

# HOPEFUL HAPPENINGS



www.TomorrowsHopeFoundation.org

Volume II, Issue I

Today's Children are  
Tomorrow's Hope.



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A gift to Tomorrow's Hope Foundation is a solid investment in the future of Long Island and our children.

Call 516-745-6644 ext. 133 or visit [www.TomorrowsHopeFoundation.org](http://www.TomorrowsHopeFoundation.org)

## *The Good News in Education!*

Dear Friends of Tomorrow's Hope Foundation:

Happy New Year and my sincerest hope that you had a blessed and joyous Christmas.



Kathy Brand  
Executive Director

As we start 2007, I am excited and challenged by the ambitious goals we have set this year to fund scholarships and programming for the Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. I know we can count on your continuing support.

January is also a very exciting month because Catholic Schools Week starts on January 28 and extends through February 3. During this time, all the schools in the diocese will be scheduling open houses to provide families with tours and information.

The theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week is *The Good News in Education*. That certainly applies to the Catholic elementary school system in Rockville Centre.

This special issue of Hopeful Happenings features much of the good news of Catholic grammar school education on Long Island. I hope you will share it with friends and relatives who have children that could benefit from the quality and spiritual grounding that only a Catholic school education can provide.

Together, we can make sure those advantages are made available to as many children as possible. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Brand*

Kathy Brand  
Executive Director

# Discover the Benefits of a Catholic Elementary School Education

By: Ursuline Sister Joanne Callahan

Across the nation, we are preparing to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. In 1987, when Pope John Paul II was visiting in New Orleans, he told the Catholic educators gathered there that “Catholic schools have been a gift to the Church, a gift to the nation.”

In so many ways that has been true of Catholic schools in the past and is still true today.

In 2004, the National Catholic Educational Association celebrated its 100th anniversary. In an address to Catholic educators, President Bush captured well the essence of what makes Catholic schools special. He said: “Catholic schools carry out a great mission, to serve God by building knowledge and character of our young people. It’s a noble calling. It’s an important part of the fabric of America. By teaching the Word of God, you prepare your students to follow a path of virtue and compassion and sacrifice for the rest of their lives. And by insisting on high standards for academic achievement, Catholic schools are a model for all schools around the country...The whole nation benefits



because of the good scholars and good citizens who graduate from Catholic schools.”

Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre follow the New York Learning Standards and Curriculum guidelines as well as Diocesan Curriculum. Our students participate in standardized testing in order to monitor student progress and to provide data for curricular and instructional planning. Students in grades 2-7 take the nationally normed Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and perform above the national average at every grade level. Students in grades 4 and 8 participate in the New York State Education Department testing program in Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies (grades 5 and 8).

Students in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre meet and exceed the state standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics at a higher percentage than do students across New York State. The evidence of learning from standardized testing, teacher-made assessments and classroom observations is used to develop instructional programs that will provide students with skills and knowledge for the 21st century.

We believe that our students need to have a rigorous curriculum in order to

be prepared for living and working in the 21st century. The skills children need today to succeed are far different than when Catholic schools began in this country. Children need to be able to think critically, problem solve, have information and media literacy skills, have interpersonal and multimedia communication skills, be globally aware and self-directed, be able to work with others in teams, and be able to lead in an ethical and moral way. Catholic schools are working with our students to foster and instill these skills while at the same time teaching the faith and providing prayer and liturgical experiences that will help to form and transform their lives. Many of our schools offer before and after school programs as well as enrichment clubs and courses after school for students.

We have so much to be proud of in our Catholic schools. For over 200 years in New York State, Catholic schools have educated leaders who have made a difference in the world. I know that we need to continue to educate the leaders of tomorrow. Come and visit your local Catholic school and see how we educate the whole child – academically, physically, and spiritually.

*Ursuline Sister Joanne Callahan is Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, a position she has held since 1993. Previously, she served as Director of Diocesan Regional School Planning, Director of Teacher Personnel for the Diocesan Education Department, and Principal of St. William the Abbot School in Seaford.*

# Paying for Catholic Elementary Education: Need-Based Scholarships are Available

*The average cost of Diocesan Catholic elementary schools is slightly more than \$3,000 per year. For those with the resources to afford the full tuition, the benefits of a Christ-centered education are well worth the investment.*

But what about those families who want to send their children to Catholic elementary school, but simply don't have the income to pay the full cost of tuition?

