



The Beacon

Saint Bernadette of Lourdes School



Lighting the Way

spring vol 13, issue 1



A Message From Our Principal

Many of you may know by now that St. Bernadette School produced its first ever Lip Dub video this year. The catchy lyrics of the song by Owl City repeat that, "it's always a good time". It was the intent of this virtual tour of St. Bernadette School to highlight all of the programs that lend to our students always having a "good time" in school. The positive reaction from viewers has affirmed the fun that we have in school each day. Hopefully, for alumni, this video has stirred fond memories of the outstanding, faith-based education they received here at St. Bernadette School. For present students, this video has captured that joy that they experience each day.

With "good times" comes "good news." Here at St. Bernadette School we make every effort to keep Jesus at the center of all that we do. The words that greet everyone who enters our school are, "Be it known to all who enter here, that Christ is the reason for our school, the unseen but ever present teacher in our classes, the model of our faculty, the inspiration of our students ." Our St. Bernadette students are

ambassadors for the gospel, proclaiming by their words and actions that Christ is the "Good News" that is at the source of our "good times."

At St. Bernadette School we have continued to experience growth and expansion during times when many Catholic Schools face tremendous hardships. This year we have added a certified Art Teacher to our faculty. Mrs. Julie McNulty has done an amazing job of adding her touch throughout the school building. Our students now have the opportunity to work with iPads, as well as netbooks, throughout the school day. For the first time in over five years we will have two first grade classes, as well as two kindergartens, and five preschool classes for the 2013-2014 school year. This year another room of the former convent, now known as the Wright Center, was converted into another child-friendly preschool classroom. Further renovations in the Wright Center have been made to provide sufficient space for our successful extended day program.

During the course of this year committees have been working hard to complete the "Designing Our Future" self-study and strategic plan required for reaccreditation with the Middle States Association. This tool encourages the use of strategic planning for school improvement and growth in student performance. Through this process we have also conducted a thorough review of all of our programs and services. This honest and transparent review has been the basis for our school's improvement goals. During the fall semester of 2013 we will welcome a team of visitors to complete the final evaluation. It is exciting to have the opportunity to open our doors to this team to show them that "it's always a good time" at St. Bernadette School.

We are deeply grateful for your continued prayers and support as St. Bernadette School "Lights the Way" for another generation of students. It is through the generosity of so many benefactors that we are able to continue our expansion. We appreciate any way that you can support our school to help us provide "good times" for many years to come.

May God Bless You,
Principal Glennon



Haven't seen our SBS Lip Dub video yet? Go to www.st-bernadette.org and select SBS Lip Dub at the bottom right corner of the page. Enjoy!

Reading Olympics



Since last summer, students in grades 6, 7, and 8 have been gearing up for the 2013 Delaware County Reading Olympics. This is our school's second year entering the competition. The goal of the Reading Olympics is to increase the quality and quantity of books students read for enjoyment. Teams of students collaborate to read forty to fifty books that have been selected by a committee of librarians, reading specialists and classroom teachers. The Olympics are primarily a celebration of reading rather than a contest. All participants are awarded ribbons. This year, we are pleased to announce St. Bernadette's has entered two teams of students. The students meet with teacher moderators throughout the year to check progress, discuss the books and review strategies.

Seventh Grader and Reading Olympics Team Member Sophia Richeffi says "Reading Olympics is a fun way to read good books with your friends. After reading the books, you and your teammates attend a competition and compete with other schools from Delaware County. Participants are eligible to win a red, blue or white ribbon depending on the number of points earned. If you like to read, you should join St. Bernadette's Reading Olympics team because the books are really good and exciting!"

This year the Reading Olympics will be at Marple Newtown High School on Wednesday, May 1st. The entire student body of Bernies will cheer their teams on during a pep rally the morning of the event. At St. Bernadette we are proud of our student readers for their dedication and commitment to academic excellence!



