



The Messenger

For alumni, friends and families of All Saints Catholic School

Summer 2014

All Saints Catholic School

CATHOLIC SCHOOL FACTS

- ◆ Graduates from Catholic High Schools earn 13.6% more than public school graduates, and 11% more than graduates from other private schools.
- ◆ Students who graduate from Catholic Schools are 95 times less likely to ever enter the correctional system.
- ◆ Graduates of Catholic High Schools are 4 times more likely to vote than the national average.
- ◆ Catholic Schools save US taxpayers \$20.5 Billion annually.

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Congressman and Capitol Hill Come to All Saints

Thanks to a very special All Saints math teacher, Brooke Townsend, on April 16th, Congressman Patrick Murphy shared his role and experiences as a Congressman with All Saints middle school students. He later met with a small group of students participating in the Capitol Hill Challenge to discuss their investing strategies. The Capitol Hill Challenge is an online game provided by the SIFMA Foundation where teams of students are paired with a local Member of Congress. Sixth and Seventh grade student teams at All Saints had the privilege of being paired with Congressman Murphy.

The Capitol Hill Challenge (CHC) is a special version of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) Foundation's Stock Market Game™ where teams of students, organized by Congressional district, invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in listed stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. The top five performing teams are recognized at an awards reception in Washington, D.C. Since the CHC began in 2004, nearly 2,200 Representatives and Senators have engaged in this special version of the Stock Market Game™ Program with more than 60,000 students from schools across the country

Earlier this year, All Saints 6th grader Nicholas Scalera took first place in the State of Florida Middle School Division of the SIFMA Foundation's InvestWrite® essay competition with McGraw Hill Financial and he placed fourth at the national level.

InvestWrite, a highly successful extension of The Stock Market Game™ program is designed to help students meet



Congressman Patrick Murphy at All Saints

Common Core Standards by sharpening critical thinking skills as they compose essays on investment related topics. The program builds a bridge between classroom learning and potential real-world investment decisions. Students are given an investment scenario, requiring them to assess, research, and then formulate possible solutions based on their own findings, logic, and ideas.

Nicholas was recognized at a school awards ceremony in mid-February by Karla Helgans, of SIFMA Foundation. Mrs. Helgans congratulated Nicholas and presented him with a certificate and gift card. Nicholas and Mrs. Townsend also went to a luncheon in Boca Raton in late May where he was recognized and awarded a trophy for his exceptional essay. Mrs. Townsend spearheaded both the InvestWrite® stock market game as well as The Capitol Hill Challenge this year.

Pope Francis Offers Proposals for Improving Catholic Education

On February 13, 2014, Pope Francis revealed his vision for Catholic Schools as he addressed participants during a session of the Congregation for Catholic Education in Vatican City. He stated, "Catholic education is one of the most important challenges for the Church, currently committed to new evangelization in an historical and cultural context that is undergoing constant transformation."

Pope Francis proposed three areas of focus for the participants: the value of dialogue in education, the qualified preparation of educators, and the responsibility of schools to express the living presence of the Gospel in the fields of education, science, and culture.

Referring to the first of these areas, he said, "Effectively, Catholic schools and universities are attended by many students who are not Christian or do not believe. Catholic educational institutions offer to all an approach to education that has as its aim the full development of the person, which responds to the right of every person access to knowledge. However, they

are also called upon to offer, with full respect for the freedom of each person and using the methods appropriate to the scholastic environment, the Christian belief, that is, to present Jesus Christ as the meaning of life, the cosmos and history. Jesus began to proclaim the good news of the 'Galilee of the people', a crossroads of people, diverse in terms of race, culture and religion. This context resembles today's world, in certain respects. The profound changes that have led to the ever wider diffusion of multicultural societies require those who work in the school or university sector to be involved in educational itineraries involving comparison and dialogue, with a courageous and innovative fidelity that enables Catholic identity to encounter the various 'souls' of multicultural society."

