



# Nazareth Academy Grade School

OUR MISSION IS FAMILY

## TAKING OUR LIGHT INTO THE WORLD



**A Bright Future Awaits Our Graduates!** With much pomp and circumstance, the Nazareth Academy Grade School Class of 2010 Commencement was held on Monday, June 7, 2010. We recognize and celebrate the many accomplishments of our graduates and pay tribute to their parents and teachers for all their efforts in helping shape responsible, compassionate and faith filled young adults.

**Introducing our Graduates,** above sitting left to right: *First Row* - William Jester, Gabrielle Pristera, Oscar Sanchez, Dana Peel, Thomas Stride, Melissa Moran, Kevin Kerr. Standing, *Second Row* - Mrs. Catherine Achilles, 8th Grade Teacher; Colleen Corbett, Greg DiNardo, Meagan Dollard, Matthew Unger, Gabriel Unger, Taryn Neals, John

Diorio, Sarah Aitken, Principal Sr. Mary Ann Allton, CSFN. *Third Row* - Emily Wash, Jessica Supperer, Madalyn Fluehr, Andrew Doyle, Stephanie Hughes, Kristen Foley, Teresa Mauro. *Fourth Row:* Ryan Rauch, Lauren Braun, Alexander Wajda, David Kasperowicz, Julia Marcel, George Vaccarino.

Members of the graduating class have been awarded over \$156,500 in high school scholarships and grants. We could not be prouder of all of our students' efforts in making use of their God-given talents to further their education and pursue their dreams!

*Additional Graduation coverage on page 12*

# Principal's Message

Dear Readers,

What a wonderful school we have! It's wonderful because of the many people you will read about and see in this issue of our NAGS newsletter!

We recently said a fond farewell to our eighth grade students who have been well prepared to enter the high schools of their choice! The last month of school was an exciting one for them since it included their class retreat, class trip to New York, graduation dance and graduation itself! You'll enjoy looking at and reading the many pictures and captions which tell of their excitement, pride, and accomplishments, as well as be introduced to our Distinguished and Golden Graduates of 2010!

Also included in this newsletter are farewells of a sad kind! *The Joseph Brancato Memorial Alumni Scholarship* was established to honor the memory of a wonderful young man and NAGS alumni, Joe Brancato, '81. Similarly, NAGS' friend, mentor, and co-worker, Mrs. Kathy Smith, who also passed away from cancer at an early age, is remembered for the unique way she loved her family, friends, and students. Both of their lives and their legacies will forever remain in our hearts!

On a much brighter note, you'll learn about the many accomplishments of our alumni, read about the wedding of our fourth grade teacher, feel the excitement felt at our *Mardi Gras* celebration, enjoy the fantasyland of our *Alice in Wonderland* production, and learn about the many and varied ways our student keep busy!

Thank you for being such an important part of Nazareth Academy Grade School. May we continue to support one another so as to continue providing our "one of a kind" outstanding education to the young men and women presently attending NAGS! May God continue to bless you in every way, always!

Sincerely,

Sr. Mary Ann Allton, CSFN

*Principal*



Above, Sr. Mary Ann with First Grader Malia Cipolloni, who was "Principal For the Day." After addressing the student body, Malia took her place in the Principal's Office for the day.

After instituting a longer recess and lunch period for the students, Malia and two friends enjoyed a *Nifty Fifties* luncheon with Sr. Mary Ann.

"The Principal For the Day" is available through our Annual Auction. Congrats to Malia and we sincerely thank Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cipolloni for their generosity and support of our NAGSPA Auction.

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## Save the Date!

Join us at the  
**NAGSPA Car Wash!**  
 Nazareth Academy Grade School  
 4701 Grant Avenue  
 on  
**Saturday, September 18, 2010**  
 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Please come out and have your cars cleaned and shined. Please invite your family, friends and co-workers to bring their vehicles to help make this new initiative a great success!

**Rain date: September 25, 2010**



**NAZARETH ACADEMY  
 GRADE SCHOOL**

**Sister Mary Ann Allton, CSFN, Principal**

**Patricia McGarvey, Development  
 Director and Writer, Editor & Designer,  
 Newsletter**

To submit articles, updates and photos, contact: Pat McGarvey at 215-637-7777, Ext. 206 or e-mail: nagsalumni@aol.com

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

**We're on the web! E-mail this publication to your family and classmates. Go to:**  
[www.nazarethacademy.net](http://www.nazarethacademy.net)



# Long after we've said our good-byes, our hearts will remember.



Family, friends and colleagues mourned the loss of Kathleen Smith, who passed away on February 11, 2010.

While many tears were shed, there were also many smiles as groups gathered to console each other with their fond memories of the beloved teacher.

At the age of 60, Mrs. Smith died after a courageous battle with cancer for several years. During her teaching years at NAGS, Mrs. Smith set an example for us all by putting everything she had into becoming a passionate and inspirational teacher through her commitment and high standards.

She was a wonderfully gifted teacher of deep faith who inspired students to explore their growing relationship with God and encouraged them to be open and *listen for signs of His plans for them*.

Throughout the past 18 years at NAGS, Mrs. Smith taught Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade, Eighth Grade and Math. Most recently, she was the upper grades' Social Studies teacher as well as the Eighth Grade Homeroom teacher who had mastered the art of fully preparing our graduates for their transition to high school. She was also the driving force behind the award-winning Forensics Program at the grade school, along with NAGS parent Phyllis Bevilacqua. In neighboring school communities, Mrs. Smith's influence in the promoting Forensics was felt far and wide, so much so that all schools hosting Forensics Tournaments dedicated their competitions in her memory this year.

Mrs. Smith is survived by her husband Dave, daughter **Amanda, '90**, and sons **David, '92**, and **Bryant, '95**, and a large extended family. She was also the proud Mom-Mom of grandchildren Violet and Lenny.

As the community remembers this wonderfully gifted teacher, they think of her smile, her sense of calm, her positive attitude and love for her family and friends. Ginny and Randy Smith, Kathy's sister-in-law and brother-in-law wrote, "*Kathy was a wonderful teacher and a lovely person. We know your school community cherished her, as did her family, and that you will find a way to keep her memory alive.*"

We at Nazareth are inspired by the generosity of The Smith Family who have designated contributions to the grade school in Kathleen's memory. The outpouring of sympathy, prayers and support continues to be overwhelming.