2012-13 Student Council Officers
Theresa Kearney, Treasurer; Meredith Shields,
Vice President; Hannah Nihill, President;
Keri Quinn, Secretary



Student Council Representatives
2012-13

Meet Bernie's New Art Teacher



We are happy to shine the spotlight on our new art teacher, Mrs. Julie McNulty, who teaches a variety of mediums to our students on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Take a walk down the third floor corridor, and it is immediately apparent what a wonderful addition Mrs. McNulty is to our school community. The walls are lined with vibrant, thoughtful art projects. Enter the art studio and you are surrounded by inspirational works, instructional posters, and paint-spattered tables that are proof that the students are having fun and lots of hands-on experience.

Before coming to St. Bernadette School, Mrs. McNulty taught at St. Cyprian School in West Philadelphia. While there, she built a nice supply of art materials. After the school closed in 2010, Mrs. McNulty was happy to bring her vast supply of art materials to St. Bernadette for our students to reuse.

Before formally becoming an art teacher, Mrs. McNulty volunteered for the Art Goes to School program at St. Denis in Havertown. That is where all four of her children went to school. She was involved in the program for 18 years.

Her children have all moved on from St. Denis, but spending that time as a volunteer helped her learn that teaching art was her career-calling. She stopped working as a graphic designer and went back to school to earn her art education certification from Arcadia University.

Mrs. McNulty grew up in Ohio and went to the University of Dayton. That is where she met her husband, Kevin, who grew up in St. Andrew's Parish. She minored in Photography which has become one of her favorite art forms. She works part-time as a photographer when she is not teaching.

Mrs. McNulty is thrilled to have joined the staff at St. Bernadette. She feels at home in our community and really enjoys working with our students. "They are eager to try anything and open to ideas." We at St Bernadette are equally as thrilled that our students have the opportunity to be taught by such an enthusiastic, experienced art teacher.



The Tradition of Service Continues

It has been another busy year for our St. Leonie Aviat Prayer and Service Club. The Service Club consists of St. Bernadette students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 who meet on a monthly basis. Assisted by parent volunteers, the children wrote letters to and made holiday cards for the parish home-bound, donated goods to make holiday gift baskets, and participated in two major service projects.

In December, students from the club delivered bath sundries collected by the school to the Holy Family Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in West Philadelphia. The students entertained the residents by singing Christmas carols. However, the students were equally entertained by a special resident they remembered from prior year visits. Joe, an ex-Mummer who turned 97 on December 28th, sang and danced for the children. He imparted words of wisdom for the children to live by. It was an enriching experience for residents and students alike.

In coordination with the Home and School Association, the club participated in the annual "Sandwiches for Special Friends" service project. This project was one of the school's Catholic Schools Week activities in January. Over 300 lunches were prepared and packed in bags decorated with prayerful thoughts and inspirational messages by the students. The lunches were delivered to the Life Center in Upper Darby, which serves the homeless in our region.

Through acts of service such as these throughout the year, the club aims to instill in the children a compassion for those less fortunate and a desire to help make the lives of the less fortunate a little better by their actions.



In October of 2012 long-time football Coach Joe Sullivan was involved in a serious car accident. After a lengthy hospital stay, he began the long road to recovery at home during football season. Coach Sullivan's presence was greatly missed at practices and games this season, as well as out and about in our community.

On the eve of the annual Turkey Bowl, Coach Sullivan's players paid him a surprise visit before their pep rally got underway at Dermond Field. They prayed together, and Coach Sullivan addressed the JV and Varsity teams in his signature inspiring and positive manner. Our Varsity team brought home the Turkey Bowl trophy once again this year, dedicating it to a great teacher, family man, and community leader, Coach Joe "Trooper" Sullivan.

Thank you to the following Alumni, Parishioners, Current Parents, Parents of Students and Alumni, Grandparents and Friends who have so generously given to the St. Bernadette School Annual Fund.

Included are the names of those who made donations after publication of the Spring 2012 Beacon, as well as those Annual Fund donations that have been received up to March 17, 2013. If you would like to make a gift for 2013, please do so by using the enclosed envelope, or by going to www.st-bernadette.org, "Supporting SBS", "Donate."

