



# Nazareth Academy Grade School

OUR MISSION IS FAMILY

## OUR GOD IS HERE



The school year opened with several changes, high expectations, positive energy, and hope and promise for the future! The school community welcomed Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, CSFN, as Principal. Sr. Mary Ellen is the former Principal of Academia del Perpetuo Socorro in Puerto Rico. Sr. Mary Ellen's many years in education and school administration will positively impact student achievement and growth and provide guidance in implementing plans for the future. We also welcomed new faculty members, a new first grade class and 14 students transferring into various grades.

The goals we continue to set to expand academic opportunities for our students are being met to give all a chance to succeed. An Honors ELA program has been implemented, along with enhanced Science Lab instruction. Resources have been allotted to provide for the increased presence of a school nurse to ensure the well-being of our students.

In addition, the work and planning of the Strategic Plan and Middle States Self-Study paved the way for a successful visit by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. We are pleased



This is a Positive Thinking



to announce that NAGS is recommended for reaccreditation pending the March Commission meeting of the Middle States Association.

The Nazareth Academy Grade School Board of Trustees welcomed two new members and the Parents' Association elected new Board Officers. Both organizations as a whole remain dedicated to the long-term viability of the school.

The theme chosen for the year by Sr. Mary Ellen is "Our God is Here," a reminder that God is here, present, now, all around us. This theme echoes the mission of every Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth - to find God in everyday life as Jesus, Mary and Joseph did. Our theme invites us to look for God all around us, in our families, in the beauty and majesty of creation and in the laughter of our friends. God is here with us during classes, activities, service projects and socializing.

Let us remember and remind each other that the most important thing is our relationship with each other, with our neighbors and with God. *God is here, now.*

# WELCOME

*Sr. Mary Ellen  
and Sr. Teresita!*

This September, the school community rolled out the red carpet to welcome Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell and Sr. Teresita Morales. Sr. Mary Ellen assumed the role of Principal of Nazareth Academy Grade School and Sr. Teresita was welcomed as a Support Staff Member.

For the past thirty-five years, Sr. Mary Ellen called Puerto Rico home where she served as teacher in Colegio Espiritu Santo, Principal in Academia del Carmen, Associate Superintendent for Religion and Pastoral Services, and was most recently the Principal of Academia del Perpetuo Socorro, a high school and elementary school. Sister's experience and focus on expanding the curriculum and monitoring academic achievements will be a driving force behind our student's future academic successes.

In various capacities, both Sr. Mary Ellen and Sr. Teresita helped fulfill seventy-two years of ministry in Puerto Rico along with many other Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth over the years.

As Sr. Mary Ellen and Sr. Teresita begin a new chapter in their lives with their new assignment, a new chapter for Nazareth Academy Grade School will also be started. Sr. Mary Ellen is the sixteenth Principal in a long line of dedicated and effective administrators over its 72 year history. With a group of talented and committed faculty and staff, Nazareth is poised to surge ahead, blazing new trails in the education of our youth!



Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, CSFN



Sr. Teresita Morales, CSFN



Each morning throughout the month of October, our students formed a holy rosary during morning prayers. With the help of Sr. Mary Ellen, the Student Council officers threaded decades of paper beads together to form a full rosary. The students were reminded of the beautiful prayer of the rosary as a means to be drawn closer to Jesus and Mary by meditating on the great mysteries of our salvation.

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## Nazareth Academy Grade School

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

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

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

**We are in need of yearbooks from the following years: '79-'80, '82-'83, '84-'85, '85-'86, '86-'87, '87-'88.**

# BACK TO SCHOOL: NEW FAMILIES LITURGY



A new school year brings many changes for families, particularly if a child is beginning at a new school. One of the key roles of the Parent Association, committee chairs and class ambassadors is to help build the community to ensure a successful school experience for all.

The Association hosted the New Families' Liturgy and Reception on September 9, 2012. The celebration is an opportunity for the Board of Trustee members, Principal, Faculty, Staff and parents to welcome families who are new to the NAGS community. The reception serves as another way for families to socialize and get to know one another.

Reverend Mark Swope officiated at the Liturgy which was held in Nazareth Academy High School Chapel. Following the liturgy, guests assembled at the grade school where a buffet luncheon was served

Lisa Bristow, NAGSPA president, welcomed guests and introduced new Principal Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, Faculty, Board of Trustee Chairperson Sr. Brendan O'Brien and Sr. Loretta Theresa, President of CSFN's Mission and Ministry.