After consulting with David Smith and his children, a well-thought out plan has been implemented to benefit the school's academic programs, the forensics program and library. Our plans include:

The dedication of the 8th Grade Classroom and a "Story Telling Chair" in Mrs. Smith's memory, that will be unveiled in the library. The library will also be enhanced with a new section of classics and literary works, as well as Forensics materials.

Several hands-on interactive globes, maps and atlas sets purchased in Mrs. Smith's memory will augment the Social Studies curriculum throughout the school.

Also, three Forensic Scholarships will be presented to current students who demonstrate enthusiasm and improvement in the public speaking extra-curricular activity.

All of our students will continue to benefit from the many heart-felt donations made in Mrs. Smith's memory. Her presence will be missed but her spirit will remain alive through the teachers and students she has inspired, and through those who will continue to learn from her legacy at NAGS.

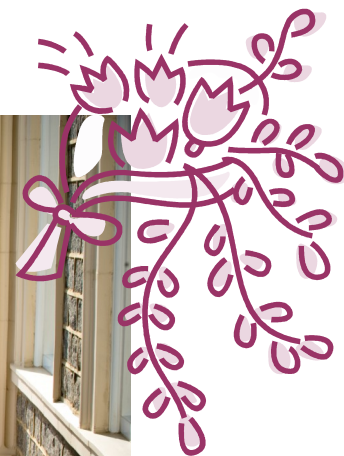
*For additional information, please contact Pat McGarvey at [nagsalumni@aol.com](mailto:nagsalumni@aol.com).*

"To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children... to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to give of one's self; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived - this is to have succeeded."  
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson



Above, channeling her inner peace, Mrs. Smith sits on her yoga mat as the Class of 2006 poses for their 8th Grade Portrait. Photo courtesy of Rick and Pat Borish and Jeani Grady of Catalano Studios.

## Wedding Bells Ring for NAGS Teacher



Fourth Grade Teacher Miss Maura Doyle wed Patrick Fox in February, 2010. Included in the bridal party were Mrs. Heather Martello, Gr. 6, and Ms. Marie Maddox, Spanish teacher. Matthew and Gabriel Unger, '10, assisted as Altar Servers. The NAGS Choir, under the direction of Sr. Mary Ann, provided the beautiful musical accompaniment to the liturgy. Many Nazareth families were on hand to witness the Nuptials and wish the newlyweds well. Later, the couple honeymooned in Italy. "Congratulazioni" Mr. and Mrs. Fox!

*Photos courtesy of Mrs. Maura Fox.*



## Flyers' Keith Primeau Visits #1 Flyers' Fan



Seventh grade student **Thomas Villante** shocked Ms. Sue Trotter, Music teacher, with a surprise visit by his youth hockey coach, former Philadelphia Flyer's Team Captain Keith Primeau.

Ms. Trotter had been diagnosed with cancer in the Fall and was thrilled to be back at school doing what she loves: sharing her love of music with her students. Knowing that Keith Primeau was

Ms. Trotter's all-time favorite hockey player, Thomas made arrangements to have the 6'5" retired player bring some cheer to our talented and dedicated teacher. *And what a surprise it was!* Ms. Trotter was speechless upon meeting Keith and was very touched by Thomas' kindness.

*Great job Thomas!* You made Ms. Trotter's day, or shall we say, hockey season!! We also thank Joe Villante and Katie Villante-Cloud, Thomas' parents, as well as Keith Primeau for their time and thoughtfulness.





*There is nothing bigger than the little things.*



Christine Brancato, Joe's widow, chats with Principal Sr. Mary Ann Allton



Emil Berbakov displays his scholarship certificate with his family by his side



Fifty-year graduate of the Class of 1960, Geoffrey Farmer, with Sr. Mary Ann Allton.

## The Joseph Brancato Memorial Alumni Scholarship

Blessed by the enormous generosity of many benefactors and alumni of NAGS, the school awarded inaugural *Joseph Brancato Memorial Alumni Scholarships* to two seventh grade students.

Family, friends and alumni gathered on **April 25, 2010** to remember, celebrate and recognize the achievements of Joe Brancato, '81, as well as the achievements of the student scholarship winners and the generosity of donors.

Students were chosen by the faculty and staff for having demonstrated remarkable qualities of character, service, generosity and positive attitude. Angela (Marano) Carp, Susan (Zajac) Mordan, and Sally (Gaughan) Unger, all members of the Class of 1981, were part of the team that established the scholarship, along with the Development Office.

Christine Brancato, Joe's wife, was accompanied by many of her family members who enjoyed Sister Mary Ann's recollections of Joe's elementary school highlights. Christine presented the awards to the recipients. Emil Berbakov, *pictured at left with his parents Emil and Gloria Berbakov and brother Joseph*, was thrilled to be one of two students chosen for the award.

*Pictured above right, Danielle Talbot beams after receiving her scholarship with sister Samantha Talbot, '07, and her mother Shelley Talbot.* Both students stated that they believed the scholarship will certainly have a lasting impact on their academic careers and were proud to receive the inaugural honors.

The luncheon was also attended by a special honorary **50-year graduate of the Class of 1960, Geoffrey Farmer**. We are grateful to Mr. Farmer for taking the time to regale us with many stories of his elementary years in the original school building.

Custom bookmarks featuring a poem written by Angela (Marano) Carp, were distributed to all guests. The moving poem is reprinted at right.

We ask all of our alumni to support this cooperative effort to help students pursue their education at NAGS. Please join us by making a donation to the *Joseph Brancato Memorial Alumni Scholarship*.

Donations can be made online at [www.nazarethacademy.net](http://www.nazarethacademy.net), click Development, and "Donate now."

Checks can be made payable and sent to "NAGS," ATTN: *Joseph Brancato Memorial Alumni Scholarship*, 4701 Grant Avenue, Phila., PA 19114. For additional information, please contact Pat McGarvey, Development Director, at [nagsalumni@aol.com](mailto:nagsalumni@aol.com) or 215-637-7777, ext. 206.



"The most sensible, compassionate and strong wear their heart on their sleeve. If at some point in your life you placed a drape of fear over your heart to protect yourself against ridicule, remove it because it's not working.

A bright light of goodness shines towards others and it's unable to be hidden. You are a gift capable of building a bridge to another's heart just like Joe build a bridge to ours. You have an absolute beauty and strength emanating from wearing your heart on your sleeve.