St. Bernadette Patrons (Gifts up to \$99)

Anonymous Alumni '80
Anonymous Alumni '59
Anonymous Alumni '56, in memory of Rose and Gaetano Bozzelli
Anonymous Parishioner (3)
Anonymous Parishioner, in memory of Neil F. Shovlin
Stephen C. Bennett '64, in memory of Robert C. and Rita Bennett
William Beirne '57 and Family
Andrea Georeno Bergmann '80
H. William Bonekat
Family Gift from the Raymond Bott, Jr. '59 and Christine Bott Romanisko '66 family, in memory of Raymond Bott, Sr. Lorraine Bruni Bradley '74
Alfred Buonanno, in memory of Angeline Buonanno
Darcy Kapp Canavin '64
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Matthew Coyne '72, in memory of Frank and Elyn Coyne
Helen Katubi Cabbage '57, in memory of Dolores McCaffrey
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Donaher
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Susan Razzano Lallo '67
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Marie Leimbach, in memory of Paul Leimbach '65
Consuelo and Manuel Lopez
James M. Lotka '81
Jack Lotka, in memory of James M. Lotka
Family Gift from Stull Family, Patricia Stull-Lunkenheimer '65
Mary Marano and Barb Marano
Taraska '55, in memory of Martin Taraska Jr.

Barbara Buonanno Marchese '68, in memory of Angeline Buonanno
Patricia Mangan '74
Joe Maurer '60
McDevitt Family Gift – Suzanne '98, Caitlin 2000, Daniel '02, and Patrick '04, in honor of Miss Emma Haigh
Ellen McDonald '68, in memory of James P. McDonald, '67
John and Christine McHenry '66
Michael and Rosemary Miller
Bonnie Whalen Monastra '76
Mary Kate Murphy '89
Thomas Murray '65
Eric J. Niehaus '61, in memory of Sr. Patricia Mary
Pappas Family Gift– John '74, Olivia '07, Anna '09, and Roseann Patricia Comly Pascucci '66
Eleanor Patterson, in memory of Thomas Patterson
Paul Peterson '87
Mark D. Porreca '66
Christopher Pugliese '86
Joanne Ronayne '92
Thomas F. Rooney, Jr., in memory of Susan S. Rooney
Bruce Sabatino '76, in memory of Robert Sabatino '72
Alicia Savarese '98, in memory of Delia D. Savarese
Robert Serpente '61
Gregory D. Smith '64
Family Gift from the Solon Family, in memory of Thomas and Mary E. Delaney
Jan Stefanski '64
Bill and Margaret Sullivan
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Nora Swimm
Larry Talbot '60, in memory of Sister Rose Carmel
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Toner
Jery Trendler '59
Richard P. Unger
Leslie Vassallo '64
Vassallo Family Gift
Lou Vilotti '61

Blue and White Club (Gifts \$100-\$499)

Mark A. Amoroso '78
Anonymous Parishioner

Anonymous Parishioner and Alumni '80
Anonymous Donor, in memory of Marie C. Baker
John Arcana '71, in memory of Rita and Vince Arcana
Steve Arcana '78
Carolyn Young Arriviello '79
Debbie McNulty Benson, '83, in memory of Joseph Graham
Mark and Kim Brady '80
Jay Burke '71
A.T. Coyne, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Francis R. Coyne
Mr. and Mrs. Paul DiBona
Mary Jayne Mulholland Dwyer, '66, in memory of Helene and Philip Mulholland
Helen McDowell Forgione '59, in memory of Adolph and Rose Forgione
John and Carolyn Sexton Frank
Catherine Glatts '69
William Glynn '68
Richard Halliwell '59
Dorothy Hamilton
Catherine Dreger Hartman '69
Danny and Linda Kelly
Jean Milligan Koroly
Norman A. Kropp '60, in memory of Robert P. Kropp
Joe Lang '60
Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Lewandowski, in memory of Jean Lewandowski
John Lotka '84, in memory of James Lotka
Family Gift from The Meehan Family - Kasey '01, Colleen '03, and Lauren '07
Stefanie Leone McFadden '70, in memory of Peter and Marie Leone
Jane Minge
Eloise Mullen '70, in memory of "a Catholic education from my parents"
Leo Mullen
John Nash '60, in memory of the deceased members of the Nash Family
Francis and Angela Naughton, in memory of Fileno and Bianca Angelocci and Peter and Julia Naughton
The O'Donnell Girls, in memory of Chris Mealiff
Joseph A. O'Hare Jr.

