



Nazareth Academy Grade School

Our Mission Is Family

CAREER DAY

IT TAKES WORK TO GET THE CAREER OF YOUR DREAMS

The Career Day concept can be a very meaningful and exciting experience for elementary school students. It is an excellent opportunity to bridge that gap between the school and business community and can answer questions students often ask themselves: "Why do I have to go to school?" The annual event is sponsored by the Development Office and features a choice of sessions for students in Grades 5 through 8.

On November 16, 2009, all NAGS students were present to welcome Governor Edward G. Rendell for an extraordinary Career Day appearance. Governor Rendell explained the importance of work, not only as a source of income, but also as a way to contribute to society. Recalling his teen years, the Governor explained that his father wisely advised him, "Even if you are a floor sweeper, be the best floor sweeper you can be and you will soon be promoted. If you work hard and discover what you are passionate about, you will be successful."



Governor Rendell answered many of our students' inquiries about his career in public service and politics that has consisted of two terms as District Attorney, eight years as "America's Mayor" in the City of Philadel-



phia, and currently, his second term as Governor of the state of Pennsylvania.

We appreciate the efforts of NAGS parent Dawn Dugan, mother of Molly Dugan in First Grade, for facilitating Governor Rendell's Career Day presentation.

Following the Governor's visit, the Career Day event resumed as our participants helped the students connect what they are learning in school to real-world situations. The presentations featured hands-on activities and discussions provided by over 20 presenters in varying fields such as Broadcasting, Pastry Arts, Computer Engineering, Accident Investigations and a Canine Companion Trainer, just to name a few!

Among our NAGS alumni presenters were: Ryan Brogan, '96, *U.S. Justice Dept.*; Marina D'Angelo, '77, *Associate Professor, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine*; and Jessica Gaspero, '02, *Pastry Chef*.

NAGS parents and friends completed the varied group of professionals. We applaud the following participants: Mike Agnew, *Computer Engineer*; Julia Bui, *Doctor of Pharmacy*; Joseph Doyle, *Chief Traffic Engineer, City of Philadelphia*; Michelle Durham, *KYW Anchor/Reporter*; Adam Greer, *First Mate, Spirit of Philadelphia*; Ronald Kerr, *Criminal Investigator*; Brittany King, *Trainer, Canine Companions*; Mike LeCompte, *Singer/Songwriter*; Laura Tuzio-Ross, *Award Winning Doll Maker*; Jeffrey Manto, *Professional Baseball Player/Coach*; Lucy Nguyen, *Event Planner*; Thomas O'Neill, *Accident Investigator*; Michael Poole, *Restaurateur, Trio Restaurant*; Steve Rudenstein, *Director of Broadcasting, Trenton Thunder*; Michelle Scipione, *Federal Reserve*; Daniel Shead, *Accident Investigator*; James Wash, *Pilot*; and Carol Zernick, *Jeweler*.

We are grateful to Governor Rendell, our NAGS faculty and Career Day presenters whose time and involvement enabled the students to envision themselves in an occupation and become responsible and contributing members in their community.



Top: Governor Rendell addresses the students of Nazareth Academy Grade School. Above left: Jessica Gaspero, '02, Pastry Chef. Above right: Michelle Durham, KYW Anchor/Reporter, Sr. Mary Ann Allton, CSFN and Ryan Brogan, '96, U.S. Justice Department.

At far left: Philadelphia Police Accident Investigation Enforcement Officers Daniel Shead, Bob Reppert and Thomas O'Neill.

Launching the Joseph Brancato Memorial Alumni Scholarship

Several alumni started something BIG when they expressed a wish to remember their classmate Joe Brancato, '81, in a distinctive way. Along with the school administration, Angela (Marano) Carp, '81; Susan (Zajac) Mordan, '81, and Sally (Gaughan) Unger, '81, have established the Joseph Brancato Memorial Scholarship.

We are honored and humbled, that Christine Brancato made a sizeable donation in her husband's memory. We are grateful for her overwhelming support in creating a tangible memorial that will help current students obtain their education at NAGS. As of this printing, \$ 8,625.00 has been raised.

The Joseph Brancato Memorial Alumni Scholarship will be administered by a Scholarship Committee consisting of alumni and administrators. The fund will assist nominated students who, like Joe, exhibit exceptional promise, generosity, drive and compassion at a young age.

We ask all of our alumni to support this cooperative effort to help students pursue their education. We ask that you join us by making a donation to the newly established *Joseph Brancato Memorial Alumni Scholarship*. Donations can range from \$10.00 to \$10,000.00.

To coincide with the first distribution of the Scholarship, an **Alumni Scholarship Luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 25, 2010** at school. This is an ambitious plan and we need all N.A.G.S. alumni, particularly the members of the Classes of 1981 and 1986, as well as Joe's friends, to get involved in some capacity. It is our hope that the luncheon event will perpetually celebrate and recognize the achievements of Joe, our friend and classmate, alumni, student scholarship winners and the generosity of donors.



Above, right to left: Angela (Marano) Carp, '81; Principal Sr. Mary Ann Allton, CSFN and Susan (Zajac) Mordan, '81

Donations can be made online at www.nazarethacademy.net, by clicking the *Joseph Brancato Memorial Alumni Scholarship* link on our homepage. Checks can also be made payable and sent to "NAGS," ATTN: *Joseph Brancato Memorial Alumni Scholarship*, 4701 Grant Avenue, Phila., PA 19114. For additional information or to volunteer, please contact the alumni listed, or call Pat McGarvey, Development Director, at nagsalumni@aol.com or 215-637-7777, ext. 206.

