



ST. PETRONILLE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

WINTER 2010



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends of St. Petronille School,

We hope this edition of the St. Petronille Alumni Newsletter reminds you of the good times shared at St. Pet's and the value of a Catholic education. We have some great stories to tell you about our alums, current students and featured faculty. Read about upcoming events and our endowment fund (LIFE). Take a look at a few things you might not know:

- Full enrollment is at 549 students and steady.
- In the last seven years, 250+ students have excelled in the State and Regional Science Olympiad competitions.
- St. Pet's students continue to win and place in regional math competitions.
- In the last 14 years, 600+ students have found a friend in Shakespeare.
- In the last five years, over 100 students have found their passion for Chess.
- In the last several years, every student has participated in the K-8 Service Program.
- Each year our graduates are awarded thousands of dollars in scholarship money.
- And for 84 years, Jesus is still the reason for your alma mater.

Why not come back for a visit? We'd love to see you!

Mary Kelly

Dr. Mary Kelly

God Directed Us Here: The Story of the Rizzo Family *by Lisa (Doyle) Hohe*

All of us have an inner compass that directs us to make decisions as we travel through life. Some of us trust in God to direct us on the path that He feels is best for us. The Rizzo Family, a parish family for over 40 years, let God direct them to St. Petronille Parish back in 1969.

In 1956, John and Marie Rizzo married and started their family of seven. Both were raised in Chicago, and they continued to do the same with their children. Having a strong Catholic upbringing, all the Rizzo kids attended Catholic school in the city. Meanwhile, family friends encouraged John and Marie to come look at a home in Glen Ellyn. The next thing they knew, they bought that home and settled here.



Marie Rizzo with her seven children.

The Rizzo children, Kathy, Karen, Mary, John, Billy, Linda and Bobby, ranged in ages that took them from 8th grade down to kindergarten. After visiting St. Petronille Parish, the decision was made...the kids were enrolled immediately. John and Marie, as well as the kids, became very active in all aspects of the parish community. ➔

A Gift of LIFE

by Rita Hatfield

...I have a dream, that no child be denied a Catholic education because of the inability to pay...

The story of the LIFE Fund (Lifetime Investment in Faith and Education) is closely tied to the 1983 dreams of 100 St. Petronille parishioners. Joe Owens, a member of the St. Petronille community since 1953, told me their story. Joe and his wife, Ethel, have 4 children, Joe, Mary Elizabeth, Mary Margaret and Sarah, who all attended St. Petronille School. ➔

Someone You Need To Know

by Carolyn (Elbrecht) Conklin

Miss Marianne Layden, one of our current 6th grade teachers, has been teaching in the Joliet diocese for 37 years and at St. Petronille for the past 25 years.

Miss Layden grew up in Naperville and was one of seven children, one of which was her twin brother. She went to school at St. Peter and Paul, Sacred Heart Academy in Lisle and Mundelein College, where she minored in education and majored in history. She also attended Northern Illinois University where she earned her Masters in Science Education. ➔

The Rizzo Family Story

...continued from pg. 1

During their years at St. Petronille School, the Rizzo Family cherished the special teachers that taught and the terrific experiences of participating in sports and extracurricular activities. They also valued the presence of Jesus in everything that embodied the community. John was an ever present coach on the basketball court who encouraged every child he coached. Marie connected with and shared many experiences with other St. Petronille School families that were raising their children along with her.

I was blessed to be able to spend some time with Marie to learn more about the road she traveled to get to here. She said that her family's experiences at St. Petronille have truly been beautiful! Each of her children has very fond memories from their days at St. Pet's School.

Marie said that she and John chose St. Pet's for their kids because it embodies the true feelings that a Catholic education gives to children. She feels that the environment of a Catholic school gives children the confidence and true belief that God is directing them in all they do. To this day, Marie is an active member in the parish as well as friends with many of the families that she raised her children alongside of...not that long ago.

Some of the Rizzo children continue that Catholic direction by teaching, coaching, refereeing and raising their own children throughout the Catholic school communities. Today, Marie is the proud grandmother of seven girls and seven boys.

Looking at the Rizzo family picture, you can tell that they are indeed blessed. The smiles that I remember seeing on their faces growing up are still there. The gift of their Catholic faith is an integral part of who each of them has become. I believe that is because, like their Dad said and as their Mom believed, "God directed us here!" and they followed that compass! 📍

STUDENT FOCUS...THE TRADITION CONTINUES WITH THE CHILDREN OF FORMER STUDENTS



Benkert (Carlevato), Bertrand (D'Alessio), Boyzch (Heroux), Buchnat (Kincaid), Burelbach, Carroll, Condon (Keating), Conklin (Elbrecht), Connors, Hohe (Doyle), Karen Keating, Michael Keating, Markby (Foley), Michael Mazza, Thomas Mazza, Monahan (Victor), Murphy, Noland, Oberhofer (McMahon), Repking (Kelleher), Rohrer (Ralston), Sakach, Saunders (Mazza), Scruggs, Sweeney.



