



Nazareth Academy Grade School

Our Mission Is Family



Brightening Futures Since 1941... One Family at a Time

Throughout the past seventy-four years, the Nazareth Academy Grade School community has taken great pride in its reputation in pursuing the highest standards of excellence. Our mission and goal in brightening the futures of our families has been the driving force behind the academic success and personal achievements of our students.

Nazareth's partnership between families and the community has allowed us to build upon our strengths that were the foundation the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth built upon in 1941. With the Jesus, Mary and Joseph as our guide, we have reached out, cultivated and strengthened connections that begin anew every year with renewed fervor.

Our traditional New Families Liturgy, hosted by the Nazareth Academy Grade School Parent's Association, is the first introduction to the unique family spirit that sets us apart from other institutions. A liturgy, celebrated by Reverend Timothy McGuire of St. Albert the Great Parish, was held on September 7, 2014 at Nazareth Academy High School Chapel. After mass, families made the short walk to the grade school where they were welcomed by Principal Sister Mary Ellen, faculty, staff and parents. Guests enjoyed a delicious luncheon and sweets to take home from the candy bar!

Sister Mary Ellen and **Bernice (Giordano '79) Duesler**, Parent Association Vice President, officially welcomed families into the Nazareth community and introduced additional Parent Association board members. Dr. Duesler explained that our parents provide invaluable support throughout the year through a variety of exciting academic, social and service-related activities. Our NAGS family continues to grow as we welcome twenty-nine new students to Nazareth Academy Grade School!



COMING THIS SUMMER!
New and improved website:
www.nazarethacademy.net

A Message From the Principal

Dear Friends of Nazareth Academy Grade School:

In a website, *"The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences,"* one can feast on valuable information regarding excellence as related to the Oscars, an event that spurred much attention recently when artists were recognized. The content of the site is both uplifting and informative; inspiring regarding great lives and sad, to say, inappropriate in describing what some view as entertaining. The lives of the most talented and accomplished men and women working in movies shine brightly for everyone interested in film. While some honorees are well-known; others work humbly behind the scenes. All work together to utilize their expertise in creating the magical world of movies which we enjoy if they reflect the values we cherish. It is interesting to note that, when the idea of rewarding excellence emerged in 1929, discussions were held and specific goals set regarding just how to best honor achievements. Leaders at the time wanted to encourage excellence in all facets of motion picture production: actors, directors, producers, technicians and writers. Members of the Academy: "...generously share their skills ... with the public in a variety of programs and activities organized or supported by the Academy throughout the year..."

With the idea to institute an annual award in mind, a suitably majestic trophy, the "most recognized trophy in the world," was created. It is called, "The Oscar," a world-renowned image of a knight, 13 and ½ inches tall and weighing 8 and ½ pounds, standing on a reel of film and holding a crusader's sword. Since the very first ceremony in 1929, over 2,700 Oscars have been presented: the official name: *The Academy Award of Merit.*

Dear Members of our Nazareth Academy Family, I see a parallel between the history of the Oscar and a history-making Academy of which we all have the privilege to be a member.

The year, 1929 marked the birth of this meritorious award; the year 1941 marked the birth of this meritorious Academy, Nazareth Academy Grade School.

At the onset, leaders of the fledgling film industry wanted to encourage excellence in all facets of motion picture production. Since its founding, thanks to the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and their collaborators, along with students' families have not only encouraged, but have maintained the hallmark of genuine Catholicity and academic excellence in Nazareth Academy.

In film, all work together to utilize their expertise in creating the magical world of movies. In Nazareth, all work together to live the mission, through which everyone's faith-giving, untiring generosity and valuable experiences provide a variety of programs that prepare our students to meet the challenges that await them. Some leaders shine; others work behind the scenes – but all give their lives for the good of the students.

However, the last point given, in my opinion, contrasts our present reality today: In film-making, since the first awards ceremony, more than 2,700 Oscars have been presented for excellence. Here in Nazareth, an Oscar is not enough to reciprocate the merits of our school community! Jesus tells us, *"By their fruits, you will know them,"* and our school as reported so creatively by our Development Director, Mrs. Patricia McGarvey, has demonstrated the fruits of service to the missions, leadership, sharing of talents in the Liturgy, intervention to assist those in need, organization of activities for the poor and the sick, concern for others who have lost a loved one, academic recognition as writers, public speakers, actors, scientific investigators, mathematicians, computer experts in-the-making, designers, artists and helpers. The list goes on.