We thank the Parent Association for all they have done thus far this year and wish them luck in their remaining endeavors. Pictured at lower right are Board Officers: Standing (left to right) are Donna Lynch, Corresponding Secretary; Helen Blier-Swider, Recording Secretary; Jenn Gallagher, Sergeant-at-Arms. Seated: Cathy Congdon, Vice President; Lisa Bristow, President and Cristi Keares, Treasurer.

The New Families Reception ended on a sweet note with the students filling a gift bag of penny candy.



# CSFN LEADERSHIP TEAM INSTALLED

The Nazareth Academy Grade School community congratulates the newly elected leadership team of the CSFN's Holy Family Province, USA. The council was installed at a special liturgy on January 5, 2013 in Des Plaines, IL and will serve through 2019.

Sr. Barbara Jean Wojnicki, Provincial Superior, has ties to our area, having taught at both NAGS and St. Katherine of Siena. In addition, our students are familiar with Sr. Michele Vincent, who as national vocation director, has made many visits to the school to speak about vocations. Sr. Rita Fanning grew up in our area and attended St. Katherine of Siena.

*Standing left to right are:* Sr. Kathleen Ann Stadler, Provincial Secretary/Councilor; Sr. Barbara Jean Wojnicki, Provincial Superior; Sr. Rita Fanning, Provincial Councilor; Sr. Michele Vincent Fisher, Provincial Councilor; Sr. Teresa Mika, Provincial Treasurer/Councilor; and Sr. Catherine Fedewa, Assistant Provincial/Councilor.



Photo provided by Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Holy Family Province USA

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## Wall of Giving



"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Let us then call on God's blessings, that we may come to know and to follow in our lives all that is true, all that is right. We dedicate this Donor Recognition Wall in furthering the mission of Nazareth Academy Grade School in the education of youth, focusing on the acquisition and practice of true Christian principles in imitation of the Holy Family of Nazareth."

- Sister Mary Ellen Gemmell



A fitting tribute recognizing the many donors of the "We're Building A Better World, One Student at a Time" Capital Campaign was unveiled on September 10, 2012. The campaign for Phase One, which ran from 2002 through 2006, was an ambitious initiative that resulted in the construction of an addition that provided classrooms for Honors Math, Science, Music, Small Group Learning and office space.

The three-panel design is proudly displayed in the first-floor hallway of the new wing as we proudly salute all those who made this project a reality! It is through the commitment of many dedicated individuals that our students benefit from the expansive and inviting classrooms that exist today.

Sr. Mary Ellen presided over the ceremony, along with the Student Council Officers. At a cost of \$1.5 million, the expansion has served as a stepping stone for teachers in meeting the academic goals in serving our students.

Several designs were considered over the past few years and a custom design by Dave Quaresima of Blue Ribbon Awards was finally chosen. Sadly, Quaresima never saw his vision become a reality due to his sudden passing. We thank John Scarpella of Keystone Recognition for stepping in to complete the project.

Much of the school's seventy-one-year greatness comes from the success and participation of our parents, alumni, faculty and students in past years. We thank our entire community for their untiring support in continuing the mission of Nazareth Academy Grade School.

If your family would like to be included on the plaque, limited space is available for donations of \$250 and above. Please contact Pat McGarvey at 215-637-7777, ext. 206, or email [nagsalumni@aol.com](mailto:nagsalumni@aol.com). Donations can also be made online at [www.nazarethacademy.net](http://www.nazarethacademy.net) > Development > Donate Now, please specify "Capital Campaign."



Above, from right to left: Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, Delancey Showers, President; Stephen Pons, Treasurer; Donald Vittorelli, Vice President; and Marne Brown, Secretary.

# STUDENT COUNCIL *Induction*

Nazareth Academy Grade School held a Student Council Induction Ceremony on September 21, 2012. Student Council Moderator and fifth grade teacher Mrs. Mai Dang introduced each officer and welcomed their enthusiasm, commitment and ideas throughout the school year.

With proud parents and fellow students in attendance, each Student Council Officer took the oath to pledge solidarity, loyalty and service to their alma mater. After they were sworn in, the officers received a sash and congratulatory greeting from Principal Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, who introduced the new use of the "NAGS" acronym: **N**azareth **A**lways **G**ives **S**ervice.

Special congratulations to the newly inducted officers pictured at right, left to right: Mrs. Mai Dang, Marne Brown, Secretary; Stephen Pons, Treasurer; Donald Vittorelli, Vice President and Delancey Showers, President.

