



Nazareth Academy Grade School

OUR MISSION IS FAMILY

C.S.F.N. MISSION AND MINISTRY'S COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION



The Nazareth Academy Grade School Administration, Faculty, Staff and Students welcomed CSFN Mission & Ministry, Inc. (MMI) on March 26, 2009. With the consolidation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth's five American provinces, MMI oversees the many CSFN sponsored ministries that includes Nazareth Academy Grade School.

Pictured above are from left to right, Sr. Bernadette, NAGS Secretary; Sr. Janice Kobierowski, MMI; Sr. Anita Pasternak, NAGS Vice Principal; Sr. Cynthia Meyer, MMI Vice Chair, Sr. Celine Warnilo, MMI Treasurer; Sr. Mary Ann Allton, NAGS Principal; Sr. Martin Duffy, NAGS President; Sr. Aurelia Lopata, NAGS Secretary; Sr. Patricia Ann Koschalke, MMI Chair; Sr. Loretta Theresa Felici, MMI CEO; Sr. Yvette Ortiz, NAGS Finance Manager, and Sr. Marita Ruppe, MMI.

The students were excited to show off their latest projects, to talk

about the upcoming "Annie Jr." production and most of all, their infectious school spirit!

Pictured below left, the second grade class introduce the Sisters to "Hammy," their pet hamster. Below right, led by Music teacher Sue Trotter, the eighth grade Hand Bell Ensemble perform their rendition of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight."

Sr. Loretta Theresa, MMI Pres., stated, "Throughout our visit, the spontaneous interactions with the children indicate an environment in which each child is encouraged to be his and her God-Given self; clearly, the children are supported as they grow and mature. May the Nazareth mission we share be the source of your inspiration in service to God's children and the families entrusted to our care."

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students, we extend our appreciation to the MMI Board members for their support and validation in continuing the school's mission to education, children and families.





Above, **Gabrielle Citrino-DiAntonio, '05**, and Sr. Martin take a look back at the current graduating high school students, the Class of 2005, in a yearbook.

Gabrielle will be the Salutatorian and will deliver the Opening Address of Nazareth Academy High School's graduating exercises. We are proud to announce that Gabrielle has earned over \$40,000 per year in awards at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York! The honors student will be enrolled in Cornell's College of Human Ecology as a Pre-Med student.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Since 1941, Nazareth Academy Grade School has welcomed hundreds of children whose families seek the best opportunities for excellence in education. The school will celebrate 70 years of that excellence during the year 2011-2012.

In preparation of commemorating our 70th year, I invite all alumni, parents and friends to send Nazareth some of your best recollections of your experience in the Grade School. Would you please take a few minutes to write a thought or two, send photos, tell us who your favorite teacher was; tell us something really funny that happened to you; think about those nuns of the early days; your experience being taught in the old barn or participating in the new building dedication in 1967; your thoughts as an athlete coached by Mr. Wolf, etc.

I am also looking for a copy of yearbooks for our archives. Do you have a yearbook that was distributed from 1983 through 1987? Would you be willing to donate a copy, or duplicate, from one of those years?

With this current NEWSLETTER, we hope to generate interest and participation in planning the 70th Anniversary during the 2011-2012 school year. The initial step in planning the celebration is to seek volunteers to form committees of alumni from the 40's and 50's; the 60's and 70's; the 80's and 90's; or 2000 and beyond. We hope to plan a reunion to coincide with 70 years as a forerunner for the big one: *"The 75th Diamond Jubilee of Nazareth Academy Grade School!"*

Many of our former students are reconnecting on *Facebook*. This is wonderful news! Through that forum, encourage your grade school classmates about getting involved in Nazareth's plans for the future! In addition, I hope you have some time during the summer to send me some information via e-mail: **smartinduffy@yahoo.com**. I look forward to hearing from you! God Bless!

Sincerely yours in JMJ,

Sr. Martin Duffy, CSFN
President

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For more information about the ministries of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth,

Holy Family Province, USA, go to: www.nazarethcsfn.org and look for "CSFN Sponsored Ministries." Nazareth Academy Grade School is featured on the website.



NAZARETH ACADEMY GRADE SCHOOL

Newsletter

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Photos in this issue by Pat McGarvey, unless otherwise noted.

We're on the web! Go to:

www.nazarethacademy.net



Alexandra Rose "Ali" Duzinski
Class of 1995, Yearbook Photo
June 5, 1981 ~ May 12, 1997



MUSIC CLASSROOM DEDICATION

Following Ash Wednesday services, the student body celebrated with the Duzinski Family to dedicate the Music Classroom, located in the new addition, in honor of Ali Duzinski, Class of 1995.

Sister Martin Duffy, President, explained to the students that Ali passed away on May 12, 1997, after a lifelong battle with cystic fibrosis. Sister said, "The Music classroom dedication is a fitting tribute to a vibrant and beautiful girl. Ali's spirit will always be remembered in the classroom that is constantly abuzz with creativity, joy, song and love of learning."

On behalf of the Nazareth Academy Grade School community, we salute Roseanne and Stephen Duzinski for their many contributions to the school. Their generosity and support of N.A.G.S. over the past two decades has been a tremendous blessing. Through their involvement in the Capital Campaign, Parent Association and school events, Nazareth has benefited from their long term commitment to the school's continued growth.

May the standard set by the Duzinski Family in sharing their time and talents be a shining example for others to follow!



Above, Anna Duzinski, '09, and parents Roseanne and Stephen Duzinski. (Not present Stephen Duzinski, '07)



At left, Sr. Mary Ann and Sr. Martin join the Duzinski's after the room's dedication.

