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# Good News

Salem Catholic Schools Foundation

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## Football, Baseball Player Recalls Winning Year for Salem Catholic Sports

**"I'd have to say it was definitely a 'defining' time of my life"**



The year was 1965 and the Serra Catholic football team, led by Coach Alva Brown, was headed to the State Championship for Class A-2. Brown's Sabers were playing Bandon at McCulloch Stadium in Salem. The final score: 19-6. It was the first, and only time, the Serra Catholic football team were state champions. "The football championship in 1965 really just seemed to put us as a school, and as a certain group of players, on the map," said Leo Woods, who played running back, both halfback and fullback, for two years for Serra Catholic.

Just months later, Woods would be part of another championship team, this time for baseball. "It's truly hard to express what an achievement that was," Woods said. "But when you play high school sports, a state championship is that "point" on the top of the pyramid that a relative few ever get to experience. And then to get to do it all over again just a few months later, well, that was 'surreal'." He joined Coach Brown and six other players from the championship football team, to help form the baseball championship team. Woods played varsity baseball all four years at Serra from 1962 to 1966.

The memories are displayed vividly for Woods in a letterman's jacket he still owns. Although it's usually packed away deep in a closet, Woods says when it is pulled out, it's great fun to reflect on some of those very special times and people. "My fondest memories are of some great teammates," Woods said. "I could write a book about the amazingly talented players I had the great good fortune to have as teammates." Woods served as the Letterman's Club President and it was his job to come up with the designs for the patches. He hired an emblem shop in Salem to make them and his mom helped sew them onto his jacket. "Without my Mom, I would have just carried them around in my pocket because sewing was not a personal attribute." **To read more about Leo's defining moment [click here](#)**

## New Artist-in-Residence Conducts First Christmas Program

St. Vincent de Paul School holds Advent/Christmas Showcase

## Queen of Peace Raises Thousands During Annual Fundraiser

Money will help fund school and fine arts program  
Michael Braibish contributed to the story

Not just thousands, but tens of thousands of dollars were raised for

## Blanchet Hires New Principal

A new principal for Blanchet Catholic High will join the administration in January 2014. Brian Heinze has a long resume with 25 years of his career in education. He has taught at Lincoln, Grant, Tigard and Tualatin high schools and has served as vice principal for Lake Oswego High School and principal at both St. Helens High School and Sandy High School. Heinze will replace Tony Guevara who has been acting as both principal and president of Blanchet. Guevara will still continue his role as president when Heinze assumes the new role of principal. We will contact Heinze for a future article on what he hopes to accomplish as the new principal.

## St. Joseph and St. Vincent Prepare for their Annual Auctions

There are still two more annual auctions remaining for the Salem area Catholic schools in the New Year. St. Joseph's 29<sup>th</sup> annual auction will take place on February 1st. The theme for the auction is "Back to the Auction", based off the 1980's movie Back to the Future. The school is still accepting donations. Contact the school office by phone at 503.581.2147 or email at



"Everything we create is a gift." Those are the words Carol Ann Manzi, the new artist-in-residence for Salem-area Catholic schools, has her students repeat daily. "I encourage them to know that their performance would be a 'gift' to all who would come," Manzi said. Manzi arrived in September to take on her new role for the area schools. Her first assignment: working with the students of St. Vincent de Paul School for their Advent/Christmas Showcase on December 13th. The Christmas program was nothing new for the school; it already had a Christmas program on the schedule. "It was decided after several meetings that I would jump in on that and bring my skills to that which would culminate in a performance for all to see," Manzi said.

One might think that a few weeks to prepare for a Christmas program is not a lot of time for one person to get it done. But Manzi did. "It was very hard to pull off a show that was complicated and had a lot of variables to put into place, in such a short time period," Manzi said. "It required the communication, collaboration, coordination and cooperation of many players."

Manzi gives credit to all the teachers, students, volunteers, parents, professional musicians and even non-professional musicians who made the show possible. She also says she could not have accomplished any of the show without the assistance of Janet Romine, the music teacher at St. Vincent de Paul School. Manzi credited Romine with the smooth operation of the program. " **To read more about this wonderful event, click [here](#).**

Queen of Peace during its annual fundraiser. The fundraiser, which included a gala dinner, plus silent and live auctions, made nearly \$55,000 to help fund the school. The fundraiser was held at a new location this year: Illahe Hills Country Club in Salem. "From the moment we first contacted Illahe Hills Country Club we felt like we would be well taken care of and we were," said Jennifer Braibish. Braibish co-chaired the auction with Michelle Unger. "From the event coordinator to the chefs to the servers, we had excellent service with a smile," Braibish said.

In addition to the new location, the evening brought back a new activity that's been absent for seven years: a dance. Steve Williamson, a DJ from Lebanon, Oregon donated his time and sound equipment for the auction and for the dance afterward. "This is the first dance we've had after the auction in seven years, and it was a lot of fun" said Mrs. Braibish. "Our awesome DJ kept the dance floor shaking into the night." **To read more about this successful auction, click [here](#).**



[auction@stjosephchurch.org](mailto:auction@stjosephchurch.org) to purchase tickets or to make a donation.

St. Vincent de Paul's auction will be take place on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the auction is Western. Tickets will be \$10. The school is also seeking donations. Contact the school by phone at 503-363-8457 or by email at [st.vincent@comcast.net](mailto:st.vincent@comcast.net).



#### Salem Catholic Schools Foundation Mission Statement

The mission of the Salem Catholic Schools Foundation is to solicit, receive, and invest gifts to provide a continuing source of funds to support excellence of Catholic education in the greater Salem area.

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