



Dear School Parents.

With the holiday season behind us, this is an ideal time to take a moment to reflect upon our accomplishments thus far. It's also a good time to look ahead to what we have yet to achieve this school year. There is no doubt that this is a challenging time for many of us, and we would like to thank you all for your continued support, commitment, and dedication to our children, staff, and school. Please take a moment to read through this report, and contact us with any questions or comments you may have.

On behalf of the Parents' Guild Executive Board, we would like to wish all of our school families the very best in 2009!

Eileen A. Kyriacou
Clare W. Farmar

EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

FALL FAMILY PICNIC

The Fall Family Picnic was a lot of fun, thanks to 3rd-grade Class Parents Dorothy Strnad and Martina Patterson. More than 50 families showed up to enjoy the music and food. We may be looking for a different venue for this fall, due to the waterfront construction in Tarrytown.

HERITAGE DAY AND VISITING DAY: THURS., JAN. 29

Class Parents will be organizing Heritage Day on Thursday, during Catholic Schools Week. Family members are invited to visit classes beginning at 11:30 a.m. Look for more information, coming soon.

MRS. SARLES AND MRS. PIEDIMONTE HONORED AT ANNUAL FALL GALA

Thank you to all the attendees, volunteers, and sponsors that helped make the Annual Fall Gala a fun-filled evening. The event journal raised \$1,255 for the Mary Margaret Henshaw Scholarship Fund. The committee worked hard to make the evening a memorable way for school families to get together as well as to honor both Mrs. Sarles and Mrs. Piedimonte for their many years of service to our school. Mark your calendars now, for the 2009 Fall Gala, scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2009! Please contact us if you are interested in serving on the Gala committee.

PLAYGROUND

We're always in need of playground volunteers. Contact Chair Rachel Fortinash if you would like to help.

STUDENT DANCES

Thanks to the 8th-grade Class Parents Lisa Fiore and Cindy Premoli, the Halloween Dance was attended by 22 students from the 8th grade, and 24 students from the 7th grade. For many students, it was their first school dance. Other dances include the Winter Wonderland Dance, in January, and Valentine's Day Dance, in February. These dances are a great way for the kids to enjoy an evening together with their classmates in a safe, social environment. Thanks also to 7th-grade teacher, Mrs. Lemmey, and all the parents who volunteered to chaperone. We couldn't have student dances without your participation and commitment.

CLASS TRIPS

To date, we have provided \$300 in transportation funding for class trips.

FOOD COUPON SALES

Thank you, Chair Vicki Ragone and all the class parents for manning the food-coupon-sales desk each weekend.

CULTURAL PROGRAM

We are planning to sponsor school-wide assemblies, this Spring, that explore cultural awareness through art, music, and science.

SPIRITUAL PROGRAM

Be sure to attend our monthly Family Masses. They are on the first Sunday of each month, at 10:00 a.m. Thank you, Chair Monique Kozlowski for all your hard work!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Thanks to Chair Lauren Fragola, most of our 7th- and 8th-grade students have not only met their service requirement, but are continuing their commitment to serving our community.

VOLUNTEERS

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There is a lot going on at Transfiguration and our committee chairs, class parents, and teams of volunteers give generously of their time and energy all year long. Thank you!

UPCOMING GUILD EVENTS

- Thurs., Jan. 29 Heritage Day & Family Visiting Day
- Tues., Feb. 11 Guild Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- Weds., Mar. 11 Guild Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- Tues., Apr. 7 Guild Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Apr. 23 Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Sat., Apr. 25 Annual Spring Raffle and Auction
- Weds., May 13 Guild Meeting & Elections @ 7:30 p.m.
- Tues., Jun. 16 Guild Social @ 7:30 p.m.

Be sure to visit the website to view the complete calendar.

MANDATORY FUNDRAISERS

2009 CALENDAR RAFFLE

Daily drawings for the 2009 have begun. You can check the website for the list of winners. Thank you for supporting this major fundraiser that will net over \$13,000 this year! Winnings are being mailed weekly.