N.A.H.S. ACADEMIC HONORS CONVOCATION

We congratulate the following students for their academic achievements recognized at the Nazareth Academy high School's Annual Academic Honors Convocation on April 7, 2009.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Casey Borish, '06	Laura Rucci, '06
Katelyn Mays, '06	Rachel Stengel, '06
Jocelyn Nedumcheril, '06	Laura Walker, '06

QUILL AND SCROLL SOCIETY

Chelsea Brown, '05	Senior Editor
Laura Chinn, '05	Literary Editor

TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

Krysta Dikun, '07

WORLD LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETY

Spanish Honor Society:

Casey Borish, '06	Katelyn Mays, '06
Kyra Krass, '07	Jocelyn Nedumcheril, '06

MU ALPHA THETA

Laura Rucci, '06

CUMULATIVE HONORS, Class of 2009

Distinguished Honors:

Gabrielle Citrino-DiAntonio, '05

Commended Honors:

Cara Cannon, '05

Olivia Sharkey, '05

Megan Fields, '05

Gina Staller, '05

2009 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Diocesan Scholars

Gabrielle Citrino-DiAntonio, '05

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2009-2010

Academic Merit Scholarship

Elizabeth Hellings, '09 - Nazareth Academy Grade School



CLASS NOTES

facebook

**ALUMNI: JOIN OUR
"NAZARETH ACADEMY
GRADE SCHOOL" GROUP ON
FACEBOOK!**

*Get back in touch with all your
NAGS classmates!*

*Keep us informed of current news,
updates, change of address, reunion
information and/or photos! We are
more than happy to share your an-
nouncements with our school com-
munity!*



1996

Congratulations to **Ryan Brogan** and Diana Aria, pictured above, who have set their wedding date for December 12, 2009!

2000

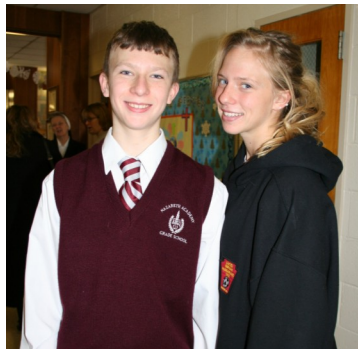
Patti Drennen is a full time Spanish teacher at Greenberg Elementary.

2003

Lauren Goda is currently attending University of Pennsylvania, has been accepted to study abroad at Oxford University in England for her English major. In May, Lauren will attend the Cannes Film Festival with other Penn students!



Above, **Louis Konrad**, formerly Class of 2003, enjoyed his recent visit to Nazareth. He is currently attending Indiana University of PA.



2006

Congratulations to **Caitlyn Kerr** who recently announced that she has committed to Duke University for the Fall, '09 semester! Above, pictured with Caitlyn is her brother **Kevin**, '09.

2006

Congratulations to **Erica Cipolloni**, a Junior at Nazareth Academy High School, on her announcement that she has made a verbal commitment to attend University of Virginia, Fall, 2010.

2007

Steve Duzinski and **Nick Dema**, sophomores at LaSalle High School, joined 300,000 others in the March for Life in Washington, DC, on January 22.



2008

Above, Sr. Martin, Sr. Mary Ann, and Sr. Anita with **Catherine Nelson**, a Freshman at Mount St. Joseph's High School, who was thrilled to be back at NAGS!



2002

Caitlyn Omensetter is finishing up her Junior year studying Psychology at Kutztown University. Caitlyn and her brother Ryan are pictured above.

2003

Ryan Omensetter, currently a Sophomore at University of Scranton, is already putting his Business and Finance studies to work in helping run, "Color Me Mine," the Newtown, PA, paint-your-own pottery store.

In Memoriam

Please join the NAGS community in remembering our beloved departed.

James Andrews ~ Father of Irish Andrews, '07

Thomas Antonelli ~ Father of Mrs. Jeffrey King, '78 and grandfather of Andrew King, '09



Joseph Brancato, '81 ~ Brother of Linda Brancato, '86

Philip A. Iannuzzi ~ Grandfather of Robert Yerkov, '03, and Michael Yerkov, '06

Victor L. Gregory, Sr. ~ Father of Victor Gregory, '78, Charlene Gregory, '87, Christina Gregory, '88, and Thomas Gregory, '89

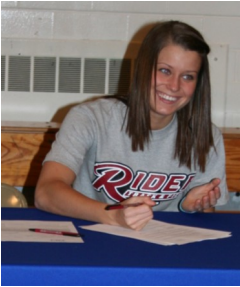
Eleanor Kowalik ~ Grandmother of John Meyer, Gr. 2

Stephen J. Tomaszewski, '77 ~ Stephen's wife, Dolores Tomaszewski and sister, Sally Tomaszewski-Wagenborg, '66, join the NAGS community in remembering Stephen



**SPEED + ENDURANCE =
SUCCESS!**

**RIDER UNIVERSITY CATCHES
ERIN McMULLIN!**



We are proud to announce that **Erin McMullin, '05**, a senior at Nazareth Academy High School, has officially signed a National Letter of Intent for Rider University! On March 19, 2009, Erin received an Academic Provost Scholarship and an Athletic Scholarship totaling \$104,000.00 over four years.



Seated above, **Erin McMullin, '05**, celebrates the moment with parents **Diane and Rich McMullen**, standing at right. Also present to watch Erin's signing is Grandmother **Marie McMullin**, **Coleen and Tony Frusco** and their boys **Nicholas and Anthony**.

