



Nazareth Academy Grade School

OUR MISSION IS FAMILY

FOCUS ON FAMILY

The welcome mat was rolled out for our new families for the 2013-2014 school year at the New Families Liturgy and Reception. The annual tradition was hosted by the Parent Association board members on September 8, 2013.

Following a mass at the Nazareth Academy High School Chapel, our administration, faculty, staff, classroom ambassadors, parents and students assembled in the Multi-Purpose Room for a luncheon.

As in years past, this event is the beginning of many life-long friendships as we recognize all of the Nazareth families that maintain a tight bond long after their children graduate.

At left, Sr. Mary Ellen and Sr. Teresita greet the Reichert Family.

Below: Left - Spanish teacher Marie Furman greets new 4th Grader Ryan McHugh and his mother. *Below, right* We express our gratitude to Bob and Diane Delia, for catering a hearty and appetizing luncheon. As their daughter Giovana graduates this year, we acknowledge their family's dedication and involvement over the past eight years in promoting the school's mission to families.



We are delighted with the alumni presence and leadership on our Nazareth Academy Grade School Parents' Association Board this year! *At left, r - l: Laurie King, '85*, President; Sr. Teresita, Sr. Yvette and **Bernice (Giordano) Duesler, '79**, Vice-President, greet families. *(Board officers pictured on page 2)*

Below: Members of the faculty and the Cusano Family gather before the Liturgy.



A MESSAGE

From the Principal

Dear Friends of Nazareth Academy Grade School,

A precious memory stands out in my mind as one of God's greatest gifts to us. Created by family traditions, new adventures, well-deserved triumphs, surprising events and moments of joy, the power to recall both inspires and motivates us to aim higher and higher, to adhere to traditions in order to build a better world, and to marvel at the achievements of others.

This newsletter exemplifies the gift of memory in many ways, thanks to the untiring efforts of our Development Director, Mrs. Patricia McGarvey, who utilizes all means to preserve daily life in Nazareth Academy Grade School. Together with the faculty, the administration, the parents, the students, the alumni and the many friends of our school community, Mrs. McGarvey recreates the activities while preserving the precious moments in photos, poetic expression, and prose so that our "family" traditions, new experiences, success stories, surprises and jublations remain forever for all to enjoy. Moreover, they serve as springboards for celebration – for the Lord *"has done great things for us"* and we rejoice, just like our Patrons, Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Nazareth.

Our school is proud of each and every precious moment preserved in this newsletter and warmly congratulates everyone for each event engraved in history in this publication - for everyone contributes to daily life at Nazareth and everyone plays an important role in supporting all activities. May the memories we treasure always be the building blocks for Nazareth in 2014 and beyond!

Enjoy the newsletter as you place your mind on "rewind," and then, open your heart to God's blessings and challenges awaiting you as we make history for the next publication.

Warm congratulations to all!

Sister Mary Ellen, CSFN

Principal



Above, Sister Mary Ellen and the NAGS' mascot "Victory," joined the fun at a Pep Rally during Catholic Schools Week.

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Nazareth Academy Grade School

Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, CSFN, Principal

Patricia McGarvey, Development Director 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

We are in need of yearbooks from the following years: 1980, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988.



Congratulations to Nazareth Academy Grade School 2013-2014 Parents' Association Officers! *Seated, l - r:* Adrienne Roman, Sergeant-At-Arms; **Laurie King, '85**, President; Lisa Vendetta, Recording Secretary. *Standing, l - r:* Christine Cerquetelli, Treasurer; Donna Lynch, Corresponding Secretary and **Bernice Duesler, '79**, Vice President.



The Nazareth Academy Grade School Parents' Association hosted the annual Car Wash on September 14, 2013. Signs on the road and students waving to motorists passing by attracted a steady line of customers on the warm, sunny day.

Parents and students kept up with the demand for clean cars which included the fleet of cars from R.F. Design Integration, our current families, faculty and Board of Trustee members!

Special thanks to all the students and parents who brought their enthusiasm and elbow grease to begin the school year with a show of unity and support.



Above: Anthony Pantalone and Julia Davis at the Bake Sale.
Below: Editor Jessica Scipione helps our younger students purchase a treat.



HONORS ENGLISH STUDENTS INTRODUCE *"The Victory View"*



Under the leadership of Honors English teacher Maureen Ayes, the 7th grade Honors ELA students have embarked on a new venture to publish a student newspaper entitled, *"The Victory View."* The staff is headed by Editor-In-Chief Jessica Scipione.

The students turned reporters took to the beat around school to interview students and staff about activities, sports competitions and school events.

To support the costs of printing the newspaper, the students held a bake sale to raise funds.

To see the issues online, go to: www.nazarethacademy.net, Development, Development Office and click "Victory View" links.

Left: Mrs. Ayes, with seventh grade students Helen Dotchel and Dominic Mancino.





Grandparents' and Older Friends' Day Celebrates *America's Pioneers*

There is nothing more American than the old west! The 13th Annual Grandparents' and Older Friends' Day took on a western theme as we saluted America's Pioneers! The event, held on September 30, 2013, celebrated the courage and bravery of our ancestors who crossed the plains or oceans, or blazed a new trail in the United States.

Our guests and students assembled in classrooms and retraced the steps of our forefathers in a program that was presented to depict the hardships the settlers encountered. History was brought to life as frontiers, wagon trains and homesteads were featured in the presentation.

Grandparents, older friends and students also worked on developing a family "brand" and then wrangled around the refreshment tables where there was something for everyone! Thanks to our school families, the tables were full of Buckaroo Brownies, Rice Krispy Haystacks, Indian Corn Muffins and beverages. Personal stories of our grandparents' and older friends' ancestors were displayed in the lobby.

Whether or not our grandparents' families come from pioneer stock, knowing all we can about our forefathers and passing it on to the next generation is an effective way to give children something they desperately need - an identity larger than self.

