

# Bulldog Gazette

FIRST EDITION

DECEMBER 2007

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School is a unique family of students, teachers, and administrators whose goal is to foster the awareness of God, an identity of self-worth, and a concern for the needs of others. The mission of our school is to perpetuate a proven academic excellence based on Catholic principles and Christian values which prepare students for their responsibilities in an ever-changing world.

## Merry Christmas

Since the beginning of December, we have been preparing for the coming of Our Infant Savior Jesus. Now, in just a few days, Christmas will be here, and we can once again rejoice in His birth.

We began our Christmas celebration with our annual concerts ... what wonderful performances our students gave, reminding us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

I hope you will be as proud as I, when you read further and learn how Assumption students are becoming disciples of Christ. Their acts of kindness and generosity to those less fortunate should not go unrecognized.

On behalf of the faculty and staff here at Our Lady of the Assumption School, I wish you a Merry Christmas. May the light of Christmas shine upon you throughout the new year.

*God Bless Our School Family Always,  
Ms. Gerrie Desio*



*Just one little angel  
and one bright star  
led the three wisemen  
with gifts from afar.*

*The poorest shepherds  
and the richest king  
heard the good news  
and came worshipping.*

*Just one lowly manger,  
one bed of hay,  
and a young mother's arms  
where the Christ child lay.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Christmas Vacation*  
Dec. 24 - Jan. 1

*School Reopens*  
January 2  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Family Bowling Day*  
January 20

*"Keep the Faith" Night*  
*Bridgeport Sound Tigers*  
January 26

*Open House &  
Registration*  
January 27

*Catholic Schools Week*  
Jan. 27 - Feb. 1

*Valentine Bingo*  
February 9

*Winter Vacation &  
Winter Classic  
Basketball Tournament*  
GO BULLDOGS!  
February 18 - 22

*Pancake Breakfast*  
March 1

*Fashion Show*  
March 2

*Palm Sunday*  
March 16

*Easter Sunday*  
March 23

## New PreK-3 Program Adds to the Success of Assumption School

You probably already know that this school year we have added a PreKindergarten class for three-year-olds. This makes our Early Childhood Learning Center complete. The classroom is at full capacity, and we actually had a waiting list over the summer!

The classroom is cheerful and bright, with brand new furniture, playscape and creative play toys. A gated, grassy play area, is also being constructed for use by the PreK students.

The children are off to a wonderful start. They are busy learning their prayers, letters, numbers, colors, shapes, nursery rhymes, and are developing their social skills by learning to interact with other children. They've already gone on trips to the pumpkin farm, the firehouse and park, and had a Thanksgiving Feast with all the trimmings.

We are very fortunate to have also added two great teachers to our staff, Ms. Kathy Andrade and her assistant, Mrs. Midge Saglimbene. They are loving, nurturing individuals who teach with positive reinforcement and enthusiasm.



*Ms. Andrade with PreK-3 students enjoying a "puzzle race".*

Ms. Andrade grew up in Milford and went to school at Fordham University where she played on the softball team. (She loves baseball - a huge Yankees fan!) She loved the city, so decided to stay after college, where she was employed as Kindergarten Teacher at St. Angela Merici School in the Bronx for ten years. She moved back to Connecticut, and now resides in Fairfield. During the summer months, she is Program Director at Forest Acres

Camp in Fryeburg, Maine. Ms. Andrade is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Ms. Andrade's favorites are pizza, all kinds of music, going to Broadway shows and concerts, traveling, and reading (especially Harry Potter). She has three siblings, and a one-year-old nephew named Logan (her Godson) that she loves to spend time with. Another Godson is Jamel, a former student.

Mrs. Saglimbene or "Miss Midge" as the kids adoringly call her, is not a stranger to Assumption -- she was an Assistant here from 1998-1999. She has two children and three grandchildren. She is an avid Yankee and Packers fan, as well as UConn Women's Basketball.



*Miss Midge getting right in there and building!*

Ms. Midge also owns an angel store on Route 25 in Monroe, "Angels & Company". It's a beautiful, religious store with everything "angelic" ... (and Webkins too)! ■

### Story to Warm Your Heart ...

This year the PreK-3 and PreK-4 classes are collecting soda can tabs to be sent to a hospital in New York. For every 1000 tabs, a free treatment will be given to a patient battling cancer.

