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# The Beacon

## Saint Bernadette of Lourdes School



Lighting the Way

spring vol 12, issue 1



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Lourdes School"  
and join our over 425 fans  
to get a glimpse of current  
happenings at our school!  
You may also scan the  
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### Please Support the St. Bernadette School Annual Fund

Our 2011-12 Annual Fund is well under way. Since the campaign began with a letter to our Alumni from Class of 1978 graduate Michael Saulino, MD, PhD, our alumni and friends have donated over \$25,000. Thank you to all who have so generously donated so far this year.

The Annual Fund closes June 30, 2012. A donation envelope has been included with this edition of *The Beacon*. Your financial support, in any amount, towards tuition assistance, the school endowment fund, or one of the other items listed on the enclosed envelope will help to ensure our school's future and help continue to make our school the best that it can be. All donations to the St. Bernadette Annual Fund are tax deductible. If you are part of a family who attended St. Bernadette, please consider making a "family donation," or providing an individual or family scholarship. As always, we thank you for your consideration, and for your love and support of St. Bernadette School!

### Let Us Know What is Happening With You!

Please use the following space to share news about yourself or your children for publication in upcoming issues of *The Beacon*.  
You may also send an email to: [carkilroy@comcast.net](mailto:carkilroy@comcast.net)

### New Growth at St. Bernadette School



St. Bernadette School has experienced much growth this year. In addition to 90 new students, new trees were planted in November to replace some of the old trees on the campus that were removed over the summer for safety reasons. Three Cherry Dogwood trees were planted at

the Bond Avenue entrance of the school thanks to a donation by the Upper Darby Shade Tree Commission and Treevitalize, which is part of the "Plant One Million Trees" program at the Philadelphia Horticultural Society. The trees were accepted with a short prayer service lead by St. Bernadette Pastor, Reverend John Kelly. Pictured above are 8th graders Dana Latella and Ben Tracy, Pastor Rev. John Kelly, and many of the students at St. Bernadette. Also present was U.D. Shade Tree Commission Chairman Clyde Hunt, who challenged students to "take care of the trees so your children and grandchildren can enjoy them too."



### St. Bernadette School Continues to "Light the Way"

These are exciting and promising days for St. Bernadette of Lourdes School. Our enrollment continues to climb, and we will add a second kindergarten class next year for the first time in over 5 years. Our faculty members have continued their work with the Powerful Learning Practice on-line cohort, which has provided them access to the latest uses for technology in the classroom. It is edifying to walk through the hallways and witness first-hand the enthusiasm of teachers and students engaged in 21st century teaching and learning.

This year has been marked by unprecedented times in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. A Blue Ribbon Commission was formed and charged with evaluating all of the Catholic Elementary and High Schools in the Archdiocese.

with the purpose of developing a plan to sustain Catholic Education in this region. This has indeed been a time of great angst and turmoil for those who have realized their beloved grade school would cease to exist. It has also been a time of renewed commitment, passion, and demonstrated loyalty to schools and the value of Catholic Education.

We are blessed to have many wonderful initiatives in place here at St. Bernadette School that create promise for a long-lasting future. We currently have an active School Advisory Board, significant Endowment Fund, highly qualified teachers, and numerous enrichment programs. These were just some of the areas that were under review by the Blue Ribbon Commission. In order for us to be able to maintain these facets, and plan for new programs and advancements, we are in need of continued financial support. Our School Advisory Board has set a goal to raise an additional one million dollars for our Endowment Fund over the next five years. We are well on our way towards achieving this goal.

As our school continues to "light the way" here in Drexel Hill, we are reminded daily of our true mission, which is to impart the Faith to our students. For many of you, it was here that you learned what it means to be a member of the Catholic Church. We begin each day by listening to the daily readings and an associated question for reflection. Our students learn the prayers that many of you learned while in school here. The children of St. Bernadette's study a different saint each month, gather for the Living Rosary, attend monthly school liturgies, pray the Stations of the Cross during Lent, and participate in the May Procession. I truly believe that St. Bernadette School will continue its path of excellence, as long as we keep Christ at our center, for many years to come.