An event of this magnitude is not possible without the enthusiastic support of the entire faculty and staff, as well as dozens of parent volunteers! We are grateful for the teamwork displayed by our school community! We also thank the many grandparents and older friends for their participation and honor their ancestors for the enduring spirit as they paved the way for a better life for generations to come!





The Code of the West

1. Live each day with courage.
2. Take pride in your work.
3. Always finish what you start.
4. Do what has to be done.
5. Be tough, but fair.
6. When you make a promise, keep it.
7. Ride for the brand.
8. Talk less and say more.
9. Remember that some things are not for sale.
10. Know when to draw the line.



LEADERSHIP at its *Best!*

An induction ceremony for the 2013-2014 Student Council Officers was held on September 20, 2013. Mrs. Mai Dang, Student Council Moderator presided over the ceremony. Sister Mary Ellen presented the officers with their ribbons after they took their oath to serve.

Pictured lower right: Sr. Mary Ellen, Principal, Julia Halas, President; Samuel Hellings, Vice President; Chloe Roberts, Treasurer; Michele Anzabi, Secretary; and Moderator Mrs. Mai Dang.

Participation in Nazareth Academy Grade School's Student Council provides an opportunity for students to make a meaningful difference in their school and neighboring community. The Student Council officers and representatives are hard-driven, value-oriented leaders that blend a competitive spirit and a desire to give something back.

Our Student Council is at the heart of student involvement. The officers and representatives have already planned activities to strengthen school spirit, involvement and service to the community. Sister Mary Ellen stated, "We look forward to working with you and supporting you in your endeavors to further the school's mission."

These students join many others before them who made their own contribution toward our shared mission and continue to make an impact in creating a better world.



A *BUDDING* RELATIONSHIP



Years ago, the first and eighth grade buddy program was initiated to encourage the idea of a "school family." Students are paired in September and participate in various activities throughout the year such as walking to Mass, playing games and reading together. Their time is further enhanced by going on a hayride together in the fall.

On October 8, 2013, the first and eighth grade buddies travelled to Linvilla Orchards in Media, Pennsylvania. A fun hayride through the scenic orchards and fields was capped off with a buddy lunch and fun in the playground with massive wooden trucks, boats, tractors and trains. The farm market and bakery yielded sweet, homemade treats to munch on!

First grader Steven Humenuk stated, "It was fun on the hayride! We almost went around the whole farm. We were able to find our way out of a maze. I liked shopping with my buddy and taking pictures. It was nice to get an apple and apple cider when we got back to school!"

The eighth grade students agreed that the trip was a great way to start off their last year at NAGS. Ruby Malak, '14, explained, "The hayride with my first grade buddy was by far the best field trip I have been on. Whether we were getting our faces painted, or just eating lunch, my buddy and I were always laughing. It was a great way to get to know our buddies and form a relationship with them. I hope to go on another field trip with them!"



E.I.T.C + FOUNDATIONS = SUCCESS



Since the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP) was formed 13 years ago, the organization alone has provided \$61,185.00 in scholarships for tuition for Nazareth Academy Grade School families. Funding is provided by corporate tax dollars through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program and through dedicated efforts of the CSFP staff. We are proud to maintain this successful and beneficial partnership with the organization to help families afford a quality Catholic-based education at Nazareth Academy Grade School.

On November 15, 2013, CSFP held a kick-off at Citizens Bank Park for their application process for a lottery. Qualifying students residing in Philadelphia in kindergarten through grade eight were eligible to apply. Once chosen in the lottery, families are granted four consecutive years of assistance provided they qualify.

At left, Evie McNiff, CSFP President, addressing hundreds of students and parents explained that they have awarded 12,000 scholarships over the last 13 years. We applaud the efforts of the dedicated and driven CSFP staff as they continue to work toward their "Campaign for 10,000 Children."

The organization is supported by many local organizations and corporations, including The Philadelphia Phillies and Wawa, both of whom sent their special "ambassadors" to greet the crowds! The *Phillie Phanatic* and Wawa's *Wally the Goose* provided their own unique and hilarious entertainment at the event.



On behalf of our Nazareth families, we honor CSFP for the impact the organization has made to so many NAGS students and families! For additional information, visit: www.csfphiladelphia.org.



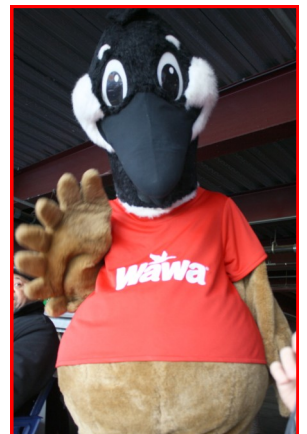
NAGS Development Director Patricia McGarvey was also present as the Bridge Foundation presented a ceremonial check to area schools on October 28, 2013 at Little Flower High School.

Representatives from Aegis Security Insurance, Chesapeake Energy, CSX Transportation, Enterprise Holdings, Penn Jersey Paper, United Healthcare Community Plan and Waste Management were joined by local legislators that have been instrumental in the growth and success of the EITC program.

The Bridge Foundation has been supporting NAGS families since 2006 and we are grateful for the ongoing efforts made to help families and students who value and seek better educational opportunities in Pennsylvania.

Above left: Patricia McGarvey is pleased to take part in the check presentation with EITC donors and supporters.

At left and below: Bobby Keyes of Enterprise Holdings and Senator Michael Stack, both long-time supporters of NAGS, address the guests assembled at Little Flower.



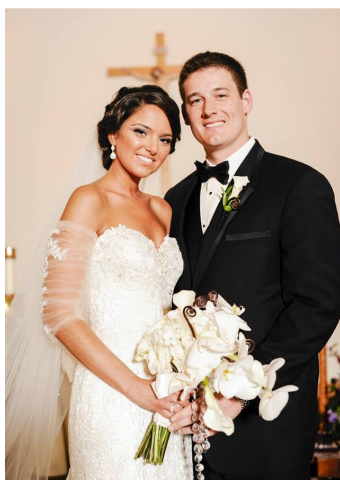
The EITC program is simple yet effective way to support Pennsylvania families! Businesses receive tax credits for donations made to Commonwealth-approved non-profit scholarship organizations, like the Bridge Foundation, Bravo Foundations and Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia, and qualifying families are able to choose the best education for their children. **Business owners interested in supporting NAGS are encouraged to email Pat McGarvey at nagsalumni@aol.com.**

NAGS also recognizes the Nazareth Family Foundation and the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth for their continued extraordinary support of the school's mission to families.

