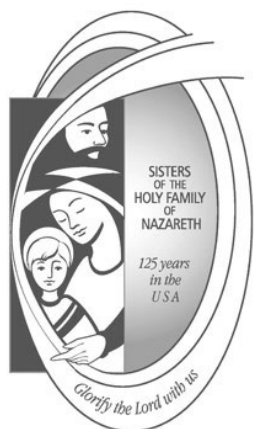




# Nazareth Academy Grade School

OUR MISSION IS FAMILY

## Our 70th Year



Nazareth Academy Grade School proudly celebrates its 70th Anniversary along with the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in the United States. Following the footsteps of Blessed Mary of the Good Shepherd, CSFN Foundress, six Sisters continue to minister to families and children at Nazareth Academy Grade School.

Pictured below, left to right, are: Sr. Aurelia Lopata, CSFN, Secretary; Sr. Charlotte Niemczyk, CSFN, Tutor; Sr. Yvette Ortiz, Business Manager; Sr. Mary Ann Allton, Principal; Sr. Martin Duffy, Honors Math; and Sr. Anita Pasternak Vice Principal.



Success is the driving force behind everything we do. After all, if something is worth doing, it's worth doing to the best of our abilities. Looking back on the 70 year history of NAGS, several major events immediately come to mind - the present school building construction in 1967, the school's Middle States accreditation in 1981, the "Building a Better World, One Student at a Time" Capital Campaign kick-off in 2002 and subsequent building expansion, the formation of the Board of Trustees in 2004, as well as the many academic, athletic and fine art achievements of our students. None of these successes would be possible without the pioneering spirit of our founding Sisters, and the many faculty

members who have taught and continue to teach at Nazareth.

We are grateful for the leadership and guidance of our succeeding Principals, who expanded our school's programs and facilities and helped our students grow in solid spirituality. We thank God for our faculty, past and present, who year after year specially design a challenging curriculum that optimizes student success in and out of the classroom.

For their ongoing commitment to the mission of our school, we are indebted to the past and present Board of Trustee members as well as the entire Parents Association and its Board members. We also extend our deep appreciation to our alumni, alumni parents and friends for their confidence, generous contributions, support and sacrifice of time.

Together we will continue to move the NAGS educational experience forward in our commitment to cultivate and nurture the responsible, faith-filled and compassionate leaders of tomorrow.





# A WARM NAZARETH WELCOME



Following tradition, the New Families Liturgy and Reception launched the new 2010-2011 school year. Over fifty families participated in this year's event held on September 12, 2010.

The Nazareth Academy Grade School Parents' Association Board members invited parents, families, faculty and staff to the Opening Liturgy at Nazareth Academy High School's Chapel. Following, the Parents' Association welcomed the families to a reception held at the grade school. The luncheon provided an ideal opportunity for both faculty and parents to meet and greet before the first full week of school.

Classroom ambassadors, or seasoned parents as they are referred, were present from each grade to extend their hospitality, answer questions and make a connection with our new families. NAGS Alumni Parent Hank Wajda, Alumni Parent '07 and '10, graciously provided the perfect piano accompaniment to the affair.



Patti Bozarth, NAGSPA President, spoke on behalf of the Board Members about the important role the Association plays in supporting the Mission of the school through fundraising. The President explained, "It is important that we come together as a community to celebrate our children and school. This unity provides an excellent example for our children to see their family leading through service and enjoying each other's company. We know how precious family time is and truly appreciate your dedication."




Pictured at right is the 2010 NAGSPA Board, left to right, seated: Bridie Tobler, Recording Secretary; Patti Bozarth, President; Mary McQuaid, Corresponding Secretary. Standing: Cristi Keares, Vice President; Heather Dotchel, Treasurer; Sr. Mary Ann Allton, Principal and Patti Gould, Sergeant-at-Arms.

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## "THE FLOCK IS IN SHOCK!"

Shockingly, a flock of flamingos greeted Sr. Martin on the school's front lawn on September 10, 2010. A sign stating "The Flock is in shock! Sr. Martin is 75!" announced the milestone for all to see. Sister was more than happy to pose with the palm tree and flamingos for the above photo!



## Nazareth Academy Grade School

**Sr. 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)**



# WORKING AT THE CAR WASH !



Parents, students and alumni got down and dirty at the Car Wash! The event was sponsored by the Parents' Association on September 18, 2010. With supplies donated by parents, there were enough buckets and soap to wash several fleets of cars! Blue skies brought over 100 cars into our assembly line. Our customers included school families and those passing by who could not resist the students waving from Grant Avenue.

Pictured above left, NAGSPA President Patti Bozarth and Vice President Cristi Keares spearheaded the event to kick off fundraising for the 2010-2011 school year.



Our thanks to all of our volunteers, patrons and a special acknowledgement to Joe Santucci of Joe Santucci's Original Square Pizza Bar & Grill for providing lunch for all the hungry volunteers!



*At right, Emily Wash, '10, and father James Wash take a break between cars.*



## A BUDDING RELATIONSHIP: FIRST AND EIGHTH GRADE BUDDIES



On a beautiful autumn morning, the First and Eighth grade buddies embarked on a much anticipated field trip to Snipes Farm and Education Center. Snipes' mission is "to model and teach sustainable farming, while building community and reconnecting people to the land." The facility is an outdoor classroom located on 25 acres of a historic farm in Morrisville, Pennsylvania.

Upon their arrival, the students boarded wagons for a hay ride tour around the facility, passing apple groves, bee houses and the solar powered barn. They watched in awe as a cider press made fresh apple cider from farm-grown apples and listened intently as they toured through the barn containing antique equipment. The students met farm animals face to face, held brown eggs, fed chickens and explored the playground with their classmates.



