

# School Notes

## St. Edward the Confessor Expands After School Program



For some students, the dismissal bell signals the end of the school day. For students at St. Edward the Confessor School in Syosset, the fun is just beginning. After school activities include dance, twirling, drama, newspaper, Brownies, Girl Scouts, cooking, art, computer, chess, sports skills, tennis, cheerleading, volleyball and basketball.

During the past three years, the number of extracurricular offerings at the school has more than doubled. "These activities are very important in educating the whole child. Our students are given the opportunity to socialize with other students in a safe, Christian environment, while learning skills that they won't learn in a classroom," said Mrs. Anne Schaefer, Principal.

Best of all, the extracurricular activities have added school spirit and a sense of community for participants and nonparticipants alike. Recently, the seventh grade Girl Scouts troop, along with dedicated parent leaders, prepared and served dinner during the parish celebration of "World Day of Consecrated Life."

Scenery for the annual drama show is created by members of the art club. The student newspaper is inserted into the church bulletin to keep parishioners informed about the school. Members of the cooking club demonstrate their culinary skills at an annual dinner for their parents.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm and energy here after school. Whether it's twirlers practicing, young tennis players learning a new sport, or *The Monarch Players* getting ready for their spring production of 'The Music Man,' our gym is used everyday," said Mrs. Schaefer.

Expansion of the school's extracurricular offerings reflects a

concerted effort by administration, faculty and the School Board. It's an ongoing process that includes determining student interest.

Extracurricular activities have also been a key element in retaining students and attracting new ones. "People seem to know that our Catholic schools offer an excellent, faith-based academic education.

"When we tell prospective students and parents about our extracurricular offerings, their eyes light up and they are so pleased," said Mrs. Schaefer.

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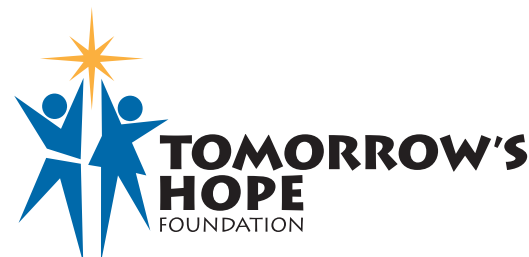
## Holy Angels Regional School Goes Global



In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, our world and our country are changing at a pace that is astounding to say the least. Technology is ever advancing and has made the countries of the globe more inter-connected and inter-dependent than ever before. Students today must be given real-world skills to cope in an environment that is vastly different from the one their parents grew up in. Teachers at Holy Angels Regional School in Patchogue are meeting this challenge by incorporating up-to-date computer technology into the curriculum and having students use it to bring the world closer to them.

The eighth grade is currently working on a project which capitalizes on both their technology skills and their foreign language skills to learn about Spanish speaking countries and present what they have learned to their class. They are using research skills – traditional as well as Internet – to obtain information about the geographic, political, and cultural aspects of their assigned countries. Each student will then use PowerPoint and a SMART board to deliver a live presentation.

Today, with the world just a mouse-click away, students must be able not only to find information, but to sort through it, evaluate it, and present it in a way that is useful to them and others. Additionally, our shrinking world demands that students learn to appreciate and embrace other people's cultures. At Holy Angels Regional School, the eighth grade students are headed in the right direction.



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

## The Mission

*of Tomorrow's Hope Foundation is to ensure the excellence as well as the continuance of Catholic schools on Long Island, by increasing awareness and by providing scholarships and program funding for the needs of students and schools.*



Volume II, Issue II

## Building Bridges

Dear Friends of Tomorrow's Hope Foundation:

Spring is both an exciting and challenging time for Tomorrow's Hope.



Kathy Brand  
Executive Director

By the end of April, applications for new scholarships will be processed and we will have specific financial targets for the 2007/2008 school year. One thing is already certain. With each new year of the Foundation's operation, the need for scholarship funding will grow as more students receive financial support and continue their education through higher grades.