No Oscar is big enough to satisfy my desire as principal to let you know just how much these values mean to me and to the school as a community as a whole. This newsletter reflects *just a part of the family values* present in everyday life at Nazareth! You receive a different type of Oscar – that of inner strength given by God through the example of parents, relatives, friends, alumni and students who support every activity. With a grateful heart, I ask you to hold these achievements close to your hearts and continue to pass them on to all generations of our Nazareth Family, just as Mary and Joseph did in that first Nazareth, known throughout the world today.

God Bless You!

Sister Mary Ellen, CSFN
Principal



Above: Sister Mary Ellen and Ronald McDonald touted the benefits of participating in the 76'ers "Read for Ronald" Program at an assembly on January 15, 2015.

Through the efforts of Librarian Janine LaRosa and her assistant Sister Nahida, Ronald brought his high-flying, joking and juggling antics to NAGS to promote the reading service project. With his boundless enthusiasm and energy, Ronald encouraged our students to obtain pledges for each minute spent reading various books.

Twenty-six students took the challenge and set goals to help families receive the support provided at the Ronald McDonald House during times of crisis.

Nazareth was one of forty-one schools involved in the program. Certificates and prizes were awarded to all students for their participation and winners were also chosen to receive 76'ers game tickets.

NAZARETH ACADEMY GRADE SCHOOL

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E-mail or post this publication for your family and classmates! Go to: www.nazarethacademy.net

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LEADERSHIP BEGINS HERE: *Student Council*



Above: Mrs. Maureen Ayes, Moderator; Meaghan Gould, Vice President; Jessica Scipione, President; Victoria Fabianski, Treasurer; Derek Swider, Secretary; and Principal Sister Mary Ellen Gemmell.



The Student Council Induction Ceremony and Reception for families was held on September 19, 2014. With the support of the faculty, staff, student body and beaming parents, the Student Council Officers were sworn in under the direction of Mrs. Maureen Ayes, Moderator.

The Student Council exhibits leadership by planning student-run projects, with a focus on service projects for the community. We wish the officers, and the class reps, much success in their plans throughout the school year!

Who's Your Buddy?

The First and Eighth Grade Buddies program pairs our youngest students with the older students as a way to keep children of all ages connected. The activities also help them gain valuable leadership skills that set them up for long-term success. Through the program, the younger students have someone they can look up to as they begin their education, while older students can learn how to be compassionate, responsible role models.



After seven years of waiting, the Class of 2015 was finally paired with the Class of 2022! Together the two classes have a year-long schedule of activities, such as reading together, walking hand-in-hand to First Friday liturgy as well as participating in special holiday activities. Both classes look forward to

the special times they spend together each month.

Above, left-right: The buddy program is expertly guided by First Grade teacher Angelique Hatzinikolaou (Mrs. H) and Eighth Grade teacher Maura Fox. The teachers are in agreement that these are relationships that last for years. Some of our participants remember fondly the bonds they formed with their buddies well into adulthood.

Pictured at right, the buddies take a moment before departing for Linvilla Orchards for a memorable hay ride and lunch together! **ALUMNI: Think quick!! Who was your 8th and 1st grad buddy??! Post on Facebook if you remember!!!**



GRANDPARENTS AND OLDER FRIENDS

Celebrate

The 200th Anniversary of the “Star Spangled Banner”



Taking a giant step back into history, our students, grandparents and older friends commemorated the 200th anniversary of “The Star Spangled Banner” at our annual Grandparents’ and Older Friends’ Day this past September.

Our beloved national anthem was written by Francis Scott Key on September 14, 1814 after our flag was seen proudly flying at Fort Mifflin the morning after a two-day bombardment from the British. The flag’s tattered survival announced that the Americans had forced the British to retreat from the city of Baltimore. Although this battle was one of many, the anthem took on special meaning during a time when our new nation was struggling for survival, independence and identity.