The field trip is one of many meetings planned by teachers Angelique Hatzinikolaou and Cathy Achilles for a bonding buddy experience. Throughout the school year, the students make the trek together for First Friday liturgies at the Chapel, celebrate holidays in special ways and explore Science topics together in the Lab.



NAGS is proud to promote this unique relationship with our youngest and oldest students. It is clear to see that this program has far-reaching benefits when the first graders jump with excitement during a scheduled activity.

Alumni, do you know what grade YOUR buddy is in at Nazareth? Perhaps they are out of high school or college already! If you want to contact your buddy, please email Pat McGarvey at [nagsalumni@aol.com](mailto:nagsalumni@aol.com) for current information!





# Celebrates NAGS 70th Birthday



## A GRAND CELEBRATION



The Grandparents' and Older Friends' Day tradition continued this year with the Ninth Annual event taking place on September 27, 2010. Over 260 grandparents, aunts, uncles, godparents and older friends participated in the event to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Nazareth Academy Grade School! *And a GRAND celebration it was!*

After a thirty minute class with the students, our guests assembled in the Multi-Purpose Room where the Student Council presented a short program on the school's history. Following, the entire student body and guests sang "Happy Birthday" to both NAGS and those grandparents who were born in 1941.

When our students share a part of their day with Grandparents and Older Friends, it demonstrates to our children the value and importance we place on their development and personal growth. The students were happy to begin the school year by marking such an important milestone and our guests enjoyed their one-on-one time with the children.

Special thanks to our parent volunteers, our participants, the honored 70th birthday guests and grandparent Bill Brandley for sharing his woodworking talents for the bookshelf raffle!

Lastly, a hearty THANK YOU goes out to all the faculty, staff members and students who helped make our 70th birthday celebration and annual event a great success!





# Remember when...

## sharing memories on facebook

We are pleased to reprint a few responses to our request for your favorite memories that is posted on Nazareth Academy Grade School's Facebook page.

**From: Gordon "Kim" Dean, '69**

I was on the waiting list to get in. Three weeks after the first grade started, I got in. I had already been going to the local public school in Trevoise and I didn't want to be there so I laid my head on the desk and cried for almost a week. Sister Daniel was very concerned but never really pushed me to stop. She let me cry it out and eventually I stopped.



My parents wanted me to attend Nazareth so badly that my commute to and from school started at 6:30 AM. My dad got on the train, and I got on a city bus that took forty minutes to drop me at the north end of the trolley line on Frankford Avenue. The trolley took about twenty minutes to drop me at the corner of Grant and Frankford. I walked the rest of the way. After

school, I went home the same way. I started first grade at four and a half years old and did this through the sixth grade when my parents bought the priests' house across the street, about the same time the new grade school was built.

Can you imagine? I was four and a half years old. I know they were different times, but there are days when I think my parents were a little out there with that decision.

The first grade was in the basement at the bottom of the stairs to the left. All the other grades were on the upper level. I remember the concession room where they sold candy during recess and lunch. The library was in the basement on the right side. I remember the walks to the cafeteria. I loved the Lawn Festival.



A student used to walk the halls ringing a bell to signal the end of class, lunch, recess and things like that. I was in the second grade and getting chased by some of the older kids and came around the corner and caught the bell in the teeth on the upswing. It knocked me and half of one of my front teeth out.

I was an altar boy most of the time and during the dedication of the building that took the place of the old grade school, I dropped the metal container that held the incense because I thought the Cardinal's helper had taken it from my hand. Incense was all over the place and everyone had to kneel in it. I still remember

the crunching sound it made. It was very embarrassing.

The first floor had tiles and all the Sisters were very focused on keeping things like the desks and chairs lined up on the seams.

I remember both the Kennedy assassinations. With JFK, the whole school got the news and we prayed all afternoon. With RFK, by that time we lived across the street, the school held a Mass when the news was released.

I remember the pine trees.

I remember hanging around after school in the fourth grade for some reason, throwing erasers at somebody and ducking down and then up, splitting my head on the edge of a shelf. I bled quite a bit. The uniforms at the time were white shirts, red ties and blue pants. I remember riding the bus home that night and getting off the bus, my mother's reaction at the color of the shirt. I don't remember why I was allowed to ride home like that.

When they tore down the original school building, I kept a half of a cinder block with green paint on it. I kept it for years although I was never sure why.

I attended NAGS all eight years. I was going to attend St. Joe's Prep but my parents moved our family to Michigan.



**From: Doreen MacDonald Ekenstam, '70**

I graduated in 1970 and then went to the High School. So many memories! Going to school in the old carriage house, walking to the high school in freezing cold to eat lunch, scrubbing scuff marks off the floor after gym because Sr. Laurian hated them, taking Polish lesions in the morning, feeling honored when you got to walk the halls ringing that bell...

**From: Candace Lee, '89**

Seeing Sister Mary Ann on Facebook reminds me of Glee Club, Choir Chimes and Choir Bells. All great memories of great experiences with her!

**Calling all alumni! Log on to FACEBOOK and the Nazareth Academy Group page and send us your favorite NAGS memories!**

**If you have some precious memories about NAGS that you would like to share, please email Sr. Martin Duffy at [smartinduffy@yahoo.com](mailto:smartinduffy@yahoo.com) OR [nagsalumni@aol.com](mailto:nagsalumni@aol.com).**



# Class Notes



of current NAGS students Ava Roberts, Gr. 7 and Chloe Roberts, Gr. 5 and wishes everyone in the NAGS family all the best!