It's contagious, just like a smile with laughter. So wear it, share it and believe it and continue to build bridges and reach out to others. Help others find their own masterpiece within, where there is love, there is you.

*This is the meaning of Joseph Brancato's own language from the heart."*

Written by  
Angela Marano-Carp, 81



# Class Notes



1980

Just like old times! Above **Diane Capponi**, **Matt Miller**, **Sandra Stretz-George**, Sr. Mary Ann and **Valerie Kriefels-Boothroyd** tour the school's new addition after meeting for a spirited lunch.



1981

Above, **Thomas McBride** and sons T.J. and Ethan, at right, visit with Sr. Mary Ann and Sr. Martin while visiting from Massachusetts to attend a memorial service for Thomas' wife, Ilene, who recently passed away. We are grateful to those in our community who supported Ilene's fight against Hodgkin's Lymphoma.



## CONGRATULATIONS GOLDEN GRADUATES: The Class of 1960

After fifty years, **Francis Pezzotta**, returned to NAGS on February 5, 2010 during an Open House for Catholic School's Week. Francis is also a relative of first-grade teacher Mrs. Angelique Hatzinikolaou.

The administration was thrilled that the Golden Graduate brought his well-preserved NAGS diploma and graduation yearbook! The Class of 1960 Graduation Photo is featured above.



**Maria Koebert-Runde**, '81, found time to catch up with Sr. Mary Ann during a recent visit from Wisconsin. She is pictured above with her mother Jean Koebert.





**2004**  
 Temple University students have crowned **Alex Gregory** as their 2010 Greek Goddess! Congrats Alex!

**2005**  
**Ashley Drake** completed her Freshman year studying Nursing at Alvernia University in Reading, PA. In September, Ashley will be a Flagship Inaugural member of the college's Golf Team. Hit 'em straight Ashley!



**2008**  
**Megan Rankin**, a Sophomore at St. Basil's Academy; Sr. Anita, Sr. Martin and **Lindsay Rauch**, a Sophomore at Germantown Academy, catch up on a recent visit with NAGS students and faculty.

**2001**  
 Above: Best of luck to **Lee Christian Beck** as he continues to pursue a career in Radiology in Las Vegas, Nevada. Lee is pictured with Sr. Mary Ann.

**2002**  
 Congratulations to **Christina Viscusi** on her graduation from Penn State University!



**2009**  
 Below, Sister Mary Ann greets **Peter Cassidy**, as he arrives at NAGS to manage the after-school math tutoring program. Working under the supervision of Math Teacher Mrs. Maribeth Kane, Peter, a Freshman at Holy Ghost Prep, and fellow high school students perform service hours at NAGS by helping younger students reinforce their Math skills.



Above: Extra, Extra! Read all about it! **Julianne Cassidy's '02**, writing talents have been published in the March, 2010 issue of "Origivation," a magazine that features news on up and coming new bands and music in Philadelphia. In her article entitled, "Emerging: Find Vienna," Julianne interviews the award-winning band members of "Find Vienna" on the latest album release, "In Your Favorite Colors." Julianne is pictured above with her mother Joanne Cassidy.

**2006**  
**"Once an Eagle,  
 Always an Eagle"**

Above, **Brendan Murtha** was awarded the Eagle Scout honor from the Boy Scouts of America. To attain this life-long title, Brendan earned 21 merit badges and demonstrated outstanding service and leadership. Congratulations to Brendan for attaining the highest rank in the Scouts program! Above right, Brendan marks the moment with **Sam McGarvey, '06**.



**2006**  
 Congratulations to the NAGS **Class of 2006** on your graduation from High School! Best of luck in your future endeavors in college and beyond. Let us know where you are headed to attend college! Stay in touch with NAGS on "Facebook!"

*Class Notes continued,  
 next page*

**2007**  
**Maggie Borski** has been elected Nazareth Academy High School Student Council Representative for the coming 2010-2011 school year.



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



2009

**Alexandra Wierzbicki**, Sr. Anita, **Stephanie Whitley** and **Elizabeth Hellings** catch up during the girls' Freshman year at Nazareth Academy High School.

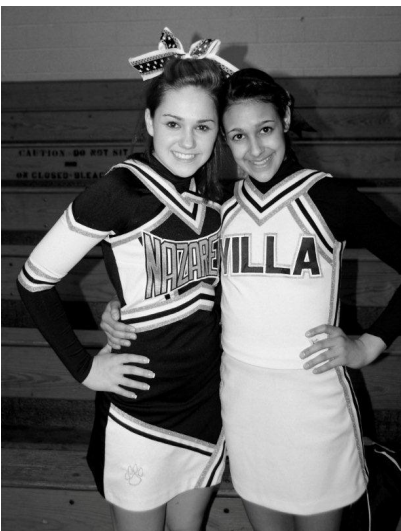
Congratulations to **Deanna Stephens**, a

Freshman at Villa Joseph Marie, who has merited Second Semester High Honors. We also applaud Deanna and her teammates of *FC Bucks Soccer* team for winning back to back 2010 State Championships. Best of luck to the team as they compete in the *Elite Club National League* over the summer!

Below: Several members of the Class of 2009 at NAGS Annual Field Day. From left to right: **Brian Singmaster**, **Buddy Knapp**, **Chris McFadden**, **Nick Mancino** and **Justin LaCorte**.



*We're back!* Members of the Class of 2009 visit during the Eighth Grade Graduation Dance: Left to right, front: **Kristin Mays**, **Kirsten Schneider**, **Nick Mancino**, **Michael Lydon**, **Chris McFadden**. Back row: **Alex Varley**, **Emily Nestel**, **Marisa Poncia**, Sr. Mary Ann and **Brian Singmaster**. *Photo courtesy of Lisa Varley.*



Left: **Alex Varley**, '09, and **Reese Poncia**, '09, pose for a picture at the BAL Cheerleading Competition on Sunday, February 27th. Alex is a Freshman at Nazareth Academy H.S. and Reese is a Freshman at Villa Joseph Marie. *Photo courtesy of Lisa Varley.*

Congratulations to **Brian Singmaster**, '09, and **Stephen Purcell**, '09, who were awarded Academic Honors at Holy Ghost Prep's Honors Convocation.



Please join the school community in remembering our beloved departed.