Erin began competing in 4th Grade at N.A.G.S. and excelled throughout high school improving her times in the 100m, 200m and long-jump events. "Going into the PA State Track Championships in February, Erin was seeded 27th in the entire state in the 200m with a time of 25.85 seconds. She finished in 12th place with a time of 25.85 seconds," said her mother, **Diane McMullin**.

"This has to be an encouraging outcome for the current N.A.G.S. track team," said Erin's mother, who established the N.A.G.S. Track team when she began coaching Erin's sister **Jessica, '88**. Recalling those early days, Mrs. McMullin said, "The first season we took four students to a meet and won seven medals." By discovering the student's strengths, the new coach encouraged the students to train and reach their personal goals. Her guidance and persistence has truly made a difference with many athletes.

Sally Unger, '81, Athletic Director, explained, "Under Mrs. McMullin's leadership, we watched the track team grow and expand. Now the team is at its all time largest with over 40 students!" The team is now coached by Mr. Tim McFadden and Mrs. Carol Kerr. Mrs. Unger stated, "This year we are going to try to take the team to the Penn Relays so they can see first hand how far track can take them." *How far indeed!*

Mary Kate Logue, '06, and **Maggie Borski, '07**, fellow N.A.H.S. Pandal Track Team members and N.A.G.S. alumni were also present to share in the exciting moment. At Rider, Erin is thrilled that she will be training with **Dudley Dorival**, an Olympic and World Champion. She plans to major in biology and has an interest in kinesiology and exercise science. We wish Erin all the best, both on the track and in the classroom!



Class of 2008

Oh no! Alumni learn they are never far from Mrs. McGarvey's camera! Catching up while attending the N.A.G.S. Christmas Concert are, left to right, **Taylor Steinberg, Valerie Villante, Megan Rankin, Lindsay Rauch, Alexandra Durkin and Melissa Fluehr**.



Bravo!

NAGS NIGHT ON BROADWAY: A SPLENDID SUCCESS!

The 10th Annual Nazareth Academy Grade School Parent's Association Auction was held on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the Black Lake Room. Over 180 guests attended the event in support of the school's educational programs.

We commend the efforts of Co-Chairs Vince and Patti D'Andrea and the Auction Committee in organizing a first-class affair that attracted the support of many in the business and school communities. Sr. Mary Ann stated, "I am deeply indebted to Mr. and Mrs. D'Andrea and their family for co-chairing this wonderful event and for coordinating each and every aspect of the evening."

The décor, centerpieces and auction tables were magnificently arranged by the committee. Jeani Grady, AP, '01, '08, and Lisa Varley, of Catalano Studios once again provided professional unique portraits of each class. The Eighth Grade's portrait theme was "Rock and Roll Through the Years," in which each student outrageously depicted the musician of their choice. Needless to say, it was a wild picture!

Our Class Ambassadors and families organized the donation of a multitude of baskets, which were brimming with tremendous gifts. In addition, each class created a personalized and one-of-a-kind craft, which attracted the attention of many bidders. "Color Me Mine," the paint your-own-pottery store operated by Patti Omensetter and family, assisted in helping several classes create unique ceramic pieces for the auction.

Fran Kelly, '06, a master in the art of auctioneering, skillfully orchestrated a spirited and exciting live auction. The bidding was fast, furious and fascinating to watch unfold!

A big round of applause goes to our many Sponsors, whose support of our mission in education, ensured our success prior to the event. We appreciate the generosity of time extended by the Auction Committee, students and parents, in planning a stunning affair.



Above, Auction Co-Chairs Vince and Patti D'Andrea and Sr. Mary Ann Allton welcome guests to the 10th annual event.

Below, Auction Committee members Andrea Showers and Connie Dema, AP, '07, welcome guests as they arrive.



With the final Auction tally in, we are so pleased to announce that over \$38,000.00 was raised for the school!

Sr. Mary Ann stated, "The generosity of our Nazareth community is overwhelming. I thank God for all your support!"



Going once, twice, SOLD! At left, Fran Kelly, AP '06 and Board of Trustee Member, easily coaxes offers from our enthusiastic benefactors.



We've got your number! Committee members John Duesler, Regina Duesler, '79, and Sam Hellings prepare for our guests check-out.

"NIGHT ON BROADWAY" SPONSORS

Thanks to the generosity and support of the Sponsors!

First Mezzanine

- Beneficial Bank Foundation
- Joe Connelly and Sons
- D'Andrea Bros. Concrete Co., Inc.

Second Mezzanine

- Cippco, Inc.
- Re-Steel

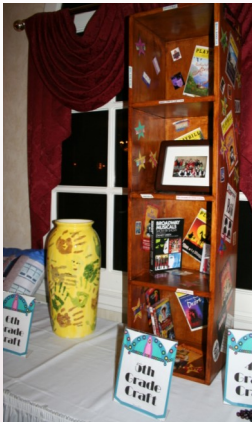
Third Mezzanine

- Alexson Grand Rental Station
- Alpha House
- Amex Construction
- Bencardino Excavating
- Ernest C. Bock
- Burns Funeral Home
- Chadwick Services
- Gatti-Morrison
- JDM Materials
- Mayfield Site Contractors
- Nazareth Academy High School
- Tomlinson Funeral Home
- Washington Savings Bank



Above: Jeani Grady, AP, '01, '08, Lisa Varley, mother of Alex, Gr. 8 and Michael, Gr. 5, and Bridie Tobler, mother of McKenzie, Gr. 1.

Below: The Rock and Roll Masterpiece! The Class of 2009 debuts their portrait!



At left and below: The 6th, 3rd and 4th Grades' Crafts await the Live Auction! Thanks to "Color Me Mine", in Newtown, PA, for their expert advice in designing the original ceramic pieces!