Class Notes



*Thanks for the memories! This Second Grade class picture was shared by **Matthew Miller, Class of 1980**. Matthew stated, "I have such fond and fun memories of the eight years I spent there. I think I still have a broken finger from the piano lessons from Sister Laurian. It is amazing that after all these years my closest friendships are those formed at this school from 1972!"*



In his first semester at Temple University **Christopher McFadden, '09**, was honored on the Dean's list and was acknowledged for his perfect 4.0 Cumulative GPA. Chris is a Freshman majoring in Sports and Recreation Management.

Deanna Stephens, '09, was honored for her high 3.93 Cumulative GPA in her first semester as a Freshman at Temple University. Deanna is pursuing a major in Marketing.

Kevin Kerr, '10, is attending high school in Carney, NE, on a full scholarship and playing Ice Hockey for the Tri City Storm. Kevin was drafted by the top amateur organization, US Hockey League, and is looking forward to attending Penn State University, University Park, on a full scholarship.

Below, left: **Alex Halas, '11**, a Junior at St Joseph's Preparatory School attended the induction of his sister, Julia Halas, '14, as Student Council President. Julia's mother, Jen Halas, is also pictured.

1960's

Above right: **Kathy (Gallagher) Berkelbach, '69**, took a trip down memory lane at NAGS on September 23, 2013. Kathy recalled fondly how her seventh grade class helped to move desks and supplies from the original school building to the new facility on tractors!

2000's

Congratulations and best wishes to **Gina Giannascoli, '02**, who wed Chris Hanson on April 27, 2013 at Old St. Andrew's Church. The happy couple, pictured above right, enjoyed their honeymoon in Venice, Florence, Rome and Sorrento!

Matthew McGarvey, '04, is an Account Executive at Brown and Brown of Florida, located in Daytona.

Congratulations to **Kaitlin Kerr, '06**, on her December graduation from Duke University.

Kyra Krass, '07, is a Junior at Penn State University, University Park, majoring in Biology with minors in Spanish, Psychology and Dance. We wish Kyra the best of luck as she begins a summer research project in Spain at the University of Granada on a federal fellowship grant.



Above right: Go Firebirds! Representing Holy Ghost Prep on a recent visit with 7th and 8th grade boys are: **David Kasperowicz, '10**; **Eric Kasperowicz, '12**; and **William Jester, '10**.

Along with her Tennis doubles partner, **Andreana Manto, '11**, helped Nazareth Academy High School Pandas win their first Athletic Association of Catholic Academies since 1990 in competing against Mount St. Joseph's team in the AACA Championship.



A match made at NAGS!

Sean Dawes, '00, and Jamie Smith, '00, met when Jamie transferred to the school in 6th grade. An engagement at NAGS in February, 2012 was recently followed with a photo shoot for their pre-wedding photos!

The couple, pictured at left and at right with photographers Tony and Amy Hoffer, were all smiles before their shooting their photos at the school and Boat House Row.



Photos at right used with permission by Hoffer Photography, recently named one of 2013's Best Wedding Photographers by Huffington Post



Greetings from the NAGS Christmas concert! Left to right are: **Lauren Braun, '10; Emily Wash, '10; Taryn Neals, '10; Gabrielle Pristera, '10; Taylor Neals, '13 and Mary Kate Gould, '13.** So happy to see you all back at NAGS!!



Above, left: New alumni from the **Class of 2013** take time to visit! L-R are: Nazareth Academy High School freshman **Shannen Conner, Emily Yost, Briana Wiley and Emily Beck** with Sr. Yvette, Sr. Mary Ellen and Sr. Daniela.

Marne Brown, '13 and Emily Yost, '13, right, with Jacqui Makowski, Director of Institutional Advancement at Nazareth Academy High School visited with our 7th and 8th grade students.

Blast from the past! Above, special thanks to **Thomas Brzozowski, '78**, who shared photos on Facebook from his class' Easter Parade! The students are sporting some very creative Easter bonnets!



www.facebook.com/NazarethAcademyGradeSchool
and

www.facebook.com/groups/nazarethacademygradeschool/

Faculty News



Congratulations to Spanish teacher Marie Maddox, who married Jason Furman on August 16, 2013. *At far left*, violinists Ava Roberts, '12 and Chloe Roberts, '14, played beautifully during the ceremony. The happy couple then celebrated with guests, including a group of NAGS faculty and staff members. *Below*, the glowing bride with attendants Maura Fox and Mai Dang.



The 2013-2014 school year brought several new faces to NAGS! We warmly welcome our new teachers! *Above, left, l - r:* Ms. Nicole Dul, Art; Mrs. Maggy (Culp) McCay, '92, Third Grade Teacher; and Sister Nancy Kravel, CSFN, 6th Grade Religion

Center, l - r: Mrs. Sally Muldoon, Librarian and Ginny Lee, Science Lab Instructor

Congratulations to Sister Daniela Bronka, on the completion of her Practicum in Educational Leadership at Holy Family University. Sister Daniela and a group of first graders are pictured above, right.



On December 3, 2013, students and staff, including her cousin, Mrs. "H," wished Art teacher Marie Sheehan much luck in her new position.

Former third grade teacher Kristy Nober visited with the faculty after she began a new teaching position at an area charter school. We are happy to announce that Mrs. Nober and her husband are expecting their first child in July, 2014!

Rachel Merryman, former second grade teacher and proud Grandpop visit during Christmas at NAGS. At nine months, twins Charlotte Rose and Maverick Hunter celebrated their first Christmas!