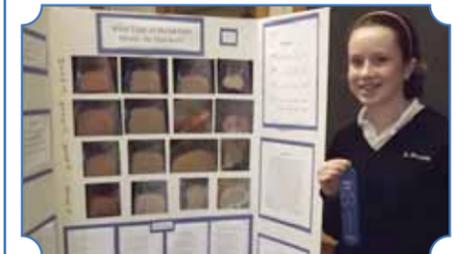
God Bless You,  
Principal Lien



### Children of Our Alumni Fill the Halls of SBS!

How many parents can say that their children are walking the same grade school halls that they once walked? At St. Bernadette School, over 30 of our parents are able to share this unique experience with their children. From our Mother's Morning Out Program to our 3 and 4-year-old Preschool classes and all the way through eighth grade; our school boasts over 50 students who are children of alumni. This speaks volumes of the important role that St. Bernadette School has played in the lives of our graduates. With God's grace, these young students will continue "Lighting the Way" and one day be able to share the halls of our beloved school with their children.

### 2012 SBS Science Fair Winners!



There were many outstanding entries submitted by our 7th and 8th grade students at this year's Science Fair. Congratulations to all winners! Pictured above is overall 1st Place Winner *Bridget Boylan*. Additional winners included: 2nd Place *Chloe Stiteler*, 3rd Place tie between *Jess Carney* and *Meredith Shields*. Category winners: *Elizabeth Hurd* - Behavioral Science, *Theresa Kearney* - Botany, *Paul Prasalowicz* - Engineering, *Matt Staiber* - Environmental Science, *Ben Tracy* - Microbiology, *Emily Quintus* - Biochemistry, *Steve Perretta* - Physics, *May Hennessy* - Chemistry, *Jane Bartlett* - Zoology, *Molly McNulty* - Medicine & Health



Overall 2012 Science Fair Winners! (left to right) *Bridget Boylan*, *Chloe Stiteler*, *Jess Carney*, and *Meredith Shields*.

\*Congratulations to *Chloe Stiteler* for going on to win Honorable Mention in the Consumer Science category of the Delaware County Science Fair!



Our 2012 Science Fair Category Winners! (left to right): *May Hennessy*, *Matt Staiber*, *Ben Tracy*, *Elizabeth Hurd*, *Paul Prasalowicz*, *Stephen Perretta*, *Theresa Kearney*, *Molly McNulty*, *Emily Quintus*, and *Jane Bartlett*



## First In Math for 3-8th Grade Students

St. Bernadette School provides students in grades 3-8 with the First in Math Online Program. More than just a fun activity, First in Math offers substantive content that supports the core curriculum and gives students the opportunity to improve their math fluency. Eight Skill Set groups offer a full range of challenge and tie into national and state standards.

## The Year We Almost "Lost" the Turkey Bowl

The threat of "losing" the Turkey Bowl took on a whole new meaning in 2011, as heavy rainfall in the days leading up to Thanksgiving resulted in very poor field conditions at Dermond Field, and the field appeared unplayable less than 24 hours before game time. An early call was made by concerned coaches to move the game to Monsignor Bonner's turf field. But when alumni, parents, and friends from both St. Bernadette and St. Dorothy heard the news of the possible change in location and expressed concerns that this long-standing neighborhood tradition would be broken if the games were moved, the decision was reversed, just hours before game time. Thanks to the hard work of our CYO President John Gavin as well as John Staiber, Tom McNulty, and Bill Gennaro, the field was prepared and playable by early Thursday morning. The games were played at Dermond Field on a gorgeous Thanksgiving Day and a good time was had by all. St. Bernadette's Varsity team emerged victorious for the second straight year and therefore will keep the Turkey Bowl Trophy until next year, when these two teams face off once again. Our JV team did not come away with the win this year, but they will have the opportunity to bring home the trophy at next year's Turkey Bowl when this great neighborhood tradition resumes. More importantly, this wonderful neighborhood tradition where friends and families come together to begin their Thanksgiving festivities was not lost, so in a way, ALL OF US, whether fans of St. Bernadette or St. Dorothy, were winners this year.