SPRING \$20,000 RAFFLE

Next month, we will kick off the \$20,000 Spring Raffle. This is a 50/50 raffle in which we sell only 400 chances at a cost of \$100 per chance. The winner receives \$20,000, and \$20,000 goes toward supporting the school's operating budget. This year, we are changing the raffle purchase process, so please read the information you receive, carefully. The raffle drawing will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Spring Auction.

PASSIVE FUNDRAISERS

KEEP CLIPPING YOUR BOX TOPS

Thanks to BoxTops4Education Chair Lauren Fragola, we have done an outstanding job of getting this program started. Keep collecting and turning in box tops!

SHOP AMAZON . . . IT ISN'T JUST FOR BOOKS AND CDS
Amazon offers almost everything you need. Start your next visit to Amazon by clicking on the link found on the home page of our school website, and you will also be supporting our school. We will receive up to 5% of the value of your purchases—at no extra cost to you!

SCRIP

Through the end of December, the Scrip program has raised over \$700 for the school, thanks to our Chair Trisha Hagstrom. This is a great way to support the school without any out-of-pocket expense. If you would like to know if your favorite store offers scrip gift certificates, or if you are planning a vacation (even Disney participates) and would like to know if your airline/hotel participates, please contact Trisha Hagstrom (trishahagstrom@me.com or 914-224-7237).

ACTIVE FUNDRAISERS

INNISBROOK FUNDRAISER

The fall campaign has "wrapped" up, bringing in almost \$4,000 in net revenue. Thanks, Audrey Moore, for chairing this fundraiser. You can continue to shop online, by using the Innisbrook link found on our school website and using our school number: 101902. Your support is greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE

We're pleased to report that due to the huge effort put forth by Chairs Joe Agro and Audrey Moore, the Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale brought in \$5,300—this is \$1,200 more than last year! Thanks Joe, Audrey, and the many volunteers that made this a success.

CLOSING THE BOOKS—2008 BOOK FAIR A SUCCESS

The 2008 Scholastic Book Fair was a great success in raising \$2,100 for our school, plus the vouchers (we will receive from Scholastic) that will further enhance our library. In addition, dozens of books were donated by parents to fill the classroom wish lists. Thanks to the efforts of Co-chairs Shevaun Doyle and Lee Anne Sullivan, and many parent and student volunteers, this was a memorable event for all of us.

FACULTY AND STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT FUND

Thank you to the 114 families that participated in the Faculty and Staff Christmas Gift Fund. Along with the Guild contribution, the Christmas Gift Fund totaled \$9,035. Many families find it convenient to show their appreciation by writing one check! We will provide the same option at the end of the school year.

SAVE-THE-DATE FOR OUR SPRING AUCTION: SAT., APRIL 25

The Spring Auction is a wonderful evening that brings the entire school and parish community together. Funds raised from the auction support our school operating budget, purchase computer and science laboratory equipment, and fund cultural events and class field trips. We are seeking volunteers to help decorate, organize the music, manage the food or bar, etc. Please consider volunteering to help make this night a success!

GUILD MANAGEMENT

BUDGET

There is no doubt that this is a challenging year for all of us. Our 2008-2009 budget was conservative, and through consistent fundraising efforts by our school families, along with newly introduced cost savings, we are still on track to meet our numbers. The Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale brought in more revenue than expected. Also, by changing the size of the 2009 Calendar Raffle ticket, we reduced our printing cost to \$245, resulting in annual cost savings of \$400. Similarly, we will be changing the way we sell tickets for the \$20,000 Spring Raffle, and expect to realize a cost savings of almost \$1,000 a year! As always, we will continue to seek ways to reduce expenses and introduce new tactics—such as expanding our target audiences—so that we can maximize the amount of funding provided to support school and student programs.

SURVEY

We are seeking to determine areas of improvement, and your input is very important. Please take a few minutes to complete the recently distributed survey, and return it to school (Attn: Parents' Guild Survey) by Friday, January 23. The survey can be downloaded from the school website.

COMMUNICATIONS

Guild bylaws, meeting minutes, agendas, and other documents are now available on the website.

NOMINATIONS

In February, we will begin seeking nominations for open Executive Board positions, Committee Chairs, and Class Parents. Please consider volunteering. To learn more about any of the opportunities, contact any Board member.