That's where Tomorrow's Hope Foundation can help. Last year, the Foundation awarded almost \$1 million to over 600 of the neediest students within the Diocese of Rockville Centre for the 2006/2007 school year. "This year we plan to exceed that total," says Kathy Brand, the Foundation's executive director.

## How to Apply for Assistance

Any family that wishes to apply for a scholarship must complete an application. Applications are available in English and Spanish, and can be obtained at your local school as well as [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org) and [tomorrowshopefoundation.org](http://tomorrowshopefoundation.org).

The application deadline for the 2007/2008 school year is April 1, 2007. Financial aid workshops are being

planned for March 2007 for those families requiring assistance completing the financial aid applications. For schedules and locations, visit [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org) or [tomorrowshopefoundation.org](http://tomorrowshopefoundation.org), or call 516-745-6644 ext. 132.

Each student chosen to receive aid will receive anywhere from \$500 to \$2,000 for the school year.

## How Scholarships are Determined

PSAS, an independent financial aid auditor, which has been used by other Catholic dioceses, will be used to identify those applicants in need of aid and the amount to be provided. PSAS provides a comprehensive service which handles all aspects of the financial aid application and verification process. Designed to serve as a national standard of objective measurement of ability to pay for elementary and secondary education, the PSAS Need Analysis System takes into account the income and assets of the family, the size of the family, age of the parents, the number of children attending tuition charging schools, the state and/or metropolitan area where the family resides, the value of parents' assets, and the number of working parents.

# Catholic Schools Week January 28 – February 3

Contact the local Catholic elementary school in your area for open house schedules or to arrange a meeting. Or visit [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org) for more information.

**Amityville**  
St. Martin of Tours School  
(631) 264-7166

**Baldwin**  
St. Christopher School  
(516) 512-4404

**Bay Shore**  
St. Patrick School  
(631) 665-0569

**Bellmore/Wantagh**  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School  
(516) 785-5709

**\*Brentwood**  
Academy of St. Joseph  
(631) 273-2406

**Center Moriches**  
Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional School  
(631) 878-1033

**Central Islip**  
Our Lady of Providence Regional School  
(631) 234-6324

**Commack**  
Holy Family Regional School  
(631) 543-0202

**Cutchogue**  
Our Lady of Mercy Regional School  
(631) 734-5166

**Deer Park**  
Sts. Cyril & Methodius School  
(631) 667-6229

**East Islip**  
St. Mary School  
(631) 581-4266

**East Northport/Melville/Northport**  
Trinity Regional School  
(631) 261-5130

**East Rockaway**  
St. Raymond School  
(516) 593-9010

**Farmingdale**  
St. John Baptist De LaSalle Regional School  
(516) 694-3610

**Floral Park**  
Our Lady of Victory School  
(516) 352-4466

**Franklin Square**  
St. Catherine of Sienna School  
(516) 437-2733

**\*Freeport**  
The De La Salle School  
(516) 379-8660

**Garden City**  
St. Anne School  
(516) 352-1205

**Garden City**  
St. Joseph School  
(516) 747-2730

**Glen Cove**  
All Saints Regional School  
(516) 676-0762

**Hicksville**  
St. Ignatius Loyola School  
(516) 931-0831

**Hicksville**  
Holy Family School  
(516) 938-3881

**Hicksville**  
Our Lady of Mercy School  
(516) 433-7040

**Huntington**  
St. Patrick School  
(631) 385-3311

**Lindenhurst**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School  
(631) 226-0208

**Long Beach**  
Long Beach Catholic Regional School  
(516) 432-8900

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## Elementary School Fast Facts

Diocese of Rockville Centre

- 53 parish and regional elementary schools.
- 5 independent elementary schools.
- 22,095 students in 2006.
- More than 90% of Catholic elementary school graduates go on to one of the 11 Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, and 99% of the graduates from those high schools go on to college.