**1999**



**Christina Rimshaw**, '99, pictured above, toured Las Vegas this summer, performing for "Legends in Concert." Christina portrays Christina Aguilera in the celebrity impersonator extravaganza. She is thrilled to be doing what she loves: singing and dancing!

**2001**

**Anthony Gault**, '01, is attending The University of Miami for his Masters Degree in Choral Conducting. He is also student teaching at the University as well as performing in their Concert Choir.

**2004**

In his Junior year at The University of Scranton, **Adam Gault**, '04, is majoring in Communications and Political Science.

**Matthew McGarvey**, '04, is a Junior at Temple University, studying Risk Management while also working at Jefferson University Hospital.

over \$100,000! **Christina (LaHart) Fanning**, '83, and **Janine (LaHart) O'Connor**, '86, also help organize the Philadelphia effort. Nazareth Academy G.S. sponsored the event by donating the school's new canvas bags for participants. We wish Stefanie, pictured above, much luck with her work at *The Busted Foundation* and as well as her efforts on the Marathon circuit!

**1996**

Wedding bells rang for **Katherine Culp**, '96, who wed Richard Knowski on November 12, 2010 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Lambertville New Jersey. Kate's sisters, Maggie, Jen and Emily were bridesmaids.

**1997**

Congratulations to **Paul Durrant**, '97, who was awarded two Emmy (R) Awards from the *Rocky Mountain Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences*. Paul was recognized for his talent in *Best Editing in News* and *News Specialty Assignment Report*. As the Assistant Chief Photojournalist at *KOLD News 13* in Tucson, Arizona, Paul is responsible for shooting and editing video, operation of mobile satellite vehicles, gathering news content for online viewers and coordination of news crews. Paul, pictured above, is the proud uncle

**1983**

The Disney Channel presents **Meghan Strange** as Paws Pilot in the new animated series "Special Agent Oso." The series is broadcast on weekday mornings at 6:30 AM on the Playhouse Disney channel.

**1984**

Speaking about his daughter, Joe LaHart, **Stefanie LaHart's** father, calls Stefanie, '84, their "Energizer Bunny who keeps going and going and going!" Stefanie, the founder of *Cyber Hag Productions*, and CEO of *The Busted Foundation*, has now added Marathon Runner to her growing list of accomplishments! Stefanie ran 26 miles in the LA Marathon and 13 miles in the Malibu Half Marathon along the Pacific Coast Highway.

As CEO of *The Busted Foundation*, Stefanie, her board and an army of volunteers raise money for breast cancer survivors. *The Bowling for Boobies* event now simultaneously takes place in three locations in Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Houston. Combined, this year's fundraiser on October 24, 2010 netted





**Olivia Sharkey**, '05, is now a Sophomore Theology major at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA.



Above, **Giannina Cipolloni**, '04, and **Erica Cipolloni**, '06, chat with Mrs. Katherine Culp, Honors Math Teacher, center during a holiday presentation. **Malia Cipolloni** is in Grade 2.

**2007**

**Christopher Pearce**, '07, in preparation for his Eagle Scout project, raised \$225 for the expenses of building a "Mary Garden" at NAGS. The garden, just outside the first grade classroom, is currently under construction and will feature a statue of Mary surrounded by shrubs and annuals. We salute Chris in his dedication in working toward his Eagle Scout badge.

Below, **Matthew Wajda**, '07, played the King in NAHS production of "Cinderella." On the right, **Kyra Krass**, '07, played the regal Queen.



**2007**

**Daniel Marcel**, '07, won first place at the *Catholic National Forensic Tournament* in Duo with his partner Joe Goeghan this past June. Dan also won second place at the *National Forensics Tournament* in Kansas City. This past summer, Dan co-anchored the local news on Quinnipiac University's television station.

**2008, 2009, 2010**

Below, **Shane Grady**, '08, and **Brian Singmaster**, '09, speak with current 7th and 8th Grade boys about Holy Ghost Prep during High School Visitation Week.



Above, left to right, **Marisa Poncia**, '09, **Kristin Mays**, '09, **Dana Peel**, '10 and **Stephanie Hughes**, '10, talk about Villa Joseph Marie High School with our 7th and 8th grade students.

**2009**

Congratulations to **Deanna Stephens**, '09, and her Villa Joseph Marie Varsity Soccer teammates on their 15-5-1 season! Keep up the great work!

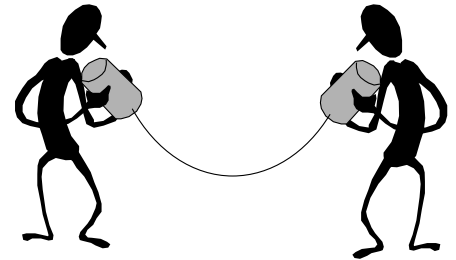
**2010**

Photo at right: One of the top cycling events in the Delaware Valley, the City to Shore Ride, celebrated its 30 year this September. The ride, from Philadelphia to Ocean City, NJ. Raised \$50 million as 7,000 cyclists hit the roads for Multiple Sclerosis. Representing St. Joe's Prep, **Mike Lydon**, '10, accompanied by **Nick**

**Mancino**, '10, Holy Ghost Prep, rode on the 75 mile *City to Shore Ride* and raised over \$1,000 for Multiple Sclerosis. In the photo, right to left, Nick and Mike relax after the completing the bike ride. The fundraiser took place on September 25, 2010. To join the movement: Go to: [nationalmssociety.org](http://nationalmssociety.org).