**Concetta D'Antonio** - Mother of Vince D'Antonio, Computer Expert

**Janice Kobyecki** - Grandmother of Nicolette Fila, Gr. 4.

**Colleen Konrad** - Mother of Louis and Kelsey Konrad

**Helene Phyllis Laskin** - Fiancé of Sonny Facenda, Jazz Band Leader

**Elizabeth Leavy** - Grandmother of Emily, '10, and Petra Wash, Gr. 1.

**Stephen J. Lisicki, Sr.** - Grandmother of Stephen Purcell, '09.

**Matilda Lopata** - Sister of Sr. Aurelia Lopata, CSFN

**Ilene McBride** - Wife of Tom McBride, '84, Sister-in-law of Mary Ann McBride-Moffett, '85, John McBride, '87, and Michael McBride, '89.

**James McNally** - Grandfather of Ashley, '01, and Shane Grady, '08.

**Joanna M. Mscichowski** - Mother of Laura Mscichowski, '02.



## HONORS CONVOCATION NAZARETH ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL



### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Krysta DiKun, '07  
Jenna Jester, '07  
Kyra Krass, '07

### QUILL AND SCROLL HONOR SOCIETY

Jocelyn Nedumcheril, '06, *Marygold*, Senior Editor  
Laura Rucci, '06, *Highlights*, Art Editor  
Laura Walker, '06, *Highlights*, Literary Editor

### TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

Elizabeth Hellings, '09  
Alexandrea Wierzbicki, '09

### WORLD LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETY

Laura Walker, '06, Latin Honor Society

### SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY

Danielle Sosalski, '07

### MU ALPHA THETA

Jocelyn Nedumcheril, '06  
Kyra Krass, '07

### CUMULATIVE HONORS, CLASS OF 2010

#### ***Distinguished Honors:***

Casey Borish, '06  
Jocelyn Nedumcheril, '06  
Laura Rucci, '06  
Rachel Stengel, '06

#### ***Commended Honors:***

Katelyn Mays, '06  
Laura Walker, '06

### Academic Scholarship Recipients for 2010-2011

#### ***Academic Merit Scholarship:***

Sarah Aitken, '10

#### ***Trustees Scholarship***

Teresa Mauro, '10

## NAGS CLASS OF 2010: SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

***Take a bow, members of the Class of 2010!***

**Listed below are the 2010 Scholarship Recipients. Over \$156,500.00 in high school scholarships and grants was earned by our students.**

**Sarah Aitken:** \$6,000 Scholarship for four years to Nazareth Academy High School; \$3,000 Scholarship for four years to Villa Joseph Marie High School.

**Meagan Dollard:** Received a Grant for Germantown Academy for the 2010-11 school year.

**Andrew Doyle:** \$1,500 Scholarship for four years to Father Judge High School.

**Stephanie Hughes:** \$5,000 Scholarship for four years to Villa Joseph Marie High School; \$4,000 Scholarship for four years to St. Basil Academy; \$2,500 Scholarship for four years to Nazareth Academy High School.

**Teresa Mauro:** \$1,500 Scholarship for four years to Nazareth Academy High School.

**Taryn Neals:** \$3,000 Scholarship for four years to St. Basil Academy; \$1,500 Scholarship for four years to Nazareth Academy High School

**Oscar Sanchez:** \$15,000 Christian Brothers grant for the 2010-11 school year

**Gabriel Unger:** \$12,000 Grant for the 2010-11 school year to St. Joseph Preparatory School

**Matthew Unger:** \$12,000 Grant for the 2010-11 school year to St. Joseph Preparatory School

**Alexander Wajda:** \$5,000 Grant for four years to Holy Ghost Preparatory School

The Nazareth Academy Grade School Parent Association awards for the highest and second highest grade point average through sixth, seventh and the first two trimesters of eighth grade. The 2010 recipients of \$500 grants were awarded to:



**Meagan Dollard**  
**Alex Wajda**



# Alice In Wonderland

For three days in March, Nazareth was transformed into a fantasyland for this year's theater production of "Alice In Wonderland."

The story is based on the novel by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) published in 1865. The drama unfolds when a girl named Alice falls down a rabbit hole into a fantasy world inhabited by peculiar and anthropomorphic creatures.

Sister Mary Ann Allton stated, "The successful production of Alice In Wonderland is just one more example of the importance of working together to bring about a positive learning experience for our children. I am very grateful to Mrs. Carol Greco, (pictured below) Mrs. Linda Monari, Ms. Sue Trotter, Ms. Natalie Monari and countless parents who sacrificed time, energy and money to provide this wholesome opportunity for our children."



## Cast

Julia Marcel <b>Tall Alice</b>	Desiree Cudeyro <b>Alice</b>	Helen Dotchel <b>Small Alice</b>
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Regina Duesler, Andrea Manto, Lauren Preski as **Cheshire Cats**

Gabe Unger Matt Unger <b>The Tweedles</b>	Colin Murtha as <b>White Rabbit</b>	Nicolette Wons Caitlyn Sullivan <b>Mad Hatter ~ Hare</b>
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Taryn Neals <b>Dodo Bird</b>	Ava Roberts <b>Mock Turtle</b>	Julia McPhillips <b>Doorknob</b>
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**Flowers:** Victoria Hughes, Rachel Macauley, Julia McPhillips, Emily Moy, Marann Mullen, Anna Pietrzak, Maureen Rankin, Angela Rynkiewicz, Samantha Simon

Emily Wash ~ **Humpty Dumpty**      Melissa Moran ~ **Matilda, Alice's sister**  
Sarah Aitken ~ **Duchess**      Lauren Braun ~ **Cook**      Stephanie Hughes ~ **Maid**



## Dancing and Vocal Ensembles:

**1st Graders:** Katelyn Allen, John Bonfini\*, Caleigh Bristow, Carmine Cantwell, Malia Cipolloni, Emma Cusano, Joan Dotchel, Molly Dugan, Keeley Gallagher, Brooke Ginley, Brianna Gracey, Morgan Lewis, Brynn Lynch, Savannah McClendon, Sidney Scott, Courtney Schwegler, Hunter Vignola, Petra Wash, Lauren Yost

**2nd Graders:** Isabelle Anzabi, Christina Carroll, Haley Crowley, Molly Dwyer, Annalisa Hansford, Sarah Macauley, Morgan McCaffery, Catherine Monteith, Lauren O'Neill, Christian Parker\*, Michael Roman\*, Angelina Singmaster, Christine Stepkin, Nicole Sullivan, Kathryn Tereshko, McKenzie Tobler, Dianna Udowenko

