

Good News ²⁰¹² *Spring*

Salem Catholic Schools Foundation



St. Vincent de Paul second grader Alisah Brown crowning Mary on Friday, May 18.

Good News ²⁰¹²

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President's Message



Kevin L. Mannix,
President

Even in these challenging times, we can be grateful for those who have stepped forward to make a difference for Catholic education in the Salem area. In addition to regular financial support for our Catholic schools, the Salem Catholic Schools Foundation has been able to make special gifts totaling \$361,000 to help improve the facilities at our four Salem-area Catholic schools. This gift, from an anonymous donor, has led to renovation and improvement projects

at Queen of Peace School, St. Joseph School, St. Vincent de Paul School, and Blanchet Catholic School.

At the same time, our Foundation is working with the area Catholic schools to develop more coordination in providing excellent faith-based Catholic education to our children.

On top of this, another donor has contacted us about a major bequest in a will to benefit all of our Catholic schools through the Salem Catholic Schools Foundation.

We welcome these kinds of special grants. Of course, we also welcome your direct support through our Salem-area Catholic schools.

We extend our thanks to everyone who helps make a difference in ensuring a quality Catholic education for our children.



All Schools Mass, February 1, 2012 ~ Queen of Peace Church

Queen of Peace School

Debilyn Janota, Principal

Quote of Thanksgiving

In December 2011, Mr. Kevin Mannix informed us that we would be receiving a grant from an anonymous donor to complete seven projects that dealt with capital improvements that were presented to the Salem Catholic Schools Allocation Committee.

Five of those projects have been completed, one should be completed by mid-June and the last one is still pending on bids. We would like to update you on our progress from the gift from our generous donor.

Project 1: The telephone system in the school was upgraded and is more efficient. Due to a number of safety and weather related challenges this year, this has been a 'life-saving' communication tool.

Project 2: The security system has been upgraded from five cameras to seven and three of them have been revised to 'closer' visual. We have been able to check areas when concerns or issues have come about, and we have been able to be more pro-active in dealing with various challenges (i.e. vandalism or safety issues).

Project 3: Out in the field, we have official sized soccer goals and nets that provide hours of enjoyment for our students and the community around us. We even have a Soccer Club instructing a number of our students and other children in the area after school.



Project 4: New bark chips were placed onto the track, and the students have appreciated the support when running or walking the track. This also gave the Girl Scouts and parent volunteers an opportunity to help with the work in installing the chips.

Project 5: A much needed sprinkler system was completed during May and now the grounds around the school will look as green as the parish does when we start school again in September.

Project 6: By the end of May we will purchase a new lawn mower that will make keeping the parish/school campus manageable and beautiful.

Project 7: We plan to install a covered area for the outside playground. This is still pending as we wait for bids and set a date when this can be accomplished before September 2012.

As we get closer to the end of another year at Queen of Peace School, it is our supporters and believers that make these wonderful opportunities happen. We as a family at Queen of Peace School are ever so thankful and appreciative of all who continue to help us strive to provide a Catholic education for the children coming through our red doors. On behalf of our school community – thank you and may God bless each and every one of you.

On a sadder note, we say goodbye to a special person leaving us at the end of the year – our Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Karen Hansson, who is retiring and venturing on another journey...May God bless her and may she continue to share her gifts and talents with others, as she did with us.

Also, Mr. Michael Ross, our third grade teacher, has resigned and will be moving on to share his gifts and talents with other children. We will miss him and all that he has brought to our school these past eight years.



Queen of Peace third grader Benjamin Atwood stands in front of one of the school's new soccer goals.

St. Joseph School

Stephen Lynch, Principal

Thank You Donors and Congratulations Alice!



make it possible. We will complete the renovations this summer and have also been inspired to paint our downstairs hall as well.