Above: Freshman **Jessica Supperer**, '10, Eighth Grade teacher Mrs. Catherine Achilles, Dolores Cressee and **Taryn Neals**, '10, catch up after the students represented St. Basil's Academy on a High School Visitation Day.



**ATTENTION ALUMNI!**

Keep NAGS updated with your news and photos. Email Pat McGarvey at [nagsalumni@aol.com](mailto:nagsalumni@aol.com)





**2010**

At right, **Matt Unger**, '10, and **Gabe Unger**, '10, visit Sr. Anita on a day off from high school. The alumni are Freshmen at St. Joe's Preparatory School.



At left, **Gabrielle Pristera**, '10, and **Julia Marcel**, '10, visit NAGS during Freshman Week at NAHS.



Right: Nazareth Academy High School Freshman **Melissa Moran**, '10, and **Teresa Mauro**, '10, stop in to see Sr. Martin, Sr. Anita and the faculty.



Above: NAGS Annual Christmas concert is always a great opportunity for alumni sightings. Above, Class of 2010 members: **Taryn Neals**, **Stephanie Hughes**, **Gabrielle Pristera**, **Lauren Braun**, **Thomas Stride**, **David Kasperowicz**, **George Vaccarino** and **Colleen Corbett**.

**Katie Schramm**, Grade 6, competed in the AAU Junior Olympics this summer in Norfolk, VA.

She competed in the Pentathlon, which is a full day event with 5 different track and field events. Congratulations to Katie who qualified for the Junior Olympics by finishing third.



**Tracy Marcelis**, Grade 5, was a Third Prize Winner in the 9 to 13 age group in the 2010 Health Federation of Philadelphia Poster Contest. Tracy was awarded a Congressional Certificate of Merit and a Certificate of Excellence for her efforts during National Health Center Week. Way to go, Tracy!



Please join the school community in remembering our beloved departed.

**William Bradley** - brother of Sr. Rosalita Bradley, CSFN

**Rose DiGiacomo** - Grandmother of Nicole Mason, '88 and Greg Mason, Jr., '89

**Catherine Gallagher** - Grandmother of Taryn Neals, '10; Taylor Neals, Gr. 6, and Troy Neals, Gr. 4

**Helen Hilinski** - Mother of Tony Hilinski, Band Leader

**Clayton Laudenslager** - Grandfather of Dallas Livingstone, Gr. 7

**Mary Ellen Martinelli** - Grandmother of Ryan Foley, '05, and Kristen Foley, '10.

**Alice Miller** - Mother of Mark Miller '73; Lisa Miller, '77 and Matthew Miller, '80.

**David P. Monteith, Sr.** - Grandfather of Catherine Monteith, Gr. 3

**Norma LaSalle** - Grandmother of Justin, '95, Marissa, '00 and Meredith La Salle Tarantin, '05.

**Anthony Rosinto Pontarelli** - Grandfather of Madeline Pontarelli, Gr. 7



## Remembering Kathleen Smith: NAGS Celebrates a Beloved Teacher



Above: Sr. Mary Ann Allton explained to the current 8th Grade Class the great impact Mrs. Smith made at NAGS. Below: With his children looking on, Mrs. Smith's husband David affixed the plaque that will be a permanent reminder of her 18-year dedication to teaching and mentoring the students at Nazareth Academy Grade School.



Following the liturgy, family members visited NAGS to witness the dedication of the Eighth Grade Classroom in which Mrs. Smith taught for many years.

The many generous donations made in Mrs. Smith's memory will ensure that her spirit remains at NAGS through the curricular instruction and Forensics Team development that continues in her name. In addition to the Classroom dedication, two Forensic awards were distributed to Seventh Grade students Danielle Talbot and Ava Roberts, pictured below, center.



Below: Mr. David Smith, **Bryant Smith**, '95, **David Smith**, '92, Sr. Mary Ann, **Amanda (Smith) Binczewski**, '90 and Sr. Martin Duffy.

In the library, the Forensic Team will find an array of new reference books on debate, student congress, oral interpretation and public address. The books will provide an excellent source for constructing winning oratorical speeches and will help current and future students achieve success. A "Story Telling Chair" has also been added to the library reminding students of the importance of reading and creative writing. Mrs. Smith's nephews at NAGS were the first students to check out the cozy chair upon its arrival. Pictured below at right, standing, Matthew Rueter, Gr. 4; Phillip Rueter, Gr. 4 and seated, Kevin Sheppard, Gr. 7.

Mrs. Smith's influence will also be felt in the Social Studies curriculum with the daily use of an interactive and multi-lingual Smart Globe, an Atlas set and an additional globe and retractable map in Grade 2. Social Studies is an essential part of the framework of the NAGS curriculum. Students develop a foundation through the study of historical heritage, biographies of famous people and historical fiction.

Through the generosity of the Smith Family, students will continue to benefit from Mrs. Smith's influence far into the future. We are all thankful to have been touched by such a committed and gifted educator.



Below: Along with the Forensic Team members, Mrs. Smith's mother-in-law, Eleanor Smith, and her mother, Berenice Rueter, watch the presentation of Forensic Awards.







## STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

*"To be able to lead others, a man must be willing to go forward alone."*  
~ Harry Truman

The Student Council was inducted for the 2010-2011 school year on September 24, 2011. The President is Nicolette Wons, Emil Berbakov, Vice President; Suzanne Cassidy, Treasurer; and Andreana Manto will act as the Council's Secretary.

