

St. Leo the Great News

Serving the parishes of St. Leo the Great, St. Philip the Apostle, and Mary, Mother of the Church



Volume 13 , Issue 2

June 2010

Let's D.A.N.C.E. Raises \$30,000 for St. Leo's School



The 9th annual "Let's Develop and Nurture Catholic Education" was held March 6, 2010, from 6pm-11pm in an all new venue - the Elk's Club in Downtown Lancaster. Approximately 275 attendees danced to the sounds of *Good to Go* and enjoyed a festive evening with live and silent auctions and great fellowship.

Thanks to all who made this event possible, especially committee co-chairs, **Gwen Fritsch** and **Julie Fulton**, committee members, sponsors, silent auction donors and in-kind donors. As our major school fundraiser, the funds generated are used for projects that may not otherwise be possible.

We gratefully acknowledge the sponsors of this year's 2010 Let's D.A.N.C.E.

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A Special Thank You To...

Gayla Rihaly
Sharon Hoover
Vern Bottoms

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Pastor's Message

by Father Peter Hahn

As now, my second year as your Pastor comes to a completion, I only marvel more and more each day at the quality of the education that we are able to provide here at Saint Leo's.

I am so grateful to our Teachers, Staff and Administration and School Board for all that they do but most wholeheartedly thankful for our parents, who continue to guide their children, both spiritually and temporally. I am so proud of our graduating Eighth Grade students. It was my privilege to teach them as they prepared for Confirmation and I was so impressed with their knowledge of the Faith, but even more importantly, in their respectful manner in which they conducted themselves. In every encounter that I have had with all of them, each has always shown to me that type of good character and integrity that we hope our young Catholic men and women possess.

I must share with you that over the past months, in two separate and unrelated circumstances, individuals who have been in our School and have had various interactions with other Catholic Schools in our Diocese, remarked how impressed they were with our children and our School. This is a great testimony to what all of us know – that Saint Leo's provides a wonderful place in which our children grow in age, knowledge and grace.

I pray for all of our students, that over these summer months, God will guide them in His grace and His life. For those who leave us this year, we hope that we have prepared you well and for those who will return next year, we only pledge to continue to do all that we can to serve you and your parents in the name of Christ. God bless you.

Principal's Message

by Georgia Steinbacher

How can it be June already? That is the lament on everyone's lips both in and out of the school building. The pace of the years seems to increase despite our desire to slow down and savor these challenging and rewarding times. There are certainly ample events and people to delight in and appreciate.

We couldn't manage without all of the people of the Parish who support our major fundraisers; the *SEED* Program, Let's D.A.N.C.E., the Golf Outing, and the Gift Card program. Our smaller fundraisers also serve to provide regular financial support. These include the collection of Box Tops for Education, can tabs, recycling, and Moo labels. It also

helps when everyone goes out to support the Isaac's Nights and events of that kind. Every gift, however large or small, is greatly appreciated and carefully used.

In my last newsletter message I wondered about our future. The support that has come to the school community indicates that it will be a bright one. Even in these trying economic times, St. Leo the Great Parish families have continued to provide whatever is needed of time, talent, and treasure to help our school operate smoothly and effectively. Through their generosity, our children have benefited from a smooth running cafeteria, wonderful field trips, educational program visits, after school clubs and competition groups, additions to the school library book selection, grade level retreats, the latest technology equipment, and many other opportunities.

As this school year draws to a close, please accept my heartfelt appreciation for all that is done and given to benefit our children, the future of the Catholic faith. They make your sacrifices worthwhile. May God bless and keep you.

Have a safe and pleasant summer!

Notes from the School Board President

by Brian Fritsch

2010 has been a busy and successful year for the school, its board and the subcommittees.

We have implemented the first ever open forum meetings that provided an opportunity to gain parent feedback and discuss the issues that impact our children. In addition, your board completed a comprehensive benchmarking study that compared our school's educational curriculum, facilities, and extracurricular programming to other schools in the area. This study will be used shape the strategic direction of the school assuring that St Leo's is on par with its local competition. Other issues such as the uniform policy, development strategy, school advertising campaign, volunteer service hour requirement, and the school vision statement were also actively pursued.

The 2010 fundraisers such as Let's D.A.N.C.E. and the Golf Outing have provided additional funding that will be used for enhancement of the school.

Other committees such as Spiritual Life and Planning worked tirelessly to provide religious enlightenment and improved facilities both inside and on the grounds of the school.

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Leadership News

With Sweet Appreciation

Thank you to Mr. Peter Zanowski (front row, far right below), who has provided the donuts for Kindergarten's Donuts with Daddy from 2000 through this year, 2010. Many thanks for his ongoing support of this special event. His donation has meant so much to Mrs. Bixby, the St. Leo community and all the students and dads he has touched through the years!



School Board, *Continued from page 2*

This work does not get done magically. It takes hours of effort by you, the parents of our students. The St. Leo the Great School community continues to bond together to make the school better each year. You should all be proud of what you have accomplished.