At right: 5th Grade Teacher Mrs. Mai Dang, Mr. Leonard Kane and Senorita Marie Maddox.



At left, Sr. Martin Duffy, CSFN, Sr. Doloretta Dawid, CSFN, and Betty and Tom Nestel, AP, '04, '06, '09.

Steve Duzinski, '07, Nick Dema, '07, and Kate Perri, at right, work the "concession stand," distributing popcorn and candy to guests.



BAT-A-THON HITS A HOME RUN!

Batter-up!

Through a unique fundraiser organized by **Mr. Jeff Manto** and **Mr. Nick Vaccarino**, over \$2,600.00 was raised for the N.A.G.S. Athletic program on January 30, 2009.

The event, held at *Jeff Manto's Baseball and Softball Academy*, was a huge success with many participants, fun and excitement.

The Athletic Program incurs substantial costs for uniforms, equipment, supplies and transportation needed to provide quality opportunities for our students to excel both physically and mentally. To ensure that registration fees are kept to a minimum, this fundraiser will help ensure that Nazareth students can continue to grow, explore and improve their athletic abilities.

Among the batters were **Sr. Martin** and **Sr. Mary Ann**, who met their pitches like pros! The unique fundraiser generated much excitement, school spirit and camaraderie among parents and students!

On behalf of the Parents Association, we sincerely thank our Co-Chairs Jeff Manto and Nick Vaccarino, our hosts at the Softball Academy and all of the participants who attended the inaugural event. In particular, we express our gratitude to our Sponsors:

WORLD SERIES SPONSOR

Jeff Manto's Big Leagues Baseball & Softball Academy
Meglio Wood Fired Pizzeria

N.A.G.S. TEAM SPONSOR

Charlie's Pizza ~ The Vittorelli Family
Bill and Phyllis Gallagher
The Kennedy Family
Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth ~
Nazareth Academy Convent
Nick and Terry Vaccarino

If you would like to help support Nazareth Academy Grade School's Athletic Program, donations can be made online at www.nazarethacademy.net. Click "Development" and "Donate Now." Please specify that your donation is restricted for Athletics. We would greatly appreciate your support!



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

A Reason to Celebrate!

Catholic Schools Week, January 26 through 30th, offered the opportunity for N.A.G.S students, family, faculty and staff to proclaim their presence in the community through meaningful acts of service.

The week's activities, planned by the Student Council, strongly supported our "Faith In Action, Rooted In Catholic Values" Middle States initiative. With the guidance of our faculty, the children implemented several service projects throughout the community. Winter accessories and toiletries were collected to help make the homeless

guests of St. Francis Inn more comfortable during cold winter.

Students were treated to a Jazz Band performance and Forensics demonstration during an Open House, supported a Bake Sale Fundraiser, and also competed in a Penmanship Contest.

Sr. Mary Ann explained, "Catholic schools play a vital role in the holistic development of every child who is fortunate enough to experience a Catholic education. Every week is really Catholic Schools Week—this week is just the week to celebrate the good we do in living Jesus."

The celebration was rich in prayer, academics, appreciation, service, joy and happiness. We thank Mrs. Mai Dang, 5th Gr. Teacher and Student Council Moderator, and the Student Council members who organized the activities for each day.

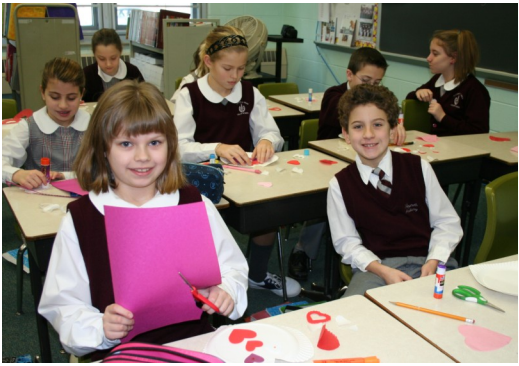




Giving from the Heart STUDENT SERVICE PROJECTS

"We are like children, who stand in need of masters to enlighten us and direct us; and God has provided for this, appointing his angels to be our teachers and guides."

~ St. Thomas Aquinas



Above and below: Handmade Valentine greetings were created by Ms. Molly Doyle's Fourth Grade class for the Sisters residing at Mount Nazareth.



On the first Monday of every month, St. Francis Inn awaits the Brown Bag Lunches prepared by Nazareth students and families. The lunches allow a steady supply of food while the kitchen is shut down for cleaning and maintenance

At right and below, an assembly line of students and parents pack a healthy lunch that includes a special treat of "Mike and Ike" candies, provided by JUST BORN of Philadelphia. The meals brighten the day of over 200 guests of the Inn, located in Kensington



Mrs. Kathy Culp, Brown Bag Lunch moderator, acknowledged the generosity of JUST BORN for partnering with N.A.G.S. to support the homeless in our area. JUST BORN is a family-owned candy manufacturer that has been in business for more than eight decades and three generations with locations in Philadelphia and Bethlehem, PA.!

We also thank Mrs. Joanne Cassidy, who ensures the safe monthly delivery of the lunches to St. Francis Inn. Mrs. Cassidy is the Alumni Parent of Julianne, '02; Matt, '05; Peter, '09 and Suzanne in Gr. 6.



During Catholic School's Week, each school family created a cross, bearing a collage of images and photos of family members involved in service to others. We applaud the community involvement and self-less giving of our N.A.G.S. families!



HITTING THE HIGH NOTES!