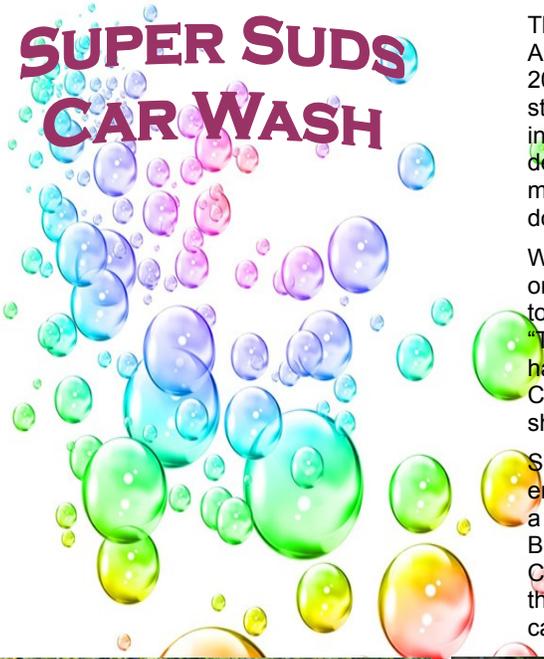
We could not fail to mention that two of the

officers are children of alumni! Marne Brown is the daughter of Michael and Shannon (McNulty) Brown, '85. Donald Vittorelli is the son of Lisa and Donald Vittorelli, '82.

We note the excellent service of the Student Council officers and class representatives and wish them much luck and success in their remaining endeavors in the 2012-2013 school year.



## SUPER SUDS CAR WASH



The Parent Association hosted its Third Annual Car Wash on September 15, 2012. From the official start time, a steady stream of cars filed into the parking lot to get some TLC from our students and parents. Not one inch was missed from every hubcap, bumper, window and door.

With the enthusiastic cheers of students on the avenue, it was hard for motorists to resist the invitation for a sudsy detour. "The neighbors and school communities have been so supportive all day," stated Crisi Keares, NAGSPA Treasurer, as she accepted donations from customers.

Special thanks to all the student and parent volunteers for helping make the event a success. In addition, we salute Sr. Brendan O'Brien, Board of Trustee Chairperson, for driving five convent cars through the process! Now that's what we call a repeat customer!



# Class Notes



"LIKE"  
Nazareth Academy  
Grade School

1956

**Stan Blaszcak, '56**, recently contacted NAGS to update the school on his contact information and send greetings to his classmates! After Stan's NAGS' graduation, he attended Father Judge High School and continued his education at Saint Joseph's University. He received his MBA from Farleigh Dickinson University.

1979 and 2011

At left, **Bernice (Giordano) Duesler, '79**, and daughters **Regina Duesler, '11**, and **Aniela Duesler, Gr. 1**, at the annual Christmas Concert. Aniela was simply angelic as she participated in the first grade's traditional Nativity Scene.



1982

**Donald Vittorelli, '82**, pictured below, joined his family at the Middle States Visiting Team Welcome Program on November 11, 2012. Pictured, left to right, are Donald Vittorelli, '13, Lisa Vittorelli, **Donald, '82**, and Zachary, Gr. 7



2000

Wedding bells will ring! Congratulations to **Marisha Szczypiorski**, on her engagement to Jeremy Voras. A May 2014 wedding is planned! Marisha works in the lab at Lankenau Hospital in Wynne-wood, PA.

2002

**Alex Sharkey, '02**, is a photographer for the "Seven Mile Times" in Stone Harbor, New Jersey.

1992

Prior to their class reunion, several members of the Class of '92 met at NAGS for a tour. They were met by Sr. Mary Ellen, **Sally Unger, '81**, and Pat McGarvey. Pictured at below are: **Frank Wisniewski, Jr.**, a consultant at Fidelity Inspection and Consulting Services; Sr. Mary Ellen and **Adam Frey**, an attorney with the Air Force.



Above: In the library, remembering his favorite book on "Space," Frank checked the shelf and there it was... 20 years later! As it turns out, the book is popular among our current students!

Left: **Tom Dinoulis**, on right, joins his classmates on the tour.



Above: The gang is back together again! From left to right: **Steve Yale, Matt Lewandowski, Tom Dinoulis, Frank Wisniewski, Jr., Jeff Truitt, Nick Montebello, Adam Frey**. In front: **Kate Stuhl and Jill Borski**.