Just as Joe brought a ray of sunshine into everyone's life, we applaud the efforts of the following alumni, for having taken the time to help our NAGS students:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Angela (Marano) Carp, '81 | angela@carpexcavating.com |
| Susan (Zajac) Mordan, '81 | smordan119@verizon.net |
| Sally (Gaughan) Unger, '81 | ksmglunger@comcast.net |

<i>Inside this issue:</i>	
<i>Alumni</i>	<i>4 - 7</i>
<i>Academics</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Annual Giving Technology Project</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Service Projects</i>	<i>10 - 11</i>
<i>School Events</i>	<i>12 - 13</i>
<i>Music News</i>	<i>14</i>



The 2009-2010 school year began on September 9th with new supplies, new books, new bus routes and new faces!

Above, Sr. Mary Ann Allton welcomes Lauren Preski, Gr. 6, and Brianna Pudlo, Gr. 5, back to NAGS.



Nazareth Academy Grade School

Sister Martin Duffy, CSFN, President

Sister Mary Ann Allton, CSFN, Principal

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

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

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

We're on the web! E-mail this publication to your family and classmates. Go to:

www.nazarethacademy.net

Nazareth Academy Grade School Alumni Scholarship Luncheon

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010

**Please join us for lunch and a celebration of the ways
our alumni and friends enrich the lives of our students.**

**We are proud to announce that the
Joseph Brancato Alumni Memorial Scholarship
will be awarded to a Nazareth Academy Grade School student.**

Donation: \$20 per person

**Come, reconnect, and support this worthy endeavor while reviving old friendships
We look forward to welcoming you back to NAGS!**

**To reserve your ticket online, visit www.nazarethacademy.net,
and click link on homepage.**

**For further information, contact Pat McGarvey, nagsalumni@aol.com, 215-637-7777, ext. 206,
or contact Angela (Marano) Carp, '81, angela@carpexcavating.com, Susan (Zajac) Mordan, '81,
smordan119@verizon.net, or Sally (Gaughan) Unger, '81, ksmglunger@comcast.net.**

RESPONSE FORM

Name _____ Class of _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Count me in! I (we) will be there to support the Alumni Memorial Scholarship Luncheon:

Number attending _____ @ \$20 pp Total amount enclosed \$ _____

No, I can not attend, but would like to support the Alumni Memorial Scholarship:

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation: \$ _____

Optional: This gift is given in memory or in honor of: _____

Checks can be made payable to: "NAGS"

or bill my  or :

Name on card: _____

Number: _____

Exp. Date: Month _____ Year _____

Please send response to: Nazareth Academy Grade School, ATTN: Scholarship Luncheon
4701 Grant Avenue, Phila., PA 19114

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

Class Notes



1981 and 2003

Sally (Gaughan) Unger, '81 and **Robert Yerkov**, '03, chat about Robert's Junior year studying for a Marketing Major and Minor in Entrepreneurship at Temple University as well as interning at Councilman Brian O'Neill's office. We bid Robert *buona fortuna* (good luck) as he begins his studies abroad in Rome, Italy for the Spring semester. *Dio ti benedica!* (God bless you!)

Sally Unger is NAGS' Primary Grade Classroom Aide and Athletic Director and is also the mother of 8th grade students Gabriel and Matthew Unger.

1983

The first day of the school year was the perfect opportunity to show off the new "Petner Place" driveway sign. Above right, **Megan (Petner) Kennedy** stands with Sr. Mary Ann Allton, Principal, and children Margaret, Michael and Megan.

NAGS was pleased to honor the Petner Family through an Auction bid. We acknowledge and salute the Petners for their generosity and long standing support of the school's mission in education.



1999

Wedding bells were ringing on August 15, 2009 for **Carolyn Maresch**, '99, and Andrew Laich of Bensalem, PA. Carolyn, a graduate of George Washington University, is an Interior Designer in Philadelphia. Andrew graduated from Lehigh University and is a semiconductor engineer in Lansdale. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and have settled in a new home in Lansdale. Carolyn stated that the Class of 1999 celebrated "the lasting friendships from our childhood at NAGS" by organizing a 10-year reunion in March. We wish Carolyn and Andrew all the best in their new life together!

2002

Congratulations to **Alex Sharkey**, who graduated a semester early from Ithaca

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

College in December 2009 with a degree in Cinematography and a Minor in Audio Production. An original film by Alex was featured in a film festival in Tampa, FL. He was also awarded an *Operation Crossroads Africa* scholarship and helped build shelters for orphan boys.

2004

Giannina Cipolloni, right, on a Fall break from her studies at University of Virginia, visits with Senorita Marie Maddox.



2005

Olivia Sharkey, below, is a Theology major at St. Vincent's College and was also



elected President of the Freshman class. Sr. Martin and Sr. Anita wished Olivia all the best in her college career and in her plans to travel to Guatemala for a Spring semester service project.

2006

Right: Mrs. Kathy Culp, Honors Math teacher, catches up to **Brendan Murtha**, a Senior at Father Judge High School. Brendan represented the alumni as Guest Speaker at the Student Council Induction on September 25, 2009.