The N.A.G.S. Jazz band is thriving under the direction of Mr. Sonny Facenda! Songs such as "Smoke on the Water" by *Deep Purple* and "Hey, Jude" by the *Beatles*, have been added to the band's repertoire.

The Music Department also reports that Michael Iannacone was named as a member of the **Archdiocesan Jazz Band**.

Nazareth students chosen for the **All Catholic Archdiocesan Elementary Honors Band**: Gabriel Unger ~ Oboe; Teresa Mauro and Alexander Wajda ~ Flute; Taryn Neals ~ Clarinet; Eric Steinberg ~ Alto Sax; Michael Iannacone ~ Trumpet.

Representing N.A.G.S. in the **Festival Band** are: Gabriel Unger ~ Oboe; Emil Berbakov ~ Flute; Michael Iannacone ~ Trombone

The Archdiocesan Elementary Choral Festival participants chosen from Nazareth are: Ava Roberts and Caitlyn Sullivan.

We thank our Music teacher, Miss Sue Trotter for helping prepare our students for the Choral Festival and Mr. Tony Helinski for his work with members of the School Band. In addition, we salute our parents who recognize the importance and are committed to continuing music education!



Above, Mr. Sonny Facenda leads the Jazz Band. Members are from left to right: Kristen Foley, Thomas Stride, Kevin Kerr, Alex Halas, Taylor Neals, Patrick Gilbert, Eric Steinberg, Michael Iannacone and behind the drums, Nick Mancino.

COMPETITION AT ITS FINEST

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCIENCE FAIR

Finalists of the Nazareth Annual Science Fair are encouraged to take their projects on the road to compete with the city's brightest students at **George Washington Carver Science Fair**. The competition took place at Temple University in March, 2009.

Eighteen **Nazareth Academy Grade School** students participated in the Junior and Senior Divisions of the Fair. The competition is sponsored by Temple University, The Academy of Natural Sciences, The School District of Philadelphia and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Participating in the 5th and 6th grade Junior Division were: Emil Berbakov, Desiree Cudeyro, Dallas Livingstone, Emilee Miller, Dante Palantino and Lauren Preski. We are proud to announce that Desiree Cudeyro's Physics project entitled "*Candy Chromatography*" received a 1st Place medal, a special medal and certificate from the Navy and was also judged "*Best of the Fair*." Emilee Miller received 3rd place in Life Science and Lauren Preski received an Honorable Mention in Life Science.

The 7th and 8th graders participating in the Senior Decision were Sarah Aitken, Colleen Corbett, Andrew Doyle, Brendan Ferris, Dan Gormley, Elizabeth Hellings, Stephanie Hughes, Michael Iannacone, Andrew King, Julia Marcel, Melissa Moran, Maria Palantino and Jessica Supperer. Andrew King won 3rd Place in Physics; Andrew Doyle received an Honorable Mention in Consumer Science, Michael Iannacone was awarded an Honorable Mention in Physics and Jessica Supperer was awarded an Honorable Mention in Botany.

We are also proud to announce that Andrew King's "*Hover Craft*" project, which was presented at Drexel University's **Delaware Valley Science Fair Award**, earned a "*Special Award*" from the American Society of Naval Engineers, Delaware Valley Section. He will receive a certificate, a personal letter of congratulations and a \$500 savings bond from the Society."

Pictured at right are, left to eight, back row: Andrew King, Michael Iannacone. Front row: Jessica Supperer, Emilee Miller, Lauren Preski and Desiree Cudeyro. (Not present: Andrew Doyle) We congratulate all of our winners and participants and we applaud the efforts and encouragement of our parents and Science Fair moderators Mrs. Heather Martello and Ms. Molly Doyle.





Student teachers from the Language Arts class of Phyllis Gallagher, PhD, at Holy Family University teamed up with Grades 1 - 6 in a national creative writing contest. The contest, "Letters From the White House," was sponsored by Reading Rockets, AdLit.org and the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance. The young readers and writers were encouraged to explore the increasingly lost art of letter writing and journaling. By researching our country's history and by tapping their imaginations, students pictured themselves residing in various scenarios such as living in the White House as President, a member of a First Family or Secret Service agent.



The collaboration gave the Holy Family student teachers an opportunity to work one-on-one with varied age groups over a period of three weeks. After reviewing basic writing tips, a pre-writing, rough draft and a final essay was created with the help of the college students. Letters will be judged for their creativity, illustrations, character development, accuracy, grammar and spelling. Pictured are Holy Family students with Grade 6 students.

Sr. Mary Ann was thrilled to partner with Holy Family University in this contest. "It is a major concern to educators that e-mail and texting have reduced the English language to a series of abbreviations and replacement characters for words. Letter writing, with correct grammar editing and spelling is an important vehicle of communication that must be preserved," said Sr. Mary Ann. "I am grateful to Dr. Gallagher, and the Holy Family students for including our students in this assignment."



We applaud the efforts of N.A.G.S. Board of Trustees member Dr. Gallagher, our Homeroom teachers, and the Holy Family student teachers who enthusiastically facilitated the exercise in the art of letter writing!

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD

The **Fourth Grade students** of Nazareth Academy Grade School were selected to participate in the **2009 Nation's Report Card** reported by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

The NAEP is a congressionally mandated project overseen by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) to continuously monitor the knowledge, skills and performance of the nation's children and youth. As the Nation's Report Card, NAEP measures and reports on a yearly basis on the American's students comprehension in core subjects such as reading, mathematics, writing and science.

NAEP selects samples representing the broad spectrum of non-public schools in Grades 4, 8 and 12. "Non-public schools represent 24% of schools in the nation and educate nearly 11% of the students. In order to have a complete picture of the academics progress of the nation's students, both public and non-public school students must participate in NAEP.