Our 2009/2010 is now closing - a new year begins only a few months away. I urge you all to think about the coming year and determine how you can become involved. Whether that be as school board member, a subcommittee member, or simply spending some lunch time hours in the cafeteria. I assure you that it will be rewarding when you see how it enriches our children's lives.



Sr. Dorothy honors Golden Apple winner, Chris McLean. See related story, page 7.

Congratulations to the Class of 2010

Danielle Atkinson
Jordan Baker
Charles Bell
Lauren Carroll
John Corbett
Deanna Dombrowski
Douglas Dombrowski
Kathryn Dunn
Elizabeth Eichenlaub
Katie Filling
Mark Gales
Anna Gemind
Tanner Herrera
Emily Hollister
Rose Kirchner
L.J. Kline
Michael Kline
Emily LeBreton
Connor Lent
Daniel Lingenfelter
Stephen Loiseau
Zachary Miklos
Katie Nichols
Thomas O'Brien
Sara Palczewski
Julianne Petrillo
Austin Schoelkopf
Christopher Schreder
Stephen Sheetz
Ellie Womble
Emily Yanchuck
Mary Zanowski

*Best of luck in
all you do!*

Parish News

Garden of Love

by Karen Zaporozec

The Kindergarten PSR class spent the season of Lent learning about the true meaning of love. We use the word love all the time; mostly in reference to a television show, a sports team, pizza, or a favorite pair of shoes. What is love and who is our neighbor? Through bible stories, classroom activities and a very special Lenten project, the children discovered how Jesus taught us to love.



The Growing in God's Love project required the children to pick a "flower" from our special garden. The different flowers corresponded to a special "Act of Love" to do during the week. Some examples included helping Mom and Dad around the house, baking cookies for neighbors, and making cards for their teachers and our seminarians. The children also prayed for increased vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The main focus of this project was to show how putting love into action can make a huge difference in another person's day. Each week, as the children shared their stories, they began to realize that serving others makes everyone feel good. It was a fun way to discover the meaning and power of true love.

The children kept track of their acts of love by coloring in one petal on a paper flower each week. On Palm Sunday, the children all received a real flower to take home to help remind them to continue to plant gardens of love wherever they go. As children of God, we are all called to plant gardens of love by serving others and putting love into action everyday.

Thanks for Supporting the Golf Outing

Each year, the annual St. Leo Golf Outing raises funds to support our school while building fellowship among all who participate. Special thanks to the companies and individuals below for making the 16th annual event successful, and especially to event chairman, Mike Schreder.

(as of June 1, 2010):

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Roda Nast
Sheetz Convenience Stores

School Community News

Mrs. McCarthy Retires After 17 Years

by Lisa Campbell

After 17 years at St. Leo's – including six as the Kindergarten teacher - Mrs. Marcie McCarthy is opening a bittersweet chapter in her life – retirement. “I didn't expect to feel so emotional,” she says, “but if I didn't love it so much, it wouldn't be as hard.”

After six years as the St. Leo's Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. McCarthy lived in London for two years and then returned to SLS and replaced Mrs. Herron as the second grade teacher.

“I love teaching second grade,” says Mrs. McCarthy. “The kids have skills, and can do more academically (than her Kindergarten students), but they are still sweet. It is a true fit for me.” In addition, the Sacraments are one of the top reasons Mrs. McCarthy loves teaching at St. Leo's. By integrating faith and academia, Mrs. McCarthy says you can address anything - all is possible with Jesus. “I've always loved Jesus,” she says. Even as a little girl, and later as a college student, Mrs. McCarthy was never timid about expressing her love for Jesus.

Before coming to St. Leo's, Mrs. McCarthy was at home raising her four boys. Today, her grown sons live all over! Patrick lives in London, England and has two children.

Chris lives in Arizona, Rory lives here in Lancaster and has two children and Justin lives in Washington, D.C.

Married almost 39 years, she and her husband Pat enjoy a great relationship, but it will still be an adjustment being home together all day! The McCarthys plan to travel, including an exciting opportunity, the “Around the World Ticket.” The trip includes one-way trips to five destinations. While Mrs. McCarthy has already been to many exciting destinations around the world, two places she hopes to see are the Pyramids in Egypt and the Great Wall of China.

So what's the first thing Mrs. McCarthy will do in retirement? “Not turn on my alarm clock,” she laughs. She also plans to get rid of all the useless props that have accumulated in the past 30 years, and enjoy her two local grandchildren more often. Mrs. McCarthy also hopes to work at a shelter for abused women,

something she has been passionate about but has only been able to do on a limited basis.

Highlights of her years at St. Leo's have included laughing with fellow faculty and staff – a team that has always gotten along well and been supportive. She also LOVES the kids – they are so fun, have a great sense of humor and are so bright. Best of all, they have faith, which is a tribute to the great parents. Mrs. McCarthy appreciates the wonderful relationship she has always enjoyed with the parents. She

“I've been happier than I deserve to be in a job.”