Following an informative yet entertaining presentation about our flag’s history, our guests and students enjoyed freedom to tour the classrooms and enjoy patriotic cupcakes and beverages.

We salute all of our teachers, staff and students for their support during the event and acknowledge the battalion of volunteers who provided the helping hands to host this school-wide celebration. Last but not least, we recognize our grandparents and older friends for their participation and enthusiasm in contributing to our children's sense of familial belonging and security. We are delighted to host events that concentrate on strengthening family bonds with our entire school community!





“Star Spangled Banner”



*“O say can you see by the
dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the
twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched,
were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare,
the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there;
O say does that
star-spangled banner
yet wave,
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave?”*





INSPIRING CREATIVE WRITERS

Writing is a powerful tool for students to express their thoughts, explore their creativity and connect their studies and knowledge of the world around them. Writing is embedded in all aspects of our curriculum. To help inspire our students further develop their writing style, Librarian Janine LaRosa and her assistant Sister Nahida arranged a visit by writer J.D. Mullane.

As a *Bucks County Courier Times* and *Doylestown Intelligencer* columnist as well as a *philly.burbs.com* blogger, Mullane described his work as “the best job ever.” His columns and blogs featuring thought-provoking human interest stories, political hot topics and personal reflections are favorites among his readers.

The writer shared his insights and advised students to write about a subject about which they are passionate. We are grateful to Mr. Mullane and our Library staff for encouraging our students to aspire to become great writers!

Pictured at left: Sister Nahida, Janine LaRosa and J.D. Mullane.



CHARTING A CAREER COURSE

The goal of Career Day is to help develop self-sufficient, well-educated, productive members of a global society with the motivation and skill to become America’s 21st Century community and business leaders. Exposing students to the working world can broaden their perspective and inspire them to more interesting and rewarding careers.

We thank the following participants who gave of their time on November 17, 2014 to help inspire our 7th and 8th graders to prioritize their education as they work toward their dreams:

Giannina Cipolloni, '04 ~ Sports Training (*Pictured below with sister Malia*)



Thomas Cleary ~ F-16 Pilot/Commercial Pilot

Keith Davies ~ Web Developer

Fran Digian ~ Civil Engineer

Denise Keegan ~ Intensive Care RN

Alvin and Nicole Kingcade ~ Registered Dietician, Physician’s Assistant

Joseph Mason ~ Police Officer

Andrea White-McClendon ~ Police Officer

Shirley Murray ~ Corporal, Phila. Police SVU and RN

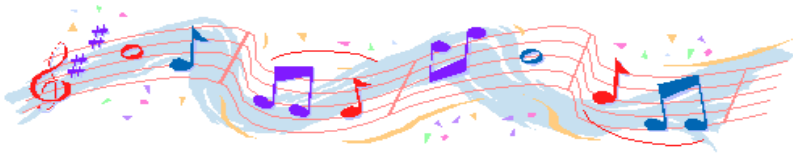
Melissa Rocco ~ Amtrak Supervisor

Michelle Scipione ~ VP, Cash Reserve, Federal Reserve Bank

The world is full of opportunity and we don’t know where the journey will take our students, but we can prepare them along the way!

To volunteer for our next event on November 16, 2015, please email Pat McGarvey at nagsalumni@aol.com.





Music Education: Orchestrating Success!

Music and the arts are essential for the overall development of children and are an integral component of our educational program. In some schools, the quality and quantity of music education has plummeted but this is not the case at Nazareth. We remain committed to these programs because they are critical to a child's intellectual development, benefitting cognitive skills, language processing, and building confidence. In short, music is good for you!

From September to December, our students excitedly prepare (and practice, practice, practice!) for the annual Christmas Concert. The event, organized by Music teacher Sue Trotter and instrumental instructors, showcases the vast program consisting of choir, band, jazz band, hand bells, choir chimes, "Sonshine Kids" and instrumental lessons.

The traditional closing act of the show is the precious First Grade's Nativity presentation. As the first graders sang "Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus," they were joined by the eighth grade class, who first sang the song in 2007 with Ms. Trotter.



"Music is poetry of the air."