# FOUNDATION BRIEFS

**Lynbrook**

Our Lady of Peace School  
(516) 593-4884

**Malverne**

Our Lady of Lourdes School  
(516) 599-7328

**Manhasset**

St. Mary Elementary School  
(516) 627-0184

**\*Manhasset**

Our Lady of Grace School  
(516) 365-9832

**Massapequa**

St. Rose of Lima School  
(516) 541-1546

**Massapequa Park**

Our Lady of Lourdes School  
(516) 798-7926

**Mineola**

Corpus Christi School  
(516) 746-2966

**New Hyde Park**

Notre Dame School  
(516) 354-5618

**North Merrick**

Sacred Heart School  
(516) 378-5797

**\*Old Westbury**

Holy Child Academy  
(516) 626-9300

**Oyster Bay**

St. Dominic School  
(516) 922-4233

**Patchogue**

Holy Angels Regional School  
(631) 475-0422

**Port Jefferson**

Our Lady of Wisdom Regional School  
(631) 473-1211

**Port Washington**

St. Peter of Alcantara School  
(516) 944-3772

**Riverhead**

St. Isidore School  
(631) 727-1650

**Rockville Centre**

St. Agnes Cathedral School  
(516) 678-5550

**Ronkonkoma**

St. Joseph School  
(631) 588-4760

**Sag Harbor/East Hampton**

Stella Maris Regional School  
(631) 725-2525

**Saint James**

Sts. Philip & James School  
(631) 584-7896

**Sayville**

Prince of Peace Regional School  
(631) 589-3426

**Seaford**

St. William the Abbot School  
(516) 785-6784

**Seaford**

Maria Regina School  
(516) 541-1229

**Smithtown**

St. Patrick School  
(631) 724-0285

**Southampton/Hampton Bays**

Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional School  
(631) 283-9140

**Syosset**

St. Edward the Confessor School  
(516) 921-7767

**\*Uniondale**

St. Martin De Porres Marianist School  
(516) 481-3303

**Valley Stream**

Holy Name of Mary School  
(516) 825-4009

**Valley Stream**

Blessed Sacrament School  
(516) 825-7334

**West Hempstead**

St. Thomas the Apostle School  
(516) 481-9310

**West Islip**

Our Lady of Lourdes School  
(631) 587-7200

**Westbury**

St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School  
(516) 333-0580

**Williston Park**

St. Aidan School  
(516) 746-6585

\*Private Schools

## Tomorrow's Hope Foundation Honored by the Urban League of Long Island



The Urban League of Long Island recognized Tomorrow's Hope Foundation at their 34th Annual Long Island Equal Opportunity Day Luncheon last

November. The award was presented for the Foundation's work to explore diversity issues and provide tuition assistance for Catholic education. "Tomorrow's Hope Foundation is an extraordinary organization of caring individuals who have set unprecedented goals in helping children and their families across Long Island," said Theresa Sanders, President and CEO of the Urban League of Long Island. Tomorrow's Hope Foundation Executive Director, Kathy Brand, is shown accepting the award.

## Foundation Golf Outing Raises \$130,000



Tomorrow's Hope Foundation held its first annual golf outing event last September 25 at the Meadow Brook

Club in Jericho. The tournament and cocktail hour following were sold out and raised \$130,000 for Catholic elementary education. "This was a fantastic day of golf for a fantastic organization," said Morey Danon, SVP of Signature Bank, the outing's tournament sponsor. Pictured are Peter Amoruso, Michael Puntillo, Paul Amoruso and Chris Suozzi, winners of the Overall Champion Low Gross and Low Net combined.

## Tomorrow's Hope Foundation Teams up with Local Schools for Fall Bike-A-Thon



(Pictured, L to R): Ursuline Sister Joanne Callahan, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Rockville Centre; Kathy Brand, Executive Director, Tomorrow's Hope Foundation; Kevin Coleman, K of C District Deputies Chairman; Joseph Marchia, K of C Nassau Division Chairman; Colleen Colasacco and Mary Ryan Gonzalez, Bike-A-Thon Chairs and Tomorrow's Hope Foundation Board Members.

The first annual "Laps for Learning" Bike-A-Thon was held at Cedar Creek County Park on October 21. The event raised more than \$20,000, with half of the proceeds going directly to participating schools, and the balance being used to support Tomorrow's Hope Foundation initiatives such as technology and curriculum programs.

Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus, KeySpan, Lessings, the Wantagh Fire Department, Catholic Health Services and all the schools and individuals who participated for making our first Bike-A-Thon an outstanding success.

## 2007 Foundation Gala

Hold the date for this year's gala: May 4, 2007, honoring Michael Pascucci, TV55.

# School Notes

## St. Mary School in East Islip Accepts Rachel's Challenge



*St. Mary's middle school students attended an assembly entitled: "Rachel's Challenge" based on the life of Rachel Scott who lost her life in 1999 at the Columbine High School massacre. Rachel's Challenge is a program that is designed to inspire, instruct and enable students to bring positive change to their school.*

Students from St. Mary's learned that Rachel was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. They learned that her acts of kindness, along with her six diaries, have become the foundation for one of the most challenging school programs in the country. The students were motivated during a powerful

presentation to bring about positive change in the way we treat others. Adult and student leaders were the recipients of a training session to ensure that the positive impact will continue.

Rachel Scott was a remarkable young girl who believed her life would have impact on the world, and it does. St. Mary's student council has posted a bulletin board in the school lobby with the "I Accept Rachel's Challenge" promises. The promises read:

- Eliminate prejudice by looking for the best in others.
- Dare to dream - set goals - keep a journal.
- Choose your influences - input determines output.
- Kind words - small acts of kindness=HUGE impact.
- Start a chain reaction with family and friends.

## Focus on Technology: St. William the Abbot School



St. William the Abbot's technology vision is a comprehensive one. Students from kindergarten through eighth grade use technology every day in the lab, the library and their classrooms to enhance their learning experience. Instruction ranges from computer-based lessons,

where students sharpen their skills, to using MS Office Suite.

This past year, the school embarked on a new program to raise money for a new technology center. Using the theme Race for Education, students, faculty and parents participated in a day of walking around the school and successfully raised \$60,000. The money was used to purchase 37 new IBM flat panel computers and additional data wiring to accommodate 3 machines per classroom.

The school's junior high math program is enhanced with a SMART Board

and projector system transforming everyday math into a dynamic, learning environment engaging students in geometry, graphing and streaming math videos. Interactive PowerPoint presentations that correlate with New York State Curriculum and Standards peak the interest of students to learn and master mathematical concepts.

The school's goal is to continue to expand its technology program, seamlessly integrating technology into the lives of students and preparing them for the technological world they live in.

# School Notes

## Stella Maris Regional School



*With the motto “We Educate the Whole Child,” Stella Maris Regional School in Sag Harbor provides a curriculum designed to enable students to discover the gift God has placed within them. Each student is encouraged to be a steward of that gift, by diligent studying and participation in enrichment classes, wellness activities, and community service projects.*

Stella Maris, Latin for Star of the Sea, is the easternmost Catholic elementary school in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, serving five parishes: St. Therese (Montauk), Most Holy Trinity (East Hampton), St. Andrew’s (Sag Harbor), Queen of the Most Holy Rosary (Bridgehampton), and Our Lady of the Isle (Shelter Island.) As a regional school, it was created in 1992 by the merger of St. Andrew’s and Most Holy Trinity schools.

Mrs. Jane FitzGerald Peters, Principal, served at both St. Andrew’s and Stella Maris as Nursery and Art teacher for twenty years. She speaks with passion about the programs at her school and the vision for its future. “Our academics, in keeping with Catholic school tradition,

are created from a solid core curriculum in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Additionally, we have an emphasis on Foreign Language, the Arts, Technology, Physical Education, and stewardship of our world. All of this, of course, guided by an atmosphere of prayerfulness, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.”

The school’s Foreign Language Laboratory has recently been renovated to include 18 iPod stations, where students can study up to 26 languages using interactive software. The Language Immersion Program for Nursery, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten has been extremely successful, with children now using whole phrases to communicate in Spanish.

Middle School students currently study Spanish, Latin, French, Italian, and Sign Language. “Foreign Language is a critical component of preparation for our students’ futures in this ever-shrinking world,” says Mrs. Peters. “As adults, our children will need to communicate in other languages. The earlier a language is introduced, the easier it will be to achieve fluency.”