2007

**Christian Gregory, '07**, is currently a sophomore at LaSalle University, majoring in Criminal Justice. Christian completed an internship this past summer with the Upper Moreland Police Department. He has also been chosen to represent the La Salle University Ice Hockey teaming the All Star games this winter.



2009, 2012

After her graduation from Nazareth Academy High School, **Alexandra Varley, '09**, will attend Penn State University to continue her studies. Alex is pictured at left with her brother **Michael Varley, '12**, a Freshman at Holy Ghost Preparatory School.



2010

**Matthew Unger, '10**, shared his musical talents on the piano during the Middle States Visiting Team dinner. Matthew is currently a junior at St. Joseph's Preparatory School.



At left: Sr. Aurea Stroik, Board of Trustee member, shares her appreciation of **Ava Roberts, '12**, classical music entertainment at the Middle States Visiting Team Welcome Program.

**Madeline Pontarelli, '12**, was chosen to receive one of the *Mayor's Very Impressive Performers Awards* at a Ceremony on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at Girard College's Chapel. The program recognizes select high school freshman who continue to be positive role models for their peers with perfect attendance.

2010, 2012

Below: **Madalyn Fluehr, '10; Michael Fluehr, '12; Kristen Foley, '10** and Mrs. Dang catch up on a recent visit to NAGS.



**Class of 2012** classmates are pleased to see their Class Gift to the school in person! A beautiful burgundy outdoor mat, emblazoned with the school name and "Class of 2012" now greets students and visitors at the front entrance. Thanks to the entire Class of 2012 for their generosity! Pictured are: left to right - **Ava Roberts, Gina D'Andrea, Rachel Macauley, Sarah Rucci, Julia McPhillips, Emily Sokolowski, Gabriel Doherty and Michael Varley**. Our thanks to Tom and Kathleen Gregory of Professional Duplicating for their assistance in facilitating the order!



2011

**Andrew Moreton, '11**, is a sophomore at New Foundations Charter High School. This past summer, Andrew participated in a weeklong National Youth Leadership Training with Boy Scouts of America.

Andrew received second honors in his Freshman year and also received the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania Kevin J. Boyle *Citizenship Award for Academic Excellence*. Congratulations to Andrew, who also recently completed his Eagle Scout Project and is on his way to earning the Boy Scout's highest honor.



**Tracy Marcelis, Gr. 7**, won First Place in the City of Philadelphia Health Federation Poster Contest, Age 9- 13. Tracy received a monetary award on August 14, 2012 at the Mayor's reception room at City Hall. Tracy is pictured below along with her winning artwork.

2012

Below: Nazareth Academy High School Freshman! Class of 2012 alumna **Ava Roberts, Sarah Rucci, Julia McPhillips, Emily Sokolowski and Rachel Macauley** excitedly filled us in on their successful transition to high school!



# Faculty News

## MEET THE FACULTY AND STAFF!



*Standing, left to right:* Patrice D'Andrea, Student teacher Casey Caulfield, Kathleen Serfass, Suzanne Trotter, Kristy Nober, Rachel Merryman, Stefanie Iatarola, Sr. Mary Ellen, Sally Unger, Sr. Yvette. *Seated:* Sr. Teresita, Sr. Anita, Angelique Hatzinikolaou, Marie Maddox, Maria Sheehan



*Standing:* Theresa Vaccarino, Kathleen Culp, Caroline Wheeler, Maureen Ayes, Susan Hujber, Maribeth Kane, Mai Dang, Patricia McGarvey. *Seated:* Helen Primus, Molly Fox, Dean Stephens, Nancy Lydon (Not pictured: Rachel Stricker)



The administration and faculty "oohhed and ahhed" when former Technology teacher Erin Ricca visited with new baby Thomas Albion Ricca, III, born on August 25, 2012. Mrs. Ricca was joined by her mother, Cathy Bateman, also a former NAGS Technology and Art teacher.

Our students and community will be happy to hear that Mrs. Ricca will continue to offer the Summer Technology Camp immediately after the last week of school! Further details will be available shortly and will be posted online.

## A VISIT FROM CSFN MISSION AND MINISTRY (MMI)



NAGS was surprised by a visit from MMI President and former faculty member Sr. Loretta Theresa Felici and former Principal and MMI Treasurer Sr. Celine Warnilo during the recent Middle States visit. The Sisters offered their prayers for a successful visit and surprised the staff with an abundantly filled "Good Luck" snack basket.