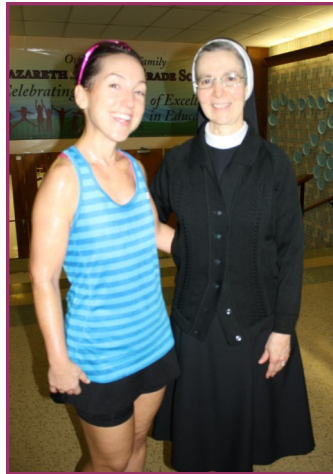
~Richter

Pictured below: Nazareth students also took our music program on the road in December to bring holiday cheer to our community. On December 6, 2014, the 8th Grade Choir Chime group was featured at Glen Foerd's Tree Lighting Ceremony. The students played "Angels We Have Heard on High," "We Three Kings," and "Silent Night", and many other classic Christmas carols to a gathering of guests on the porch. It was a magical sight to see our students, with their sparkling "Nazareth" Santa hats, sharing the sounds of Christmas.

At right: Nazareth students were invited to provide the musical entertainment at the annual Christmas luncheon for the Catholic League for the Disabled at St. Katherine's Parish Center. Ms. Trotter's well-organized program on December 14, 2014 featured our choir and choir chimes. The angelic voices of our students as well as the music brought a special joy to all of the guests and their companions.



Class Notes



1984

Stefanie LaHart, '84, pictured above with Sister Yvette, took a moment while training for a marathon. Stefanie was the 2013 Distinguished Graduate and currently resides in West Hollywood, California.



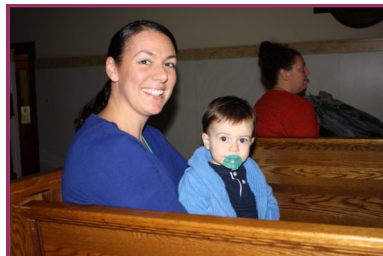
Danielle Talbot, '11, a Senior at Saint Hubert's, enjoyed catching up with Mrs. **Sally (Gaughan, '81) Unger**, Athletic Director and faculty member.



Above left: Our alumni continue their commitment to service at Villa Joseph Marie. Left, l - r: **Caroline Caccio, '11**; **Gina D'Andrea, '12**; and **Mary Kate Gould, '13**, donate their long locks to a charity during Villa Joseph Marie High School's "Mini Thon."

Above right: We thank Villa Joseph Marie High School students **Caitlin Sullivan, '12**, and **Dallas Livingstone, '12**, who lend their experience and know-how to our Forensics team on a regular basis.

Below right: Congratulations to recent inductees into Villa Marie's National Honor Society Mu Alpha Theta for their Mathematics achievement: **Emily Moy, '12**; **Gina D'Andrea, '12**; **Natalie Santucci, '12**; and **Dallas Livingstone, '12**. Keep up the great work!



1996, 1998

Katherine (Culp, '96) Knowski and daughter Taylor, pictured above left, and **Emily (Culp, '98) Brzycki** and son Francis, pictured above right, join family members at Nazareth Academy High School Chapel for a recent First Friday liturgy.

2000's

Pictured at left, center **Adam Gault, '04**, Director of Admissions and Public Relations at Roman Catholic High School, greets NAGS scholarship recipients **Dino Cerquetelli, '15**, and **Anthony Pantalone, '15**.



Above right: Villa Joseph Marie Freshman **Michelle Anzabi, '14**, catches up with her little sister, **Isabelle Anzabi, '15**, recently at NAGS.

Nazareth Academy High School students greet Sister Yvette during a recent visit. Right - left are: Sister Yvette, Molly Fluehr, '13; Delancey Showers, '13 and fellow NAHS classmate.



NAHS Freshman, **Madison Schwegler, '14** and **Chloe Roberts, '14**, pictured above, stopped by to catch up with our faculty and staff.

"Emma", our favorite German Shepherd Seeing Eye dog in training with **Chloe Roberts, '14**, has graduated and will be matched with a blind person as soon as possible. Chloe's first dog in training, "Gere", is keeping us safe as a K-9 Explosives Detection Officer in New Jersey. We wish Chloe and her family all the best in helping train "Gwen" for the Seeing Eye program.