With regard to the second area, the Pope remarked that during his meeting with the Superior Generals, he had emphasized that education in our times "is guided by a changing generation, and that, therefore, every educator – and the Church as a whole is an educating mother – is required to

change, in the sense of knowing how to communicate with the young." In relation to the third area, Pope Francis reiterated the need for Catholic academic institutions to avoid



Pope Francis in March 2013

"isolating themselves in the world", and instead to "know how to enter, with courage, into the Areopagus of contemporary cultures and to initiate dialogue, aware of the gift they are able to offer to all."

Prayer Partners Promote Faith and Friendship

The smiles on the faces of the Kindergarten and First Grade students show the tremendous success of the All Saints Prayer Partner program. The program originated at St. Juliana School, and travelled to All Saints with Ms. Pat Nickler, a middle school math teacher who joined All Saints in 2006.

Each fall during the first few weeks of school there is a "meet and greet" event where kindergarten students are paired with 7th graders, and 1st grade students are paired with 8th graders.



"We encourage the big kids (7th and 8th graders) to help the Kindergarteners learn proper church behavior, such as how to genuflect and when to sit, stand, and kneel," said Laura Donaldson, an All Saints Kindergarten teacher.

Every week, the older students come down to the lower grades to visit with

their buddies before Mass and then walk over to church together. After Mass the children say goodbye at the church and head back to their respective classes. They get together on special occasions and most classes exchange gifts or cards at Christmas. The kindergartners and first graders get very excited when they see their older prayer partners moving through the halls during regular school time. "It's similar to celebrity sightings!" Mrs. Donaldson went on, "I think it gives them a good connection to the upper grades here at All Saints. The older students also like stopping by to say hello to their buddies. The girls always stop for a quick hug in the hall, while the boys give high fives."

A Year in Review



Thanksgiving Show and Feast



Christmas Pageant



All Saints Day/10th Anniversary Celebration



Cup Stacking Competition

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

- Aristotle

Physical Education Helps Body and Mind

Recent research has shown a correlation between high academic achievement and physical fitness opportunities within schools. An analysis by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) found that participation in school-based physical activity was positively related to academic achievement, cognitive skills, concentration, memory, and verbal skills. There was also a positive social aspect related to sports participation. "Social development among young people is maximized when they play multiple sports before age 15. This expands their interests, identities and experiences" (National Association for Sport and Physical Education 2010).

Studies by the CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services suggest there are multiple health benefits when the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity are met, including a positive effect on blood pressure, insulin resistance, skeletal health, and psychological well being. Activity also provides positive influences on self-esteem,

and on anxiety and depression. "Because children are in school for several hours a day, because schools are already invested in health issues such as childhood immunizations and better nutrition, it makes sense that schools would be part of the solution to getting children more active" said Harold Kohl, a Professor at the University of Texas.

All Saints supports healthy activity for its students through a rigorous physical education program and extracurricular sports. Physical Education classes are required for all students from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade, where students practice age appropriate skill-based activities that follow the National Standards of Physical Education. When students reach the 5th grade, they are able to participate in extracurricular sports teams. All Saints is able to provide participatory opportunities for almost every student. In addition to traditional sports like baseball, basketball, and soccer, All Saints just finished its inaugural season of lacrosse in the



spring of 2014.

A report by The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies found many schools have cut back time students spend in PE, arts, and recess, and estimated that only about half of America's youth get the recommended 60 minutes a day of activity. Professor Kohl, chair of the study committee commented on the importance of students getting that activity: "What's in it for the educators is better academic performance."