2006

Above: **Bill Singmaster, Sam McGarvey** and **Andrew Cacchio** officially represent Holy Ghost Prep during a high school visit with the 7th and 8th Grades. The Seniors explained the many factors that influenced their decision to attend HGP and spoke about their experiences over the past four years.

*We wish the entire **Class of 2006** the best of luck as they plan their college destinations! Remember to keep in touch with NAGS!*



2007

Above, **Briana Mody** and **Irish Andrews** are greeted by Sr. Mary Ann Allton. Briana is a Junior at Nazareth Academy High School and Irish is also in her Junior year at St. Hubert's High School.

Chris Pearce, a Junior at Father Judge High School and is in the midst of planning his Eagle Scout project. Chris, pictured with Sr. Anita, is writing a manual for altar servers and is designing an outdoor memorial at NAGS to the Blessed Mother.



2008

Above right: Sophomores **Christine Balasa** and **Nick Devine** take the time out from their busy schedules at St.



Hubert's High School and Father Judge High to reminisce with faculty and staff.

2009

Back to visit their former teachers and first grade buddies are **Chris McFadden** and **Brian Singmaster**, both Freshmen at Holy Ghost Prep.



Above, **Michael Lydon** checks in with Sr. Martin Duffy regarding his Freshman year at St. Joseph's Prep. Mike is #11 on the JV Ice Hockey team.



Above, Fr. Judge Freshman **Michael Iannacone**, Seniorita, Sr. Yvette and **Michael Lydon** stop for a photo op!

We congratulate **Deanna Stephens** and her VJM Varsity Soccer teammates for a stellar season this past fall!



Above, right to left: **Alexandra Varley**, Sr. Anita, **Bianca Tillery** and friend stop in after a hard day studying at Nazareth Academy High School.

Congratulations to former NAGS teacher **Sandy Brandt**, who announced that her granddaughter Annabelle Marie celebrated her first birthday on September 9, 2009.

Right: Former teacher **Kathy Walton** and her daughter Bridget proudly showed off the new addition to their family! Heidi Anne was born July 9, 2009.



"Class Notes" continued on Page 6.



Forever in our Hearts

Please join the school community in remembering our beloved departed.

Walter J. Eisler - Grandfather of William Eisler, Great-grandfather of Riley Eisler, Gr. 4

Eunice Elbertson - Cousin of Sr. Martin Duffy

Charles Hengstler - Grandfather of Alex Sharkey, '02, and Olivia Sharkey, '05

Josephine Hengstler - Grandmother of Alex Sharkey, '02, and Olivia Sharkey, '05

Tara Milligan - Aunt of Laura Rucci, '06 and Sarah Rucci, Grade 6

Vincent Julian Pepenelli - Father of Lisa (Pepenelli) Gentry, '79, and grandfather of Amanda Gentry, Gr. 7

William Rieger - Grandfather of Donna (Vittorelli) Pulini, '79, Donald Vittorelli, '82, and Great-grandfather of Donald Vittorelli, Gr. 5 and Zachary Vittorelli, Gr. 4.

James Sharkey - Grandfather of Alex Sharkey, '02, and Olivia Sharkey, '05

Lawrence Strange - Father of Timothy Strange, '81, and Meghan Strange, '83.

Florence E. Ward - Mother of Patti D'Andrea and grandmother of Gina D'Andrea, Gr. 6

Helen Waters - Grandmother of Gabrielle, Gr.8 Madison Pristera, Gr. 4, Tom Kelly, '06

busted FOUNDATION *East vs. West*

Stefanie LaHart, '84, owner of *cyber Hag productions* in Los Angeles, CA, is also the founder of an organization that helps women “overcome the financial challenges as a result of fighting and living with breast cancer.”

What began as a small effort to help a friend in need has evolved into *The Busted Foundation*. The foundation, whose tagline is “*You get the bump. You get the bill. You’re busted.*” has experienced much success and growth in the past four years. The foundation’s major fundraiser, *Bowling for Boobies*, has gained national exposure. During a recent visit to NAGS this summer, Stefanie reflected on the many women and families the non-profit has benefitted. She explained, “My original goal to help one woman has exceeded my expectations as the bowling event provides support for hundreds of women each year.”

The 5th Annual Fundraiser in November, 2009 was entitled, “*The Battle of the Boobies: East vs. West,*” with simultaneous events in Los Angeles and Philadelphia. While Stefanie greeted and bowled with celebrities and participants in Los Angeles, her sister **Christina (LaHart) Fanning, '83**, chaired the effort in our time zone in Philadelphia. Also on hand to support the Philadelphia event was **Janine (LaHart) O'Connor, '86**.

Nazareth Academy Grade School was honored to play a small part in the effort by sponsoring participant’s gift bags for the successful event which, combined with the Los Angeles event, raised **over \$100,000 in proceeds**.

We congratulate Stefanie and her committees for their hard work on behalf of women challenged with the financial burden in living and recovering with breast cancer. We are very proud of Stefanie, who has continued the spirit of giving instilled in her early years at NAGS to the present day.

If you would like to make a donation to this worthwhile cause, go online to www.bustedfoundation.org.



Above, Sister Martin, **Stefanie LaHart, '84**, Sr. Mary Ann Allton and Joe LaHart, Stefanie’s father, reminisce and share a laugh about the old red uniforms.

NAGS alumni are spread far and wide — throughout the state of Pennsylvania, across the United States and abroad.