Happy to be back at NAGS for "High School Night!" Left - right: **Zachary Vittorelli, '14; Dillon Lacorte, '14; Phillip Rueter, '14; Matthew Rueter, '14** and **John Duesler, '14**, are thrilled to represent their respective high schools.



Above, next column, **Giovana Delia, '14**, Freshman at the George School greets 8th Grade teacher Maura Fox and 7th Grade teacher Maribeth Kane.

On hand at "High School Night" to talk about their Freshman year experience are: **Madison Pristera, '14; Madison Schwegler, '14; Chloe Roberts, '14; Ruby Malak, '14; Lauren Cantwell, '14; and Alexandra Graff, '14.**

We thank 8th Grade Teacher Maura Fox for all of her efforts in organizing "High School Night" on October 8, 2015. The opportunity to meet representatives from 13 high schools is an invaluable resource for our families navigating the High School application season!

Below: An alumni visit surprise during the Christmas Season! Left - right are: 7th Grade teacher Maribeth Kane, **Carolyn Marcelis, '14; Ryan Spangler, '15, Madison Schwegler, '14; Tracy Marcelis, '14**, and 8th Grade teacher Maura Fox.



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Faculty News

The NAGS family is growing!



First grade teacher Angelique Hatzinikolaou, Señora Marie Furman are thrilled with the recent visit of former NAGS teacher Kristy Nober and her daughter, Cassadie, born on July 27, 2014.



Science teacher Susan Hujber and her husband Frank are proud Grandparents of Elias Samuel, born on December 11, 2014.



Future NAGS students! Eighth grade teacher Maura Fox brought new daughter Raine and son Patrick to visit faculty and staff.

Students' Corner



We congratulate Morgan Lewis, Grade 6, who won the **GEO BEE** for our school! Principal Sister Mary Ellen Gemmell explained, "Morgan competed against three 8th graders, three 7th graders and two other 6th grade students. We await the results of the next level of competition for Morgan. Special thanks to all of our Social Students teachers, and especially Mrs. Fox whose dedication and interest set the tone for our students year after year." The Geo Bowl team members were: Darian Wood, Lauren Yost, Mary Kate Wheeler, Michael Roman, Kathryn Tereshko, Helen Dotchel, Julia Davis and Maggie Kennedy.

The **Forensics** team represented NAGS at the March 7, 2015 tournament hosted by Ancillae Assumpta Academy. Congratulations to Moderator Maureen Ayes, our coaches and the team! Students who earned awards were: Kathryn Tereshko, 4th Place; Helen Dotchel, 5th Place; Katie Cleary, 5th Place and Joan Dotchel, 3rd Place.

Emma Cusano was awarded two Honorable Mention Certificates as well as a "Healthy Advances Award" at the **George Washington Carver Science Fair** at the Academy of Natural Sciences for students in grades 4 - 6. Special congratulations to our students who competed at the **George Washington Carver Science Fair** for grades 7 - 12 on at Temple University:

Ryan Spangler received the Naval Science Award and Honorable Mention in Behavioral Science

Madeline Congdon ~ 1st Place in Physics

Angelina Stride ~ 3rd Place in Environmental Science

Morgan McCaffery ~ Honorable Mention in Physics

Christine Stepkin ~ Honorable Mention in Consumer Science

Our students celebrated Pi Day on 3-14-15 at **Holy Ghost Prep/Nazareth Academy's Annual Grade School Mathematics Competition!** We're proud to announce that Kathryn Tereshko was awarded 1st Place; Joan Dotchel came in 2nd and the Sixth Grade participants earned 3rd Place! We are grateful for the continued guidance of Mrs. Culp, Mrs. Kane and all of our Math teachers!

Please join the school community in remembering our beloved departed.