Pictured from left to right: Sr. Aurelia Lopata, Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, Sr. Celine Warnilo, Sr. Teresita Morales, Marie Maddox, Sally Unger, '81, Sr. Lydia Etter, OSF, Middle States Visiting Team Chairperson; Sr. Loretta Theresa Felici and Sr. Yvette Ortiz. Seated is Sr. Anita Pasternak.



Please join the school community in remembering our beloved departed.

Dino B. Cerquetelli, Jr. - Father of Dino Cerquetelli, Gr. 6 and Santina Cerquetelli, Gr. 3

Joseph Gemmell - Brother of Sr. Mary Ellen Gemmell, Principal

Francis C. Gregory, '54. - Brother of Carl Gregory, '47 and Richard S. Gregory, '56

Virginia Guiffre - Grandparent of Melissa Aykit, Gr. 8 and John Guiffre, Gr. 1

Mary A. Hanejko - Mother of Joyce (Leszczynski) Hanejko, '56; and great-grandmother of Christopher Morton, Gr. 7.

Sister Jane Harriet Leszczynska. CSFN - Former NAGS teacher and librarian

James R. Loving - Grandfather of David Loving and Amy Loving

Howard Luberski - Great Uncle of Matthew McGarvey, '04 and Samuel McGarvey, '06

# GRANDPARENTS AND OLDER FRIENDS



## A TALE OF LOVE

**Once upon a time.....** So begin the stories of our childhood. They are the stories that center on heroic combat with forces of evil and romantic fantasies of true love. Many are tales that have been told and retold, refined and developed, over centuries. They speak to all levels of what it means to be human and often have a richness to them that modern stories lack. They are noble, brave, and alluring. They generally end with evil being eradicated, love triumphant, and everyone living happily ever after.

Fairy tales, fables and folk tales spark imagination. They can also educate, support and liberate the emotions of children, giving voice to their greatest dreams. Part of what makes a good story is the conversation it can prompt. Particularly with a fairy tale, taking what exists in the story and linking it in some meaningful way to the real world can have value.

The 11th Annual Grandparents' and Older Friends' Day was an opportunity for our students and their guests to create their own "Tale of Love". A special presentation on fairy tales, fables and folk tales was explored in each classroom. A sample of each story type was read and discussed, such as "King Midas Touch" (Fairy Tale), "Mighty and the Troll" (Folk Tale) and "Stone Soup" (Fable), just to name a few! The older adults also had a chance to submit their favorite fairy tale or story for a display in the lobby.

Following the classroom activities, the students and their guests enjoyed refreshments and toured the classrooms. An event of this magnitude would not be possible without our parent volunteers whose gracious help made our grandparents and older friends feel welcome. We also salute Sr. Mary Ellen, our faculty and staff and the Student Council for their assistance on this special day. Lastly, we thank the 210 grandparents and older friends for traveling distances and taking the time to spend quality time with our students.

*Stories and books are a way to reach out, a connection across time and generations. It is through stories that children can gain the experience of past generations.*





# Nazareth Always Gives Service



*"Treasure the one  
who lightens  
the burden  
of anyone else."*



Nazareth Academy Grade School faculty and students find great satisfaction in planning and participating in community service events. Properly implemented, service learning projects develop citizenship, responsibility and many other positive virtues making this a highly effective character education program in and of itself. NAGS partners with many institutions, organizations and corporations to further the message of the school's mission statement.

Located in a poverty-stricken area of Philadelphia, **St. Francis Inn** is a soup kitchen run by the Franciscans that serves 150,000 meals per year. Nazareth families provide their meals in the form of brown bag lunches on a monthly basis. Prior to the start of school, students line up assembly-line fashion and prepare healthy lunches that are distributed to guests. Lunches are also prepared at home by younger students. This project leads students to an understanding that they are helping by responding to people's immediate needs and strengthening the St. Francis Inn community.

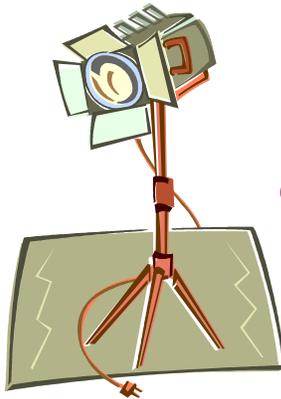


The **Thanksgiving Basket Drive** is a worthy effort organized by the Student Council. Under the direction of moderator and fifth grade teacher Mai Dang, the council members encourage the specific donations needed to make traditional Thanksgiving feasts. Over twenty baskets were delivered to the needy at home, as well as to a local public school in Bensalem, PA. Delivering the baskets is an overwhelming experience in seeing the eyes of parents and children well up in appreciation.