**3rd Graders:** Megan Bozarth, Jordan Braun, Jack Campbell\*, Julia Davis, James Duesler\*, Meaghan Gould, Abigail Hague, Margaret Kennedy, Megan Kennedy, Lindsay Long, Shane McQuaid\*, John Meyer, III\*, Jessica Scipione, Angelina Stride, Agatha Zin

**4th Graders:** Michele Anzabi, Lauren Cantwell, Giovana Delia, John Duesler, III\*, Alexandra Graff, Samuel Hellings, Kyle Lentz, Samantha Lorenzo, Ruby Malak, Carolyn Marcelis, Tracy Marcelis, Nancy Montanez, Shannon O'Neill, Madison Pristera, Jacob Riti, Matthew Rueter, Phillip Rueter, Madison Schwegler, Danielle Shead, Zachary Vittorelli

**5th Graders:** Emily Beck, Paige Cudeyro, Mary Kate Gould, Taylor Jennings, Michael Kennedy, Jr.\*, Stephanie McGady, Taylor Neals, Brianna Pudlo, Katherine Schramm, Jenna Severa, Lauryn Stride, Donald Vittorelli\*, Joseph Wons

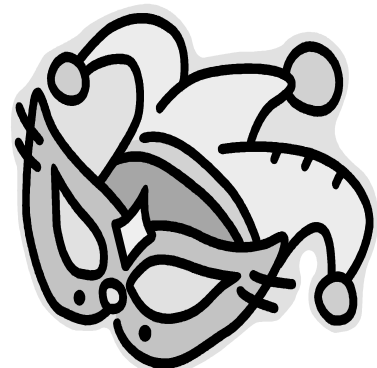
\* **Cards**



# MARDI GRAS



The Nazareth Academy Grade School Parent's Association hosted the annual auction on April 17, 2010 at The Maltese Room in Bensalem. The event was hosted by Co-Chairs Patti Bozarth and Debbie Hague, who along with many Auction Committee members, busily worked throughout the year to ensure a successful fundraiser for the school.



The evening quickly took on a party atmosphere as guests were greeted by members of the Polish American String Band, dressed in their finest Mardi-Gras themed regalia. We applaud the effort of Brian Preski, father of Lauren in Gr. 7, (pictured above left) for sharing the glitter and exhilaration of the Philadelphia Mummers music with our guests!

NAGSPA President **Bernice Duesler, '79**, pictured at left, welcomed those in attendance and expressed the Parent Association's appreciation to all the donors and volunteers.

The evening's excitement was electric when **Fran Kelly, Trustee and AP, '06**, began the live auction bidding. Parents and guests bid on distinctive class crafts, one-of-a-kind portraits by Jeani Grady of Catalano Studios, sports memorabilia and exclusive sporting event tickets. Fran creatively utilized his unique humor and persuasive abilities to maximize the frenzied bidding. The evening culminated with bidding on the eighth grade portrait which depicted the students dressed in 1920's themed costumes.



Above, Co-Chairs **Debbie Hague** and **Patti Bozarth**.

Below, **Fourth Grade teacher Molly Fox** enjoyed the evening with the faculty and staff also in attendance.



We applaud the efforts of the Auction Co-Chairs, Committee and Classroom Ambassadors. As more and more parents are faced with time constraints, we are grateful for your leadership and full-fledged support of this important event. In addition, we also express our appreciation to the entire Parent's Association, Catalano Studios and the many Sponsors and Donors for their charitable support.

*We are pleased to announce that the event netted over \$44,000 profit!*



Above, **Fran Kelly** announces the live auction.

Below left, APs (Alumni Parents) **Alison Cacchio, Pat McGarvey, Kathleen Gregory** and **Denise Ross** (The original PMC members!)

Below right, **Sr. Mary Ann** thanks **Kathy and Jim Serfass** for their continued support of the Auction through the much-coveted **Phillies Club Box** auction donations.

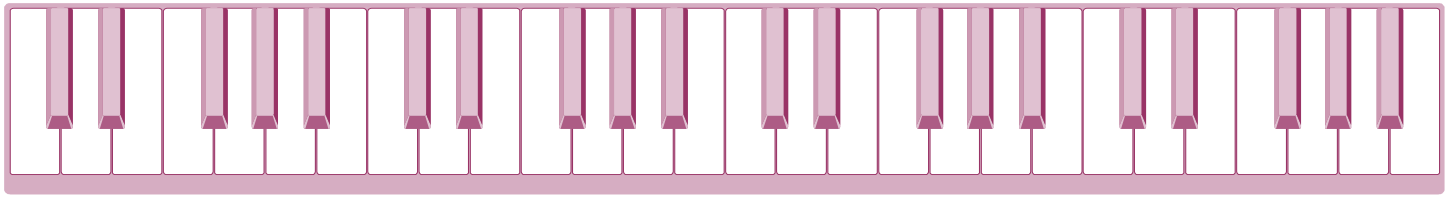


Above: **Jeani Grady**, at left, was thrilled with the phenomenal success of the Eighth Grade Portrait. Here she poses with winners **Christina** and **James Wash** and **Catalano Studios** photographer **Lisa Varley**.



# "MUSIC IS THE POETRY OF THE AIR."

- Richter



## Scenes from the Spring Concert

The high level of student participation, quality of performance and variety of instrumental music is testimony that the Music Program is flourishing at NAGS!

In addition to weekly music classes with Sue Trotter, students may participate in a range of music ensembles. The children in Grades 1 - 3 can become members of the *Sonshine Kids*, who bring the gift of song to many in our community.

Students in grades 4 through 8 are offered the opportunity to play in the school's Band, directed by Tony Helinski; Jazz Band, directed by Sonny Facenda; Choir, Hand Bell or Choir Chime Ensembles, directed by Sue Trotter.

Students are also given the opportunity to take lessons on any band instrument, piano or guitar, as well as lessons on the violin, viola, cello and bass.

The Dance Program, organized by Linda Campagna and Linda Monari is also offered on site once per week. Besides the many health benefits of dance, the students gain confidence, make new friends, and have fun!