Throughout the year, the service-oriented group exhibits their leadership by partnering with the faculty and staff to help the school function and prosper. The Council's goal is also to uphold the school's Middle States theme, *"Faith In Action, Rooted in Catholic Values."*

With the guidance of Moderator and Fifth grade teacher Mai Dang, the officers and elected trimester representatives work together to plan school programs, events and fundraisers.

By promoting the school and encouraging students to get involved in a myriad of ways, the Student Council advances school spirit and participation.

We wish the Council much luck throughout the school year! We are confident that our the council members will represent Nazareth Academy Grade School well!



Above, left to right: Nicolette Wons, President; Emil Berbakov, Vice President; Suzanne Cassidy, Treasurer; and Andreana Manto, Secretary.



### ***Giving Parents a Choice Giving Children a Chance***

To kick off their annual application process, the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia held a press conference on November 17, 2010 at PECO Headquarters in Philadelphia. Representatives from several schools, including Nazareth Academy Grade School, were present at the event.

CSFP is creating high quality educational opportunities for low-income families in Philadelphia. Scholarships are offered to eligible students entering kindergarten through eighth grades enrolled in Fall 2011. On behalf of our students and families, NAGS expresses our gratitude for the determined efforts of the CSFP administration and staff!

Ms. Ina Lipman, Executive Director, pictured at left, announced that in addition to the 3,000 students presently enrolled in the program, 750 new four-year scholarships will be awarded via a lottery on March 15, 2011.

Applications are available at [www.csphiladelphia.org](http://www.csphiladelphia.org) or through our website: [www.nazarethacademy.net](http://www.nazarethacademy.net), go to News/Events and click link at bottom right. Qualifying families are encouraged to apply by the March 1, 2011 deadline.

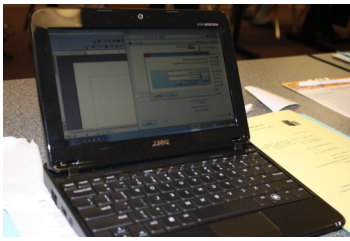
**Businesses can designate their tax dollars to benefit NAGS through the EITC program. Please contact Pat McGarvey at 215-637-7777, ext. 206 for information.**



At left, Jeff Gordon, PECO Manager of Corporate Relations, stressed the importance of a solid educational foundation during the formative years in elementary school. PECO is a proud supporter of the Children's Scholarship Foundation Philadelphia.



## 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOMS: CLOUD COMPUTING



Today's classrooms bear little resemblance to our classrooms seventy years ago. Here at NAGS, you will find a treasure trove of technology: interactive whiteboards, response systems, sixty new computers and server, projectors, and now a wireless computer cart laden with thirty-two DELL Inspiron Mini 10 net books.

Thanks to a grant offered through *Title II Funding: Enhancing Education through Technology and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, thirty-two net books are

helping students learn more effectively. Technology teacher Erin Bateman introduced the small laptops to each class, as well as to the faculty, during a recent meeting.

Online learning, or cloud computing, is definitely a growing trend as many schools use the web to deliver online curricula within virtual classrooms. The faculty's ability to draw from numerous instructional resources will provide greater reinforcement of lessons. In addition, students can save their documents on the school's server, allowing them access to storage from any computer in the school.

In the future, NAGS looks forward to further expanding its academic environment beyond the classroom walls.

We acknowledge the efforts of The School District of Philadelphia, Office of Non-Public Categorical Programs, for approving our application and allocating funding and the efforts of Ms. Bateman in formatting the units for classroom use.



Above: Second grade teacher Rachel Smyth shows Senorita a new photo editing application on the net book.



Above, Erin Bateman, Technology Teacher, takes delivery of the new net books.

At left, the third grade easily maneuvers through the basic operations of the Dell units.



## BATTER UP!

NAGS Parents Jeff Manto and Joe Cipolloni hosted the Third Annual NAGSPA Bat-a-Thon at Extra Innings in Bensalem, Pennsylvania on January 7, 2011.

The driving force behind this successful event is Jeff Manto, former Cleveland Indians, Philadelphia Phillies and Baltimore Orioles player. Manto is also a Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Famer, current Roving Hitting Instructor for the Chicago White Sox, member of the 1993 NLCS Phillies, 1997 ALCS Indians, 1999 World Champion Yankees and 4-Time MVP.

The event combines fun, excitement and camaraderie as students obtain sponsors for a maximum number of 24 swings at bat. Sr. Mary Ann, pictured above at left, even gets into the action! Larry Anderson, who pitched to Sr. Mary Ann, may have been caught off guard by Sister's powerful swings at bat!

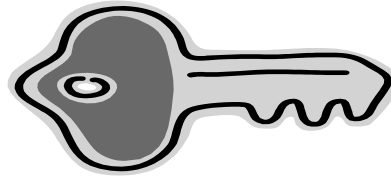
This year, surprise guest appearances were made by Phillies pitchers and a New York Mets player. At lower left, left to right, Val Pascucci, NY Mets, and former Phillies players Larry Anderson, Gene Schall, Dickie Noles and Marty Bystrom. The former MLB players met with participants and signed baseballs for fans.

We thank co-chairs Jeff Manto and Joe Cipolloni for organizing the fundraiser and we thank Extra Innings for their hospitality during the event. Thanks also to NAGS parent Andrea Showers for arranging a visit by Val Pascucci!





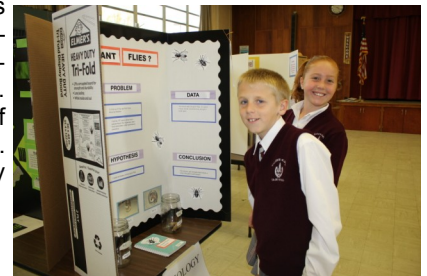
# Academic Exploration: The Key to Learning



True to form, our students enthusiastically immersed themselves in many interesting hands-on activities introduced by our faculty and guest speakers this Fall.