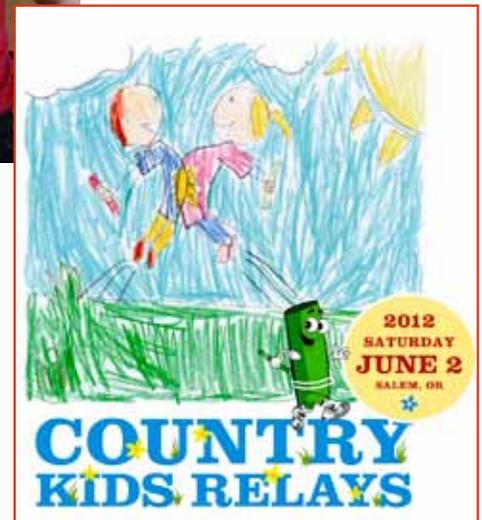
Lastly, we want to share some exciting news! St. Joseph School fourth grader Alice Cooney has taken home the top prize for this year's COUNTRY Kids Relays without even stepping on the track. Alice's winning t-shirt design has earned our school \$1,000 and her classmates a pizza party courtesy of COUNTRY Financial. Alice's winning artwork will be featured on t-shirts sold at the Relays. The contest was open to first through fifth graders at 50 Salem area schools participating in the 38th annual Relays which take place June 2 at Willamette University's McCulloch Stadium. We are very proud of Alice!

Generosity is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and St. Joseph School has been blessed this year by the generosity of both friends and strangers. Last summer, we turned to our friends and alumni for help in funding a new playground. Our old wooden play structure was wearing out beyond our ability to patch and repair, and we were getting worried about safety. When we asked for help, we raised the necessary money in just a few weeks, and then volunteers got everything installed for the first day of school. The new equipment encourages physical activity, and our students are getting stronger while having a good time spinning or sliding or climbing. We will recognize our donors in the near future with tiles decorated by our students.

Like the other Catholic schools in the community, we have also received a wonderful gift from an anonymous donor for capital improvements to our facility. We will renovate the restrooms in the school and replace all the windows in the lower level of our building. These are big projects, the kind of things that we always need to do but never seem to have enough resources to get accomplished. So we are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to bring our facility more up to date and energy efficient. Our heartfelt thanks go out to this kind donor, and to the Salem Catholic Schools Foundation for helping to



Fourth grader Alice Cooney and her winning t-shirt design for the COUNTRY Kids Relay.



St. Vincent de Paul School

Hector Martinez, Principal

Prayers and Improvements

St. Vincent de Paul School is excited to announce our school building will receive some much needed improvements this summer! Thanks to the amazing support of the Salem Catholic Schools Foundation, the school received a significant donation by a very generous donor. With the help of this generous donation and the prayers of many, the school will be working on a variety of projects.

At this time, the school would also like to thank our Facilities Committee for organizing a needs assessment and determining priorities for the building.

The members on this committee include:

- Don Elgas, parishioner and Knights of Columbus
- Marty Nanneman, parishioner and Administrative Council member
- Ken Braendle, parishioner and Parish Head Custodian
- Sue Minten, parishioner and Business Manager
- Hector Martinez, Principal

Thanks to the experience and wisdom of our Facilities Committee, the project will include two major phases of improvements. Phase one of the project will address the top priorities of the school, while phase two will address secondary priorities as funds are available. All of these projects will enhance the school's ability to foster a safe, faith-filled environment conducive to learning. In addition, the majority of these improvements will help the school be more energy efficient in the coming years.

Phase one improvements include:

- Installing a supplementary heating source throughout the building
- Installing energy-efficient windows throughout the building, gymnasium, and cafeteria
- Waterproofing the music room at the north end of the basement
- Replacing hallway floors in the north wing, which includes abatement

Phase two improvements include:

- Replacing office hallway floor
- Installing a new furnace in the cafeteria
- Addressing playground concrete work

In addition to the generous donation provided, the school was able to attain additional funds through the Archdiocesan Safety Grant and through the donation from William and Nicola Klutho. We are so thankful for the additional funding and have plans to utilize these funds to address other building items. The school improvements are scheduled to begin in mid-June once students are out of the building. The school does intend for all projects to be completed before students return next fall.

There are a host of events that have occurred and will be occurring during this last trimester of school. On Saturday, April 21, Mrs. Plotts, our fifth/sixth grade teacher, and our Parent Club coordinated a breakfast at our neighborhood Applebee's restaurant to raise funds for Outdoor School. During the first week of May, our fifth and sixth graders attended Outdoor



School at Camp Westwind on the beautiful Oregon coast. Our students were able to learn science through hands-on learning experiences that included exploring, experimenting, and observing nature first hand. Our second graders

received their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 19 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish during 5:30 p.m. Mass. Kindergarten through second grade also went to A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village on Friday, May 18th. This past month, our kindergarten class took a walking field trip to the Salem fire station. Our school is also coordinating its annual Fun Run at this time. Students are out collecting pledges as we speak in preparation for May 25.

