



TRANSFIGURATION SCHOOL TIMES

MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND VALUES IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2006

GLORIA AND LOU AGRO HONORED AT 2005 FALL DINNER DANCE

A Fall dinner dance was held on November 12, 2005 at the Westchester Manor, in Hastings-on-Hudson.

The honorees were Gloria and Lou Agro. Last year was Gloria's first as a retiree, after 29 years of teaching third grade. Of course, it didn't mean that she wasn't at the school reading to both the Pre-K and Kindergarten children. She can't stay away, and we're all grateful for that!

The dance was attended by 125 people, including many school parents and faculty;

alumni; Peg Henshaw; Fr. Lucian; Fr. Tracy; Fr. James; and the Agro family.

Guests danced to the music of DJ Richard Johnson. Gloria and Lou were there to greet all the guests as they arrived, and started the evening dancing to *Unforgettable*.

Gloria and Lou's son, Louis, gave a wonderful speech about his parents, acknowledging their many years of service to both Transfiguration School and the parish.

Plans for another dinner dance are in the works. Stay tuned!

MULTI-MEDIA LIBRARY AND UPGRADED SCIENCE LAB MAKE THEIR DEBUT

At the start of the 2005-2006 school year, 18 new, state-of-the-art desktop computers with flat-panel displays, headphones, and writable CD drives were added to the nine existing computers in Transfiguration's multimedia lab.

At the same time, technology was added as a regular part of the curriculum, and now, students spend one period each week in the lab with a dedicated technology teacher. The students worked with Microsoft Office (including PowerPoint, Word, and Excel), as well as with *KidPix*, a program used to make slide presentations; illustrate concepts; and create maps, calendars, and graphs.

This coming school year, *Kidspiration*, a program designed to allow young readers and writers to combine pictures, text, and

spoken words to represent their ideas and show relationships, will be introduced. The students will also continue to work with *Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing*.

In addition to the computers, we received two Smart Board interactive white boards. The Smart Boards will be used in conjunction with the laptops and projectors. One Smart Board will be used in the Multi-Media Library, and the other by the sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade Social Studies teacher. Most recently, the school has purchased a Windows 2000 server and a wireless router capable of networking up to 35 computers. The next phase of expansion for the Multi-media lab will include the replacement of nine original computers, and the installation

(Continued on page 2)

KEY DATES

SEPTEMBER 6
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 19
BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 23
FAMILY PICNIC
PIERSON PARK, 12-4 P.M.

OCTOBER 1
TRANSFIGURATION DAY AT
YANKEE STADIUM

OCTOBER 10
PARENTS' GUILD MEETING

OCTOBER 18
PARENTS' GUILD LUNCHEON
FOR SOYAPANGO VISITORS

OCTOBER 27
SEVENTH- AND EIGHTH-GRADE
HALLOWEEN DANCE

OCTOBER 29
OPEN HOUSE

DECEMBER 9
CHRISTMAS-TREE SALE
AND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

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**WHERE ARE RECENT
TRANSFIG ALUMNI?****JULIE BALTHAZARD**
QUINNIPIAC '07**MEGAN NEE**
UNIV. OF SCRANTON '07**JAMES FARRELLY**
DAVIDSON COLLEGE '08**BRITTANY KENT**
WAKE FOREST '08**MARK SINNI**
TULANE UNIV. '08**SEAN ENGLS**
UNIV. OF PENN. '09**MIKE MANFRED**
WAKE FOREST '09**JESSICA McWALTERS**
LAFAYETTE UNIV. '09**CAROLYN PLUNKETT**
GEORGETOWN UNIV. '09**DAN SINNI**
ST. LOUIS UNIV. '09**KELLY BROWN**
CATHOLIC UNIV. '10**NADER KHORRESSANI**
BOSTON COLLEGE '10**JANE MANFRED**
WILLIAMS COLLEGE '10**ALUMNI CORNER
STAY CONNECTED!**

Let us know where you are
and what you're up to!
Or, maybe you know
of an Alumni that
could be featured in
our *Alumni Corner*.

Send your information via
mail (school office)
or by e-mail:
w545@ADNYSCHOOLS.ORG

**AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT
PROGRAM THRIVES**

In August of last year, a booklet listing a dozen After-School Enrichment Programs was mailed to each Transfiguration School family.

The response was fantastic. One hundred eighteen children from Pre-K to 8th grade, signed up for the programs, which began the second week of school. There was a program offered for every grade, covering a wide variety of interests. Classes included dance (Hip Hop and Creative Movement), music (Marc the Music Man and Guitar Lessons), language (Spanish and French), Painting, Drama, International cooking, Tae Kwon Do, Chess, and even Mad Science!

The Fall program was such a great success, that the Winter of 2006 saw a repeat of many

of the classes, including Creative Movement, Spanish, Drama, Guitar Lessons, and Painting; and many more new classes, including Crocheting, Jewelry Making, basketball, soccer, Mock Trial, and ceramics.

The Spring brought us one more class—improvisation. This class was attended by students from first through eighth grade, and culminated in a fabulous production that was debuted on Friday, June 2. The performance was well attended by members of the Transfiguration family.