At left: Julia Roberts, representing Merck, Inc., presented *"Sizing Up the Planets,"* a play dough project that helps students understand and compare the size of planets in the Solar System. Pictured are students in the Third Grade Class as well as the Eighth and First Grade buddies.

At right: Many thought-provoking questions were answered at the *Science Fair* on November 9, 2010. The Fair, organized by Science Moderators Mrs. Molly Fox and Mrs. Heather Martello, featured the projects of students in Grades 5 - 8. Griffin Barnes, Gr. 5 and Erin O'Brien, Gr. 5, check out an entry in the category of Biology.



At right: At a recent Faculty Meeting, Mrs. Molly Fox demonstrated the many capabilities of the *Oregon Scientific SmartGlobe* to fellow teachers. The globe, purchased in Mrs. Smith's memory, helps students explore a fascinating world of knowledge, with up to date information and latest world news. With an interactive pen, students touch the pen to the country to hear interesting facts such as country name, capital city, population, language, history and much more.



Below: Every year, the first grade marks Halloween as a goal for the students to *"Tie Your Own Shoes Day."* This simple task requires much coordination and concentration for little hands. One by one, first grade teacher Mrs. H, checks that each student completes the task. Congratulations to all the first graders on this personal achievement!







**Let there be light!**

In the Science Lab, Mrs. Martello helps the fifth grade explore what kind of solid materials are good conductors of electricity.

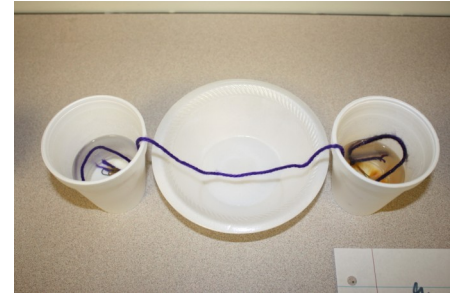
Below, grade six recently experimented in **“growing” stalactites**, the natural stone columns that normally form on ceilings of caves.



**Churning Butter!**

A simple hands-on lesson on the principle of making butter was explored by the first and eighth grade buddies. Under the direction of Mrs. “H” and Mrs. Achilles, the students rose to the challenge of shaking their jar of cream long enough to form butter. It is said that the Arabs discovered butter long ago through a delicious accident. Pouches containing milk were strapped to camels and as the pouches rolled back and forth as camels walked in the desert, the milk turned to butter!

After all that “elbow grease” the students enjoyed tasting the freshly made butter on fresh bread.



As the autumn winds blew the last leaves off trees, Ms. Cusick’s third grade class discovered the many varieties of trees on campus. Students compared shape, size and color of their **leaf collections**.



Above, each student reinforced the meaning of new Spanish vocabulary words by creating a **Family Tree**. The project assigned by Senorita Maria was entitled “la familia” and featured the photos of the members of each student’s family.

Not to be outdone by all the learning going on in school by our students, Sr. Martin had a **one-on-one lesson with Ms. Bateman** in manipulating photos in documents. Sister is working on a project to document the history of the school. Alumni are welcome to submit their memories. Email Sr. Martin at [smartinduffy@yahoo.com](mailto:smartinduffy@yahoo.com).





# Getting Our Heads Together

## To Support the National Brain Tumor Society



Christine and Dino Cerquetelli

This fall, the Cerquetelli Family organized a Bake Sale Fundraiser to raise money for the **National Brain Tumor Society**, the leading organization in research and support. The Cerquetelli Family is all too familiar with the after effects of invasive brain surgery. Dino Cerquetelli, father of Dino, Gr. 4 and Santina, Gr. 1, underwent surgery to remove a tumor in his brain. The good news is that Dino has recovered and celebrated his one year anniversary as a survivor in October!



The easy-bake fundraiser netted \$300.00 for the Society in their research and quest for new therapies. Christine Cerquetelli stated, "I appreciate all the help I received from teachers and students who helped sell the tasty treats. Thank you to our small army of bakers and to all of you who have helped us and prayed for our family though this past year. Most of all, thanks for embodying the mission of Nazareth Academy Grade School—Family!"



In November, families in the 4th Grade, pictured below, once again rallied around the Cerquetelli's to walk with Dino, his wife and children at the *Race For Hope For Brain Tumors* in Philadelphia. Overwhelmed with the support they

received, Christine stated, "Our prayer is that God will continue to bless the NAGS family for their generosity and never ending support. As usual, NAGS came through and came through BIG!"



# STRONG ON ACADEMICS... STRONG ON COMMUNITY



**N**AGS inspires students to become active citizens. Because civic responsibility is developed at an early age and usually continues throughout a lifetime, we believe it is important to encourage young people to become engaged in their community. The generosity to various outreach projects, whether it is contributing items, providing lunches for the homeless or visiting the elderly, is a true testament in applying the Gospel values in our work and play.

Above: The Student Council, moderated by Mrs. Mai Dang, 5th grade teacher, organized a **Thanksgiving Turkey Basket Project** for needy families in St. Adalbert's Parish. We thank our students and their parents for their help in filling seventeen bountiful baskets! Special thanks to Joe Santucci, Natalie Santucci's father, and her Grandpop Dennis, for transporting the baskets to Port Richmond.