## SBS Students Utilize Netbook Computers

St. Bernadette School continues to be on the cutting-edge technologically, adding the use of netbook computers in the 2010-11 school year.

Fifth grade teacher Mrs. Tsakiris commented that the netbooks are "increasing student engagement, giving us access to diverse up-to-date sources of information, facilitating differentiated instruction, improving student writing, developing critical thinking skills, and helping reform curriculum using Web 2.0 tools. I consider the netbooks an essential tool for moving students and education into the 21st century." Frankie Zepka commented from a 6th grader's perspective saying, "It makes learning a lot more fun!"



*We are currently seeking funding for 50 additional netbooks so that our upper grade students will be able to utilize them for all subjects in the 2012-13 school year. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Principal Janet Lien at 610.789.7676, ext. 201*

## Grandparents and Special Persons Joined our Kindergarten to 4th Grade Students on November 9, 2011

First on the agenda was our school liturgy, followed by breakfast treats, coffee, and tea for our special guests in O'Brien Hall. Next our students joined their loved ones in O'Brien Hall for board games. A good time was had by all! We thank all of the Grandparents and Special Persons who took time out of their day to be with our students! Our 5-8th grade students will have their own day with grandparents and special friends this Spring.



## St. Leonie Aviat Prayer and Service Club

St. Bernadette School students have the opportunity to participate in service projects throughout the year in our St. Leonie Aviat Prayer and Service Club. These projects are designed to allow and encourage students to live out the Gospel values they are learning in school every day by engaging in corporal and spiritual works of mercy. In the fall, some of our service projects included collecting peanut butter and jelly on behalf of the Archdiocesan Nutritional Development Center, visiting with residents at St. Francis Country House in Darby, PA, and making get-well cards for the sick of the parish. For Thanksgiving, our Service Club made cards and baskets that were delivered with full Thanksgiving meals via Operation Gobble Gobble, our Parish Food Pantry's Annual Drive to serve full Thanksgiving meals to many families in need in the local community. During Catholic Schools Week, our students prepared over 300 lunches for the Life Center in Upper Darby, which serves many of the homeless in our region. Service projects such as these continue throughout the year thanks to our Coordinators Mrs. Cathy McGeever and Mrs. Rose Wallace, as well as to our many students who recognize the value in giving back to our community.



## She Just Keeps Coming Back...

Florence Spano began her teaching career as a substitute teacher at St. Bernadette School in the winter of 1973. After college graduation that spring, Florence, a newlywed and new member of St. Bernadette parish, settled into a permanent teaching position at St. Bernadette School in 3rd grade. She spent two years teaching 3rd grade, followed by two years in 1st grade. After four years, Florence took a break from her full-time position to raise her children, Rob ('92) and Jenn ('95). At that time it was the mid-70's, the Sisters of St. Joseph ran the school, Father Dougherty was Pastor and the school addition had not been built yet. Florence continued as a substitute teacher for several years until she decided to stop working altogether to focus on her family.

Flash forward to 1990. Sister Anne Elizabeth is Principal, Father William Wright is Pastor and the school addition has been built. Florence once again joins the St. Bernadette teaching staff. This time, she is fulfilling one of her goals for St. Bernadette School by starting a preschool program. The fledgling program got its start in the school offering half-day classes for 3 and 4 year olds. In the six years that Florence was part of the preschool, the program became a huge success. In order to meet the great demand, the program was expanded to offer both morning and afternoon sessions. But once again, family commitments called, and Florence left to work at her husband's family business, Eldorado Carpet One in Broomall.