Organ Family Gift
Owen J. Patterson '72
John R. Patterson, MD
Paulina Family Gift
Janice Toscani-Peterson '66
Ed and Lisa Saulino Quintus '81
Judith Amoroso Rabik '74
William G. Reilly Jr., in memory of Elizabeth Fair Reilly '65
Paul and Teresa Savarese
Nora Cellini Serpente '62
Shovlin Family Gift, in memory of Susan Shovlin Glennon '84
Cecelia Smith '63
John Sweltz '65
Peggy and Tony Tanzola
Janice Toscani-Peterson '66

Friends of SBS (Gifts \$500-\$999)

Dr. Pierre Ghayad and Mrs. Dunia Ghayad and Family
William Mattiace
Edward and Karen Salvitti '72
John Sweltz '65

St. Bernadette's Circle (Gifts \$1,000-\$2,499)

Family Gift from Linda DeFrancesco Eastwood '61, Erica, Jimmy and Brooke
Bill and Marie Pat Githens
Joe and Carolyn Graham Kilroy '82, in memory of Joseph A. Graham
Kathleen Costello Murphy '66, in memory of Richard V. and Mary M. Costello

St. Bernadette Grotto Guild (Gifts \$2,500-\$5,000)

Ed and Karen Stefanski and Family



Please Support the St. Bernadette School Annual Fund

Our 2013 Annual Appeal is well underway. Since the campaign began with a letter to our alumni from long-time, beloved teacher Miss Emma Haigh in January, our alumni and friends have given over \$19,000 to our Annual Fund. Thank you to all who have so generously donated so far this year. Our Annual Fund donation envelope is included with this edition of The Beacon. Your financial support, in any amount, towards the school endowment fund, technology updates, or tuition assistance will help ensure St. Bernadette 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 gift", 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!

Here's a glimpse at...



First Day of School!



Election Day Preschool



Election Day Kindergarten



Election Day 4th Grade



Halloween!



Health Fair 2013



Making Applesauce in Preschool



8th Grade vs. Faculty Game

...what's been happening at SBS!



Community Service Thank You



Confirmation



Guest Reader Preschool



Lip Dub Last Rehearsal Day



Grandparents' Day



Living Rosary



Thanksgiving Service Club



Live Nativity

Alumni Spotlight - Diane McBride Ruberton, Class of 1984



Diane McBride Ruberton attended St. Bernadette for first through eighth grades and graduated in 1984. During her time at SBS, she was a cheerleader and played softball and basketball. "I really loved my time at St. Bernadette's because of the wonderful community and teachers. I will never forget Mrs. Spano, who was my first grade teacher. My best memories are playing softball. We spent a lot of time together, practicing every day after school at Dermond Field and traveling to games together. In sixth and eighth grade, we were league champions."

After St. Bernadette, Diane moved on to Archbishop Prendergast with many of her Bernies classmates and friends. She graduated second in her class in 1988 and was captain of the field hockey team. She played softball and was also a member of the National Honor Society and the Hi-Q team. During her senior year at Prendie, Diane was one of five girls selected for the Diocesan Scholar Program. She attended Villanova University for classes while still a senior. Every day, she would go to Prendie in her uniform, change into regular clothes in the bathroom, drive to Villanova for afternoon classes, eating lunch in the car, then drive back to Prendie to the gym to change again for field hockey or softball practice.

Diane attended Villanova University and graduated in 1992 with dual Bachelors of Arts degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She was the president of her sorority (Kappa Alpha Theta) and was elected to the Order of Omega (Greek Leadership Honor Society) and Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor Society). While at Villanova, she interned at the Delaware County District Attorney's Office, which inspired her to become a lawyer and prosecutor.