Whether you are ten miles or ten thousand miles from the NAGS campus, our goal is to make sure our alumni are always a part of the NAGS family. Stay in touch by emailing nagsalumni@aol.com or log on to the Nazareth Academy Grade School group on Facebook!

We hope you will join us this year at the Scholarship Luncheon on April 25, 2010 or contact us with an update!

Leaving a lasting *impression*

We salute the Classes of 2008 and 2009 for their generous parting gifts that greatly enhance the aesthetic value of the school!

Through the kindness of the Class of 2008, two personalized benches were installed along the back sidewalk last spring. Pictured at left, the benches provide respite for students along the car line. We thank Bill Singmaster, father of **Bill, '06, Brian, '09** and **Angelina** in second grade, for permanently and skillfully installing the benches.

Below: The Class of 2009 will always be welcome as their gift, an outdoor personalized entry mat, cheerfully greets visitors. We appreciate the efforts of Kathleen Gregory, Professional Duplicating, for her expertise and advice in choosing the suitable mat. We appreciate the efforts of the Class of 2009 in their fun-raising for their gift to the school. Pictured below, right to left, are Class of 2009 members **Marisa Poncia, Kristin Mays, Deanna Stephens** and **Kirsten Schneider**.



An Enchanting Production of "Beauty and the Beast"

Nazareth students were thrilled to get a sneak preview of the Nazareth Academy High School Theater Department's annual production, "Beauty and the Beast" on October 21st. The musical ran from October 22 - 26, 2009 and was directed by Carol DeFino Greco. Many hands are required for a large scale production such as this and NAHS was not in short supply of help! Students volunteered not only to act in the musical, but to help with set design and costumes, play instruments in the orchestra and assist as stage crew.

The event is a great opportunity to get involved, make friends and challenge one's self. Carol DeFino Greco's skill in showcasing the natural abilities of such a large and diverse group of students is extraordinary. We congratulate the Director, cast and crew for their efforts in bringing an enchanting fairy tale to life on stage.

NAGS Alumni Cast Members:

Kyra Krass, '07 - *The Wardrobe*; Matthew Wajda, '07 - *Gaston*; Michael Walker, '08 - *D'Arque*

Dancing Enchanted Objects: Krysta DiKun, '07; Kyra Krass, '07; Abby Nestel, '06; Rachel Stengel, '06.

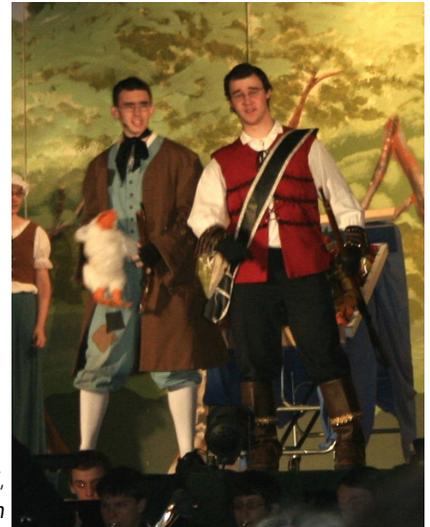
Male Ensemble: Michael Iannacone, '09; Gabe Unger, '10; Matthew Unger, '10.

Singing Villagers: Elizabeth Hellings, '09; Jessica McPhillips, '08; Laura Rucci, '06.

Stage Crew: Keirstin Betz, '08; Amanda Penko, '07



Far right, Matthew Wajda, '07, as Gaston



Alumni Sightings at Annual Concert



The Annual Christmas Concert has long been a favorite tradition at NAGS, for both current students, those alumni with younger siblings or alumni simply wishing to see old friends. Left, **Laura Rucci, '06**, and Sr. Martin Duffy

As most of our graduates remember, the concert marked the debut of the graduating class' personalized sweatshirts. Below, eighth graders wait their turn on stage. Their song was a tribute to all their present and former NAGS teachers.

Below, "Baby Jesus," was angelically played by **Stephen Hellings**, brother of **Elizabeth Hellings, '09** and **Samuel Hellings, Gr. 4**.



Above: **Lindsay Rauch, '08**, **Kerry Rankin, '06**, **Robert Gilbert, '08**, **Chris Simon, '06** and **Megan Rankin, '08**.

Below: **Kaitlyn Kerr, '06**, **Nicole Liccio, '06**, **Melissa Fluehr, '08**, **Sam McGarvey, '06**, **Andrew Cacchio, '06**, and **Erica Cipolloni, '06**.



BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY



Pictured above are: Principal Sr. Mary Ann Allton, Brendan Murtha, '06, Matthew Unger, President; Taryn Neals, Vice President; Gabriel Unger, Treasurer; Kevin Kerr, Secretary; and Mrs. Mai Dang, Student Council Moderator.

September 25th marked the date of the investiture ceremony of the Nazareth Academy Grade School Student Council Officers.

Students nominated and voted for the leaders in their class who are motivated to become involved in all aspects of the school and student life. Fifth Grade teacher and Student Council moderator, Mai Dang, administered the voting process which resulted in the election of: Matthew Unger, President; Taryn Neals, Vice President; Gabriel Unger, Treasurer; Kevin Kerr, Secretary

The officers exhibit their leadership by partnering with the faculty and staff, fostering school spirit and helping raise funds for a variety of worthy projects. They also help share students' ideas, interests and concerns with the faculty and administration.