Katherine Bruno - Great Grandmother Of Annabella Davies, Gr. 2

Patricia DiStasio - Grandmother of Hannah DiStasio, Gr. 2

Edward Dul - Father of Nicole Dul, Art teacher

Rochelle Gangemi - Grandmother of Abigail Gangemi-Hague

Judith A. Gemmell - Sister of Sister Mary Ellen Gemmell

Geraldine Gregory - Wife of Richard Gregory, '69

Robert Lenherr - Husband of Ginny Lenherr, CORA Counselor

Pearl Luskin - Great Grandmother of Eric Marcellis, '09; Carolyn Marcellis, '15 and Tracy Marcellis, '15

Gerard W. Lynch - Grandfather of Brynn Lynch, Gr. 6

Mary Marek - Grandmother of 3rd Grade teacher Monica Ricci

Edwin S. Moore, III - Nazareth Academy Grade School Board of Trustee Member

Naeim Mubarak - Uncle of Sister Nahida Al Sawa

Eleanor Smith - Mother-in-law of the late Kathleen Smith

Joseph M. Snock - Grandfather of Eric Marcellis, '09; Carolyn Marcellis, '15 and Tracy Marcellis, '15

Stella Strollo - Grandmother of Michael Lydon, '09

AUCTION BIDS BECOME A REALITY

Frantic bidding at the 2014 event has resulted in some very creative auction items coming to fruition during the current school year!

- Second grade teacher Amanda McGuigan was honored with the **Naming of the Faculty Room** for the 2014-2015 school year. In September, the current third grade class who had cast their votes last year, surprised Ms. McGuigan with a ceremony to mark the occasion along with Sister Mary Ellen.
- Justin Bonaccorso and classmates enjoyed their **Diamond Club Box Seats at a Phillies game** with Spanish teacher Señora Furman and second grade teacher Amanda McGuigan on a sunny summer day!
- With an official whistle in place, Callie Walker was **Gym Teacher for a Day** along with Mrs. Terry Vaccarino! A gift bag filled with summer gaming activities and a special luncheon with friends completed the day!
- Laurel Masciantonio was thrilled that the **Parking Lot Sign** bearing her name would be on display one more year. You can't miss the "Laurel Lane" sign as you exit our parking lot!
- Beads were everywhere for Music teacher **Sue Trotter's Bead Making** activity last spring! Pictured center below is Ms. Trotter, Sarah Burns, the lucky auction winner, who invited classmates Kathleen Harmon, Paris Keegan and Sophia Montanez to enjoy a lunch followed by the creation of one-of-a-kind bead bracelets!
- Below right: Angela Farinella, on left, presided over the school last spring as **Principal for the Day!** She was joined by classmate and "Assistant Principal" Malia Cipolloni.



- The **Multi-Purpose Room** has been named in honor of Jaclyn Donnelly for the current school year. Below, Jaclyn reaches high to show off her banner!



SERVICE *With Love*

*“When I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”*

~ Matthew 25:35



Nazareth Academy Grade School is committed to brightening our neighborhoods and communities! Throughout the year, well-planned service projects provide learning opportunities and lessons that have a long-term impact on our students.



Through rain, sleet or snow, Nazareth remains committed to ensuring that Kensington's **Saint Francis Inn** is supplied with a supply of brown bag lunches for their guests. When the kitchen is closed for cleaning on the first Monday of every month, the sandwiches are a substitute for the regular meals served by their staff. Honors Math teacher Kathleen Culp moderates the assembly of lunches, along with the invaluable help of volunteer parents. Meals are then delivered by our parents to the facility for distribution.



With the rising cost of luncheon meats and fruit, several **Bake Sales** scheduled throughout the year have supplemented the \$1 donation from each student for St. Francis Inn. Thanks to all of our home-bakers and Student Council members for facilitating this effort!

Through the efforts of the Student Council, over 200 coats were collected for **Burlington Coat Factory's "Warm Hearts, Warm Coats"** drive in November. Mrs. Ayes' car was weighed down when everything was loaded by our students! In addition, a large number of scarves, hats and mittens were also donated. It certainly brings a smile to our students' faces when they know that the coats provided warmth for many people during the cold winter.



"Pink Out Day" was celebrated at NAGS on October 15, 2014 with pride and support of the **Cancer Support Community**, a Global Network of Education and Hope. The Student Council sponsored the dress down day along with activities to raise funds for the organization. A (pink!) rubber duck pond was the highlight of the day on which students had a chance to win a prize for their donation.

Eighth grade student Ronald Spangler organized a book drive to collect slightly used books for **Sitting Bull Grade School** in South Dakota. The students in grades kindergarten through eight received hundreds of books donated by our families to begin their school library! We commend Ryan's efforts in promoting reading which helps students' communication skills, increases vocabulary, and broadens their understanding of the world.