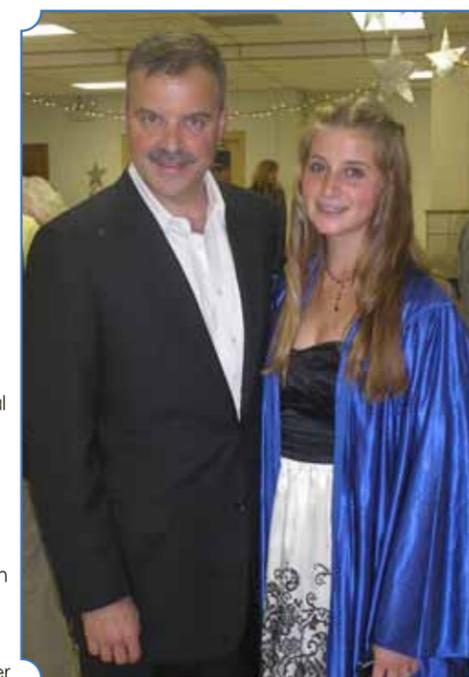
It's now 2011, and Florence is coming back for more. Many more changes have taken place since 1996. Ms. Janet Lien is Principal and Father John Kelly is Pastor. Instead of blackboards, our teachers and students utilize whiteboards and netbooks to enhance learning. A brand new wood floor has been installed in the gymnasium. Best of all, Florence's ultimate goal for St. Bernadette School is being fulfilled. The Wright Center for Early Childhood Education is opened in the former convent. Florence Spano is named director, overseeing the thriving full-service program that offers Mother's Morning Out, AM/PM Cares and Lunch Bunch to our community's youngest children. Together with the 3 and 4-year-old Preschool, these services and programs offer parents a comprehensive and flexible early childhood learning experience for their children in a warm, safe, loving environment.

Regarding her many departures and returns over the years to St. Bernadette, Florence has this to say: "The school pulls you back. Once you are a part of St. Bernadette's, a piece of your heart always remains there." It is our hope that Florence is pulled back for good now, as she is and always has been a true asset to our entire school community.



## Annual Appeal Kicks Off With Letter from Dr. Michael Saulino, '78

Michael Saulino, MD, PhD, SBS '78, graciously agreed to serve as this year's Alumni Appeal Chairman for the St. Bernadette Annual Fund. Upon graduating from St. Bernadette, Michael graduated from Monsignor Bonner High School in 1982, and Villanova University in 1986. Michael earned his PhD (Biological Chemistry) and MD degrees from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in 1993. He completed a transitional internship at Mercy Catholic Medical Center in 1994 and his residency training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Thomas Jefferson University in 1997. He was chief resident in his final year of residency training. Michael is board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Spinal Cord Injury Medicine and Pain Management. He is currently a physiatrist at MossRehab and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Jefferson Medical College. He resides in Havertown with his wife, Donna, and their daughter, Kristen. He is the uncle of Sarah Quintus, 2011 graduate of St. Bernadette, current 7th grader Emily, and Matthew, who is in Kindergarten.



*Pictured is Dr. Saulino and his God-daughter Sarah, after her Graduation ceremony in June 2011.*

## Toscani Family Provides Scholarships for SBS Students for 4th Year

Several years ago Tom Toscani, '62 and his five sisters had a great idea: Instead of buying each other Christmas gifts, they decided to combine the money that they would have spent on gifts and make a group donation to charity. The initial plan was that each year a different family member would select the charity. When it was Tom's turn to choose, he suggested pulling their money together to give back to a school that he and all five of his sisters attended - St. Bernadette. That first year Tom became aware that the school was in need of funds to repair the windows, and the Toscani's donation helped to make this happen. Since then the family has established the Toscani Scholarship Fund for Children of St. Bernadette School, providing annual partial scholarships for students whose families are in need of tuition assistance. *For the 2012-13 school year, the Toscani family will provide four \$500 scholarships to St. Bernadette students!*

The Toscani Scholarship Fund continues to grow each year as now cousins, Godchildren, and other family members make contributions to it whenever they can. We are blessed to have alumni such as Tom, Francesca (Mary Francis), Elaine, Janice, Diane, and Michele in our St. Bernadette family. They are truly making a difference in the lives of our school children!