The Music and Fine Arts Program has been expanded to include a Music Lab, housing keyboards and Gibson guitars. Beginning in Pre-Kindergarten, children are taught to recognize notes. Piano instruction begins in grade one. Says Mrs. Peters, “It is my dream that every Stella Maris graduate would be as comfortable inside a musical score as he or she would be inside a great book.” Recent all-school musical productions have included: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Bye-Bye Birdie*. Auditions are underway for *Annie*.

When the school’s Computer Lab went mobile last year, technology moved with ease into the classrooms where students now use iBooks as part of their studies. Along with research capability, the iBooks allow for student creation and direction of web-based presentations, photo and digital video productions, and music composition.

Renovation of the school’s gymnasium has also begun, with the installation of Sport Court flooring. This has helped to expand Physical Education and Sports programs which now include five basketball teams, gymnastics, yoga, ballet, cross-country, volleyball, softball/baseball, Irish Step Dancing,

# School Notes

and off-site beginning, intermediate, and competitive swimming.

In keeping with its mission to educate good stewards of God's creation, Stella Maris has begun a new project combining educational opportunity, environmental awareness, and financial savings. Christened "Go Solar!" and spearheaded by Chris Hall, School



Board member and parent of two students, the project goal is to place solar panels on the gymnasium roof, designed to reduce electric consumption by 50% annually. Educationally, the students will study the scientific aspects of how the panels function, the history of oil production, and the problems oil consumption poses to our planet.



## Our Lady of Perpetual Help School Peer Mentoring Program

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help School is proud of its new Peer Mentoring Program. The program is run entirely by seventh and eighth grade volunteers dedicated to the academic advancement of their first, second and third grade schoolmates.*

Volunteers mentor younger students in reading and math. Younger students get the benefit of one-on-one mentoring, while the teenaged mentors realize that they are a valuable resource to our community, and are fulfilling the fundamental Christian principle of sharing one's time and talent.

Teachers Maureen Rossi and Janine Connolly moderate the program which runs every Wednesday. "Perhaps the greatest joy of watching this program in action is seeing how caring and dedicated these teenagers are towards the young ones. It is great to see how important and valued they feel, and all the students are thriving because of it," says Maureen. Janine adds, "it's a great opportunity to see the kids helping one another and to feel that they are making a difference in their school."

## Nursery Teacher Honored at St. Ignatius Loyola School in Hicksville



Congratulations to Louise Jane Krol, the nursery class teacher at St. Ignatius Loyola School in Hicksville. Mrs. Krol, a longtime resident of Oceanside, is the New York State winner of the Story Reader International Award.

Story Reader International honored 50 pre-school teachers throughout the

United States for their outstanding performance and dedication to early childhood education. They are the gatekeepers to the educational experience of today's children and deserve to be recognized for their role in our children's development.

# School Notes

## Catholic Middle School Athletic Association

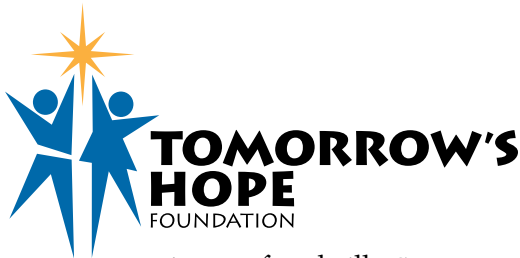
*The Catholic Middle School Athletic Association (CMSAA) of Suffolk, with fourteen member schools, is now in its fourth year of providing “middle school” aged children, in the 6th through 8th grades, with an opportunity to compete in a myriad of athletic competitions.*

In the recently completed Fall season, almost 400 students from eleven schools across Suffolk participated in either soccer or cross-country. Beginning in early December, the CMSAA moved on to its basketball season. Thirteen schools in Suffolk entered 36 teams, comprised of over four hundred and fifty students,

into competition in various divisions of play. Basketball season continues into early March. In the spring, baseball and softball will take over.

“Little League, CYO, or club soccer all have their place, and are very good at the special things they do. But playing sports with your classmates, for your school, brings a different level of satisfaction,” says John E. Kennedy, CMSAA President.

Similarly, there are numerous Catholic schools in Nassau County that compete in middle school sports.



Diocese of Rockville Centre  
P.O. Box 9023  
Rockville Centre, NY 11571