



St. Paul the Apostle School, One in faith, one in service, one in Christ

Calling All GIANTS

Alumni Newsletter Spring/Summer 2011

Our Mission:

St. Paul the Apostle School in conjunction with St. Paul the Apostle Parish, creates a Catholic environment for students that proclaims the Gospel message, fosters community, celebrates the living God through worship and prayer, and encourages all to the service of others, while daily striving for *academic excellence in all areas of the school curriculum.*

A Message from the Principal



It is an exciting time for St. Paul the Apostle School. We have seen remarkable growth in student learning due to specific research based interventions in reading. Next year, we will focus on including updated teaching methods to engage students in active learning in mathematics, including broader use of technology in instruction. We are working on a meaningful long-term strategic plan to clearly state our goals and measure our progress toward them.

During the past 18 months, we have been blessed with a number of unrestricted gifts and memorials which we purposely set aside for technology upgrades. These gifts have enabled us to purchase state-of-the-art projectors with interactive whiteboard tools and new laptops for four classrooms. We have also included in next year's budget the purchase of the same equipment for two more classrooms as well as the lease of a mobile lab of student net books that will be available for all teachers to reserve for classroom use.

We still have far to go: the new equipment will be in only six of our 18 classrooms. Our tech infrastructure is aging, and if we are to prepare our children with the skills they need for twenty-first century higher learning, then we must continue the upgrades so that we can teach these new skills in new ways. We have dedicated the funds raised in next September's Bike-a-thon to technology needs: "Tracking for Technology: On the Path to Excellence!"

Many people may wonder why the change is needed: our students have done well with hard copy textbooks and the lecture method of instruction for sixty years. They earn top honors in area high schools and go on to do great things beyond high school. However, today's students have grown up using technology, and they learn and think in different ways than their parents and grandparents did. They will also work in a very different technological environment than their parents and grandparents did.

Consistent use of educational technology in instruction will radically change what goes on in our classrooms. It has been proven to motivate students and open doors to knowledge far beyond that of a textbook and a single teacher. Teacher training with the new equipment has already begun. Issues of propriety and morality regarding the use of technology are also being addressed in existing policies and procedures. Those moral values form a foundation for all that we do. We are defined by our Catholic Identity, and it is the ability to address spiritual as well as academic growth that gives us the freedom to teach the whole child.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Paul's as we continue to progress toward our goal of excellence in all aspects of educating our children. Join us on our "Path to Excellence." -Mrs. Mary Kay Robbins



A Letter From the Pastor

Dear Friends of St. Paul the Apostle,

As we come to the end of another academic year, it is exciting to see how things are constantly growing and moving forward at St. Paul the Apostle School. Technology is ever more a part of instructional methods, pedagogy is being renewed and refined, and strategic planning is leading the school toward conscious and measurable goals. The signs of academic excellence are all around.

There is, at the same time, another type of excellence present in our program that was highlighted for me recently. I was having a conversation with a teacher who works at a public school who shared with me something that troubled her. She said that whenever her students ask her about God or what happens after death or any of the big questions of life, she feels helpless because she is forbidden to say what she knows is true. As a teacher, she is prevented from teaching those truths that matter more than anything else. Not surprisingly, she wants to get a job at a Catholic school.

St. Paul the Apostle certainly has an excellent academic program, as our test scores and subsequent student performance in high school testify, but our excellence goes a step further because the breadth and range of what we are able to teach is so much broader. This teacher remarked to me that it is a great irony that, while public schools have so much more money at their disposal, they are restricted to teaching so much less!

At St. Paul the Apostle, we can teach our children *everything* they need to know in order to live a fulfilling and happy life. Of course, as alumni, you know this well from your own experience here. May God reward you as you as you help St. Paul's to teach *all the subjects* that form well rounded and holy youth.



—Fr. Gregory



Upcoming Events

The MAJOR fundraiser for the Parish, the **GIANT Raffle** has been kicked off! We are having an *Arts-a-la-mode* fine arts festival on **Sunday, May 15th** after 10:30am Mass in the Activity Center. The festival includes a performance by our Children's Choir and our school band, while showcasing the fabulous art of EVERY one of our students. Please join us...and an added bonus will be during the fine arts festival we will have the Early Bird drawing for a week at a condo in Siesta Key, FL. You will be entered into this Early Bird drawing every time you sell or buy 2 raffle tickets. The raffle tickets are \$100 each. You will also be entered into the main drawing to win a potential of \$50,000. The main drawing will take place at our Parish Picnic on **Saturday, August 27th** at St. Paul's after Mass.

