

Good News

2010
Salem Catholic Schools Foundation *Winter*



St. Vincent de Paul students Michael Araiza & Jadilyn Short portray Joseph and Mary in the school's Christmas program.



Fifth grade winners of the DARE essay contest from St. Joseph School ~ Giancarlo Marcelo, Sophia Poole and Robert Frank.

President's Message



Kevin L. Mannix,
President

As we struggle to recover from an economic recession, we need to remember that an economic recession should not lead to a recession in our values and service. In fact, we need to stand fast with our values. Those of us who have been blessed with the capability to reasonably cope with the recession should also consider expanding our services, so as to help others.

This edition of the Good News celebrates service and activities in the new year. While we may think of the new year in the sense of the calendar, we can also think of it as a new year in the sense of our lives. I have a plaque in my office, given to me by my sister, which has the following message: "Today is the first day of the rest of your life." I take this as a daily challenge to use the gifts God has given to me for the benefit of those around me.

While this phrase may seem trite to some people, some of these common phrases have deep meaning when you think about them. Push aside any negative events in your past and evaluate your current situation. Compare your situation to those confronting other folks. If you are in a relatively good position, can you do something to help the circumstances of others?

Continued...

Salem Catholic Schools Foundation

Board of Directors

Officers

President

Kevin L. Mannix (503)364-1913

Vice President

Spencer Taylor (503)399-9299

Secretary/Treasurer

John Daczewitz (503)581-2668

Committee Chairs

Investment

John Daczewitz (503)581-2668

Allocations

Kevin L. Mannix (503)364-1913

Nominating

Larry Epping (503)588-1900

Parish/School Liaison

Jackie Carey (503)371-4550

Publications

Paul Connolly (503)585-2054

Members

Glenda Anderson (503)949-8018

Jim Fahlstrom (503)363-5105

Donna Garaventa (503)363-2411

Jim Monaghan (503)364-2638

George Puentes (503)370-9710

Emeritus Members

Stuart Compton
& Lorin Goodwin

SCS Foundation

643 Union St. NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301
(503)371-9068

Continued from cover...

I hope that you, dear reader, are in such a situation. Then, I ask you to inventory your gifts and see whether you can share a bit more of your time, talent, or treasure to touch the lives of others.

The very schools that we write about in every edition of the Good News would not exist were it not for a willingness to engage in service. We are standing on the service of past generations, and I encourage us to continue the journey with our own service.



The Queen of Peace third grade guitar group meets for their weekly lesson.



Seminarian Lupe Vargas makes rosaries with Queen of Peace School second grade students.

Queen of Peace School

Debilyn Janota, Principal

Many Gifts Received & Shared

As the curtain falls on 2009, the staff and students of Queen of Peace School can look back on the fall semester with a sense of gratitude for the many gifts we have received and shared. The willingness of school parents, staff and students to share their gifts with joyful hearts is inspirational. Like the three wise men, they give from the heart. This was especially evident during Advent and throughout the Christmas season.

Music teacher Heidi Wiegall created a beautiful Christmas program again this year. The program was complete with a nativity procession, gift wrapped pre-kindergarteners, student solos and accompanists on xylophone and other percussion instruments. We are very blessed to have such an outstanding musician share her gifts with us! Afterward, families enjoyed the generous hospitality of the Parents Club at the Christmas Cookie Social.

Second grade parents shared their culinary skills at the multicultural-themed Christmas party. Parents brought in traditional foods such as pan dulce and a Basque rice and chorizo dish. Students (and rogue staff members who were lured down the hall by the tempting aromas) enjoyed trying new foods and learning how Christmas is celebrated in other parts of the world. It was truly a magnificent feast!



Ms. McHugh's first grade class show off the crowns they created for their Three Kings Day Celebration.

In the midst of preparations for Christmas and all of the festivities, the children remembered Christ's call to service by undertaking a variety of service projects. These projects were student driven, and we are all very proud of their generosity and desire to serve. One project involved collecting food for the Table of Plenty, the parish's food bank. The student Leadership Team set a goal of collecting 700 non-perishable food items between November 5 and December 17. Thanks to the excellent support of school families, that goal was surpassed! Members of the Leadership Team are: Andrew Arreola, Madison Barnes-Nelson, Denver Bogat, Mariah D'Cruz, Tayden Goodeill, John Jablonski, Emma Phillips, Jane Thurston, Alyssa Walsh and Johanna Willburn.

The third grade class raised \$165 for the Pimpollo Orphanage as part of their Christmas service project. Instead of having a traditional gift exchange, the students decided to donate money to Pimpollo. They drew names but, rather than buying gifts, they made a donation to Pimpollo in that person's name. This practice was initiated after students in last year's class suggested it. Students also collected books for Marion County's book drive.



Queen of Peace parent Jan Nordlund, Alyssa Walsh, Tayden Goodeill and Julia Bahti prepare to take a wagon load of food to the Table of Plenty.

Continued on page 7

St. Vincent de Paul School

Hector Martinez, Principal

Happy 2010 from St. Vincent de Paul School!