Alumni guest speaker Brendan Murtha, '06, a senior at Father Judge High School and Secretary of Affairs of the Executive Board congratulated the newly elected eighth grade students and wished the students a successful year in promoting the mission of the school, "Our Mission Is Family."

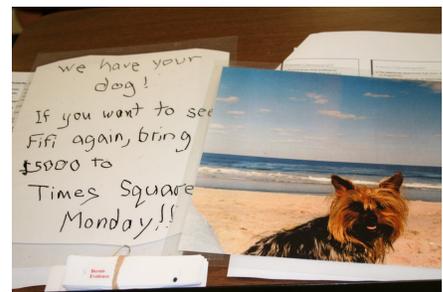
CATCH A THIEF WITH CHROMATOGRAPHY



Chromatography is a method for analyzing complex mixtures, such as ink, by separating them into the chemicals from which they are made. The procedure is used to separate and identify all sorts of substances in police work. Under the direction of Julia Roberts, and assisted by Heather Martello, sixth grade teacher and Science Moderator, our students became sleuths for the day and solved a perplexing puzzle when "someone" kidnapped Sr. Martin's dog, "Fifi."

The chromatography experiment, sponsored by Merck Pharmaceuticals, was presented by Roberts, (pictured at lower right) mother of Ava, Gr.6 and Chloe, Gr. 4. Students were presented with three of the suspects' ink samples on a piece of paper. When water seeped up the paper in a cup, the molecules of color were carried with them. The color molecules were then matched with the ink from the "ransom note." Alas, the usual suspect was charged with the deed and "Fifi" was returned to Sr. Martin, safe and sound!

Thanks to Merck Pharmaceuticals, Julia Roberts and Heather Martello for introducing an exciting lesson in Forensic and Investigative Science.



TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE COMPLETE

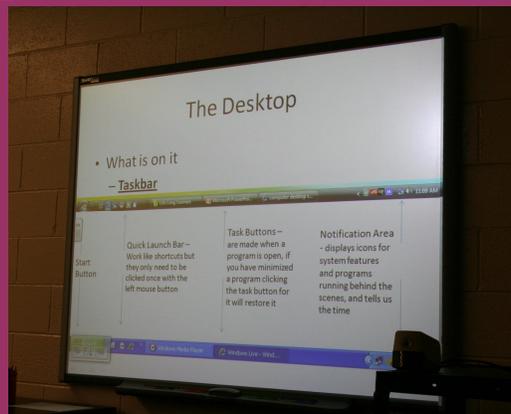


Imagine! The students could not wait to get back into the classrooms this fall! Sixty new computers, installed throughout the school, stood ready to support and strengthen the curriculum and learning experience. In addition, five interactive white boards were added to provide the tools for meaningful and engaging lessons.

“Technology: Envision the Possibilities,” the 2008 Annual Giving fund project completed in August, was a long-awaited exciting enhancement to the curriculum. Loaded with the latest operating system and programs, the computers provide uniform performance in the Tech Lab for optimum instruction. Faculty and staff are also thrilled with the new models, whose updated software and programs now operate trouble free, offering peace of mind to every user.

A major goal was also accomplished when the school was finally in a position to offer technology classes to adults in the evening. **“Life Long Learners,”** workshops planned by technology teacher Erin Bateman and Catherine Bateman, former NAGS technology and art teacher. The first six-week course, “Computer Basics,” began on October 15, 2009 with five adult students in attendance. Basic operation, keyboarding, internet surfing and email, were taught by the mother and daughter teaching team. The classes will resume in the spring for adults interested in developing their computer skills. Information will be available on our website in the near future.

We salute all of our benefactors and the Nazareth Family Foundation for their generosity in supporting this endeavor. Both the Annual Giving Fund and Tech Trek Walk-a-Thon targeted the technology project, which totaled over \$78,000.00. Know that every dollar raised is paying off in dividends as the students now have the best equipment at their fingertips!



CORRECTIONS

The Annual Giving Report included in the Summer, 2009 *Newsletter* incorrectly listed a Tuition Assistance Grant from the Holy Family Foundation. The acknowledgement should have been listed as being received through the generosity of the *Nazareth Family Foundation*.

We apologize that Justin LaCorte's name was omitted from one of two *Class of 2009* lists in the Summer, 2009 *Newsletter*. The *Class of 2009* is as follows:

Destinations: Class of 2009

Michael Benedykciuk	Father Judge High School
Kartika Sari Buckley	Archbishop Ryan High School
Peter Cassidy	Holy Ghost Preparatory School
Anna Duzinski	St. Hubert's Catholic High School
Elizabeth Garvey	Archbishop Ryan High School
Daniel Gormley	Archbishop Ryan High School
Elizabeth Hellings	Nazareth Academy High School
Michael Iannacone	Father Judge High School
Andrew King	Holy Ghost Preparatory School
Howard Knapp	Holy Ghost Preparatory School
Justin LaCorte	Holy Ghost Preparatory School
Michael Lydon	Saint Joseph Preparatory School
Nicholas Mancino	Holy Ghost Preparatory School
Eric Marcelis	Saint Joseph Preparatory School
Kristin Mays	Villa Joseph Marie High School
Christopher McFadden	Holy Ghost Preparatory School
Emily Nestel	Nazareth Academy High School
Maria Palantino	Nazareth Academy High School
Marisa Poncia	Villa Joseph Marie High School
Stephen Purcell	Holy Ghost Preparatory School
Shabella Rideout-Perkins	Merion Mercy Academy
Kirsten Schneider	Villa Joseph Marie High School
Brian Singmaster	Holy Ghost Preparatory School
Deanna Stephens	Villa Joseph Marie High School
Bianca Tillery	Nazareth Academy High School
Alexandra Varley	Nazareth Academy High School
Stephanie Whitley	Nazareth Academy High School
Justin Weiss	Roman Catholic High School
Alexandra Wierzbicki	Nazareth Academy High School

BRACELETS FOR A PURPOSE

Hand Made, With Love



A small idea, hatched by Fourth Grader Ruby Malak, has grown into a successful effort to benefit the homeless at St. Francis Inn. Ruby and her fellow Fourth Graders take time out from recess and lunch to weave colorful bracelets that are sold to fellow students, faculty and family members.