Current Kindergartners (Class of 2018): Bryn Carroll, Evan Condon, Anna Benkert, Patrick Hohe and Maeve Repking (not pictured).

A Gift of LIFE

...continued from pg. 1

In 1983, the Owens were one of 100 families who were asked to contribute \$100 each to a tuition assistance fund as part of a program called "The 100 Club." The program was a huge success. In March of 1986, the parish pastor, Father William Cullen, the school board president, future Circuit Court Judge Robert E. Byrne, and Bishop Joseph L. Imesch entered into a written trust agreement which created a trust endowment fund for the general educational purposes of the school.

Today, the 100 Club lives on as St. Petronille's Annual Appeal for LIFE. The appeal first provides tuition assistance to families in need with the remaining funds being transferred into the endowment fund. The earnings from this fund are used to support school needs. **A gift to LIFE is a gift that keeps giving.**

Growing up as one of ten children, Joe Owens understands the importance of sacrifice and giving-back. He stated, "I knew that my Irish immigrant parents helped build their parish church and school on the south side of Chicago and that it was my duty to do the same thing in my parish in Glen Ellyn...I know, also, that if our Catholic heritage is to survive, it will more surely survive through Catholic school education." There are many kinds of dreams. The dreams and generosity of past and present St. Petronille parishioners continue to provide funds to help educate St. Petronille students in a faith-filled environment. 📍

Someone You Need To Know

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Her approach to teaching is to be honest and fair to all students. Miss Layden sets high expectations for her students, and she teaches them traits to be successful and have pride in themselves. As an educator, she has utilized different



Marianne Layden

approaches to reach the various learning styles of students. Technological advances, such as computers and the Smartboard, have truly become effective tools that Miss Layden uses to enhance her teaching.

Most of you might know that Miss Layden is a HUGE Cubs fan! Yet, her true passion is golf. She also enjoys gardening and reading. In high school and college, Miss Layden was an editor of her school yearbooks. She continues to share her gift by capturing most school events with her camera and putting together the yearbook year after year.

Miss Layden believes in the value of a Catholic Education and its religious based curriculum. She appreciates the wonderful community effort and the involvement of the parents. Miss Layden has captured so many memories for St. Petronille School and has created countless ones for her students and colleagues. We are fortunate to have her calm demeanor, teaching expertise and other gifts bless our school and parish community! 📍



FEATURED ALUM



Suzy Treis Shogren '78

I have very fond memories and lifelong friendships from my days as a Charger. I was in 5th grade (June of 1975) when my father died of pancreatic cancer. The parish members embraced our family and supported my mother and four siblings in countless ways throughout our years in Glen Ellyn.

The current Treis/Aird Memorial Basketball Tournament, which takes place each fall at St. Pet's, was started after my father's passing, in his honor. He was a basketball coach for the boys' team and believed that through sports one can teach a young person to be a Christian in action and in word. My father believed that each child was special and often reminded the young boys he coached to prioritize their faith life. He taught moral, ethical and character development as passionately as he taught a cross-over dribble or left handed lay-up.

My family and I are eternally grateful for the outpouring of love and support we received so many years ago that still continues today! I currently reside in Geneva, Illinois and am married to John Shogren, who also grew up in Glen Ellyn. We have three daughters: Kelly (18), Kristi (15) and Ashley (12).

I'm so thankful that my parents gave me this incredible Catholic education experience. My upbringing in the St. Petronille Community was a true blessing, and I am proud to say...I was and will always be a Charger!

'70s

Billy Rizzo, Class of 1976

After St. Pet's, I graduated from Glenbard West and then North Central College.

- I am married to Catie (a St. Pet's RCIA alum) and have two children, Nick and Allie.
- I am presently the Director of Operations for Genesis Packaging and Design.

Linda Rizzo Ferguson, Class of 1977

After St. Pet's, I graduated from Glenbard West and then from Eastern Illinois University.

- I have three children: Kyle (15), Lindsay (14) and Zachary (10).
- I currently run my own home daycare business.
- My favorite teacher from my years at St. Pet's was dear Miss Soukup!

Judy (Franke) Miltner, Class of 1978

After graduating from Western Illinois University, I landed a job in sales and marketing.