Spring is also when we hold our main fundraising event. On May 4, we will be holding our Second Annual *Stars for Students* Gala honoring Michael Pascucci, Chairman of WLN TV, along with leading elementary school educators, parents and benefactors from throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre. I thank you in advance for your generous support of scholarships for Catholic elementary school education on Long Island.

For those of you considering a Catholic education for your children, there is much to celebrate in our Catholic school system. Hundreds of families across the Island visited our 58 elementary schools during Catholic Schools Week (January 28 – February 3) to learn firsthand about *The Good News in Education*. If your children will be starting school next September, or moving on to middle school, now is the perfect time to explore the many benefits of a Catholic education.

If you didn't have the opportunity to visit during Catholic Schools Week, I encourage you to contact your local Catholic school now and schedule a private meeting. The staff will be pleased to give you a tour and answer your questions.

Whether you are a financial supporter of the Foundation or a parent who simply wants the best for your child, it strikes me that we share a common purpose. As Will Allen Dromgoole expresses so beautifully in his poem on page 2, we are all committed to building bridges for the next generation.

Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Brand*

Kathy Brand, Executive Director

## Today's Children are Tomorrow's Hope



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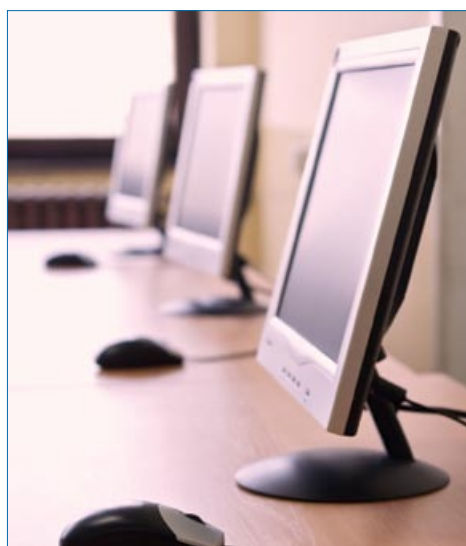
A gift to Tomorrow's Hope Foundation is a solid investment in the future of Long Island and our children.

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

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# Preparing Today's Teachers with Tomorrow's Technology

If you've read previous issues of Hopeful Happenings, you've probably noticed that both the Diocese of Rockville Centre and individual schools have made a significant commitment to technology (see Volume I, Issue I, Diocese Adopts a Student Information System, and Volume II, Issue I, Focus on Technology: St. William the Abbot School).



the Association of Suffolk County Supervisors for Educational Technologies, included sessions on:

- The Classroom of the Future
- Using eBoards to Conduct Literacy Conversations
- Video Podcasting
- Virtual Field Trips
- Online Tools to Take Your Classroom Global

"Participating teachers will bring newly acquired knowledge back to their schools and share their experiences through written reports and faculty presentations," according to Winchester.

Winchester also pointed out that his committee is keenly aware of the safety issues surrounding Internet usage. As a result, a comprehensive, train-the-trainer program is being provided to every diocesan elementary school through iSafe, the leading Internet safety education provider in the United States. Topics include Cyber Predators, Cyber Bullying, Social Networking, Online Personal Safety, Privacy and Identity Theft.

Other initiatives being sponsored by the Foundation's technology grant include Distance Learning training through Suffolk Community College, technology staffing, and implementation of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Model Schools Program in diocesan schools.

Initially, 168 teachers were sent to the 9th annual ASSET Technology Conference on March 19. The conference, which is sponsored by

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### Saint Mary's Manhasset Appoints Athletic Director



Saint Mary's Elementary School in Manhasset has appointed Debbie Meyer as its first Athletic Director. A resident of Plandome, Debbie is known for many things; mother, athlete, platform tennis star and alumna of both St. Mary's Elementary and St. Mary's College Preparatory High School. But more than anything else, Meyer sees herself as a teacher who helps shape young minds.