The guests at the **Ronald McDonald House** were treated to a special delivery of one-of-a-kind decorated pumpkins created by our students and families. Through the Student Council's leadership, the effort was a great success in bringing Halloween cheer not only to our school, but also to guests staying at the Chestnut Street location. We fully support the facility in their efforts to "create a community of comfort and hope" when families are facing serious and sometimes, long-term illnesses.



Thanksgiving, a holiday in which to celebrate blessings bestowed upon us, is also an occasion to share our blessings with others. Through the generosity of our families, eleven **Thanksgiving Baskets**, abundantly filled, were assembled at school by Student Council officers and class representatives. A caravan of teachers then delivered the baskets to families in our immediate area through a partnership with Benjamin Rush Middle School in Bensalem, PA. Principal Kenneth Napaver sincerely expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Benjamin Rush community. *Below left:* After the holiday delivery, Mrs. Culp, Michael Roman, and Student Council Moderator Maureen Ayes thank faculty members and Mr. Napaver for their help in distributing the baskets.

Cancer Awareness ribbons festively decorated a Christmas tree in honor of **Nick Mancino, '09**, who is fighting cancer. Proceeds from the sale of the ribbons were donated to a charitable organization in Nick's name. The tree, pictured below right, was a sparkling reminder of Nick and the many courageous individuals who have battled cancer. We are grateful to all the students for their participation and thank 8th grade teacher Maura Fox and the Class of 2015 for organizing the effort to honor Nick. Also pictured at "Christmas at NAGS" are: Teachers Mrs. Maribeth Kane, Señora Furman, Nick, Mrs. Maura Fox, Mrs. Sally Unger and Mrs. Kathleen Culp.



"Christmas at NAGS", sponsored by the Parents Association, celebrates the season of giving. Each class collected, assembled and wrapped art supplies to be donated to the Oncology Unit at **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**. Our thanks to fourth grade parents Dana Heron and Heather Huot for spearheading the effort to bring cheer to young patients in the form of picture books, coloring books, markers and crayons.

Valentine's Day Candy Grams were sold prior to the holiday throughout the school to benefit **Aid For Friends**, a local agency that delivers meals to the sick and elderly at home. We are grateful to Señora Marie Furman for organizing this effort!



NAGS: Nazareth Always Gives Service. We thank all of our families and our students for demonstrating God's love and care for the poor and others in need!





Spotlight

ON OUR ATHLETES



Imagine

With all your mind.

Believe

With all your heart.

Achieve

With all your might.



Twenty-nine eighth grade students were honored at a NAGS Athletic Night on March 10, 2015 at Holy Family University. Honorees included eighth grade boys and girls basketball, soccer, track, baseball, softball and swim team members. The inaugural event, organized by Athletic Director Sally (Gaughan, '81) Unger, also featured two basketball games in which both our girls and boys Junior Varsity players competed against the Varsity players.

Following a spectacular rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" by Maura Budd, Gr. 7, the girls' JV and Varsity teams faced off. Their coach for the 2014-2015 season was John Duesler, assisted by Heather Dotchel. The families in attendance encouraged and cheered the girls on as they played a fast-paced game. The Varsity team's rebounds and expert shooting helped them finish with a win.

During the second game of the evening, the boys' teams executed a competitive game with the Varsity players winning over the JV. The boys' impressive dribbling and passing ability highlighted their game, with a few three-pointers thrown in for good measure. We recognize the heart and team spirit of the JV players who had no fear in challenging the eighth graders. Special thanks to Boys' Varsity coach Mike Delia and boys' JV Coach John Duesler for their dedication and time throughout the season.

Between games, athletes from the Class of 2015 were introduced one by one and presented with a NAGS t-shirt. With parents and family members cheering from the sideline, it was their time to shine as their time at NAGS is drawing to a close. The eighth grade teacher, Mrs. Maura Fox, was recognized for her flexibility with the team's schedules and for encouraging our students to excel on and off the playing field. Mrs. Unger also expressed appreciation to our coaches, parents, faculty and staff for the support of the Athletic program.