Proponents of music education claim that student participation in music activities has a positive effect on everything from academic achievement to self discipline. Music has the ability to facilitate language and intellectual development. Music students are more often elected to class offices, receive academic honors and achieve higher grades. Lastly, studies conducted by the College Board found that *music/art students scored higher on their math and verbal sections of the SAT!*

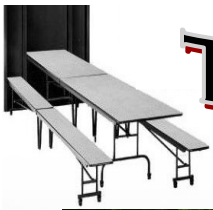


Above, 5th grade student Jenna Severa, plays a piece under the watchful eye of Strings Instructor Julie Pacheco.

Above: Our talented students featured at the Spring Concert held on May 12, 2010. Above center, Eric Steinberg, Gr. 7, on saxophone. Photos courtesy of Christie Farinella.







# TABLE TREK

## Walk-a-Thon for New Tables Kicks Off Annual Fund



### Join our students in supporting a new Multi-Purpose Room project!

The Multi Purpose Room has always been a central part of NAGS and it is now a central part of a new funding initiative through the 2010 Annual Fund.

Over the years our classrooms have been upgraded to ensure student comfort and student challenge with the latest technology. However, it is now time to upgrade our Multi-Purpose Room tables that have withstood the test of over forty years of tough, daily use! Our goal is to replace the built-in table and bench sets with custom units featuring a sleek design and the safest operation in the industry. The project, from start to finish, will cost \$45,000.00.

### Kudos to our students who have already raised \$6,500 by participating in our annual Walk-a-thon on June 9, 2010!



Principal Sr. Mary Ann Allton explains, "Our school is infused with the arts, athletics and community gatherings resulting in the need for an improved venue to support these activities. With the kick-off Walk-a-Thon funds raised through our families and a state grant, I am thrilled to announce that we are almost halfway to our goal!"

This is a special appeal for you to reconsider and renew your commitment to NAGS and thereby continue helping to preserve the tradi-

tions upon which the school was founded.

We are grateful to the many hard-working men and women who continue to support the school financially and donate their time to NAGS. We hope that everyone will support this important Annual Giving initiative!

### GIVING BACK HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY!

Each gift, combined with the gifts of others, will make an immediate impact on the life of today's students.

Donations can be made securely online at: [www.nazarethacademy.net](http://www.nazarethacademy.net). Click "Development" and "Donate Now."

### 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 and 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 and Gray Club.....\$1 to \$99

\* Perpetual membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 If alumna, Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please make checks payable to "NAGS" or bill my or :  
 Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Optional - This gift is given in memory of, or in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES, INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND CLASSES:

- \_\_\_\_\_ "TOP THIS!" 2-Table (Set) Sponsor \$1,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ "TABLE HOPPER" 1-Table Sponsor \$ 500
- \_\_\_\_\_ "HAVE A SEAT" Bench Sponsor \$ 250

My/Spouse's company will match this gift. The matching gift form is enclosed.  
 Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to "NAGS" and mail to:**  
 Nazareth Academy Grade School, ATTN: Development Office, 4701 Grant Avenue, Phila., PA 19114

While contributions may be outright gifts, there are other options in donating to Nazareth Academy Grade School. For more information, contact: Patricia McGarvey, Development Director, at 215-637-7777, Ext. 206, or email: [nagsalumni@aol.com](mailto:nagsalumni@aol.com).

Nazareth Academy Grade School is a non profit (c) (3) organization listed in "The Official Catholic Directory" under Elementary Schools, Private, Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

# Class of 2010



The traditional Eight Grade Graduation Dance was literally a circus! The festive theme planned and expertly executed by the Seventh Grade parents and students, was "The Greatest Class on Earth." At their arrival, the students were greeted by a circus atmosphere complete with a caged lion and tiger with a "lion tamer." Inside, the lobby was transformed into a Big Top featuring a fortune-telling "palm reader." Along the walls, each graduate was depicted as a circus character portrait by NAGS parent and artist Joseph Wons.

A sparkling merry-go-round and roller coaster completed the theme in the Multi-Purpose Room where students danced the evening away. The festivities culminated in a specially choreographed dance by the eighth grade students under the direction of 8th Grade teacher and dance instructor Mrs. Catherine Achilles and a fireworks display. *Above photo by Lisa Varley.*

Sarah Aitken	Nazareth Academy High School	Teresa Mauro	Nazareth Academy High School
Lauren Braun	Nazareth Academy High School	Melissa Moran	Nazareth Academy High School
Colleen Corbett	Nazareth Academy High School	Taryn Neals	Saint Basil Academy
Greg DiNardo	Holy Ghost Preparatory School	Dana Peel	Villa Joseph Marie High School
John Diorio	Archbishop Ryan High School	Gabrielle Pristera	Nazareth Academy High School
Meagan Dollard	Germantown Academy	Ryan Rauch	Germantown Academy
Andrew Doyle	LaSalle College High School	Oscar Sanchez	LaSalle College High School
Madalyn Fluehr	Nazareth Academy High School	Thomas Stride	St. Joseph Preparatory School
Kristen Foley	Nazareth Academy High School	Jessica Supperer	Saint Basil Academy
Stephanie Hughes	Villa Joseph Marie High School	Gabriel Unger	St. Joseph's Preparatory School
William Jester	Holy Ghost Preparatory School	Matthew Unger	St. Joseph's Preparatory School
David Kasperowicz	Holy Ghost Preparatory School	George Vaccarino	Holy Ghost Preparatory School
Kevin Kerr	Holy Ghost Preparatory School	Alexander Wajda	Holy Ghost Preparatory School
Julia Marcel	Nazareth Academy High School	Emily Wash	Nazareth Academy High School





Above, the Seventh Grade parents celebrate the culmination of their phenomenal team effort on behalf of the Graduates.



Step into my parlor! Above, Lisa Marie (Pepenelli) Gentry, '79, "reads" the palms of Sr. Mary Ann, Sr. Anita and Sr. Martin.



Portraits of each graduate as a circus character provided an eye-catching centerpiece in the lobby.





# Graduation Eucharistic Liturgy



At last, the long-awaited day of graduation arrived on June 7, 2010. As the beautiful voices of our choir beckoned from above, the graduates tentatively stepped into the Chapel where their parents, families, friends and teachers awaited. Reverend Joseph Monahan presided over the Liturgy, which was planned by the students with the theme, "Taking Our Light Into The World."