At St. Vincent de Paul School our faith community celebrated the season of Advent and Christmas through various faith-building activities and community events. Our students were encouraged to bring food items to our School Mass every Wednesday to donate to the food bank.

During the first week of Advent, our second through sixth grade students took a bus ride to the Catholic shrine and botanical garden commonly known as The Grotto. The National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother is a beautiful environment, allowing for a quiet and peaceful experience for our students. By visiting the Grotto's Chapel of Mary, Gift Shop and Visitor Complex, our students were able to find spiritual inspiration and joy for building their faith. In addition to experiencing the manicured gardens, religious artwork and panoramic views of the Columbia River Valley our students, staff and parent volunteers were able to attend Mass during their visit.

Our school hosted a Family Night Out event during the second week of Advent. It was very well attended! Parents came to view and purchase books from our annual school book fair while teachers and staff read aloud to students. There were many wonderful books read to our students as they enjoyed cookies and milk. Students came in their PJs and brought a cozy blanket just for the occasion. Our third through sixth grade students also were able to attend the Blanchet Christmas Variety Show and make connections with students and staff of Blanchet. Our students were honored to be in attendance.

During the third week of Advent was our annual Christmas program! We held our program in Reedy Hall at our parish. Each class, preschool-sixth grade, sang Christmas songs well known to all. At the end of our program, students dressed as Joseph and Mary were led by an angel, also played by a student, and carried Baby Jesus to lie in His manger. The audience then joined the school in singing Joy to the World. We finished by sharing in fellowship over some hot cocoa. There was even a visit by St. Nicholas himself!



For the third week of Advent, the students and staff at St. Vincent de Paul School celebrated a DARE recognition ceremony. The entire student body, parents and school staff were in attendance to recognize the fifth and sixth grade students of Mrs. Ostby's class. Officer Craig Seibel led the event as many students were recognized for their completion of DARE. Marco Luna, Michael Ariaza, and Emily Winters received additional recognition for writing spectacular essays about living a healthy, drug-free life.

Mr. Martinez also was able to attend a pre-Christmas Mass at St. Madeleine Church with the other Catholic school principals of the archdiocese. Archbishop Vlazny celebrated an inspirational Mass, which was followed by a generous luncheon provided by the school leadership and staff.

The teachers enjoyed festivities with their students in their classrooms with Christmas parties, movies, and treats. The school and parish staff came together for a special luncheon provided by the school Parent Club. St. Vincent de Paul School knows how to have a good time!



St. Joseph School

Stephen Lynch, Principal

Celebrating 2009 & Welcoming 2010



The students at St. Joseph School were busy during the Advent season. We started the month by celebrating fourth grader Jonathan Cuello's second place finish in the state-wide Christmas card contest sponsored

by Catholic Charities. Jonathan received his award directly from Archbishop Vlazny at a luncheon in Portland.

Our fifth graders completed their work on the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education program) and had a graduation ceremony.

The Student Council organized a food drive, and we collected over 700 cans of food for St. Vincent de Paul. When we delivered the food, the students spent time helping to sort food into boxes and unloaded a large crate of fresh pears for distribution. It was a valuable experience, and it opened our eyes to hunger in our community.

Thanks to our Student Council, we celebrated St. Nicholas Day by putting our shoes outside the classroom in hopes that the good saint might leave us some candy. Those shoes were nicely filled! We



also prepared for Christmas with the sacrament of reconciliation for those in grades 3-6. We appreciate our wonderful priests, Fr. Todd and Fr. Jaspers, for their steady and generous involvement in our school.

The Christmas program was festive and fun, with songs from every class, even the pre-schoolers. Our gym was completely filled for the event, and Miss Severin, our music teacher, did a fantastic job of preparing and conducting. Advent was a time of joyful anticipation of the coming of Our Savior.

January brings us back to our friends and our school work, but there are many more exciting activities on the horizon. Our annual Open House is Sunday, January 31, and we'd love to see you in our school. This year we are excited to host the Salem Catholic Schools Mass on February 3 as part of Catholic Schools Week. And lastly, our annual school auction is Saturday, February 6 in our gym and parish center. Please join us for a great night and for a great cause!



Blanchet Catholic School

Charles E. Lee, President

The Spirit of Giving

Advent is a season of hope and joyful expectation. This was very evident at Blanchet Catholic School throughout the month of December and now into the new year. Students and staff celebrated the Mass of the Immaculate Conception, prayed together in special Christmas prayer services and held reconciliation in the school's chapel with Fr. Lucas. The junior class, dressed in green, purple and pink and holding glow sticks, presented a beautiful living Advent wreath in the dimmed lights of the school's gym. Students and staff joined together in many valuable service projects that brought the spirit of the season to so many in our community.

When the weather dropped below freezing, Blanchet's neighbor, Swegle Elementary School, called with an urgent request for warm clothing for their students. The Cavaliers responded to the call and delivered three large boxes of coats, hats and gloves to the school. Wendy Phillips, Swegle's Community Outreach Coordinator, remarked, "Thanks to all of you who contributed to the warm clothing drive for Swegle students. You truly made a difference."