On **Sunday, September 25th** we will be having our 2nd annual **Harvest Bike/Walk-a-thon: "Tracking for Technology"**. This event was a great success last year, when the proceeds went towards tuition assistance for families that had been at St. Paul's for at least 3 years and fell on hard times. With the growing trend and the need for upgraded technology in our school, we are applying all of the proceeds for this year's Harvest Bike/Walk-a-thon towards upgrading the technology in our school. Please contact Lindsay Ermev for how you can get involved in this awesome event at lermevstpauldev@comcast.net or by phone at 815-725-1527 ext. 201.

Do you want to be a part of a touching farewell to a beloved teacher??? Keep reading to find out who, what & how!!!

The Different Ways of Giving a Gift

What is planned giving?

Planned giving is an opportunity for you to leave money/assets to St. Paul the Apostle School in your will or it is a way of investing money so you receive benefits during your lifetime then bequest the remaining balance to St. Paul the Apostle School.

The beauty of planned giving is that it allows each donor to choose the option that will work best for them and their current needs. St. Paul the Apostle School *greatly encourages* and appreciates future gifts made through the planned giving program.

The common types of gifts are:

- Charitable Bequest – a gift through estate planning or a will
- Appreciated Assets – stocks, securities, endowment fund,
- Real Estate
- Personal Property
- Life Insurance

With a little careful planning you can create a win-win solution for you and for St. Paul's. Please contact the Development Office at 815-416-8386 to explore the opportunities available to you and how you can leave a lasting legacy at St. Paul's. When you make your gift to St. Paul's, please remember most companies will match your donation, which can double or triple the gift!!!

Support St. Paul the Apostle School

To remain strong and continue to offer programs to our students that exemplify academic excellence...

we need your support!

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For more information or to schedule an appointment to discuss the many options to financially support St. Paul the Apostle School through planned giving and endowment building, please contact Lindsay Ermey, Director of Development at 815-725-1527 ext. 201 or by email at lermeystpauldev@comcast.net.

A Farewell **SURPRISE (shhhhhh!!!)** for an amazing teacher after choosing to retire after **45** years of dedicated service to St. Paul's, who is it...you guessed it...**Mr. Mudron!!!**



We wanted to give Mr. Mudron a **SURPRISE** before he left his career of 45 years. Just as he has left a permanent imprint on the lives of his many students, we will be leaving a permanent imprint on the ceiling of his classroom.

*If you will be available the weekend of **Saturday, May 21st between 10am to 2pm or Sunday, May 22nd between 11:30am to 1:30pm** we will have all past students of Mr. Mudron's come to the convent and write a memorable message on a section of the classrooms' ceiling tiles. Then later on Sunday afternoon all ceiling tiles will be put back into the ceiling, so when he walks into his classroom on Monday, May 23rd, for the last week of this school year, he will surrounded by the impressions he has left on his 45 years worth of students!*

If you will be available for this special & SECRET SURPRISE, please call Lindsay Ermey at 815-725-1527 ext. 201 or by email at lermeystpauldev@comcast.net, so I can have an idea of how many to expect.

As always, thank you for your help & support of St. Paul's!!!

Congratulations to the **Class of 2011**

May you continue to excel in all your future endeavors...

Nicholas Berg	Ashley Hylka	Kristina Onderisin	Adriana Trizna
Kelsy Carter	Givon Jasper	Ashley Orlando	Keegan Tyrell
Brynn Christensen	Kolbie Knorr	Kaitlin Papesh	Lauren Vanisko
Noah Ciarlette	Brenton Kohler	Nicholas Pillish	Breanne Vath
Makenzi Claassen	Jacey Lambert	Alex Ragusa	Jack Warning
Emily Demick	Luis Loza	Kevin Rand	
Katherine Deters	Roberto Magana	Andrew Scordo	
Colin Egan	Jill Malinowski	Nicholas Slaboszewski	
Alex Fattore	Nicholas Marconi	Ryan Slattery	
Keegan Fornoff	Alec Melone	Jacob Smith	
Dean Hoover	Jacob Misischia	Tiffany Taylor	
Natalie Hornbuckle	Madeline Naal	Jillian Tomasino	