We Think Sr. Anita is Kind of a Big Deal!

In conjunction with the 2013 NAGSPA Annual Auction, students were given an opportunity to nominate the naming of the Faculty Lounge after a faculty or staff member. Overwhelmingly, the votes were tallied in favor of Sister Anita!

On October 7, 2013, the Sisters, staff and students surprised Sister Anita with a presentation of flowers, balloons and unveiling of a wall plaque.

Sister Anita was pleased with the honor and expressed her appreciation to the students for submitting their votes in her name.

At lower right: l - r: Sr. Teresita Morales, Sr. Yvette Ortiz, Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, Sr. Anita, Sr. Daniela Bronka and Sr. Nancy Kravel celebrate the moment.



This past April, the winning auction bid to name the NAGS driveway was generously donated by Ron Masciantonio and Laurie Palaia!

Their daughter, third grade student Laurel Masciantonio, was thrilled with the naming of "Laurel Lane" for the 2013-2014 school year.

Above: Laurel also shared the moment with her cousins. Left - right: NAGS students Lindsay Long, Gr. 7, and Lola Long, Gr. 3, and her mother, Laurie Palaia.

Please join the school community
in remembering our
beloved departed.



Kathy Bauman - Aunt of Brynn Lynch, Gr. 5

Robert F. Burns - Grandfather of Sarah Burns, Gr. 4 and Julia Burns, Gr. 2

Jane Dzierza - Great Grandmother of Capri Mancino, '04; Nick Mancino, '09; Dominic Mancino, Gr. 7 and Isabella Mancino, Gr. 3

Nancy E. Hanson - Sister in law of Mrs. Kathleen Serfass

Sister Aurelia Lopata, CSFN

George Malpass - Father of Kim Malpass, Maintenance

Angelo Mancino - Grandfather of Capri Mancino, '04; Nick Mancino, '09; Dominic Mancino, Gr. 7 and Isabella Mancino, Gr. 3

Adelene McCaffery - Great Grandmother of Morgan McCaffery, Gr. 6

Helen M. Myers Montini - Grandmother of Olivia Montini, Gr. 4

Dolores Pantalone - Grandmother of Anthony Pantalone, Gr. 7

Mary Jo Stumpo - Mother of Sandy Michael, former NAGS teacher, Grandmother of Brian Michael, '95

Patricia Hanna Vittorelli - Mother of Donna (Vittorelli) Pulini, '79; Donald Vittorelli, Jr. '82. Grandfather of Donald Vittorelli, '13 and Zachary Vittorelli, '14.

Kathleen Waring - Mother of Beth (Waring) Clayton, '87

A HAIR Raising Experience

A hair-raising experience was had by all on October 9, 2013 with Julia Roberts from Merck Pharmaceuticals. The lesson presented by Mrs. Roberts on the Van de Graaff generator brought an electrifying experience to our Science Lab!

A Van de Graaff generator is an electrostatic generator which uses a moving belt to accumulate very high amounts of electrical potential on a metal globe on a pedestal. The generator was invented by American physicist Robert J. Van de Graaff in 1929. The potential difference achieved in modern Van de Graaff generators can reach 5 megavolts. A tabletop version can produce 100,000 volts and can store enough energy to produce a visible spark and create enough static electricity to raise the hair of our students!

We salute Merck Pharmaceuticals and Julia Roberts, mother of Ava Roberts, '13 and Chloe Roberts, '14, for igniting the spark of Science in the minds of our students over many years. We are grateful for Mrs. Roberts' dedication and time in sharing exciting and amazing scientific matters at NAGS!



Preparing Young Learners For the Real W RLD

Career development is a lifelong process through which students come to understand themselves as they relate to the world and their role in it. In elementary school, the focus of the event is *career awareness* to provide various topics and professions for exploration.

Our annual Career Day is also an excellent chance for parents to get involved as speakers. We appreciate the efforts of this year's speakers who took time off from work to participate in the event!

2013 CAREER DAY PRESENTERS

Mike Agnew, Engineer

Edward Barbara, EMT

Cheryl Cantwell, RN

Marina D'Angelo, Professor of Anatomy, PCOM

Heather Dotchel, Editor

Robert Ferrilli, System Analyst

Patricia Humli, Boutique Owner

Gina Machado, Senior Product Manager

Eric McClendon, Police Bomb Technician

Edward Miller, Police Sergeant, Marine Unit

Richard Montanez, Traffic Engineer

Shirley Murray, Corporal, Phila Police, SVU

Thomas O'Neill, Philadelphia Police Accident Investigator

Michelle Scipione, VP Cash Reserve,

Federal Reserve Bank



Sister Anita: *90 Years Young!*

On November 12, 2013, Sister Anita Pasternak celebrated her 90th Birthday! The students and faculty planned special activities to mark the occasion. Sister Anita was presented with cards drawn by each student, dozens of balloons, and a "Happy Birthday" banner!

Charles M. Schultz, the creator of "Peanuts," once said, "Life is like a ten speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use." While this quote may apply to many of us, it certainly does not apply to Sister Anita who is always on the go, always helping, always busy.

Sister Anita was touched by the outpouring of sincere wishes from the students and was satisfied that "it was a good hair day" for the pictures! *Happy 90th Birthday Sister! We love you!*



TO BEE, OR NOT TO BEE



The goal of a school Spelling Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary and develop correct English usage that will help them throughout their lives. Students prepared and studied for the Spelling Bees held at NAGS on November 25, 2013.

Sister Mary Ellen, Mrs. Ayes and Mrs. Dang presided over three competitions geared separately for grades 3 through 8. The winners received certificates for their efforts. Our finalists are as follows:

- 1st: Madeline Donlon, Gr. 2
- 2nd: Isabella Chango, Gr. 2
- 3rd: Dominique Grasso, Gr. 3

- 1st: Sean Armstrong, Gr. 6
- 2nd: Kathryn Tereshko, Gr. 6
- 3rd: Lauren O'Neill, Gr. 6

- 1st: Chloe Roberts, Gr. 8
- 2nd: Michele Anzabi, Gr. 8
- 3rd: Danielle Shead, Gr. 8

"Word by word, we discover we are sisters and brothers learning about each other, word by word."