Following the Mass, Sr. Loretta Theresa Felici, CEO, Mission and Ministry, Inc., distributed diplomas with Principal Sr. Mary Ann Allton and Mrs. Catherine Achilles. Special graduate awards and scholarships were announced along with a Golden Graduate award presented to **Francis Pezzotta, Class of 1960** and Distinguished Graduate Award to **Karen Czarnecki, Class of 1980**.

An illuminated pathway guided the graduates and guests to the grade school where the festivities and picture-taking continued at a reception and buffet hosted by the Seventh Grade Families.



"Our education at Nazareth Academy Grade School has always encouraged us to nurture all of the gifts and talents God has given us. As we become older, we have an obligation to use these gifts to make our world a better place. We take with us the gifts of faith, knowledge, and understanding and ask the Holy Spirit's continued guidance on all that we do in the future.

As we gather to celebrate one final Eucharistic Liturgy as a class, let us be grateful for all that we have learned, all that we have shared, and all the ways we have grown."

*Welcome Proclamation*





# Golden Graduate



NAGS had the distinct privilege to honor **Francis Pezzotta**, a 50-Year Golden Graduate of the **Class of 1960**. Francis previously visited the school, with his diploma and yearbook in tow. It was a treat to hear about his experience attending NAGS in the original building that was situated on what is now the Holy Family University library.

The Golden Graduate resides nearby with his wife, where they are actively involved in their parish school and church.

# Graduates' Farewell

Matthew Unger, Student Council President, poignantly addressed the graduates and their families in the Graduates Farewell. Matthew stated, *"In leaving tonight, let us remember that this really isn't the end of our journey, but a continuation of it. Dr. Seuss said it best when he said: 'Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened.' Soon we will be nervous 9th graders, not sure of what to expect but knowing that we are setting out on a new and exciting adventure. Our education at NAGS has prepared us - and prepared us well. So smile, don't cry!"*



In conclusion, Matthew wished each of his twenty-seven fellow graduates happiness and all the best in attaining their goals.

# Distinguished Graduate



Nazareth Academy Grade School is proud to present the *2010 Distinguished Graduate: Karen M. Czarnecki, Class of 1980*. For over twenty years, Karen has worked in politics and public policy. She received her undergraduate and law degrees from The Catholic University of America and is the proud mother of three active girls.

Serving in the White House under two Republican Presidents and one Cabinet Director as a senior advisor to the Secretary of Labor, Karen has worked in many roles that have given her a unique perspective on American politics and the inner working of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of Federal and State governments. She has extensive media experience and has been a conservative commentator and panelist on PBS' *To The Contrary* public affairs show for over a decade.

In addition, the Distinguished Graduate has served as an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University teaching a public policy seminar. She has shared her experience and knowledge with elementary school students through "On Camera TV Training" and "Public Speaking" Seminars in Arlington, Virginia.

Ms. Czarnecki stated, "Your education is a wonderful experience that you will treasure for the rest of your lives. Challenge yourself and avoid taking the easy road to academic success." Citing the importance of service work, Ms. Czarnecki reminded the students, "You are all future leaders of the community. Get involved and help someone less fortunate." Quoting Judy Garland, Ms. Czarnecki concluded, "Always be a first rate version of yourself, instead of a second rate version of someone else." Good advice indeed!

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# Take a seat, Class of 2010

In the dark of the night, the Class of 2010, carried out their secret plan to leave their mark at NAGS.... *in folding chairs*.

Peering out the classroom windows the next morning, the faculty and students were surprised to see "2010" on the school's back field!

With each passing year, graduates seem to find more and more ingenious ideas to mark their graduation year at NAGS... we have seen forks in the ground, cups in fences and now—chairs!



# Fractions of Fun



What do you get when you add 1/4 hr. classroom time, 1/4 hr. prep time, 1/4 hr. baking and 1/4 hr. devouring delicious pizza? The answer: A **whole** lot of fun! That's what Mrs. Maribeth Kane had in mind when she planned this pizza baking lesson for the fifth grade students!

Learning fractions is often challenging for kids, but fraction games and activities make learning this skill easy. Our students know that fractions are used to count part of something. Mixed numbers are used when you need to count whole things and parts of things at the same time.

To reinforce classroom instruction, fraction addition and subtraction were discussed by the students when the class created their pizza with portioned toppings, sliced the steaming hot pies and ate them one by one.

All of the students agreed that it was an interesting and delicious lesson outside of the classroom!



*One-quarter pepperoni pie coming up!*

# Fostering a Love of Reading



Reading is one of the best ways to put children on the road to success - academically and personally. Reading stimulates the development of the brain, promotes vocabulary and language skills and builds knowledge of the world.

Every year, Mrs. Nancy Lydon, AP, '09, and Librarian, hosts a Book Fair in which the Multi-Purpose Room is transformed into a Book Store. The Fair offers book selections for beginners to teens. The opportunity to browse and shop during the school day is offered to each class.

In addition to the Book Fair, the Parent Association organizes a *NAGS Night at Barnes and Nobel* at Neshaminy Mall. This event is also hosted by Mrs. Lydon. Parents and students, armed with summer reading lists in hand, made their purchases and the store donated a portion of total sales back to NAGS. Children's Book author Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen was on site, signing copies of books such as, "The Hog Prince" and "Ballots for Belva." Pictured, below left, is Sr. Mary Ann and Ms. Bardhan-Quallen.



This year, families were also enticed to attend *NAGS Night at Uno*, where the school also benefited from the evening's restaurant sales. We thank Mrs. Lydon, the team of Parent Association volunteers, Barnes and Nobel, and UNO for their assistance in helping our children open up new worlds and enrich their lives through reading!



# Respect for the Environment, Respect for Community



Under the watchful eye of a Fairmount Park Commission Ranger and teacher Maribeth Kane, the seventh grade class donned gloves, shovels and rakes to complete an off-site service project. The secluded area targeted for clean-up is located a short distance from Stevenson Lane, near Holy Family University. Piles and piles of bottles and debris had accumulated after years of neglect. Pictured below, the students teamed up to transform the forest to its pristine and natural state. With overflowing buckets and bags, the group left the area with a deep sense of satisfaction of their efforts to give back to the community.



## "The NED Show"



**Never give up**  
**Encourage others**  
**Do your best**

The mission of the *All For Kidz* organization is to promote academic achievement and character development through "The NED Show," America's most popular school assembly. The show's main goal is to "help kids become champions in school and in life." Over 17 million students to date have attended the assembly throughout the world.