The effort has netted a total of in the \$68.40 for the Franciscan run ministry in Kensington. We salute Ruby and friends in giving so selflessly of themselves for the needy.

Above, left to right, seated: Julia Halas, Corryne Burdan, Ruby Malak, Giovana Delia, Alexandra Graff

Standing: Tracy Marcelis, Lauren Cantwell, Griffin Barnes, Madison Pristera, John Duesler, Madison Schwegler, Mada Akarimall



"Going to Beautiful Lengths To Make a Difference"



Giovana Lian Delia donated two 8" ponytails to the Pantene Beautiful Lengths Program.

Giovana set a goal several years ago to grow her hair for the Pantene program partnership with HairUWear and the American Cancer Society. The organization provides wigs to women who have suffered hair loss from cancer treatments. Diane Delia,

Giovana's mother, explained that it takes at least three to four months and six ponytails to make one wig. Women fighting the effects of cancer treatments can obtain more information by calling the American Cancer Society at 1-877-227-1596.



Building a Better World... With Books

The Nazareth community supported Fourth Grader Jacob Rita in his quest to help build New Orleans Public Libraries. Jacob and his family went to New Orleans to participate in a service project sponsored by *Better World Books*.

Jacob, pictured above, asked his fellow students to send in gently used books that he, his parents and sister delivered to the libraries. We salute Jacob for his efforts in sharing his love of reading with the citizens of New Orleans.

SERVICE LEARNING: Education Beyond the Classroom



Adults and children alike can find great satisfaction and superb learning opportunities by planning and participating in community service. Properly implemented, service learning develops citizenship, responsibility and many other positive virtues making it a highly effective character education program in and of itself. *We thank our Student Council, Faculty, Students and Families for their support of the following successful projects:*

THE STUDENT COUNCIL ORGANIZED A "DENIM DAY" DURING **BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WEEK**. STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF ALL WORE DENIM AND PINK TO SUPPORT THE FUNDRAISER, WHICH *NETTED \$770.00* FOR THE BOTT CANCER CENTER AT HOLY REDEEMER HOSPITAL.

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING, OUR NAGS FAMILIES DONATED OVER *ONE DOZEN BOXES* FILLED WITH CANNED GOODS FOR A **THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**. THE STUDENT COUNCIL ORGANIZED THE EFFORT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESAN FOOD BANK.

THE THANKSGIVING **PAPER CHAIN LINKS FUNDRAISER**, ALSO ORGANIZED BY THE STUDENT COUNCIL, RAISED *\$200.00* FOR "FINAL FAREWELL." THE ORGANIZATION, SUGGESTED BY NICOLETTE WONS, HELPS FAMILIES FINANCIALLY IN BURYING A LOVED ONE, PARTICULARLY YOUNG CHILDREN. *\$100.00* WAS ALSO DONATED TO ST. FRANCIS INN TO AID THE FRANCISCANS IN THEIR WORK WITH THE HOMELESS.

NAGS STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT THAT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA **WRAPPING PAPER AND BATTERY DRIVE** WAS A SUCCESSFUL PRE-HOLIDAY EFFORT FOR "OPERATION SANTA CLAUS!"

STUDENTS PRACTICED THEIR MATH SKILLS AND COMPETED IN A **MATH-A-THON** FOR **ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL**, *RAISING \$1,377.00!!* WE SALUTE OUR STUDENTS' EFFORTS AND TIME IN PARTICIPATING TO HELP *RAISE OVER \$31,000.00* OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS!

SANTA'S SECRET SHOP *RAISED \$1,000.00* TO BENEFIT THE **SR. M CELESTE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP!** WE KNOW SR. CELESTE WOULD BE SO HUMBLE, YET SO PROUD, OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO AN EIGHTH GRADE STUDENT IN HER MEMORY.

FIRST TRIMESTER **MISSION MONEY** TOTALLED *\$86.98!* EVERY PENNY COUNTS!

FIFTY WINTER COATS WERE COLLECTED FOR A **COAT DRIVE** PARTNERSHIP WITH **ST. JOE'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL'S FATHERS' CLUB**. FRESHMAN MICHAEL LYDON, '09, AND HIS MOTHER NANCY LYDON, LIBRARIAN, ORGANIZED THE EFFORT AT NAGS FOR THE ST. FRANCIS INN HOMELESS SHELTER.

"But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:17-18

"IN VALOR THERE IS HOPE"

Shiny boots, gleaming badges, pressed suits and uniforms, epaulettes on blue shirts. All these were front and center on Friday, January 15, 2010 as NAGS was acknowledged by the Fraternal Order of Police for a unique banner honoring police officers. The banner, featuring handprints of all NAGS students, was the brainchild of Jen and Paul Halas, parents of Alex, Gr. 7 and Julia, Gr. 4. The colorful artwork piece was installed on the front of the school on Grant Avenue late last year.