One of our PreK-3 parents, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, works at Fairfield University in a sophomore living/learning program. A student, Stacy Riley, donated a total of 13,727 tabs that she had been collecting since she was little for no reason other than to collect them. Ironically and sadly, in October, Stacy lost a good friend to brain cancer.

Thank you and God bless you Stacy. Your "collection" will help many others in their battle against cancer.

# First Annual "Irish Night" Fundraiser a Big Hit

St. Patrick's Day may be six months away but there was no shortage of Irish music, dancing, and food at the 1st Annual "Irish Night", held on Saturday November 10th at the Parish Hall. The dinner dance, a new fundraiser to benefit Our Lady of the Assumption School, included over 200 members of the Our Lady of Assumption community including school parents, parishioners, and friends. "Our goal was to put together a terrific night of Irish food and entertainment while raising funds for our school in the process", said Jim Feeney, volunteer coordinator for the evening.

As news crews from News Chanel 12 captured the exciting launch of the party, host Tommy Westman, winner of the hit t.v. show Survivor (Palau) and recently retired New York City fireman, introduced the first act of the evening as the electrifying accordion and flute duo of Damien and Sally Connolly took the stage for an hour long set of traditional Irish music. With a blast of jigs and reels inspired from his native County Clare, Damien Connolly's remarkable accordion playing set the tone for a wonderful evening.

The guests were treated to modern Irish cuisine created by Executive Chef, Thompson Okumodi and Chef de Cuisine, Niall O'Neill. "Our goal was to create a menu that captured the European-inspired culinary movement that has swept Ireland in the last ten years," said Mr. O'Neill, a native of County Carlow, Ireland. He added, "Anyone who

has been to Dublin lately can attest that Irish cuisine is no longer limited to corned beef and boiled spuds." With that spirit in mind, the Chefs created unique appetizers, three delicious main courses, and Desserts. When everyone had eaten, the leftovers were saved and later transported to Operation Hope to feed the homeless.

Following Msgr. Gintoli's introduction and blessing before the meal, parent volunteers manned the buffet serving stations, as the guests were served a piping hot delicious meal. As dinner concluded, "Peter Street" took to the stage for more music, dancing and fun. Led by the talented singer and guitar player, Peter McKiernan, the group included All-Ireland Accordion champion accordion player and Bronx native John Nolan joined by the talented fiddler and dancer, Bernadette Fee. After several sets of waltzes, polkas, and set dances, the incomparable dancer and choreographer Darrah Carr wowed the audience with her unique blend of traditional Irish dancing. Following Ms. Carr was



the next generation of Irish dancers which included Erin Feeney (age 9), and Katie Feeney (age 6). Attired in traditional Irish dancing dresses Erin and Katie brought the house down with their set of hard shoe dances to hornpipes, jigs, and reels.

"We couldn't have done this without a small army of volunteers," said Mr. Feeney. He praised the people who helped make this fundraiser possible: "From the volunteers who met on Friday night to turn the parish hall into a Celtic-inspired ballroom to the parents who served the meal and cleared the tables to the dedicated Sunday clean-up crew, this was a total team effort." Many school families and local businesses also generously donated products and services to the dinner and to the raffle. At one point during the evening, a search went looking for more raffle tickets as the demand for tickets exceeded the supply! From hotel packages, rental cars in Ireland to dinners at fine local restaurants, the raffle prize table was full with prizes and awards. "I can't say enough about the Assumption school parents, teachers, and administrators who donated so many wonderful gifts that made our raffle a complete success," said Mr. Feeney.

Before the night ended with the playing of the national anthems of Ireland and the United States, Peter McKiernan loudly proclaimed that Peter Street will be back for the **Second Annual Irish Night on Saturday, November 8, 2008. Save the date!** ■

## Alumni News

On October 13, the Assumption School Alumni Association and the Knights of Columbus co-sponsored a Parish Columbus Day Pasta Dinner to benefit the school scholarship fund. Over 130 people attended the dinner raising funds to support scholarship enrollment for Assumption School.

The Alumni and Knights will hold three other events this year to continue to raise proceeds for the Fund. Pancake Breakfasts will be held February 2 and April 6 and our annual St. Patrick Dinner will be held March 15. All three events will be held in the Parish Hall.