The test was administered by the NAEP team on February 23, 2009. Nancy Ashe, NAEP Team Coordinator, stated, "The atmosphere at Nazareth Grade School is extremely positive. We were impressed by the many awards your students have earned. The administration's commitment to the students and school are apparent to visitors."

We look forward to seeing N.A.G.S. represented in the upcoming Nation's Report Card!

LICENSE TO PLAY: *FIRST IN MATH*

The First In Math online program is a fun and effective tool that reinforces math skills. All of our students receive a password and are licensed to play online in school and at home.

Thanks to all of our teachers and parents who encourage our children to exceed their goals throughout the year. We are happy to announce our standings as of April 14, 2009:

- GRADE 1:** 2nd Place out of 18 First Grade Archdiocesan schools
- GRADE 2:** 10th Place out of 25 Second Grade Archdiocesan schools
- GRADE 3:** 11th Place out of 41 Third Grade Archdiocesan schools
- GRADE 4:** 26th Place out of 46 Fourth Grade Archdiocesan schools
- GRADE 5:** 29th Place out of 45 Fifth Grade Archdiocesan schools
- GRADE 6:** 30th Place out of 44 Sixth Grade Archdiocesan schools
- GRADE 7:** 19th Place out of 38 Seventh Grade Archdiocesan schools
- GRADE 8:** 16th Place out of 33 Eighth Grade Archdiocesan schools

TOP 5 N.A.G.S. PLAYERS:

Giovanna Delia	Grade 3	Christine Carbone	Grade 1
Chloe Roberts	Grade 3	Michele Anzabi	Grade 3
Sean Armstrong	Grade 1		

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

In September, the second grade students welcomed their new teacher to N.A.G.S. Ms. Rachel Smyth, *pictured at left*, quickly delved into building upon the strong foundation of reading, math and writing from the students' prior year's studies. With her ever-present smile and cheerful attitude, Mrs. Smyth said, "Nazareth Academy Grade School and its family have made me truly feel blessed to be a part of such a great community!"

With the November departure of Mrs. Cathy Bateman, Art and Technology instructor, two young and talented teachers were quickly located to continue the challenging program of studies.

The Technology Program continues inspire our faculty and students with countless interactive ways to teach and learn in the classrooms. Skillfully helping navigate the various programs and tools available is Technology Teacher Ms. Erin Bateman, *pictured above right*. "Teaching at Nazareth Academy

Grade School has been such a welcoming and positive experience; I'm very glad that I was given the opportunity to be a part of the NAGS family." Ms. Bateman, familiar with the Tech Program Technology teacher, has made an smooth and easy transition to teaching Grades 1 through 8.

"Working with the students at Nazareth has given me the opportunity to bring my love of the arts to another generation," stated Ms. Maria Niamonitos, our Art Teacher, *shown at left with the second grade class*. Our students, at a time when natural talent can be identified and encouraged, look forward to their classes with Ms. Maria, and have embraced many interesting and creative art projects she has designed for them.

On behalf of the students of N.A.G.S., we wish all of our new faculty members the best of luck in their new positions!

**RAISING VOCATION AWARENESS**

Sr. Michele Vincent Fisher, CSFN, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth National Vocation Director, visited N.A.G.S. with a team of brothers and sisters to help promote vocation awareness. Sr. Michele, *pictured below at far left*, discussed the possibility of hearing God's call to something remarkable ~ to be a Priest, Sister or Brother ~ with all of our students. As each of us receives the gift of the Holy Spirit at Baptism, we are called to live out His plan for us. Is God calling you?

Let us remember to pray for men and women in our dioceses who are discerning their vocation and encourage them to pursue God's personal call. As a community, we must all pray for more vocations to priesthood and consecrated life.

Below right are: Sr. Michele Vincent, Fr. Kevin, Brother Tom and Sr. Florence with First Grade students Sean Armstrong and Lauren O'Neil.



Blast off!



The Merck Institute for Science Education was founded in 1992 to contribute to science education of children in kindergarten through eighth grades. We are fortunate that **Mrs. Julia Roberts**, a Merck employee, enthusiastically brings fascinating science experiments to Nazareth every year.

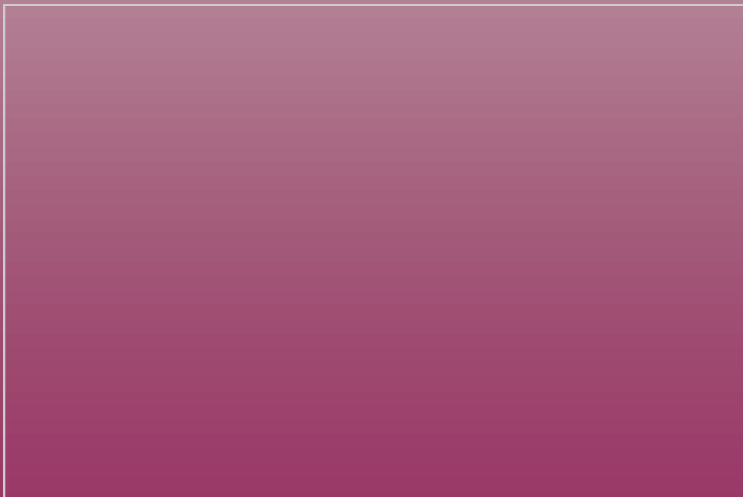
This year, the Merck Science Kit project featured a hand-made rocket that had the potential to soar to new heights! Using simple materials such as a sheet of paper, tape, a film canister and an *Alka-Seltzer* tablet, the students created their own missile. One by one, water was placed in the "fuel tank" with the tablet, and the rockets were set to launch. With the creation of carbon dioxide, the gas exploded, which propelled the rocket upward.