John Ruane, Treasurer of the FOP Lodge #5, pictured at right below, was on hand to express his appreciation on behalf of all the Philadelphia Police officers. The school invited the school parents serving in law enforcement to be present for the ceremony and one dozen individuals who serve as Captains, Lieutenants, Sergeants, Swat Team and Bomb Squad specialists and Officers attended.

The Student Council, moderated by Mrs. Mai Dang, fifth grade teacher, planned a poignant prayer ceremony to pray for the recently slain Philadelphia Police Officers and the continued safety of those on the force. The students and faculty wore blue to honor the occasion.

Cameramen from Channels 3, 6 and 10 were on site to film footage of the event, which aired on all three stations several times on January 15th.



MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS REPORT

Sr. Mary Ann Allton was pleased to announce the six-year report submitted in May, 2009 to the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools has been accepted.

Judith A. Urban, M. Ed., Middle States Commission, wrote, "The scholastic and spiritual formation of Nazareth Academy Grade School students go 'hand-in-hand' as the dedicated administration and faculty create an environment permeated by the Gospel spirit, instill trust, promote peace and encourage creative spontaneity." Ms. Urban further commented, "Accolades on encouraging to accept the responsibility of stewardship of our global society."

"I thank our school community for your ongoing commitment to our Middle States project. I am very proud of the effort put forth by our students, faculty and parents," Sr. Mary Ann stated.

CTY TALENT SEARCH

Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth

We present the student nominations to the CTY Talent Search in recognizing a student's outstanding academic ability. Students must achieve a score at the 95th percentile or higher on the Terra Nova tests in the subject areas of math, reading, social studies, science, or total score.. Maribeth Kane, 7th grade teacher, is the faculty moderator of the CTY program.

GRADE 8: Sarah Aitken, Meagan Dollard, Andrew Doyle, Stephanie Hughes, Kevin Kerr, Matthew Unger, Alexander Wajda

GRADE 7: Emil Berbakov, Suzanne Cassidy, Regina Duesler, Maureen Rankin, Nicolette Wons

GRADE 6: Lauren Preski, Ava Roberts, Caitlyn Sullivan

GRADE 5: Noah Lapteff, Eric Lorenzo, Jenna Severa

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Named at Grandparents' Day



Grandparents' Day and Older Friends' Day is a precious time for our students to proudly show off their school, their classrooms, their projects and artwork. We are grateful for the participation of over 260 Grandparents and Older Friends at the event held on September 28, 2009.

Our guests followed the students' schedule for two shortened classes and at "recess," they mingled and enjoyed refreshments and cookies prepared by our parent volunteers. As usual, our parents turned out in force to help facilitate the day's events.

Special recognition was given to **Mrs. Pat Tedeschi**, who was named "Grandparent Volunteer of the Year," in gratitude for her many hours helping with the hot lunch program. Pictured at right, with Cafeteria Manager Bobbi Streff on left, Mrs. Tedeschi is the grandmother of Eric Lorenzo, Gr. 5 and Samantha Lorenzo, Gr. 4. Congratulations Mrs. Tedeschi and thank you for all you do!

We'll see our Grandparents and Older Friends once again next September!





MUSIC NEWS

"Music may achieve the highest of all mission: she may bond between nations, races and states, who are strangers in many ways; she may unite what is disunited and bring peace to what is hostile" - Dr. Max Bendiner

On Sunday, November 1, 2009, auditions for the All Catholic Honors Band of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia were held at St. Aloysius Academy in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Two hundred ninety students from forty-five Catholic schools throughout Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs auditioned for a chance to perform in the band. One hundred twenty finalists were chosen.

Among those students from Nazareth Academy Grade School who successfully auditioned, were Emil Berbakov on flute, Teresa Mauro on flute, Taryn Neals on clarinet, Eric Steinberg on saxophone, Gabriel Unger on oboe, and Alexander Wajda on flute.

The band director at the school is Anthony Hilinski. The All Catholic Honors Band Concert, was held at Archbishop Wood High School in Warminster, on Friday, February 5, 2010.

Submitted by Tony Hilinski



Above, left to right, seated: Taryn Neals, Gr. 8; Eric Steinberg, Gr.8; Theresa Mauro, Gr. 8. Standing: Sr. Mary Ann Allton, Emil Berbakov, Gr. 7; Alexander Wajda, Gr. 8; Gabriel Unger, Gr. 8 and Band Director Tony Hilinski.

Congratulations!

We congratulate sixth grade students Julia McPhillips, Madeline Pontarelli and Lauren Preski for qualifying for membership in the **Archdiocesan Chorus**.

We also applaud the efforts of Ava, Gr. 6, and Chloe Roberts, Gr. 4, for becoming members of the **Archdiocesan String Orchestra**.

Taryn Neals, Gr. 8, and Eric Steinberg, Gr. 7, have qualified for participation in the **Archdiocesan Jazz Band**.

Sr. Mary Ann Allton, Principal, stated, "Many hours of practice and hard work are ahead of these students and I know without a doubt that they will represent our school beautifully and enjoy a memorable experience."