- Marcie McCarthy

Continued, page 6



Mrs. McCarthy's first PM Kindergarten class - the St. Leo's Class of 2000.



Mrs. McCarthy's last second grade class - the St. Leo's Class of 2016, plus a striking Mr. Titus!

School Community News

Mrs. McCarthy, *continued from page 5*

hastens to add that if Sister Dorothy had not hired her in the first place, she would never have found this wonderful school. She is profoundly grateful.

Mrs. McCarthy has always expressed herself with color and a sunny sense of style. "It doesn't have to match," she explains. "It could be New Year's Eve or Wednesday at school!" So on May 27, the school honored her with Dress like Mrs. McCarthy Day. "The idea was a little scary," she admits. "Kids have to tell the truth!" But once she saw the students, staff and faculty, "It made my heart sing," she smiles. "They got it! The joy, the abandon – just to have fun."

Mrs. McCarthy's teaching philosophy is that kids learn best when they're happy. "That's what I've always tried to nurture," she says. And fellow teacher, Chris McLean agrees. "Dressing like Mrs. McCarthy is the easy part," she says. "We're also trying to adopt her joyful attitude and kindness towards one another."

On behalf of the St. Leo community ... **Happy Retirement, Mrs. McCarthy!**

Jr. High Awards Assembly

Seventh and eighth grade students were recognized for academic achievements during the Jr. High Awards Assembly held June 7, 2010. Congratulations to all honorees, including the following from our graduating eighth grade:

American Legion Award

Mark Gales and Emily Hollister

This award is presented to a boy and girl in each graduating class most recognized by the faculty and staff in the areas of scholarship, leadership, patriotism, honor, character and service.

Subject Awards

These awards recognize students who earned the highest average for the school year up to May 21, 2010:

Religion - Katie Nichols

Language Arts - Katie Nichols

Social Studies - Katie Nichols

Science - Katie Nichols

Math - John Corbett

Algebra - Katie Nichols

Spanish - Katie Nichols

Creative Writing - Emily Yanchuck

Art - Zach Miklos

Computer - Zach Miklos

Music - Katie Nichols

Physical Education - Christopher Schreder and Katie Dunn

Congratulations all seventh and eighth grade honorees and best wishes to the eighth grade students as they begin their high school journey.

St. Leo the Great News

Published four times per year for our student and parish families, and friends of St. Leo the Great.

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School Community News

Chris McLean – Golden Apple Award Winner

by Maureen Leader

St. Leo's fourth grade teacher, Chris McLean is one of seven teachers awarded the prestigious Golden Apple Award from the Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg.

The Golden Apple is given to Catholic school teachers based on their role as a Catholic educator. They are judged on their professional development, commitment to students and school, leadership qualities, their service to their church and community and their teaching skills.

The nomination process started in September and was led by second grade teacher, Marcie McCarthy. She enlisted the help of numerous St. Leo parents who wrote letters of recommendation along with St. Leo's pastor, Father Hahn and principal, Georgia Steinbacher.

Mrs. McLean was honored along with the other winners at a ceremony during the awards banquet, held Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. St. Leo's celebrated Mrs. McLean Day the following day with a school celebration during morning assembly. WGAL Channel 8 was also present and interviewed Mrs. McLean for their newscast.



For the achievement, Mrs. McLean was awarded \$5000.00, a Certificate of Achievement, a Golden Apple with a 24-carat gold cross. She also posed for an individual photo with the Bishop and a group photo with the Bishop, Secretary for Education and Superintendent.

Mrs. McLean says she has always wanted to be a teacher and said when she teaches "something wonderful happens." About her role as a Catholic schoolteacher, Mrs. McLean said, "I help families make disciples of their children and they make me be more holy – they make me want to be a better teacher."

The Golden Apple Awards Program was started in 1992 by Jack and Rhodora Donahue, parents of thirteen children all educated in Catholic schools. The Donahues were eager to express their deep appreciation to Catholic schoolteachers for providing quality academic and faith filled education for their children.



Left: Seventh grade students spend time with Melissa Greene, the founder of *Write from the Heart*. She conducted a creative writing workshop in May that was generously underwritten with funds from the *SEED* program. Thank you to all *SEED* donors who make such curriculum enrichment possible.



Pre-K Trike-A-Thon

On Tuesday, May 11th, all Pre-K students were invited to attend a “Trike-A-Thon.” The kids rode their trikes around a track as many laps as they could for 15 minutes at a time. Other activities included stretching, making medals, or playing in a bouncy house.

Each participating child collected sponsor monies totaling over \$1700.00 to benefit the Holy Childhood Association.

Special thanks to organizers Michelle Malzacher, Heather Ott and Kelly Mastrogiovanni, as well as all the parent volunteers!

Upcoming Parish Events

- June 15-16 Youth Waves of Mercy Mini-Work Camp
- June 17 Youth Ministry Hersheypark trip
- June 21-26 LCHS Carnival
- June 27 Legion of Mary picnic
- July 18 - 22 Bible School

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