Diane went on to law school at Widener University School of Law in Delaware. She graduated cum laude in 1995, in the top 10% of her class. She was awarded the Chadwick Scholarship by the Delaware County Bar Association and was also an Associate Editor of the Widener Law Review. During law school Diane met her future husband, and they were married shortly after graduation at St. Bernadette Church.

Diane began her legal career as a law clerk to two criminal judges in New Jersey Superior Court. After her clerkship, she worked briefly at the Delaware County District Attorney's Office under another St. Bernadette parishioner, Pat Meehan, who was the District Attorney at that time. However, career opportunity steered her back to New Jersey in 1999, and she began working as an Assistant Prosecutor with the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office.

Diane began as an Assistant Prosecutor, was promoted to Chief Assistant Prosecutor and recently, was named First Assistant Prosecutor. She is the first female and the youngest person ever to be appointed First Assistant Prosecutor in Atlantic County. As the First Assistant Prosecutor, she supervises a legal staff of 40 assistant prosecutors. Throughout her career, Diane has tried all types of cases including violent crimes and child abuse and has specialized in prosecuting vehicular homicides. In addition to supervising the legal staff, she continues to try homicide cases and manage the Official Corruption and Internal Affairs Units. In 2011, she was certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a Criminal Trial Attorney.



Diane resides in Winslow Township, New Jersey with her husband Jim, and their twin sons, Richard and Andrew (11 years old) and their daughter, Riley (7 years old). Her husband is also a lawyer and prosecutor and currently serves as a Deputy Attorney General assigned to supervise the Atlantic City Violent Crimes Task Force. Diane and her husband spend their free time attending their children's sporting activities. Sons Richard and Andrew are competitive fencers and also play soccer. Their daughter Riley is involved in competitive cheerleading and gymnastics. They all love vacationing in Disney World.

Diane had this to say about her old neighborhood and school: "My mom still lives across the street from St. Bernadette, so when we visit and my kids see my old school, I tell stories about being able to walk to school and go home for lunch and walking several blocks to "DH" for science class. Visiting my mom makes me nostalgic for growing up in such a tight-knit parish community, an opportunity I often wish my own children had. Sadly, they just don't make parishes like that in New Jersey, as the parishes are much larger and regionalized, so it's difficult to recreate that warm, caring and close-knit family feel that somehow St. Bernadette's has managed to maintain after all these years. St. Bernadette's is truly a unique parish and school, continuing to grow and improve while other parish schools are regionalizing and closing."

Alumni Spotlight - Christopher Cannataro, Class of 2007



Chris Cannataro continues to make us proud here at St. Bernadette, where he began his education back in 1997 in our Preschool Program. Chris graduated from St. Bernadette in 2007. While at SBS, Chris served as Treasurer of the Student Council

and was a member of the baseball and basketball varsity teams.

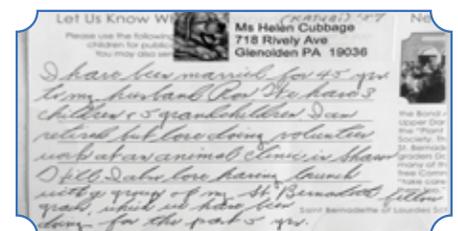
From St. Bernadette Chris went on to St. Joseph's Preparatory School, graduating in 2011. He was President of the Forensic Speech and Debate team, the 2010 Regional Student Congress and Extemporaneous Speaking Champion, and Recipient of the Richard B. McCloskey Loyalty Award at Graduation in June 2011.

Chris is currently in his sophomore year at Georgetown University, majoring in Accounting and International Finance in the McDonough School of Business. Chris is a Deputy Grand Knight for Georgetown's Knights of Columbus Council and a member of the National College Council Advisory Board for the Knights of Columbus. He is also a Union Representative for Georgetown Student Group Union and is the Operations Chairman for the Cardinal O' Connor Conference on Life. Finally, Chris is very active in campus mission and ministry. He was the coordinator for the Freshman Retreat this year and went to El Salvador in March for Georgetown's Magis Immersion and Social Justice Program. Chris found this experience "extremely eye opening and purifying."