On behalf of the Class of 2015, eighth grade class ambassadors Patti Bozarth and Debbie Gangemi, presented Mrs. Unger with a floral bouquet as an expression of their appreciation for her guidance, inspiration and motivation throughout the years.

2014 - 2015 Annual Fund



Nazareth Academy Grade School is proud of its reputation as a school where high academic standards prevail. Since its founding in 1941 by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the school has grown to accommodate the needs of our students and community. From our scenic campus, to our dedicated faculty, to 74 years of academic excellence, a NAGS education is a special experience.

Individual faith development and service to others are vitally important components of a child's growth. Students apply lessons learned in the classroom to real-life situations and experiences that forge a life-long path of service, Christian values and civic engagement.

The school's operating revenue comes from three main sources: tuition payments, tuition assistance from various foundations and gifts to the Annual Fund. **Together the three revenue streams provide a signature education within a family spirit that is unmatched in our area.**

You can Nazareth Academy Grade School *"Invest in Leadership"* by making a gift today to the **2014 - 2015 Annual Fund**. Your donation provides direct funding for educational initiatives that tuition alone does not cover. **Every gift is an investment in the education of each student at NAGS.**

Your gift to the Annual Fund helps to support this summer's technology upgrade which includes:

- *New computers in the technology lab and tablets for faculty*
- *An exciting new user-friendly website for parents, faculty and alumni*
- *New server and increased wireless connectivity*
- *Faculty professional development and training to maximize the integration of new technology into the classroom.*

Our students know that education requires hard work and those efforts are often rewarded in the form of scholarships. *We are proud to state that the Class of 2014 received a record-setting \$707,800.00 in high school scholarships.* Now in its 73rd year, NAGS continues our mission to challenge and build on the strengths of every student to help them achieve their dreams while becoming leasers in their school and greater community.

Your contribution, combined with the gifts of alumni, parents and friends, empowers students by providing our programs with the tools our students need to reach their fullest potential. With your investment and support, we can continue to do great things.

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*

4701 Grant Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19114

215-637-7777

www.nazarethacademy.net

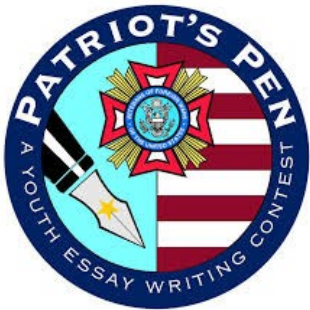
Email: nagsalumni@aol.com

Winter 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 18, 2015 NAGSPA Annual Live & Silent Auction:
www.nagsauction.wix.com/nagsauction
- May 1, 2015 First Holy Communion
- May 13, 2015 Spring Concert & Art Exhibit
- May 18, 2015 Chick-Fil-A Night, Barnes & Noble Night
- May 26, 2015 Sports Assembly
- May 27, 2015 Eighth Grade Awards
- June 1, 2015 Graduation
- June 2, 2015 School Recital
- June 3, 2015 Walk-a-Thon
- June 4, 2015 Grades 1 - 7 Awards
- June 5, 2015 Last day of school
- June 8 - 26, 2015 Technology Camp
- July 6 - 17, 2015 Theater & Dance Camp

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Honoring Our War Veterans

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John Fitzgerald Kennedy



Above: Commander Goodman and Sister Mary Ellen.
At right: Eighth grade teacher Maura Fox, Honors ELA Teacher Maureen Ayes, Kathryn Tereshko, Commander Goodman, Meaghan Gould, Julia Davis and Sister Mary Ellen. Not present: Anthony Pantalone.

"Why I Appreciate America's Veterans" was the theme of this year's annual Patriot's Pen Essay Contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Judging criteria consists of knowledge, theme development and clarity. Our students rose to the challenge in composing 300-400 word essays that celebrated and honored our veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.
After choosing winning essays from local schools, Commander of Joseph A. Schumacher, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1597, in Croydon, Pennsylvania presented awards to four Nazareth Academy Grade School students. Their compositions will be submitted to a state-wide competition. We are grateful for the support of VFW Post 1597 and to Mr. Goodman for taking an active role in encouraging students to study America's history and society.