(Song by Pearson Publishers)



SPOTLIGHT ON **FAITH**

This year, Principal Sister Mary Ellen announced the organization of a Faith Fair in which Nazareth Academy Grade School students in Grades 1 - 4 voluntarily participated. Each grade level was assigned a specific religious faith topic to research and illustrate on a display board. Religion teachers for Grades 5 - 8 decided to use the study as the Trimester project.

Once the projects were completed, students were interviewed by judges on the material, which included projects about the Foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. We thank all of the judges who enthusiastically supported this event, as well as all the students who explored their faith through the project.

Awards were presented on November 21, 2013, the feast of the Foundress. To celebrate the Feast Day, each classroom received a framed print of the Mother Foundress, courtesy of the Gregory Family and Professional Duplicating. Daily, Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd watches over each class, each student, each person at NAGS.



"The Best Things In Life Are Meant to be Shared"

~ Charles Shultz

The Nazareth Academy Grade School community showed the spirit of family by uniting in a Thanksgiving Basket project for the needy. We are thankful to Mrs. Mai Dang and the Student Council who helped organize the assembly of over eighteen enormous baskets complete with turkeys and all the trimmings for a bountiful meal!

This annual project promotes and reinforces the strong service component of our faith mission of being Christ every day, everywhere. In addition, centering on the needs of others strengthens students' personal growth as they learn.

Top right: God bless our parents and teachers who took the time to help with deliveries to the needy families at a local school. We applaud their generosity of our parents and students who enthusiastically responded to the needs of the poor.

Right: Also setting an example of selfless giving this Thanksgiving was Cafeteria Manager Patti D'Andrea and Assistant Lisa Bristow. Through their entry in a Thanksgiving decorating contest with Nutritional Development Services, the pair won the first prize of two gift cards to a local supermarket. In the spirit of sharing, the cards were donated promptly to families in need for the Thanksgiving holiday, in addition to an enormous basket they assembled. Thus, Nazareth's commitment to instill the spiritual values is evident on every level throughout the school. *We have much to be thankful for indeed!*





To celebrate their last Christmas at Nazareth, the Class of 2014 was treated to a turkey feast through the kindness of Bill and Lisa Eisler, parents of Riley Eisler, '14.

Lisa Eisler said, "The luncheon consisted of 44 pounds of turkey, 20 pounds of mashed potatoes, 20 pounds of stuffing, 15 pounds of macaroni and cheese, and the greatest eighth graders in the world!" The students savored the delicious meal, as well as their last holiday season before graduation.

Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Eisler for your generosity in preparing this fabulous and memorable feast for our students!



The arrival of *George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker"* by the Pennsylvania Ballet signals the beginning of the Christmas Season in the Philadelphia area. To add to the excitement, Nazareth Academy Grade School third grader Laurel Masciantonio was chosen to star in 16 performances as a Toy Soldier.

The production features glittering sets, world class dancing, and classical music by Tchaikovsky. Above, Sr. Teresita and Sr. Mary Ellen met with Laurel and her mother Laurie Palaia before a holiday performance at Academy of Music.

Laurel exclaimed, "I'll never forget my time on stage, it's a memory that will last a lifetime. I love the music of 'The Nutcracker' and I can't wait to do it again!"

Wrapping Up *Fun* at "Christmas at NAGS"

By Helen Dotchel, Gr. 7, for "The Victory View", Vol. 2, Issue 2

This year's Christmas at NAGS was amazing! We made Birthday/Christmas bags for the homeless. The bags were filled with body care supplies and party supplies.

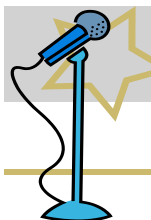
The 7th and 8th graders had a great time with their buddies. All the grades also watched movies and made reindeer out of candy canes, yarn, red pom-poms and googly eyes. Students wore their gym uniforms and other ornamental additions such as hats, antlers and fun socks.

The best part was greeting Santa! He asked what we wanted, distributed candy canes and smiled at the camera with us. Nobody really knows why he comes to school each year, but this reporter's guess is that one of the faculty or staff knows him personally or that so many of us are on the "nice" list. Therefore, he cannot help but stop at our school!

The parents and teachers made sure that Christmas at NAGS was a success. After pizza, cupcakes and entertainment, all would agree that we had FUN!

Our thanks to the event co-chairs Heather Huot and Dana Heron, at far right, and Parents' Association for organizing the service project for St. Francis Inn and hosting a memorable event for our students!





Now We're Talking!

The Forensics team competed in their first competition of the season at St. Joseph's Preparatory School on January 18, 2014. The team, above right, had been preparing for months with the help of Coaches Mrs. Maureen Ayes, Honors English teacher; and Nazareth parents Jen Halas and Julia Roberts.

We are proud to announce that NAGS won the 3rd place sweepstakes trophy! Our team presented 17 entries in the competition and 12 received an award.

Semifinalist awards were presented to: Maura Budd, Madelyn Congdon, Ally Graff, Jessica Scipione, & Kathryn Tereshko.

Finalists awards were as follows:

1st Place, Declamation: Tracy Marcelis

2nd Place, Dramatic Interpretation: Chloe Roberts

3rd Place, Duo: Julia Halas/ Samantha Lorenzo

3rd Place, Impromptu: James Duesler

6th Place, Dramatic Interpretation: John Duesler

6th Place, Prose: Angelina Stride

7th Place, Dramatic Interpretation: Isabelle Anzabi

Photos by Heather Dotchel



Above: The Forensics Team



Left: Coaches Jen Halas, Honors ELA teacher Maureen Ayes and Julia Roberts

Illustrating the Joy of Christmas

Nazareth Academy Grade School's students were inspired to use their creative talents in a Christmas greeting card competition organized by Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, Principal. Many students rose to the challenge of submitting either an original art cover design or poetic greeting.