This summer, Chris will spend six weeks at Trinity College Oxford (in England) studying International Finance and Strategic Management.

When looking back on his days at St. Bernadette, Chris had this to say: "My education at St. Bernadette opened my mind and heart to the importance of a Catholic education, which has been a staple throughout my life. The study skills and habits that were developed in algebra and U.S. history with Ms. DiPaolo, English with Mrs. Tsakiris, and theology with Sr. Miriam Elizabeth, OSFS, helped me throughout my time at the Prep and continue to help even today at Georgetown. I have always and will always be proud to be a product of a Catholic education in Philadelphia."

Alumni Update





Bernies Varsity Soccer - 2nd Place, Region 25



Boys Varsity Basketball Team 2012-13 Undefeated Season



Girls JV Softball Champs 2012



Girls Varsity Basketball Team - 2012-13 Undefeated Season, Region 25 Winners



Stuffed Hugs for Sandy Hook

Seventh Grader Mary Clare Boyle did not waste any time after hearing the tragic news of the December 14th, 2012 rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School that took the lives of six adults and 20 children. She quickly contacted Principal Glennon and presented ideas of things to do for the children of Sandy Hook. Mary Clare called her project "Stuffed Hugs for Sandy Hook" and asked fellow SBS students to send in stuffed animals to be shipped to Sandy Hook with the hope of providing some comfort to those who were affected by the horrific tragedy. We thank Mary Clare for her thoughtfulness and for being the driving force behind this act of kindness. Let us all continue to pray and remember one another and together move forward doing acts of kindness for each other.



Old Uniform



New Uniform

New Uniform

You may have noticed in some of our photos the difference in uniforms that our girls are wearing. This year we began to transition grades 1-4 girls into a jumper that matches the skirt that our upper grade girls wear. By next school year the transition should be complete!

All Class Reunion!

Mark your calendar for our **St. Bernadette School All Class Reunion**, to be held on **Saturday, November 30th, 2013!** If you would like to assist in planning this event, please contact Carolyn Graham Kilroy '82 at carkilroy@comcast.net or 610-505-5618.



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 glimpse of current happenings
 at our school!



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The Beautiful Voice of 2012 Alumna Kristen Buscemi Reaches France

Kristen Buscemi '12 recently traveled to France where she was invited to sing at a beatification ceremony for Blessed Fr. Louis Brisson, founder of the Oblate Sisters, Fathers, and Brothers at the Mother House in Troyes France. Here is what Kristen had to say about being selected for this great honor:

"Being in France was surreal and such a simply amazing experience. Touring Paris and various parts of France, I was inspired by the prodigious cultures, fashion, and cuisine on exhibition on the streets. It is a place that truly lives up to its expectations and a place no one can forget anytime soon. The Oblate Sisters had heard me sing at various events and contemplated the idea of having me sing at a beatification ceremony for Blessed Fr. Louis Brisson, founder of the Oblate Sisters, Fathers, and Brothers at the Mother House in Troyes, France. I happily accepted and was in France from September 19-25. So, on September 23 I had the honor to sing at the Mother House, the opening hymn, In This Very Room. As I looked around me, I took in what was really happening, what it all meant. There in the crypt with its beautiful altar, lie the bodies of St. Leonie Aviat and Blessed Fr. Louis Brisson. As the ceremony continued, it was an explosion of cultural religious worship and celebration of faith. After the ceremony I walked in their garden, which was in full bloom. It seemed as though I had stepped into a time machine. Everything in that moment seemed so simple, the whole world. It hit me that I was in Europe, in France, and how lucky I was, to be so young and experiencing this beautiful place in the world. I felt truly honored to be chosen to sing there that day. I had hoped that my emotions would transcend to the people there, and I was happy to hear that they did. I am glad my voice can evoke emotions in others and hopefully be a voice for all someday, as it is for me. This was a wonderful experience that I will not soon forget."

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