The project demonstrated the principles of chemistry and physics, as some of the missiles hit the ceiling, flying a distance of 11 feet!

We are grateful to Merck for their partnership and commitment to elementary school science education. We are equally grateful to Mrs. Roberts and assistants Mr. Jim Roberts, parents of Ava, Gr. 5 and Chloe, Gr. 3, and our faculty for their time and effort in teaching this lesson at N.A.G.S.

The students enjoyed building their rockets and most of all, watching them launch! In the words of one of our first graders, *"It was the best day of my life!"*



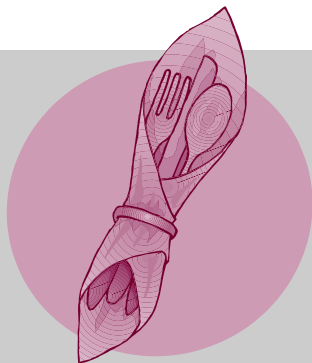
Sharing the Beauty of the Emerald Isle

ST. KATHERINE OF SIENA IRISH DANCE TEAM



The award winning Irish Dance Group from St. Katherine of Siena brought a bit of the luck o' the Irish to Nazareth on a beautiful and sunny St. Patrick's Day. The dancers took their performance on the road to entertain the faculty and students with a variety of traditional and modern dance numbers.

After the program, the group led all of the students and faculty in a dance routine that had everyone stepping and smiling! We thank the administration and staff of our neighboring school for allowing the children to showcase their dancing talents at N.A.G.S!

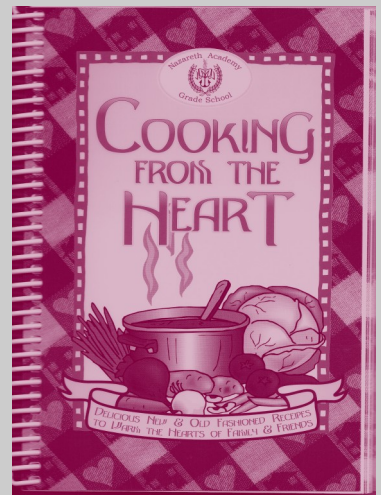


WHAT'S COOKING?

Nazareth Academy Grade School cookbooks, *"Cooking From the Heart,"* are available!

Donations: \$20 each

Makes a great Mother's Day gift, hostess gift or addition to your cookbook collection! Send in your donation ATTN: Development, or order online at www.nazarethacademy.net, go to "Development," then "Donate now" and specify "cookbook order."



JOINING HANDS IN A PRAYER

“TO KEEP OUR OFFICERS SAFE”

Over the past two years, the tragic deaths of seven Philadelphia police officers has stunned the city. Many of the officers grew up in Northeast Philadelphia, attended schools and raised their families in our area.

Responding to this senseless wave of crime, Mrs. Jen Halas proposed a poignant prayer of support through a banner imprinted with a handprint from every child in the school.

Mrs. Halas stated, “With so many officers killed in the line of duty recently, we wanted to show our appreciation to all the officers for all they do for the community.”

Sr. Mary Ann stated, “We have many police and fire fighters among our Nazareth parents. May this banner remind you and all your fellow police and fire-fighters that the N.A.G.S. school community supports you and remembers you with our love and prayers.”

We appreciate the hands-on involvement of the entire Halas Family: Mr. Paul Halas, Mrs. Jen Halas, Alex, Gr. 6 and Julia, Gr. 3.

Pictured above right, Mrs. Mary Moreton helps Molly Driscoll, Gr. 6, with her handprint. At far right, Mrs. Jen Halas paints the hand of Dante Palantino, Gr. 5. Below right, Andrew Moreton affixes his hand print to the banner.

Also, see photo, back cover.



WE REMEMBER:

Officer Gary Skerski - 15th District

May 8, 2006

Officer Charles Cassidy - 35th District

November 1, 2007

Sgt. Stephen Liczbinski - 24th District

May 3, 2008

Officer Isabel Nazario - Strike Force

September 5, 2008

Sgt. Patrick McDonald - Highway Patrol

September 23, 2008

Sgt. Timothy Simpson - 24th District

November 17, 2008

Officer John Pawlowski - 35th District

February 13, 2009





"It has been a pleasure to bring this story to life on our stage and to watch our girls and boys having such a good time doing so!"
 ~ Mrs. Carol Greco, Director

Over 100 Nazareth Academy Grade School students participated in "Annie Jr.," our Annual Theater Production directed by Mrs. Carol Greco.

After months of practicing their lines, songs and choreography, the characters brought the story of the "red headed sweetheart" to life. The cast and crew fully entertained four sell-out crowds at N.A.G.S. on March 27, 28 and 29th.

Sr. Mary Ann said, "Every cast member plays a unique and important role in the overall production, presentation and success of any theater production. I commend and thank each of the students who so graciously chose to participate in this year's production."

On behalf of our students, we sincerely thank our *Director*, Mrs. Carol Greco, Mrs. Linda Monari, *Dance Teacher and Choreographer*; Miss Natalie Monari, *Assistant Director*; Miss Sue Trotter, *Music Teacher*; Mrs. Pat Hughes and Clare Sweeney, *Costumers*; Mr. Bobby Kennedy, Kevin Walsh, and Paul Bruno, *Production Assistants*; Mr. Ed Perkins, *Sound Equipment*; and the many enthusiastic parents who assisted with the stage construction and production activities.