"I'm delighted to be back with the Saint Mary's Elementary School faculty," said Meyer. "My four daughters had the Saint Mary's experience from Nursery through Twelfth Grade while I served on School Boards, ran fundraisers and was Treasurer of the Parent Council. The Manhasset campus is like home to me, a home with outstanding technology and athletic facilities of course."



Meyer will oversee all athletic programs for Saint Mary's Elementary School, which boasts an impressive new gymnasium and the recently refurbished Denihan Field, with state-of-the-art turf on which Grades 6, 7 and 8 of the Elementary School will begin spring sports shortly. Interscholastic junior high teams are now competing for St. Mary's Elementary School in boys and girls soccer, volleyball, basketball, lacrosse, softball, and baseball.

"You never stop doing what you're doing if you're happy," said Meyer. "For me, it's sports. Now that I can't be that active anymore in playing or coaching, I branched out to organizing and get this sports program up and running. Seeing the kids enjoying it is very exciting for a St. Mary's graduate."

"Debbie re-joins St Mary's Elementary School at an exciting time in our 80-year history," said school Principal Celeste M. Checchia, PhD. "A versatile and talented athletic coach, she brings experience, energy and leadership to our young athletes. We are looking forward to a terrific season."

## School Notes

### St. Aidan School: Models of Faith



St. Aidan School in Williston Park has developed a unique way to combine religious instruction and technology. The project, Models of Faith, requires students in the 6th grade to conduct an interview with someone they consider to be a Model of Faith in their lives. Students then create a PowerPoint presentation on their model of faith (aunt, uncle, neighbor, grandparent, parent, etc.) incorporating images and information from their interview. When the creation of the PowerPoint is completed, each student presents their Model of Faith to the entire class.

### Prince of Peace Students on the Cutting Edge



Seventh and eighth grade technology students from Prince of Peace Regional School in Sayville made a recent presentation to the Long Island Woodworkers' Club in Smithtown. Their presentation was the culmination of an integrated technology project incorporating computer research, artistic design, language arts, and woodworking

skills. Through the coordinated efforts of Mrs. Judith Glancy, the school's technology teacher and Long Island Woodworkers' Club members headed by Club President Mike Daum, students designed and crafted their own dovetail boxes.

Students first researched the history of dovetail joinery, learning that the

joining technique involves a series of pins cut to extend from one end of a board to interlock with a series of tails cut into the end of another board. Fans of the TV show "Antique Road Show" would be familiar with this woodworking technique that dates back to the Middle Ages. Dovetailing requires patience and a high degree of accuracy to ensure a snug fit.

Once their masterpieces were complete, students were required to compose essays documenting their experience. Mr. Daum reviewed

*Dovetailing requires patience and a high degree of accuracy to ensure a snug fit.*

each essay and was so impressed that he invited the students to share their finished boxes and essays at the next Long Island Woodworkers' Club meeting. The night of the presentation, students were surprised to learn that they had mastered a skill some club members had not yet even attempted.

### Academy of Inquiry at Stony Brook

Eighth graders at three Catholic schools participated last fall in an advanced science research program with mentors from Stony Brook University Medical School. Students from Sts. Cyril and Methodius School in Deer Park, St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope School in Westbury, and Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Islip, conducted research on a variety of topics such as "School Bacterial Contamination," "The Use of Video Games in Surgical Training," and "Post-Manifestations of Strep Throat." Students visited the medical school several times to work with their mentors, and presented their research projects to evaluation panels in January.

Now in its fifth year, the Academy of Inquiry Program was developed by Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, Principal of Sts. Cyril and Methodius School, and Rev. Mike Vetrano, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, and an instructor at the medical school. The program pairs academically talented middle school students with medical school mentors.

Shown below are Francesca Kraft and Julianna Lombardi, of Sts. Cyril and Methodius School, at Stony Brook Medical School Library with mentor Aleyfiah Faizullaboy.