*If your family is interested in setting up a family fund to assist St. Bernadette School and our students, please contact our Office of Advancement at 610-789-7676, ext. 201.*



Like us on Facebook!  
"St. Bernadette of Lourdes School"  
and join our over 425 fans to get a  
glimpse of current happenings  
at our school!



## Alumni Spotlight - The Sullivan Family

Bill and Margaret Sullivan have lived in St. Bernadette Parish since 1964. Their four children, Bill, Joe, Sharon, and Tara all attended St. Bernadette School. Bill and Margaret feel that the time spent at St. Bernadette School put their children on the right path for their educational, spiritual and social lives.

Oldest sibling Bill graduated from St. Bernadette in 1978, Monsignor Bonner in 1982, Drexel University with a Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering in 1987 and a Masters in Engineering Management in 1998. He is married with three children and resides in St. Dorothy's Parish. Bill is PECO's Regional Director for Philadelphia.

Joe Sullivan graduated from St. Bernadette in 1980, Monsignor Bonner in 1984, Temple University with a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 1990 and an MBA in 1997. He is married with four children and also resides in St. Dorothy's Parish. Joe is an Associate Vice President for Ammann & Whitney. Upon reflecting on his years at St. Bernadette, Joe had this to say: "Having coached many sports and visited most of the parishes in Delaware County, St. Bernadette Parish is truly a unique parish. It does not front a busy road, rather it sits in the heart of a neighborhood. It allowed us to walk and bike to school, and home for lunch if we chose. The quality of the education we received shone through by the performance of my classmates at Bonner and Prendie and beyond. The solid educational foundation and Christian spirit instilled on all of us has delivered a generation of good workers, community volunteers and good Moms and Dads."



Sharon Sullivan Lachman graduated from St. Bernadette in 1981, Archbishop Prendergast in 1985, West Chester University with a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education in 1989 and Cabrini University with a Masters in Education in 1995. She is married with four children and resides in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Glen Mills. Sharon is a Screening Coordinator for Penn-Delco School District.

Tara Sullivan Sweeney graduated from St. Bernadette in 1982, Archbishop Prendergast in 1986, West Chester University with a Bachelors degree in Economics/Finance in 1990 and Villanova University with a Masters in Human Resource Development in 1998. She is married and still lives in the parish with her three children attending St. Bernadette School. Tara feels that the School is the same warm, caring, tight-knit community that it was when she was a student here. Tara is an Executive Search Consultant for Lambert & Associates, Inc.

To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year, Bill and Margaret spent New Year's weekend in the Poconos with the entire Sullivan family. A great time was had by all with skiing, tubing, swimming, dancing and playing lots of games but mostly importantly, spending time with each other. Happy 50th Bill and Margaret!

## Alumni Spotlight - Megan Andruszko, Class of 2007

Megan Andruszko was certainly one of our shining stars during her years at St. Bernadette School. In addition to a stellar academic career, Megan was involved in many activities: She participated in Service Club and was an Altar Server. She was the President of Student Council, and played several CYO sports including soccer, track, and basketball. One of her most cherished memories of her time at St. Bernadette was in her senior year as a member of the Girls Varsity basketball team, who won the Archdiocesan Championship and became the State Runner-up.