Congrats to the 5th grade for coming in 1st Place in buying 374 **Paper Chain Links** and to grade 8 for ranking 2nd Place with 168 links. The proceeds of the contest supported the **Thanksgiving Baskets** and **The Sister M. Celeste Memorial Award**.

The **Student Council's Dress Down Day for Diabetes** was a great success in raising \$250 for the **Juvenile Diabetes Fund**. Ruby Malak, Gr. 5, pictured on the left with Giovanna Delia, Gr. 5, raised an additional \$50 to help "Emily's Entourage," a friend's effort for Juvenile Diabetes research.



Continued, p. 15



During the month of December, **Just Born, Inc.** partnered with NAGS for **Brown Bag Lunches** for the homeless at **St. Francis Inn in Kensington**. Several cases of Philadelphia's own **Peanut Chews** were donated as a special treat for the guests at the Inn. We acknowledge the efforts of the entire production staff of **Just Born, Inc.** as well as Gayle Downs, Operations Manager, pictured at right with Sr. Martin Duffy, CSFN. Special thanks to Joanne Cassidy, pictured below, for supervising the loading of boxes and transporting the meals to Kensington each month!



The NAGS Athletic Department joined forces with HFU and Alpha House in a worthy cause for **Build-A-Library Community Project**. A total number of 467 children's books were collected and distributed to students attending Bayard Taylor and John Welsh Elementary Schools. Grade 5 contributed the most books and was treated to having their gym class at Holy Family University College Center! Sr. Mary Ann stated, "Whatever is done at NAGS always seems to be done with much love and generosity! Thank you to all our families for your support."



Girls and boys alike were "in the pink" for a breast cancer fundraiser for **The Bott Cancer Center at Holy Redeemer Hospital**. The Dress Down Day, sponsored by the Student Council, was held on October 20, 2010 and raised \$250.00.



Right: With the help of school families, faculty members Marie Maddox and Terry Vaccarino organize several efforts for **Aid for Friends**, the outreach center that provides weekly meals and services for the frail and elderly. The organization's motto, "Food and Friendship; Little Miracles Love Can Bring," is lived everyday by a team of volunteers throughout the Delaware Valley. NAGS is honored to be one of the schools that supports the work of **Aid for Friends**.

Over the holidays, the Spanish Club, under the direction of Senorita Marie Maddox, warmed the hearts of hospitalized Veterans in our area. Shiny hand-crafted beaded candy canes and Christmas cards were sent to the **Philadelphia VA Medical Center** and the **VA Medical Center in Washington, DC**. More than 90,000 Veterans are enrolled at the Philadelphia facility. The Medical Center's mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional healthcare that improves their health and well being. NAGS is honored to show our respect and gratitude to the Veterans for their sacrifice and service to our country.



In conjunction with planning **NAGSPA Christmas at NAGS** for the students, Bridie Tobler, NAGSPA Recording Secretary, introduced a special blanket making project to the students in grades 5 through 8. The students learned that the blankets would benefit the women and children at the **Woodstock Family Shelter** in Philadelphia.

Enthusiastically, each student provided the fleece material and the handiwork in assembling the blankets during Art class with Ms. Maria. The project was then completed during the **Christmas at NAGS** event. In all, 110 warm and cozy blankets were delivered to the shelter! Thanks to Bridie Tobler, our students and families for embracing such a heart-warming service project!



At left, the shelter's residents are thrilled with their pink plaid blanket. Above, Student Council Officers help load the cuddly blankets into bins. - From left to right: Nicolette Wons, President; Suzanne Cassidy, Treasurer; NAGSPA Board Member Bridie Tobler, Andreanna Manto, Secretary; Emil Berbakov, Vice President.



# Mapping Out A Career

Career Day is a much anticipated annual event at NAGS. There are as many questions surrounding career decisions as there are paths to get there! Our goal is to help our students in grades 5 through 8 navigate the many options of choosing a career. Students are exposed to a variety of career fields in an effort to encourage and motivate them to continue their education and pursue a profession they are passionate about.

Students were excited to hear from each professional. Many of the students asked many questions to learn more about specific careers. Sr. Mary Ann Allton, Principal, stated, "The event benefited both guest speakers and students alike, as many professionals left feeling as though they made a significant impact on the students."

**We are grateful for the participation of the following NAGS alumni, parents and friends:**

- Mike Agnew ~ *Computer Engineer, Motorola*
- Cheryl Cantwell ~ *Registered Nurse*
- Bob Coates ~ *Engineer*
- Arthur Durrant ~ *Justice Department*
- Robert Ferrilli ~ *Technical Consultant, FIG*
- Robert Galasso ~ *Sr. Risk Control Consultant*
- Kathy Gurbada ~ *Registered Nurse*
- Jessica Gaspero, '02 ~ *Pastry Chef, R2L*
- John Gilbert ~ *Attorney*
- Janet Gilbert ~ *Physical Therapy*

- Paul Halas ~ *Production Manager, Off the Wall, Inc.*
- Mike LeCompte ~ *Singer/Songwriter*
- Tim Londergan ~ *Sr. Account Executive, Tierney Agency*
- Eric McClendon ~ *Phila. Police Bomb Disposal Unit*
- Thomas O'Neill ~ *Phila. Police Accident Investigation*
- Sal Palantino ~ *Real Estate Broker, ReMax Eastern*
- Anthony Pontarelli ~ *Deputy Campaign Manager for Congressman Jim Gerlach*
- Michael Poole ~ *Co-owner, Trio Restaurant*
- Bob Reppert ~ *Phila. Police Accident Investigation*
- Michelle Scipione ~ *VP, Cash Reserve, Federal Reserve*
- Daniel Shead ~ *Phila. Police Accident Investigation*



Janet and John Gilbert



Sal Palantino



Mrs. Mai Dang and Robert Poole



Tim Londergan

Mike LeCompte

Michelle Scipione

Plans are already under-way for next year's event! Alumni, parents, alumni-parents and friends are welcome to participate!  
Please mark Monday, November 24, 2011 on your calendar!