The school spirit generated through this event was clearly evident in the enormous turn-out of cast members, the support of all the parents and grandparents, and the huge crowds that flocked to the school during the show's three day run.



All photos this page by Lisa Varley.



For a complete list of cast and crew, download a copy of the *Annie Jr.* program at www.nazarethacademy.net. A program link is posted on the school's homepage!



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Because of Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

On April 6 and 7, 2009, students in Grade 8 performed a series of tableaux, one for each of the 14 Stations of the Cross depicting the crucifixion of Jesus. During the two performances, there were few empty pews in the High School Chapel, as families and fellow students gathered to watch Jesus' last hours.

As several eighth grade students narrated, their classmates, portrayed in full costume, solemnly enacted each station to bring the Passion before others. Jesus, played by Justin LaCorte, somberly carried the cross and fell three times before being nailed to the cross. Later, depicting the resurrection, Jesus appeared in the Chapel as dancers serenaded his arrival.



Mrs. Cathy Achilles, eighth grade teacher and director, stated, *"The Stations of the Cross are a way of prayer. The purpose of the presentation is to remind us of our own sinfulness, and the salvation won for us through Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection."*

We also express our gratitude to Miss Sue Trotter, Music Director, and to the team of seventh graders who skillfully worked behind the scenes. In particular, we acknowledge the commitment of our eighth graders for the mature and serious manner in which they participated in this powerful Holy Week presentation.



"...they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that He was alive."

~ Luke 24:23

MANYA PEREL : PORTRAIT OF A SURVIVOR

Manya Frydman Perel, a survivor of the Holocaust, visited March 25, 2009 to speak with the eighth grade class. This is the second time Mrs. Perel has been to Nazareth to bear witness to the catastrophic annihilation of the Jews during World War II.



“Please remember, and not forget, that so many innocent people lost their lives.”

~ Manya Perel

As a teenager in Radom, Poland, she attended a public school and hoped to go to college. Her hopeful plans for the future were obliterated in September, 1939, when the Nazi army marched into the city. The German army confiscated homes and businesses and eventually imprisoned all the Jewish people.

“I am a survivor of eight concentration camps,” stated Mrs. Perel. As our students listened intently, she explained, “I suffered humiliation, torture and hunger just because I was a born Jew. I lost my parents and most of my family, but it was my destiny to survive the Holocaust. Since the war, I have dedicated my life to bearing witness to young and old.”

Despite poor living conditions, scarce rations of food, and constant threat of the gas chambers, Mrs. Perel risked her life to save others. Her bravery, in the face of such destitution, is an inspiration to others.



During a death march, Mrs. Perel and a friend escaped into a forest and waited until they were liberated by the Russian army on May 5, 1945. Later, she married, moved from Montreal to Philadelphia, raised a family and is a proud grandmother. Her family has promised to take over her task and carry on her legacy from generation to generation. She said, “I hope that my life will be an example for others not to take life for granted, not to be prejudiced toward others, and to respect one another. After all, we only have one life to live.”

Left: In appreciation, the eighth grade class present a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Perel.

NAZARETH ACADEMY GRADE SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

Your gift will enable NAGS to continue its mission of family through education, as it has for the past 67 years

Experience the most joy and satisfaction when you know that your hard earned money will make the biggest impact and do the most good! The 2008 Annual Giving Fund will provide for: Sixty new CPU's in the Tech Lab, SMART Boards for four classrooms, software required to integrate computer skills across the curriculum, faculty training for innovative methods to enhance learning, maintenance of our server's internet connection and support for faculty salaries and benefits.

We are overwhelmed and grateful with the support to date! Over \$33,000 has been donated by our generous and dedicated alumni, parents, alumni parents and friends. If you have not made a contribution, won't you please consider sending one today? Donations of \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged on a plaque on a computer monitor in the Tech Lab!

To make a donation, please use the form below for cash, check or credit card ~ or ~ go securely online to www.nazarethacademy.net, click "Development" and then "Donate now."

Name _____

If alumna, maiden name _____ Class _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Donation \$ _____ Check enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "NAGS" or Bill my VISA or MASTER CARD:

Name on card _____

Number _____ Exp. Date _____

This gift is in memory of _____ or in honor of _____

We invite our entire community to participate in the Annual Fund and become members of the following giving levels:

Blessed Frances Siedliska Society*	\$5,000 & above
Pope John Paul II Society	\$2,500 to \$4,999
Family Circle	\$1,000 to \$2,499
Principal's Circle	\$500 to \$999
NAGS Club	\$100 to \$499
Maroon & Gray Club	\$1 to \$99

All members of the Blessed Frances Siedliska Society will be listed perpetually in Annual Giving Reports.

My/Spouse's company will match this gift. I have enclosed the Matching Gift form. For more information, contact Pat McGarvey at 215-637-7777, ext. 206.

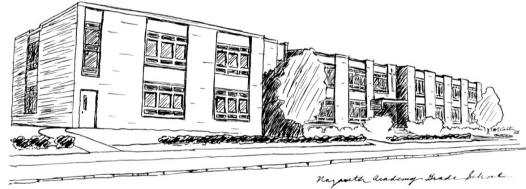


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A SHOW OF HANDS IN SUPPORT *of our Police Officers*



A "hand-made" banner honoring the members of the Philadelphia Police and Fire Departments was mounted outside in March, 2009. The banner designed by Paul and Jen Halas, parents of Alex and Julia, features the hand print of every N.A.G.S. student.

Pictured are all the students of Nazareth Academy Grade School.



See story, page 15.