Blanchet Catholic School

Charles E. Lee, President

A Year of Progress



New Commons Building Takes Shape

We were blessed to break ground on a new 10,600 sq. ft. addition to the Blanchet campus on April 13. Our new Commons building will feature a cafeteria, kitchen, athletic locker rooms, student store and landscaped courtyard. The Commons will meet many important needs that were identified in our five-year strategic plan, Vision 2015. Construction is underway and expected to be complete by November 2012. We thank the many donors who have made this project possible. Work continues on the remaining goals of our “Foundation for the Future” campaign including: enhancing the curriculum, upgrading technology, providing tuition assistance and renovating the facility.

Seniors Earn Record Breaking Scholarships

Blanchet’s talented senior class consists of sixty-five students. The class of 2012 has been offered a remarkable \$6 million in college scholarships and awards. This is more than double the amount of scholarships offered to previous Blanchet graduating classes. Commencement activities are scheduled for Saturday, June 9 at 2:00 p.m. in the Blanchet gymnasium. Our speaker is Larry Tokarski, Blanchet grandfather and member of my President’s Advisory Board. Baccalaureate will be held on Friday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. Our co-celebrants are Bishop Steiner and Fr. Molinari.

Blanchet Continues to Bring Hope

Our theme for this school year was “bringing hope” and this is best illustrated by the many service projects conducted by our students and faculty. Recently our mid high students spent a day cleaning up Camp Howard, and a group of senior girls organized a fashion show

that benefitted homeless youth for the second year in a row. Our eighth grade class competed in the “Disney Planet Challenge Project” and was named the Oregon state winner. Their project involved restoring wetlands



on Blanchet’s campus and installing an educational native plant garden. This environmental service project also was ranked sixth nationally out of more than a thousand entries!

Celebrating Tradition

As the end of the school year approaches, we look forward to many special Blanchet traditions that make a student’s experience at our school memorable. Our seniors will soon participate in their annual Senior Retreat. Highlights this year include a talk by Fr. John Henderson and singer Julie Hoy. Prior to heading off campus for their day-long retreat, seniors enjoy the opportunity to eat breakfast with their parents at school. Other senior events include a candle-lit prayer service and a faculty senior luncheon where faculty and staff offer reflections upon students’ time at Blanchet.

Looking Forward to the Fall

We have enjoyed a wonderful 17th school year at Blanchet Catholic, and are looking forward to beginning our 18th year of providing Catholic secondary education in September. We hope you join us at the celebration of our new Commons building – more details about this celebration will be available soon on our website. I pray that you and your family enjoy a safe and restful summer!

(P.S. – If you are looking for ways to keep your children active during the summer, check out Blanchet’s summer camp brochure online. A variety of camps for many different ages and interests are being offered.)

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In closing, the school is very delighted to have the opportunity to invest in the greatest gifts we have from God, our children. Through the school improvements, St. Vincent de Paul School is confident it will be able to serve its community more effectively. We look forward to finishing the year with much enthusiasm and prayers of thanksgiving.



Ms. Klutho and her kindergarten students celebrate the 100th day of school at St. Vincent de Paul.

Your Support of Salem Catholic Schools Foundation is an Investment in Catholic Education

The mission of Salem Catholic Schools Foundation is to manage and increase the Endowment Fund for Catholic education in Salem. Each year grants are given from the annual earnings of the Endowment to each of the four Salem Catholic schools in support of their programs, tuition assistance or special projects.

The Salem Catholic Schools Foundation accepts gifts of any amount through:

- Checks
- Appreciated securities or property
- Bequests named in wills or trusts
- Beneficiaries of life insurance or retirement funds

Your gift to Salem Catholic Schools Foundation ultimately benefits our four Catholic schools in Salem. All gifts to the Foundation provide positive current and future estate tax considerations. For specific tax benefits to you or your estate, please consult your financial or legal advisor.

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ payable to **Salem Catholic Schools Foundation.**

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All Schools Mass, February 1, 2012 ~ Queen of Peace Church



Above ~ Michelle Brandner-Hegney (St. Vincent de Paul's Distinguished Alumni of the Year) and Blanchet sophomore Ashley Scanlan greet elementary students. Above right ~ Mass is co-celebrated by Father Mockaitis, Father Molinari and Father Zerr. Right ~ Blanchet parent and musician Julie Hoy performs music for the liturgy.