One of our students' favorite projects to participate in is the tie blanket effort for the **Woodstock Family Shelter** in North Philadelphia. Our parents purchase the required materials and the cutting and tying begins! The project organized by NAGS parent Bridie Tobler, (pictured top right, on left, with Patti Bozarth) yields over 120 cozy blankets for the women and children residing in the shelter. Along with the assistance of art teacher Maria Sheehan, the students show their empathy and love by creating bright and colorful gifts of love for the needy.

We are proud of our students who accept Christ's invitation to give freely and generously of themselves to others. Emulating the message of Christ and with the resolve to practice that message, the school community is resolved to assist the human family locally and worldwide.



# Spotlight ON OUR STARS

**The Power of TEAM is harnessed  
when our students work  
and study together!**



Working together, everyone contributes a signature strength as evidenced in many academic achievements. Samuel Hellings, Gr. 7, placed First in a Math Competition hosted by Holy Ghost Prep! Pictured top left are the participants from grades seven and eight: Tristen Mordan, Donald Vittorelli, Breanna Brophy, Melissa Aykit, Michele Anzabi, Chloe Roberts and Samuel Hellings. Congratulations to the team on their efforts!

At left, fifth grade student Sean Armstrong assists as his mother, Jennifer Armstrong, explained her work as a Autopsy Assistant Diener. Armed with samples of lab specimens and equipment, Mrs. Armstrong held the rapt attention of the fourth and fifth grade students during a special presentation in the Science Lab. Armstrong said she "enjoyed the class with the students," who had many interesting questions on autopsy room procedures.



Technology teacher Rachel Stricker, pictured far left with Sr. Mary Ellen, spearheaded the *Computers for Education* magazine drive effort to benefit the needs of the Tech program. During an assembly, students were thrilled with the t-shirts awarded for participation and the chance in winning a Grand Prize remote controlled robot. We don't know who had more fun with the robot's demonstration—the students or Sr. Mary Ellen!

At left, Senorita Marie Maddox's Spanish Class was transformed into a Spanish restaurant recently when seventh grade students explored menus written in Spanish and proper phrasing when ordering.



Did you know that 75% of science Nobel Prize winners have reported that their passion for science was first sparked in non-school environments? The world around us is a fascinating place with many different environments, objects and subjects to explore. The Science Fair is an annual event that helps students explore, ask questions, make mistakes, and seek conclusions. The event, organized by Science teachers Susan Hujber and Stefanie Iatarola, was held on November 13, 2012 for Grades 5 through 8. Winners were awarded in each category presented. At left, first prize winners assemble for a photo. From left to right: Julia Davis, Gr. 6 (Chemistry); Taylor Jennings, Gr. 8 (Biology); Madelyn Congdon, Gr. 5 (Botany); Denver Harr, Gr. 8 (food Science); Tracy Marcelis, Gr. 7 (Consumer Science); Jessica Scipione, Gr. 6 (Environmental Science); Giovana Delia, Gr. 7 (Sociology); Aiden Gretzula, Gr. 5 (Physics). Congratulations to all of our winners and participants!



An inflatable Star Lab, provided by Merck Pharmaceuticals, was on site for a special program on space and the constellations. The program was presented by Julia Roberts, mother of Chloe, Gr. 7. Pictured at left are a group of seventh grade students with their second grade buddies.

*Collaboration, between students, faculty and parents, allows us to achieve amazing results, making us more successful than we could imagine. Keep it up students!*

# FAMILY, FAITH, FUTURE.



# MIDDLE STATES REACCREDITATION

Despite a two week delay due to Hurricane Sandy, the scheduled Middle States Visit took place from November 11 - 14, 2012. The visit began with a Welcome Program and Dinner on Sunday, November 11, 2012. Along with the administration, faculty and Student Council officers, over sixty students participated in the presentation to welcome our guests to Nazareth Academy.

Sr. Mary Ellen opened the program with a school video presentation of "Our God Is Here," the theme for the 2012-2013 academic year. Also welcoming the visiting team were Sr. Loretta Theresa, CSFN, President of MMI, and Sr. Brendan O'Brien, CSFN, Chairperson of NAGS board of Trustees and Sr. Mary Joan Jacobs, Principal of Nazareth Academy High School.