Through the generosity of Mr. Larry Tokarski, each Blanchet student had the opportunity to shop for a present for the residents

of the Providence Benedictine Nursing Center in Mt. Angel. Residents were thrilled with the presents but took even more delight in the visit from the 80 students who delivered the gifts on December 16. Executive Director Emily Dazey said, "Your smiling faces, energy and kind words were heard, savored and enjoyed. We are so fortunate to be associated with your school."

Blanchet partnered with the Salem Police Department to provide toys for families in need this Christmas season. Student and parent volunteers wrapped all the toys in just four days! At the distribution party on December 12, families picked up their presents and were treated to visits with Santa, refreshments and craft activities. Jennifer Graber, Volunteer Services Coordinator, commented, "Because of your generous donation of time and talents, we were able to serve over 125 families who were in such great need. I am impressed by the compassion that I have seen expressed by Blanchet students towards others and appreciate your willingness to get involved in this worthwhile cause."

Two seniors, Mona Woodward and Katlyn Prentice, worked with religion teacher Mark McCormick and the freshman class to provide presents for the ten young women currently living in the Fr. Taaffe homes. Nearly twenty students delivered the presents to the homes and listened to two teen moms tell their stories and express their appreciation.

Finally, Blanchet's drama and music programs presented a festive Christmas variety show featuring drama, choir and band performances. The program was a showcase of student talent and a unique blend of traditional and contemporary music, story and dance.

President Charles E. Lee says, "The spirit of giving is alive and well at Blanchet Catholic School! I am so proud of the efforts of our students to help those in need in our community."



Continued from page 3

The students wound up the Christmas season on Epiphany with Mass and a screening of "The Littlest Angel." Children in Pam McHugh's first grade class took it a step farther with a Three Kings Day celebration. They made crowns inscribed with what gift they would give to Jesus. Ms. McHugh asked them to think about what possession was so precious to them that giving it to Jesus would be a true sign of how much they loved Him. Their generosity was touching, and it is humbling to see how willing they are to give up their treasure for God. (And if the writing on their crowns is any indication, there will be a lot of Wiis in heaven!)

St. Vincent de Paul students Hanna and Tommy Duffy visit St. Nicholas during the school's annual Christmas program.



Blanchet's choir performs at the school's Christmas Variety Show.

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.**

Please send information about:

- Remembering Salem Catholic Schools Foundation in my estate, trust or other planned gift
- Making gifts of appreciated securities
- Updating my will to name Salem Catholic Schools Foundation
- Please contact me about how to support Salem Catholic Schools Foundation

Name

Salem Catholic
Schools Foundation
643 Union St. NE
Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301
(503)371-9068

Address

Phone

Parish

I have named the Foundation in my: Will Trust

Life Insurance Estate Plan

I will give prayerful support for the Foundation and our schools.

**Please notify us of any changes
for our mailing list**

- Please correct my address
- Please add my name
- Please remove my name
- Receiving more than one copy
(Send all labels and indicate
which is to be removed)

Name

Address

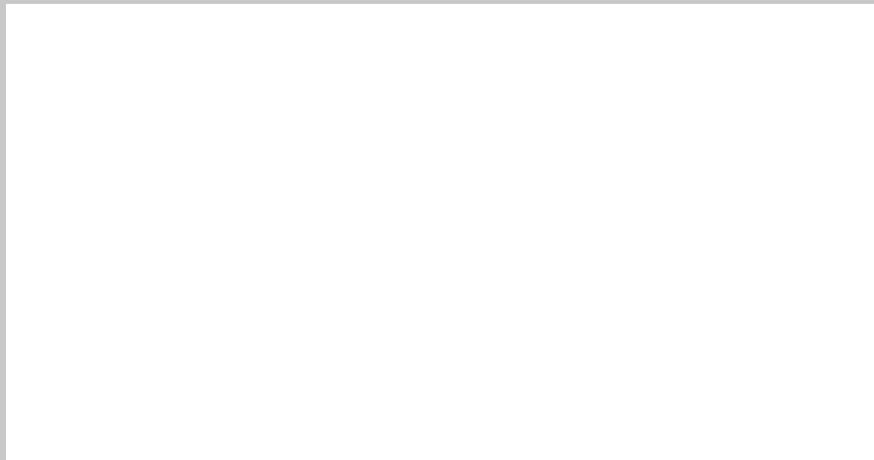
City

State Zip

Salem Catholic Schools Foundation
C/O Blanchet Catholic School
4373 Market St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 783
SALEM OR

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Amadea Baxter and Mariah D'Cruz show off the new reusable forks and spoons that the students are using for lunch. Queen of Peace is stepping up efforts to become a 'green' school.



Blanchet students volunteer with the Salem Police Department Toy Drive.



St. Vincent de Paul School's second through sixth grade students visit The Grotto.



St. Vincent de Paul fifth grader, Hanna Duffy, performs at the Christmas program.