The submissions were judged and the finalists were announced on October 4, 2013. *At far right:* The artwork of finalists Michele Anzabi, right, and Tracy Marcelis, left,

At right - back row: Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, Giovana Delia, Gr. 8; Tracy Marcelis, Gr. 8; Carolyn Marcelis, Gr. 8; Julia Halas, Gr. 8. Front row: Jamie Barbara, Gr. 5; Michele Anzabi, Gr. 8.



"The students, instructed by their teachers and guided by their families, are our messengers of the joy, peace and love of Christmas. They proclaim the 'Good News' of Jesus' Birth! They announce the Coming of our Savior!" - Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, CSFN, Principal

Well Educated Global Citizens



Nazareth students participated in the National Geographic Society of Philadelphia's Third Annual city-wide Geo Bowl at West Catholic High School. The competition was held on November 18, 2013.

Representing NAGS at the Geo Bowl were: Anthony Pantalone, Chloe Roberts, Joan Dotchel and Kathryn Tereshko, at right.

We congratulate the students who

finished in Second Place among the other schools. Anthony Pantalone explained, "Questions varied from physical geography to political geography to history. Everyone had fun at the bowl, and we hope for a big win next year!"

Special thanks to eighth grade teacher Maura Fox, who continues to encourage and challenge the students with frequent trivia questions to prepare for the annual event.

Photo by Heather Dotchel



Students Define Patriotism in Essays

Commander Thomas Goodman of the VFW Post 1597 in Croydon, PA, presented prizes to the Post's winners of the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. The essay theme was "What does patriotism mean to me?" The students' well-written compositions clearly indicate that the values of country, community and family are important and highly regarded.

Congratulations to Samantha Lorenzo, First Place; Tracy Marcelis, Second Place; Jacob Riti, Third Place. Runners-up: Troy Neals and Meaghan Gould.

The Post also honored teachers Mai Dang and Maura Fox for setting fine examples of leadership and citizenship described by Sister Mary Ellen on the nomination form.

We salute Commander Goodman and the Post's dedicated veterans for their valiant efforts in sponsoring the annual contest. We also thank all of our teachers whose dedication and encouragement help our students soar!

Students! Get a head start on next year's essay! The theme of the 2014-2015 essay contest is "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans."



Bringing the Revolutionary War to Life

The harsh realities of life as a Revolutionary War soldier fighting for freedom and liberty was the topic during a 7th grade Social Studies class on December 2, 2013.

Revolutionary War Reenactor Richard Serfass, PhD, a former teacher, Principal and NJ Board of Education member and a Private in the 4th Continental Artillery Regiment (Proctor's Artillery). Dr. Serfass participates in reenactments at the Battle of Monmouth, the Battle of Fort Mercer and Washington's Crossing (Battle of Trenton). We are grateful for his time in sharing his knowledge and passion for history with our students!

Far right: We appreciate NAGS' staff member Kathy Serfass for facilitating the educational connection for Mrs. Maura Fox's Social Studies class.

Right: Dr. Serfass outfitted volunteer "soldiers" Ryan Spangler, Meghan Bozarth and James Duesler



Swim Team Caps Off a Perfect Season

The Nazareth Academy Grade School Swim Team finished the 2013-2014 season in dramatic *undefeated* fashion! Over the past nine years, the team of 8 has sprung in growth to 29 students from grades 1 - 8, due to the leadership and enthusiasm of **Sally (Gaughan) Unger, '81**, Athletic Director. We also recognize NAGS parents Joe Macauley and Brian Beatrice for their dedication and great rapport with our swimmers.

In December, many of our 8th graders were recognized for their speed and passion at the CAL Swim Championships held at LaSalle University. Mrs. Unger stated, "Many of our 8th graders will be swimming next year in high school. We wish them all the best as they continue to work toward their greatest potential!"

The sport helps children focus on the development of healthy and active lifestyle habits. It provides unparalleled cardiovascular conditioning, increases flexibility and builds long lean muscles. We invite all NAGS students to come out next year to help the school continue to build a strong program!

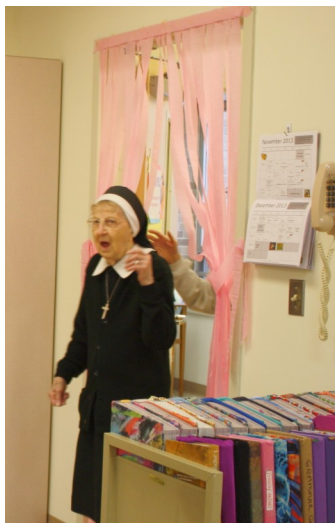


Sister Anita Retires

After 70 years in education, Sister Anita Pasternak, CSFN, retired in December. Sister began 19 fulfilling years at Nazareth in September, 1994 when the Class of 2002 was just beginning their journey in first grade.

As Vice-Principal, Sister Anita touched the lives and hearts of all of our parents, students, alumni and friends. To celebrate this milestone, a surprise luncheon was held by the faculty, pictured at right and below. A photo collage of Sister's years at NAGS was shown on the Smart Board. The collage paid special homage to Gertrude Hawk Candy and Sally Foster Wrapping Paper, both fundraisers that Sister Anita chaired for decades.

A second celebration with several Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth who came to express gratitude in the name of the Congregation. The students also presented a special songs to mark the occasion.



Pictured below: Under the direction of Music teacher Suzanne Trotter, the students serenaded Sister Anita by singing "You Are My Sunshine" and "You Got a Friend in Me." In addition, the students presented Sister with flowers and cards they had created.

Following the presentation, Sister Loretta Theresa, President of MMI, and Sister Brendan O'Brien, Board of Trustee Chairperson, expressed their appreciation for Sister's dedication and wished her all the best in her retirement.