The program was a tremendous opportunity for the visiting team to see the school in action. The team's chairperson was Sr. Lydia Etter, OSF, Principal of Resurrection Catholic School in Cherry Hill, NJ. Sr. Lydia was joined by James Renfer, teacher at Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter, PA and Eileen Rishcoff, also a teacher at Wyoming Area Catholic School.

Suzanne Trotter, Music Instructor, directed the Hand Bell Choir from grades 6, 7, 8 in playing "Alleluia" and "To a Wild Rose." Following their performance, Choir members from grades 4 to 8 sang "A Circle of Love," "Lord, You Have Come," and finished the program with a spirited rendition of "God Is Part of My Life."



Following the presentation, the Visiting Team mingled with parents and students, while Ava Roberts, '12, and Chloe Roberts, Gr. 7, entertained the group with classical violin pieces. The Student Council officers conducted a tour of the school for the visitors before a casual dinner was served in the Science Lab. Matthew Unger, '10,

provided lively musical accompaniment on piano during the buffet.

With the "Family, Faith, Future" Self-Study in mind, the Visiting Team conducted a thorough interview process and reviewed the effectiveness of the total school operation. The school's commitment to continuous improvement through strategic planning and enhancement of Honors English, Science and Physical Education was clearly highlighted. On the final day of the visit, the entire community was elated to hear that Nazareth Academy Grade School was recommended for reaccreditation.

We appreciate the efforts of the Middle States team members for their service in conducting an in-depth review. We salute Steering Committee Co-Chairs Marie Maddox and Sally Unger, '81, for their leadership over the past two years. In addition, we acknowledge the efforts of former Principal Sr. Mary Ann Allton and Department Chairs: Maria Sheehan (Art); Mai Dang (ELA/Reading); Maribeth Kane (Mathematics); Suzanne Trotter (Music); Theresa Vaccarino (Physical Education); Kristy Nober (Religion/Catechetical Program); Rachel Merryman (Science); Maura Fox (Social Studies); Marie Maddox (Spanish); Erin Ricca (Technology) and Nancy Lydon (Resource Study).

Sr. Mary Ellen stated, "Everyone has contributed to this very important process of Reaccreditation. We unite our minds, hearts and efforts to respond to all aspects of this visit with alacrity. Thank you for all you have done to make this process enjoyable while accepting the challenges it involves. **Nazareth Always Gives Service!**"





# Nazareth Academy Grade School

Celebrates our Annual Auction

## UNDER THE BOARDWALK



### *Sponsor, Advertise, Donate, Attend!*

**Saturday, April 27, 2013**

**The Maltese Room**

**Bensalem, PA**

**6 PM—11 PM**

**\$40.00 per person**

***Includes Buffet Dinner, Beer, Wine and  
Signature Drink***

**We invite you to  
sponsor the event, advertise in the  
program book or donate and join in the fun!**

**Sponsorships, advertising and  
Reservations can be made online.**

**It's easy!**

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

**Click "News and Events" to access posted links!**

#### **CAPE MAY**

**\$1000 Sponsor includes:**

**Full page in the Auction Program, 2 tickets to the Auction  
Recognition in all Public Relations activities  
Recognition at the Auction**

#### **STONE HARBOR**

**\$500 Sponsor includes:**

**Half page in the Auction Program, 2 tickets to the Auction  
Recognition in all Public Relations Activities  
Recognition at the Auction**

#### **ATLANTIC CITY**

**\$250 Sponsor includes:**

**Quarter page in the Auction Program  
Recognition in all Public Relation Activities**

#### **THE WILDWOODS**

**\$100 Sponsor includes:**

**Business Card in the Auction Program  
Recognition in the Auction Program**

#### **OCEAN CITY**

**\$50 Sponsor includes:**

**Recognition in the Auction Program**

Sponsorships and reservations due by April 14, 2013.

If you require further information, or would like to make a donation, please call Pat McGarvey, Development Director at 215.637.7777, ext. 206

# Lighting Up the Mind With the Arts



## 2012-2013 Annual Fund

### Spark an Imagination and Light Up the Mind

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 continues to grow to accommodate the needs of our students and community. We are pleased to announce that the 2012-2013 curriculum has expanded as resources have been provided for Honors ELA and Science Lab instructors. These objectives will help our program of study rise to the learning levels of our students. Rounding out the program of study are extensive Specialized Arts programs and extracurricular activities.

