lunch, Mr. Concannon for providing entertainment and, last but certainly not least, our gym teacher, Mr. Plourde, who planned and organized the games and events.

Combining the Walk-A-Thon and Field Day was an excellent idea. The Kindergarten and 8th grade students were able to participate and we avoided the June heat.

As we end this school year, we will be welcoming a new Home & School Executive Board. We would like to express our gratitude to the outgoing board members – Mrs. Nancy Barton, Mrs. Jeannine Leggieri, Mrs. Debbie Funchion, and Mrs. Annemarie Cellucci – for their hard work, time, support and cooperation.



Getting Ready to Enjoy the Day

"TWINKIES AND ROOT BEER"

~author unknown~



A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of Root Beer and he started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man.

The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie.

The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer.

Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

"He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added,

"You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added,

"You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime.

Embrace all equally!

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ST. DOROTHY SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

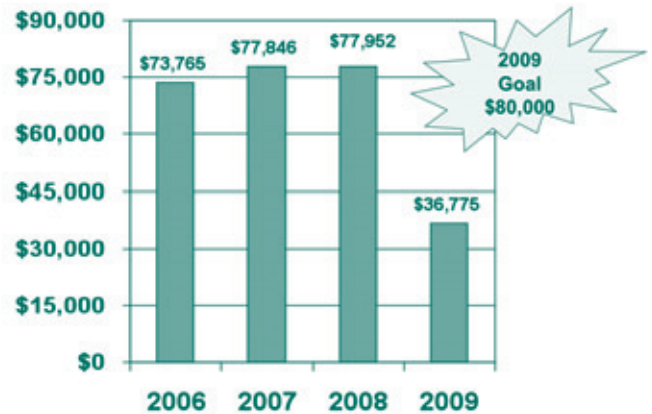
The 2009 Annual Fund is in full swing. Alumni, school families, grandparents, alumni parents, vendors and friends, have contributed \$36,775 towards our goal of \$80,000.

Thanks to all who have contributed so far!

The Annual Fund closes on June 30, 2009. If you have not yet contributed, please consider joining all those who already have. An Annual Fund envelope is included in this newsletter.

Your generous support helps to keep tuition costs down in order to enrich the educational experience for the children. All donations to the St. Dorothy School Annual Fund are tax deductible.

St. Dorothy Annual Fund Results as of 4/30/09



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