The NAGS community congratulates Sister Anita and all she has accomplished in her life. Even at age 90, Sister looks forward to new responsibilities at Mount Nazareth, where she resides.

Sister's soft pretzels and cure-all mints will remain at NAGS, but we will all miss her wisdom, jokes and one-liners, her no-nonsense attitude, and most of all, her smile that can light up a room.



A Living Tribute

The Nazareth community gathered on November 8, 2013 on the school grounds to dedicate a flowering dogwood tree in memory of Thomas Simbeck, a graduate of Nazareth Academy Grade School Class of 2002. Thomas was also the cousin of Eric Marcelis, '09, Carolyn Marcelis and Tracy Marcelis in Grade 8. Thomas attended Roman Catholic High School and graduated from LaSalle University in 2011. Sadly, he passed away May 11, 2013.

The tree was planted through the efforts of Thomas' classmate, Gina Marie (Giannascoli) Hanson, who was touched by his life and sudden passing. We are grateful for the generosity of Gina and her family in donating the tree and its planting to honor the memory of a special young man.

Thomas' mother, Terry (Marcelis) Wilson, was present for the prayer service. In a true NAGS family way, a touching show of support and love was evident by the presence of many alumni parents, alumni, Marcelis family members, friends as well as students, faculty and staff.

Sister Mary Ellen Gemmell welcomed our guests and introduced the Student Council members who presented a program written for the occasion.



Terry Wilson stated, "Sincere thanks for such a loving and wonderful tribute from our Nazareth Academy Grade School family in memory of Tom. It was especially fitting that this gift was dedicated on the anniversary of our beloved friend, Sr. Celeste Slowik. You are an awesome and incredible group of people, and I am proud to be a part of this wonderful family."

The tree is a living legacy, a gift that will grow stronger year after year. Long may it stand, reaching ever upward to embrace the light and warmth of Heaven above.

At left, below: Terry Wilson with her nieces Carolyn and Tracy Marcelis, Gr. 8.

Below: Family and friends gather with Thomas' mother
Left to right: Patrick Marcelis, Anne Marcelis, AP '09; Jack Marcelis, AP '09; Sharon Crimi, AP '02; Jim Foley, AP '05, '10; Denise Sosalski, Suzanne (Mattson) Strybuc, '74, AP '02; Terry Wilson, Ap '02; Tim Strybuc, '02; Maureen McAllister, '05; Sandy Gormley, AP '02 and Lisa Burke.



Our Students Are **Rocking FIRST IN MATH**

FIRST IN MATH is an online game for students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. The program is divided into six basic modules: Skill Sets; Just the Facts; Know and Show; Workout Gyms; Bonus Games and Measurement World. Each activity offers immediate feedback on numerical fluency and mathematical skills.

First In Math :

Fuels the desire to learn

Ignites the passion for excellence

Motivates the drive to achieve

Through the school's membership in the program, competitive results and rankings provide motivation and sustain high activity levels.

- As of January 31, 2013, Nazareth Academy Grade School is 39th in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia!
- Grade 1 is 5th in the Archdiocese, among 5th Grades
- Grade 2 is 10th in the Archdiocese, among 2nd Grades
- Grade 8 is 10th in the Archdiocese, among all 8th Grades in Archdiocese

TOP PLAYERS:

- Chloe Roberts is 42nd in Archdiocese out of ALL GRADES in Archdiocese
- Fahmi Fahmi is 1st out of all 1st graders in Archdiocese
- Damian Monaghan is 2nd out of all 1st graders in Archdiocese
- Christina Carbone is 18th of all 6th graders in Archdiocese
- Chloe Roberts is also 5th out of all 8th graders in Archdiocese
- Giovana Delia is 12th out of all 8th graders in Archdiocese

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR MATH TEACHERS! Keep up the great work!



Holiday Mail for Heroes

Each Christmas, the American Red Cross sponsors an annual "Holiday Mail for Heroes" campaign to spread cheer to our military and veterans. Nazareth helped achieve the organization's nationwide goal to collect and distribute one million pieces of holiday mail. The cards were sent to current military personnel, hospitalized service members as well as veterans and their families.

Under the direction of our teachers, each student created a greeting card to acknowledge the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. Colorful cards included poems, holy cards, prayers and well wishes for a Merry Christmas.

It is through projects such as this that the true spirit of the NAGS family shines. God bless all of our service men and women, veterans and their loved ones.

DESIGNER BAG B-I-N-G-O!



Attendees and Nazareth Academy Grade School's Parents' Association were the big winners at a Designer Bag Bingo and Night at the Races event on November 9, 2013. Once the doors opened, throngs of guests were waiting to try their luck playing Bingo for handbags from popular designers. We are grateful for the support of our donors and our volunteers in ensuring the success of this inaugural event.

The fundraiser was chaired by the Gangemi/Hague and DiTullio Families. Guests enjoyed a fabulous buffet provided by David Gangemi of Nick's Deli in Warminster, Pennsylvania.

We appreciate the hospitality of Sister Mary Joan, Principal of Nazareth Academy High School in providing a welcoming facility for the event. Debbie Gangemi stated, "It was a really great night! I think everyone walked out a winner regardless if they won a designer bag. With all of this support from our community, our students are the real winners!"

NAZARETH ACADEMY GRADE SCHOOL
PRESENTS

The Wizard of Naz

SAVE THE DATE

for the

ANNUAL
AUCTION

benefitting our
very own Munchkins!

April 12, 2014
6PM-11PM



THE MALTESE ROOM

2049 Bristol Pike • Bensalem, PA 19020

We cordially invite the
Nazareth Academy Grade School Community
to our Annual Auction
on April 12, 2014
at the Maltese Room in
Bensalem, Pennsylvania

You can help by sponsoring the event, placing an ad
or by making a reservation today online

IT'S EASY!

Go to: www.nazarethacademygradeschool.net,
Click "News/Events" to access posted links.