The presentation is hosted by an energetic yo-yo wielding host, who along with the fictional NED character, emphasizes student leadership, respect, anti-bullying and striving to reach one's own potential. Utilizing a full repertoire of yo-yo tricks, humor and positive reinforcement, the NED Show had a powerful and long-lasting effect on our students.

We thank Maura Fox, fourth grade teacher and school parent Lisa Eisler, for making the connection to bring the production to NAGS! **Remember: N.E.D.!**

## Field Day

Filled with fun and games, Field Day signals the end of a demanding school year. Terry Vaccarino, Gym & Social Studies teacher, is behind all the planning and logistics involved in hosting the school-wide event. The students are divided into individual teams that compete on relays, activities and races that promote teamwork and sportsmanship. Parent volunteers tally each team's times and winners are announced before dismissal.

We appreciate Mrs. Vaccarino's efforts in planning a successful and fun year-end celebration. Also deserving of our gratitude are the many parents who help with activities, refreshments and parking!



Left: The Purple Team completes their first Field Day activity.

Below: Volunteers Lisa (Pepenelli) Gentry, '79, Gloria Berbakov, Donna Simon, AP, '06, Alison Cacchio, AP, '04, '06, Tricia Lentz and Maria Gracey







**NAZARETH ACADEMY  
GRADE SCHOOL**

4701 Grant Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19114

215-637-7777

GRADE SCHOOL

Summer 2010

[www.nazarethacademy.net](http://www.nazarethacademy.net)

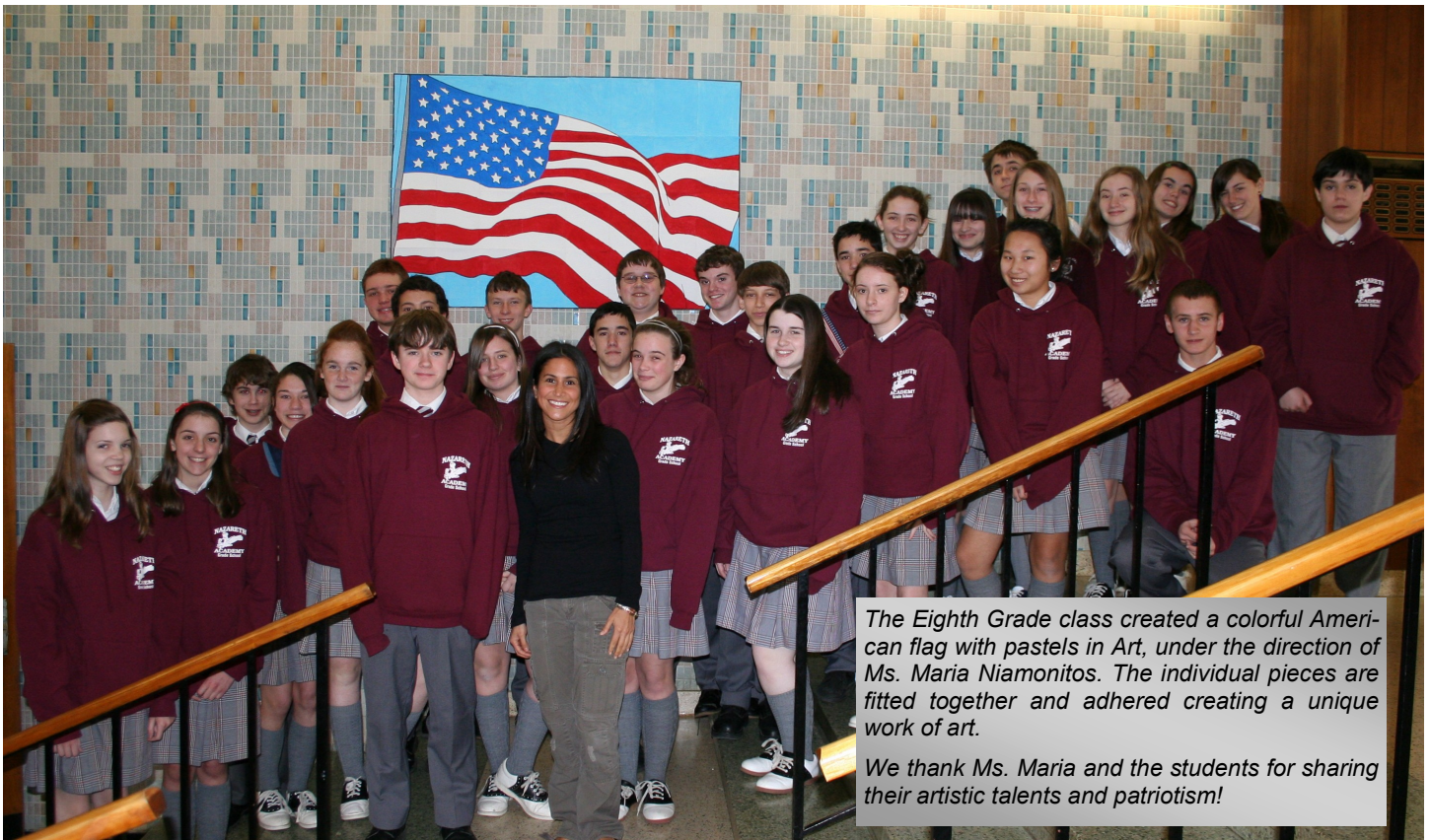
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*Welcome to our 70th Anniversary Year!*

September 7	Grade 1 Parents' Meeting
September 8	First Day of School
September 10	Liturgy - 10:30 a.m.
September 12	NAGSPA New Families Liturgy and Reception
September 13	Grade 2 - 8 Parents' Meeting
September 18	NAGSPA Car Wash
September 27	Grandparents' Day
October 1	First Friday Liturgy - 9:00 a.m.
October 11	Grade 3 Celebration of Belonging
October 15	NAGSPA Family Bingo

*We invite you to attend the school's First Friday Liturgies held at the Nazareth Academy High School Chapel.*



*The Eighth Grade class created a colorful American flag with pastels in Art, under the direction of Ms. Maria Niamonitos. The individual pieces are fitted together and adhered creating a unique work of art.*

*We thank Ms. Maria and the students for sharing their artistic talents and patriotism!*