Information will be sent home. Looking forward to seeing everyone there as we work together to support Assumption School. ■

## Charity Projects

**PreK-3 & PreK-4:** Collecting soda can tabs (see front page for details)

**Kindergarten:** Cookies for C.U.R.E. (Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy). Mr. Sobolewski is baking and Mrs. Sobolewski is selling!

**1st Grade:** Collecting boxes of cereal for the Thomas Merton House

**2nd Grade:** Collecting cans of soup until the "Souper Bowl". As of 11/20, collected 462 cans of soup ... exceeding last year's amount of 361.



**8th Grade Religion (Mrs. Almeida):** Making sandwiches for the Thomas Merton House

**Student Council:** Sponsored "Pajama Day", \$1 to wear your pajamas to school; money donated to Rescue Mission.



**Thanksgiving Food Drive:** 30 boxes of food and 21 turkeys were sent to St. Mary's Outreach Center in Bridgeport.

## Meet Mr. Merole

This school year we also welcome a new fifth grade teacher, Mr. Dominick Merole. Mr. Merole lives in Fairfield and has a sister in college and a brother in fifth grade.



Aside from his student teaching at Bethel High School, this is his first teaching position and he's doing a great job. He is a positive role model for our Pre-Junior High students.

Mr. Merole loves baseball and has played as pitcher for most of his life. He is also our Girls Varsity Basketball Coach. ■

## Junior High News

Junior High held its first dance of the school year on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> in the Church Hall. The dance theme was the 50's and everyone had a "rockin' round the clock" good time! Mr. Orosz provided the musical entertainment with great hits by Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis and Buddy Holly.

Eight Grade started the year off with visits from Notre Dame High School, St. Joseph High School, Laurelton Hall and Fairfield Prep in order to start their decision-making process for high school. Between visits and entrance exams, the first two months flashed by. Eighth grade would like to thank all the students and teachers of Assumption for supporting them with their Halloween Lollipop Sale and Bake Sale. Both were very successful!

Mrs. Yoney will be holding the 2008 National Geographic Competition for Junior High starting the 2nd week of December. This competition has 7 rounds of questions that involve U.S. and World geography. Last year's winner, Robert Oliver was the first student to ever place high enough to compete in the Connecticut elimination rounds at Central Connecticut State University Campus in New Britain. Good Luck to all Junior High students!

7th and 8th graders are working very diligently on their Science Fair projects. The 7th graders have begun the process of developing new technology for the invention convention. They are in the process of researching, designing and writing about their creations. Grade 8 is busy conducting experiments on a wide variety of topics. They will be happy to share their results with you at the Science Fair on January 31st.

The Middle School visited the Klein Memorial on December 18 to see a production by the Chamber Theater Production Company. The students will be seeing a group of plays including The Fall of the House of Usher, The Ransom of Red Chief, The Lady or the Tiger?, The Open Window, and The Most Dangerous Game.

## Treasurer's Notes

Fundraising is off to a great start for the 2007/2008 school year and, as we are all aware, this is a critical element for the Home School Association. Through November, we've run 5 fundraising events resulting in a profit to the HSA of over \$22,000.

The upcoming HSA schedule is full of events that should be both profitable and fun for the entire family. Please mark your calendars for some of the major events like: Golf Tournament, Fashion Show, Yankee Candle Sale, Family Night at the Bridgeport Bluefish, Miss Choccolae Sale.

Our early fundraising successes have been accomplished through the efforts of many dedicated parents, faculty, and friends of Assumption School. We fully expect the remainder of the school year to be as productive as the first few months and there are tremendous opportunities for every family to get involved. We are always looking for volunteers and donations of goods and services. Please contact Gerrie Desio or any of the HSA members if you can help.

As a reminder, 50% of the Family Obligation is due. If you have not done so already, please send your payments into school as soon as possible. Family Obligation is necessary to finance operational expenses of the school and is as important as tuition. Luckily, there are many fundraisers throughout the year that will help you offset this expense. This is another great reason to participate. Feel free to contact me or another member of the board for any questions.

On behalf of the Home School Association Board Members, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mindy Powlishen  
Treasurer



**Monsignor Gintoli read a Thanksgiving story to 1st Graders the day before Thanksgiving.**

**Do you have newsworthy Assumption School information? The next issue will feature a section entitled "Great Kids Doing Great Things"... tell us about your Great Kids! Please send info or ideas to Debbie Carrara at B2085@aol.com**