Sponsorships due March 21, 2014
For additional information, email Auction Co-Chairs
Gina Burns - gmt37@comcast.net
Tierney Kelly, '90 - tierneypr@gmail.com
Heather Tereshko - hatereshko@comcast.net

SPONSORSHIPS

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE.... NAGS

\$1000 Sponsor includes:
Full page in the Auction Program
2 tickets to the Auction
Recognition in all Public Relations activities
Recognition at the Auction

OVER THE RAINBOW

\$500 Sponsor includes:
Half page in the Auction Program
2 tickets to the Auction
Recognition in all Public Relations Activities
Recognition at the Auction

EMERALD CITY

\$250 Sponsor includes:
Quarter page in the Auction Program
Recognition in all Public Relation Activities

RUBY SLIPPERS

\$100 Sponsor includes:
Business Card in the Auction Program
Recognition in the Auction Program

YELLOW BRICK ROAD

\$50 Sponsor includes:
Recognition in the Auction Program

SPONSOR A SISTER

Sponsor an auction ticket for a Sister or Faculty Member
for \$40
Includes Recognition in the Auction Program

Nazareth Academy Grade School is a Non-Profit 501 (c)(3) organization listed in the
"Official Catholic Directory" under Elementary Schools - Private - Archdiocese of Phila.

CSFN Mother General Visits



On a whirlwind tour of all of the ministries of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Mother Jana Zawieja, CSFN, Superior General in Rome was warmly welcomed at the school on February 10, 2014. Mother Jana was accompanied by Sister Angela Marie Mazzeo, CSFN, General Councilor.

The Fourth Grade class impressed the Sisters by playing "Simple Gifts" on the choir chimes, under the direction of Music teacher Suzanne Trotter.



Sister Mary Ellen and Sister Yvette then took the special guests on a tour of the school. A special greeting, along with a song about Creation was given by Mrs. McCay's third grade class, above right.

At left, Mother Jana and the students discuss their instrumental notes in the piece.

Lower right: After admiring the beautiful statue of Pope John Paul II, donated by the Liccio Family, the Sisters pause for a photo. L - R: Sister Yvette, Sr. Mary Ellen, Mother Jana, Sister Angela Marie and Sister Nancy.



Furry Companions Bring Mobility to the Blind



Imagine being a part of training a four-legged friend to bring mobility and independence to the blind or sight impaired! Eighth grader Chloe Roberts can tell you that it is an extremely rewarding experience. Chloe has been a puppy raiser for the *Seeing Eye* for three years.

Each year the organization matches 260 students with puppies for an intensive training program.

At a recent demonstration at NAGS, a group of puppy raisers guided their dogs through a series of drills, much to the delight of our students. The puppies, all sporting their green vests they earned for good obedience, listened intently and obeyed their trainer's commands.

Diana Sherman, Director of the Morristown campus, explained that it is the oldest guide dog training organization in the world and is funded entirely by private donations.

Chloe explained, "It is definitely hard



to give up a puppy that I lived with and raised for a year. Knowing that my effort is for something better makes it a little easier. I would not be able to do this if I did not feel the satisfaction of helping a person who needs the puppy more than I do." We wish Chloe much luck in training Emma, her puppy-in-training, pictured above with her mother Julia Roberts,

For additional information, or to sponsor the organization, please visit: www.SeeingEye.org

Science: A Passion For Discovery

2013 - 2014 ANNUAL FUND

Let's Support the Next Generations of Dreamers!

The high academic standards of Nazareth Academy Grade School have continued to grow with the needs of our students. Our goal is to offer a science program that will improve the lives of our students and prepare them for the world they will inherit. **Science should make sense, be relevant, and be interesting and fun!**

A solid understanding of science is a vital part of human knowledge. Science involves communication with other people, develops patience, perseverance while serving as a pathway to solve problems encountered in everyday life. Nearly everything we use, touch, eat, drink and see or do every day is the result of scientific thinking. With that thought in mind, we want to give our students the tools to *think better, create better, understand better, and make intelligent decisions better.*

Help Us Increase the Impact of our Science Curriculum

The Annual Fund is a lasting way to bring our community together, joining with our parents, alumni and friends to put much needed resources into the hands of our students. Nazareth Academy Grade School's science program consistently emphasizes that enjoying and applying scientific thinking is something that every child can achieve. Your support can ensure that science is fun and accessible with hands-on and engaging projects for all of our students in grades one through eight.

Your support will:

- Help purchase Science Kits for the Science Lab
- Help increase the quantity and quality of lab experiments
- Help provide Professional Development for our teachers who bring science to life for our students

Science Creates Jobs for the Future

As science and technology play an increasing central role in the economy, current elementary science must meet the challenge of preparing students for high school and beyond. Interest in middle school science is an early predictor of whether students study science in college. A good formal science education allows students to acquire relevant scientific knowledge and helps them build upon their evidence-based thinking and problem-solving skills.

UPDATE!! As of this printing, over \$ 9,000,00 in generous donations have been received for this initiative! Thank you!

We will continue to accept contributions for this effort until June 30, 2014!



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. 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: _____

BEQUESTS:

Please contact me regarding a bequest.

Phone _____

MATCHING GIFTS:

My/Spouse's company will match this gift. The matching gift form is enclosed.

Employer: _____

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.

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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Philadelphia, PA 19114

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www.nazarethacademy.net

Email: nagsalumni@aol.com

Winter 2014

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 28-30, 2014	"Peter Pan"
April 12, 2014	NAGSPA Auction
April 20, 2014	HAPPY EASTER!
May 3, 2014	First Holy Communion
May 14, 2014	Spring Concert & Art Exhibit
May 19, 2014	Chick-Fil-A & Barnes and Noble Night
May 30, 2014	Field Day
June 2, 2014	Graduation
June 6, 2014	Last day of school



During Catholic Schools Week, all members of the Class of 2014 were recognized for their high school admissions, early acceptances and many, many scholarships!! Congratulations to the students, their parents and teachers!! Stay tuned for the final announcement of their high school destinations in the next issue of the "Newsletter"!