Megan graduated from SBS in 2007 and continued her role as an academic scholar and leader among her peers at Merion Mercy Academy. She was selected to serve on the Ministry team, which is a leadership team that prepares daily liturgies and class retreats. She was a member of Service Team and participated in a senior retreat, taking care of the homeless in Camden, NJ. Megan was an honor student all four years, a member of the National Honor Society, and achieved Distinguished Honors her Senior Year. At graduation, Megan received the Award for Distinguished Honors in Calculus and Honorable Mention in Physics, Spanish, and Drama.

Although her studies occupied much of her time, Megan also participated in sports at Merion Mercy. For four years she played at the Varsity level for the soccer and basketball teams, and was the Captain of both teams her senior year. She won the Coaches Award for soccer and basketball her senior year. This award is given to athletes who are well-respected by coaches and teammates and who show an intensity, commitment, and desire for their sport.

Megan's home life inspired her to pursue nursing in college, as she was very involved with the care of her elderly grandparents for several years while they lived with the family. She is currently enrolled in Penn State University Main Campus in the School of Nursing.

Megan's parents, Ray and Miriam (SBS '76) have been actively involved with St. Bernadette School and Parish for many years. Megan's older brother Ray graduated from SBS in 2007, and younger brother Brian graduated in 2011. Lauren, Megan's youngest sibling, is currently in 6th grade.



## Thank you to the following Alumni, Parishioners, Parents, Grandparents, and Friends of SBS who have made donations to our Annual Fund!

Included are the names of those who made donations after the 2011 Beacon was published, as well as those Annual Fund Donations that have been received up until April 1, 2012.

If you would like to make a gift for 2012, it's not too late! Our fiscal year ends June 30, 2012. Please use the enclosed envelope, or go to [www.st-bernadette.org](http://www.st-bernadette.org), "Supporting SBS", "Donate."

### Gifts up to \$100

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*In memory of Betty and Steve Stefanski*  
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Leslie Vassallo, '64  
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Carolyn Murray Wise, '92

### Gifts \$101-\$250

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### Gifts \$501-\$1000

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*In memory of Tom and Ida DeFrancesco*  
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*In memory of Richard V. and Mary M. Costello*  
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Donna Walker

### \$2,500 Gift

The Stefanski Family

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The Frascella Family Foundation  
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## Do You Own a Business?

## You Can Support St. Bernadette School through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC)

If your company pays taxes in Pennsylvania, you may be able to direct a substantial tax credit to St. Bernadette School and provide tuition assistance to our students.

It's easy for your business to participate. First, your company completes the appropriate application to the state for tax credit for a contribution to the tuition assistance program at St. Bernadette School. Once the state approves the request, the contribution must be made directly to the School within 60 days. There is a yearly state-wide cap and tax credits are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Businesses qualify if they pay any of the following taxes: Corporate Net Income Tax (CNI); Capital Stock and Franchise Tax; Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax; Title Insurance Companies Shares Tax; Insurance Premiums Tax; Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax; and S Corporation Income Tax.

If you are interested in supporting St. Bernadette School students through the EITC Program, please call 610-789-7676, ext. 201.

Here's a glimpse at...



Sandwiches for Special Friends!



Living Rosary 2011



Crazy Hat Day!



McPrincipal Night!



8th Grade vs. Faculty Basketball Game!



McPrincipal Night!



Thank You to our local Police and Firefighters!



New Archdiocesan Girls Basketball Champion Banner

...what's been happening at SBS!



School Trip to see the "Mighty Macs"



Kindergarten Guest Reader Mr. Marty Farrell, reading The Polar Express to our little ones, who can still hear the bell...



Disability Awareness Day



Confirmation 2012



2011-12 Student Council Installation



2011-12 Student Council Officers and 8th Grade Representatives



At our Advent Prayer Service in December we honored the memory of Mrs. Cecilia M. Smith, a longtime, dedicated, St. Bernadette School library volunteer. Pictured here is her daughter, Ms. Cecilia Smith '63, accepting a plaque from Principal Lien. This plaque now hangs in our school library in memory of a wonderful woman who gave so much of herself in service to our school children.