Charlie Edwards Wins Golden Eagle Award



Charlie Edwards with Gold Eagle Award

Charlie Edwards became the sixth recipient of the All Saints Catholic School Fr. Tom Vengayil Golden Eagle Award on Saturday, May 30, 2014. The award was presented to Charlie during the 8th grade graduation Mass at St. Jude Catholic Church in Tequesta, Florida. The award honors one 8th grade graduate each year who lives the Christian virtues and values emphasized at All Saints Catholic School. The award was named in honor of Fr. Tom Vengayil, All Saints' first Pastor Moderator. "It means a lot to receive the award. It is a great feeling. I always wanted to receive it but I thought one of the girls in my class was going to get it." Charlie said, "It represents that students at All Saints have high standards and try to live the virtues." Char-

lie's parents were very happy and surprised when Charlie's name was announced as the recipient of the award. "We're very proud of Charlie. He's always so kind and always the first one to help out. He's always smiling and positive," said Mrs. Edwards.

"Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Alumni Spotlight

All Saints Graduate Pursues Social Justice And Law At Cornell University



Julia Montejo at Cornell University

2009 All Saints Graduate Julia Montejo just completed her freshman year at Cornell University, an Ivy League school located in Ithaca, NY, in the heart of the beautiful Finger Lakes region.

Julia notes that All Saints helped immensely in her academic preparation for high school. After moving on from All Saints to Jupiter High School, Julia found that she had a stronger language arts and literature background than many classmates. This strength enabled her to perform at a high level in speech, debate, and essay competitions, with great experiences and success, including at the 2011 Florida Green, Energy

& Climate Conference, the 2012 Florida State Spanish Conference, and within the Jupiter HS Speech and Debate Club.

These interests have continued for Julia at Cornell. She has just placed highly in several categories at the 32nd Annual Novice Nationals speech and debate tournament for first-year collegians. This year's competition was held at Northern Illinois University, and Julia placed 2nd in the "Extemporaneous" category, and 3rd in both the "Impromptu" and "Impromptu Sales" competitions.

These ongoing successes have provided Julia with a planned career path that also involves helping others. She credits All Saints with helping to spark her interest in the pursuit of social justice for marginalized groups, such as migrant workers. Such groups can be unjustly oppressed or can find difficulty being heard or represented, and Julia intends to make a difference with a career in the Law.

Julia, born in Guatemala, has selected Latino Studies and Government as a Major, with a concentration on Inequality Studies and Transnational Relations, and plans to pursue Law School upon completion of her Bachelor's degree. In fact, Cornell has a robust support program for its students interested in the Law, and even offers undergraduate students a Pre-

Law summer program in New York City, adding to the attraction for top students like Julia.

Julia also felt that All Saints helped give her the tools to be strong in her Faith and to hold to her convictions. She remains active at St. Peter's Catholic Church and currently is a lector for Cornell Catholic Community.

Julia Montejo...another great All Saints kid blossoming into a successful young adult, ready to make an impact and a positive difference in the world.



Julia Montejo while at All Saints

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The Messenger



1759 Indian Creek Parkway
Jupiter, FL 33458
561-748-8994

Visit us on the web at www.allsaintsjupiter.org

Creating Lifelong Readers

In the last 20 years, literacy has declined dramatically: in every age group, race, income group, and region. When people consider whether or not reading is important, they only consider childhood reading. While it is very crucial to read with your children, adults have just as much need to continue reading past schooling age. Adults as well as children should read every chance they get because the ability to read well is essential to functioning in today's society. It stimulates the human mind, and it develops the imagination and the ability to learn new things.

At All Saints Catholic School, reading takes center stage in learning. The common slogan in education is "up until third grades students learn to read, after third grade students read to learn". Reading truly impacts the learning in all subject areas. All Saints



John Webster, Alex Harrison, Francis Badala, Charles Dailey, 4th Grade students

Catholic School clearly understands that the development of literacy skills is critical in elementary school. Our reading standards curriculum is centered around developing age appropriate skills through a comprehensive balanced approach using strategies to enhance literacy development. Further, middle school learning is cen-

tered on deep comprehension and analysis to fully engage the student in reading. We work very hard to develop lifelong readers. Reading and literacy are vital components of learning at All Saints Catholic School.

*Principal
Jill Broz*