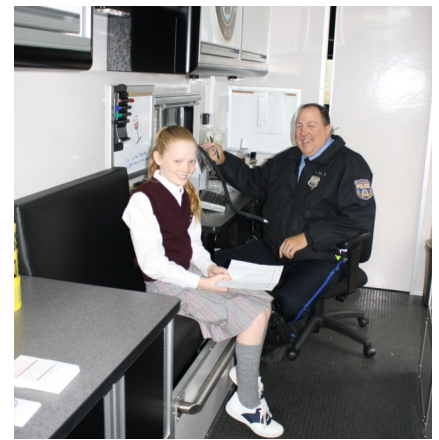




Eighth graders show off their chef hats



Jessica Gaspero, '02, and Sr. Mary Ann Allton



Student Shannen O'Neill and Officer Bob Reppert



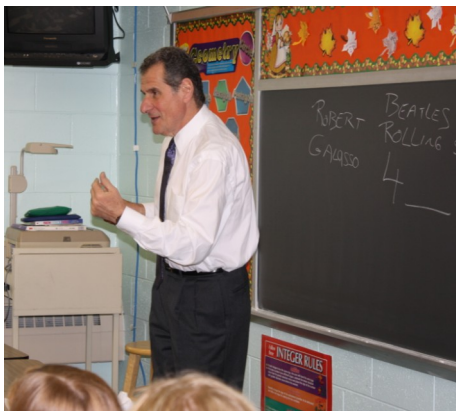
Mike Agnew



Robert Ferrilli



Cheryl Cantwell



Robert Galasso



Eric McClendon



Paul Halas

Officers Tom O'Neill, Dan Shead, Bob Reppert



Arthur Durrant





# Aloha!

Come Celebrate 70 Years  
of Academic Excellence

as

Nazareth Academy Grade School  
Parents' Association

Presents

## A Hawaiian Luau

12th Annual Silent/Live Auction

Saturday, April 2, 2011

6:00 P.M.

The Maltese Room

2049 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA

Lisa Bristow and Jenn Gallagher  
*Event Co-Chairs*

**\$40 per person includes**

**Buffet dinner, beer, wine and signature drink**

**SPONSORSHIPS:**

**THE BIG ISLAND**

Sponsor \$1,000.00

Includes 2 event tickets

Full page ad in Auction Program Book  
Recognition in all Public Relation Activities

Recognition at the event

**MAUI**

Sponsor \$500.00

Includes 2 event tickets

Half-page ad in Auction Program Book  
Recognition in all Public Relations Activities  
Recognition at the event

**OAHU**

Sponsor \$250.00

Includes quarter-page ad in Auction Program Book  
Recognition in all Public Relation Activities

**KAUAI**

Sponsor \$100.00

Recognition in Auction Program Auction Book

**LANAI**

Sponsor \$50.00

Recognition in Auction Program Auction Book

**RSVP Deadline: March 22, 2011**

**Reservations and Sponsorships can be made online at:  
[www.nazarethacademy.net](http://www.nazarethacademy.net), click "News & Events" and  
then click Aloha Auction flyer.**



# ANNUAL FUND



## to benefit New Multi-Purpose Room Project

**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 2010-2011 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.

**To date, we have raised \$27,000.00 toward this project! Help us reach our goal by May, 2011 !**

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 traditions 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alumnae 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.





**NAZARETH ACADEMY  
GRADE SCHOOL**

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Winter 2011

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*Celebrating our 70th Anniversary Year!*  
**February 15, 2011**  
*Catholic ID Presentation, 7 PM All welcome!*

**March 4, 2011**  
**First Friday Liturgy, 10:30 AM, NAHS Chapel**

**March 18 - 20, 2011**  
**Theater Presentation: "Bugsy Malone"**

**April 2, 2011**  
**NAGSPA Auction! Join us for a fun evening!**  
**CHECK WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS!**



## VFW "Patriot's Pen" Essay Contest

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary recently conducted the 2010 Patriot's Pen nationwide essay contest, entitled "Does Patriotism Still Matter?" The contest is open to students in grades 6 through 8 enrolled in schools throughout the United States. Under the supervision of Fifth Grade teacher Mrs. Mai Dang, several of our 7th grade students penned their feelings on the thought-provoking theme.

Mr. Thomas Goodman, representing VFW Post 1597, visited NAGS to inform the class of the contest results. As a combat engineer, Mr. Goodman was awarded several medals, among them the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service medals and Presidential Citation. Mr. Goodman's VFW Post 1597 is located in Croydon and is the oldest VFW Post in Bucks County.

The combat veteran acknowledged the participation of 7th Grade students *Vicky Hughes, Eric Kasperowicz, Dallas Livingstone, Lauren Preski, Madeline Pontarelli, Ava Roberts, Darby Showers, Caitlyn Sullivan and Nicholas Thompson*. He also announced that *Vicky Hughes* was chosen as Third Place Winner and presented the *VFW Youth Essay Award Citation*. The prize winning essay will be submitted for the final round in which the winner will earn up to a \$10,000 savings bond as well as a three day trip to Washington, DC.

The theme of the 2011-12 Essay Contest is "Are You Proud of Your Country?" For more information, visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).