- I have many blessings in my life! Four to name a few: Michael (15), Maggie (13), Tommy (10) and Delainey (8) as well as a wonderful husband, Dennis, of 19 years.
- One of the greatest gifts in my life is that of my wonderful Charger girlfriends who continue to be like sisters to me.
- I am currently Director of Sales and Marketing at Wyndmere Senior Living Campus in Wheaton.

'80s

Jennifer (Carlevato) Benkert, Class of 1986

After graduating from Iowa State University, I taught 5th and 6th grades in Buffalo Grove and Glen Ellyn.

- I currently reside in Glen Ellyn with my husband Andy and our three children: Jack (8), Anna (6) and Mary (3).
- I earned a Masters in Curriculum and Supervision at Northern Illinois University.
- I am involved with the Parent Organization at St. Petronille School.

'90s

Matt Tansley, Class of 1998

This past May, I received a Masters of Urban Planning Degree from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

The New Millenium

Shelly Tansley, Class of 2001

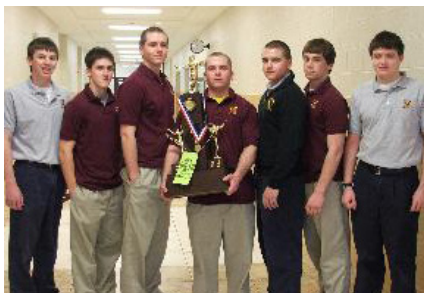
I graduated from Western Michigan this past June.

- I recently returned from Australia and had an incredible experience, especially skydiving.
- I am grateful for my influential nine years at St. Petronille School.



Shelly Tansley

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP



The Montini Broncos defeated Joliet Catholic 29-28 for the Illinois 5A State Football Championship. Congratulations to St. Petronille alums Mitch Hoem (2008); Jake Stevenson (2007); Ben (2007), Rob (2006) and Brian (2008) Piper; Kevin Hoem (2006); and Luke Stephens (2009).



The Glenbard West Hitters finished the post season as State runner-ups at the 7A level and earned a school record for wins in a single season going 13-1. Congratulations to St. Petronille alums Nick Burrello (2007) - pictured, Connor Loftus (2006), Jake Meyer (2006), Tommy Nalon (2006) and Tommy Schutt (2008).



Congratulations to Joe Pfeiffer, Mark Roberts, Michael Kiser and Ben Graunke (Class of 2006) who were on the 2009 St. Francis Homecoming Court.



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Winter 2010



FACULTY

PASTOR

Fr. Jim Dougherty

PRINCIPAL

Dr. Mary Kelly

ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Dan Stevenson (Co-Chair)

Bob Hohe (Co-Chair)

Carolyn (Elbrecht) Conklin '76

Rita Hatfield

Lisa (Doyle) Hohe '78

Sue Imburgia

Thomas Lowery '01
(The Maude Group consultant)

CO-P.O. PRESIDENTS

Lori Gapinski

Brenda Rindler

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Rita Hatfield

AUCTION CO-CHAIRS

Beth Atkinson

Carrie Russell

SAVE THE DATE

March 13, 2010

April 24, 2010

May 10 and May 11, 2010

May 28, 2010

October 15, 2010

Auction

First Communion

Confirmation

Graduation

Grandparents' Day

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

St. Petronille School's website is:
www.stpetschool.org

The website features:

- Academic profile and programs
- Alumni news (Please send us any information about upcoming reunions being planned.)
- Athletic news
- Calendar of current events
- Contact page
- Teacher home pages with curriculum

FINE ARTS 2010 SCHEDULE

May 2010 All School Musical

Now in its fifth year, the students have a musical opportunity as special as the school itself: a fully-staged, professionally directed musical.

This year's production is Seussical Jr. The team from Stacey Dee & Company is teaching students stagecraft and music, not to mention teamwork, respect and self-esteem.



Friday, May 7th – 7:30 PM

Saturday, May 8th – 7:30 PM

Friday, May 14th – 7:30 PM

Saturday, May 15th – 2 PM matinee and 7:30 PM

For tickets to the All School Musical, visit stpetschool.org and e-mail us!

June 2010 Jesse White Tumblers

IN MEMORIAM

This newsletter is in loving memory of a dedicated teacher assistant, Amy Allen, who recently passed away. Mrs. Allen will be missed by all.

UPCOMING ISSUES

- WANTED: EMAIL ADDRESSES FROM ALL ALUMNI
- Someone You Should Know
- Future Reunions

INFORMATION REPLY

Detach and mail this form to St. Petronille School, 425 Prospect Ave., Suite 100, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Name: _____

Address (street, city, state): _____

Graduating Class: _____ Interesting facts about yourself to be included in future editions: _____

Yes, please contact me to become involved in the Alumni Association.