As the school continues to meet the challenges of our school community, our need for your support grows as well. The Annual Fund is your opportunity to *help create a spark and light up a mind!* The participation and support from families, grandparents, alumni, faculty, staff and friends help continue the legacy of excellence, spiritual growth, leadership and character development critical to the education of our students. Tax-deductible donations provide every student with the exceptional education resources required to showcase their academic, artistic and athletic talents.

### Strong Arts Education Promotes the Skills Children Need to be Successful

Today more than ever, the arts are needed by our young people as a forum for self-expression, communication, exploration, imagination and cultural and historical understanding. The arts are fundamental to learning and are on equal footing with other rigorous courses of study. Creativity and innovation utilized in the artistic process will be highly valued by U.S. employers in the coming years as we continue to shift into a global economy.

### Lighting Up the Mind:

#### The Arts Provide Balance in the Educational Experience

Arts education strengthens student problem-solving and critical thinking skills, adding to overall academic achievement, school success and preparation for high school and beyond. Studying the arts contributes to the development of better reading and math skills in young children, vocabulary acquisition, written elaboration and verbal communication.

Teachers are the first to point out how creative arts programs have strongly influenced their students' self image and increased their academic success in the areas of math, science and the language arts. They become a shared link, the glue that shapes our understanding of how we see ourselves and each other.



The Specialized Arts Program at NAGS is flourishing! Students are given the opportunity to explore their talents by participating in extensive Art, Music, Dance and Theater Programs directed by creative and passionate faculty and staff members.

Please join us in ensuring that the Annual Fund continues to be part of the script upon which our students will create their educational masterpiece!

### Help Empower Our Students Through the Arts

Donations will fund the purchase of:

- **Digital recording equipment**
- **Three-step choral risers**
- **The purchase and installation of a Smart Board in Art Room**
- **Instructional materials throughout the curriculum**

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

### GIVING BACK HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY!

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

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

**We invite our entire community to participate in the Annual Fund and become members of the following giving levels:**

- Blessed Frances Siedliska Society\* .....\$5,000 and above
- Pope John Paul II Society.....\$2,500 to \$4,999
- Family Circle.....\$1,000 to \$2,499
- Principal's Circle.....\$500 to \$999
- NAGS Club.....\$100 to \$499
- Maroon and Gray Club.....\$1 to \$99

\* Perpetual membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If alumna, Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "NAGS" or bill my  or  :

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional - This gift is given in memory of, or in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Please make checks payable to "NAGS" and mail to:

Nazareth Academy Grade School, ATTN: Development Office, 4701 Grant Avenue, Phila., PA 19114

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

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





**NAZARETH ACADEMY  
GRADE SCHOOL**

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Winter 2013

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- |               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| February 17   | Season of Lent begins   |
| February 15   | End of Second Trimester |
| March 1       | First Friday Liturgy    |
| March 4 - 8   | Terra Nova Testing      |
| April 12 - 14 | School Play             |
| April 27      | NAGSPA Auction          |



# *Patriot's Pen Essay Contest*



The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary recently conducted the *Patriot's Pen* nationwide essay contest. The 2012-2013 theme was "What Would I Tell the Founding Fathers?"

The contest was open to students in grades 6 - 8 enrolled in public, private or parochial schools. Thomas Goodman, Commander of the Joseph A. Schumacher Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1597 in Croydon, PA sponsored the contest in our area. Post 1597 is the oldest VFW Post in Bucks County.

The students were advised and encouraged by fifth grade teacher Mrs. Mai Dang and Mrs. Maureen Ayes, Honors English teacher. Many of the students mentioned some of our founding fathers by name, in particular, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and the writers of the Declaration of Independence. Several compositions also expressed gratitude to our veterans and current soldiers in the military.

Out of 166 essays submitted in our area, four winners are NAGS students! The students received a certificate, VFW pen and a monetary gift. All other participants in the contest received a certificate and a pen.

*Pictured at left:* Breanna Brophy, Michele Anzabi, Commander Goodman, Stephen Pons, Samantha Lorenzo and Sr. Mary Ellen. Congratulations to the semi-finalists and all the students who took the time to participate.

The essays will now compete in a VFW District contest. The top 45 winners in the National Contest receive a \$1,000 Savings Bond. The first prize winner receives a \$10,000 savings bond and an all expense paid three day trip to Washington, DC with a parent or guardian.

For further information on next year's topic and for a list of winners, visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).