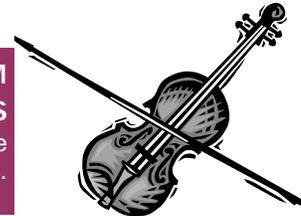


Grades 2, 3, 4 were taped singing, "Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus:" for a contest sponsored by radio station **B101**. Although our students were not among the finalists, the rest of the NAGS community

thinks that they are #1. Thanks to faculty members Senorita, Ms. Smyth, Ms Cusick and Ms. Doyle, for organizing, practicing and taping the children's lively rendition of the song.

STRING PROGRAM INITIATED AT NAGS

Lessons, taught by Julie Pacheco, are now available for interested students.



A SHORT STAY! Cheryl Manfredonia, above center, with Sr. Mary Ann and students, was welcomed back to NAGS in October as she substituted for Music teacher Sue Trotter, who was recuperating from surgery. Mrs. Manfredonia stepped in to ensure that choir chimes, hand bells, choir, music classes and "Sonshine Kids" were all on track!

THE 2009 - 2010 ANNUAL GIVING FUND

An Anchor of Hope

Laying the foundation

for an **education** based on *Catholic values*

Hope for Children

The Annual Giving Fund is part of a tradition that invites alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff to actively invest in the future of NAGS. We invite you to support the endeavors of Nazareth Academy Grade School in its ongoing pursuit to provide an excellent Catholic education for our students.

Hope for Education

At NAGS, each desk holds a child with the future of the world in his or her hand. God gave these children the amazing ability to dream and with the right skills, they can do more than just dream, they can *achieve* their dreams!

Hope for the Future

Annual Giving is an essential investment in our school and the future of our children, as tuition does not cover the full cost of a NAGS education. Please join us in ensuring that the Annual Giving Fund continues to provide hope for the future of our children.

With your support, the Annual Fund will:

- Help meet the needs to enhance learning
- Enrich a child's spiritual anchor and foster service
- Support school facilities
- Keep tuition costs to a minimum
- Help provide the financial support to retain our talented and dedicated faculty

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.

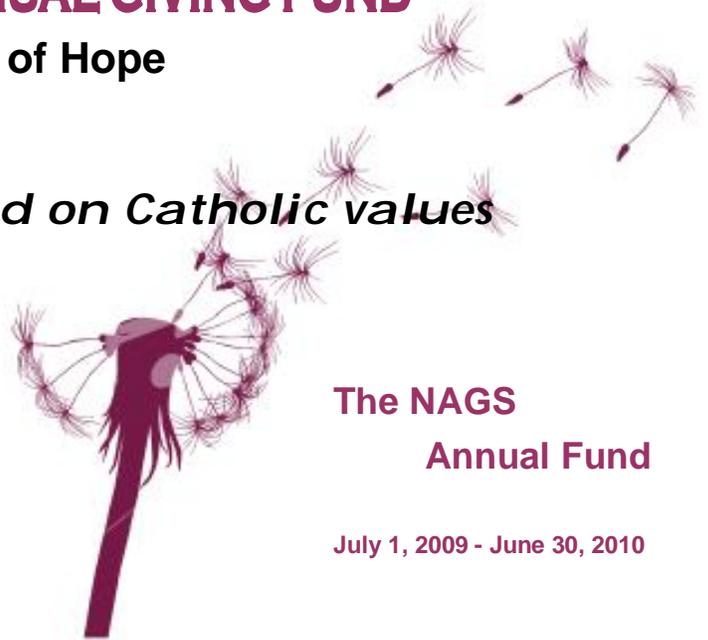
Donations can be made securely online at: www.nazarethacademy.net. Click "Development" and "Donate Now."

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: _____



The NAGS Annual Fund

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

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:

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

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

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

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

Fall 2009 -

Winter 2010

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHILA., PA
PERMIT NO. 05164

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 27, 2010 *Olympic Family Social*

March 19 - 21, 2010 *"Alice In Wonderland"
Theater Presentation*

March 29, 2010 *Living Stations, 7 PM,
NAHS Chapel*

April 17, 2010 *NAGSPA Auction*

ALUMNI EVENTS:

April 25, 2010 *Alumni Memorial
Scholarship Luncheon,
12 - 2 PM at NAGS*



LET'S TALK ABOUT FORENSICS!

On January 16, 2010, our Forensics Team participated in their first tournament of the year at the St. Joseph's Preparatory School. We commend all of the student participants for their effort and commitment to the public speaking program, moderated by Mrs. Cathy Achilles, 8th grade teacher.

In the Prose category, Ava Roberts placed First and Taryn Neals placed Second. (Pictured at left - left to right - is Taryn Neals and Ava Roberts)

In total, the NAGS team (pictured below left) scored enough points to merit a Third Place trophy for our school!

Congratulations and special thanks to Mrs. Cathy Achilles, and parents Susan Marcel, 74; Ronnie Mauro, Bernice Purcell, Julia Roberts and Christina Wash.

We also acknowledge the efforts of Dan Marcel, '07; Stephen Purcell, '09 and Joe Neill for their assistance in preparing the students for competition.



NAGS welcomed Sr. Charlotte as a Support Staff member. Sister is pictured below with Sixth Grade students (l - r) Darby Showers, Alexa Dema and Emilee Miller.



Below: Sisters Charlotte, Sr. Mary Ann, Sr. Yvette and Sr. Martin film a segment for NBC Channel 10's "Morning Wake-Up Call" for viewers.