This Fall's offerings include many of the same from last school year, plus PowerPoint, and Greenburgh Animals.

Sign up early, while there is still room!

**STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT
TO COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The students of Transfiguration School give generously of their time and talents in a variety of ways. Each month, eighth-grade students help the St. Vincent de Paul Society to deliver their many donations of food to needy families in Tarrytown.

Each year the students take up a Thanksgiving collection of nonperishable food for the needy. The Christmas season brings our "Mitten Tree" to the entrance lobby of the school. Students decorate the tree with mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves, that are then

distributed to the needy in time for Christmas. The sixth-grade Girl Scouts visit regularly with the residents at Tarrytown Hall Care Center.

Each month, our school families contribute meals to the Midnight Run

The upper-grade students write prayers in Spanish to send to the children in our twin parish in El Salvador.

These are just a few of the many ways the students at Transfiguration School help others.

We are proud of their willing participation in community-service projects!

MULTI-MEDIA LIBRARY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

of a wireless network for the faculty.

The Transfiguration Science Lab also saw significant upgrades last year, through the purchase of new equipment. We acquired an electroscopes, circuit kits, goggles, lab aprons, and a complete set of lab glassware (including graduated cylinders, beakers, Erlenmeyer flasks, test tubes, and racks). Students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade completed

more than 60 labs during the 2005-2006 school year, including blood typing, circuitry, fermentation, and frog dissection.

This coming academic year, Mrs. Lemmy, the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade science teacher, intends to introduce greater hands-on lab work in the lower grades through the use of "lab helpers"—upper classmen paired with younger students for science experiments.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

In November of 2005, Transfiguration Church and School embarked on an historic capital campaign—The Archdiocese of New York Bicentennial Campaign. Parishioners and school families were asked to make pledges, and the goal was set at \$750,000.

The campaign will help us meet a variety of immediate needs within the parish and school, including: upgrading the existing heating system in the school; replacing the church boiler; repairing and repaving the exit roadway (eroded by the torrential rain of the Summer and Fall of 2005); replacing and safeguarding all the school windows; installing fire-retardant stage curtains in the auditorium; repairing the sidewalk and steps to the priory;

replacing the retaining wall at the parking-lot entrance to the church; installing railings on the steps of the altar, and at the school entrance; and replenishing funds in the parish reserves that were depleted for the emergency repair to the church roof.

In addition to supporting our needs as a school and parish, 20 percent of the money raised in the Bicentennial Campaign will be added to a fund for needy schools and churches throughout the Archdiocese.

Close to \$900,000 has been pledged, through the generosity of the Transfiguration family, and repairs have already begun.

Thank you to all those who have made a pledge.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE FOLLOWING
TRANSFIG ALUMNI
COLLEGE GRADUATES**

KATE BALTHAZARD
PACE '06

SEAN FARRELLY
VILLANOVA '06

RYAN LUCIA
UNIVERSITY OF
RHODE ISLAND '06

KEVIN PLUNKETT
BOSTON COLLEGE '06

KEVIN RILEY
BOSTON COLLEGE '06

THE VERDICT IS IN . . . MOCK TRIAL A SUCCESS

A Mock Trial class was offered again, this past Spring, as part of the After-School Enrichment Program. John Mangialardi—a partner at Mangialardi and Berardino law firm, and the father of sixth-grade Katie—generously volunteered his time to moderate the class.

The 20 sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students prepared and tried a murder case: acting as lawyers, witnesses,

court officers, and jurors.

The class culminated in a tour of the Westchester County Court House, in White Plains. At the courthouse, the students sat in on a pretrial hearing and a jury trial, and met with New York State Supreme Court Justice, Les Adler.

Perhaps a few careers may result from this Mock Trial experience!

PARENTS' GUILD HIGHLIGHTS

The Parents' Guild is a volunteer organization promoting the partnership between family and school. All parents and guardians of Transfiguration students are members of the Parents' Guild. This partnership fosters the spiritual and educational development of our children through activities, communication, and effective collaboration.

The Guild's mission is to provide and increase opportunities for communication between the school, and the parents and guardians; provide programs for students; and support the school budget.

The Guild sponsors social activities that include the family picnic, the seventh- and eighth-grade Halloween and Valentine's Day dances, the dinner dance, Heritage Day, the Teachers' Appreciation Luncheon, and the Pre-K and Kindergarten graduation socials.

The Guild offers a variety of programs and services, including playground supervision; organizing the hot-lunch

program; arranging for school assemblies; representing the school at Parish Council meetings; moderating the sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade community service; and organizing the food coupon sales for parish support.

Fundraising for the Guild includes a wrapping-paper sale, a Christmas-tree sale, the Scholastic Book fair, a calendar raffle, and a Spring raffle.

Each year, the Parents' Guild donates \$35,000 to the school to help offset expenses.

Take an active part in the Guild, by attending the meetings. Guild meetings are held several times throughout the school year. For meeting dates, check your monthly school calendar, and watch for a flyer in your child's backpack.

With everyone's participation, we can have a real, immediate, and lasting positive impact.

Get ready for an Alumni Basketball Game! More information coming soon!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

The 2005-2006 academic year at Transfiguration School was filled with many exciting events and academic growth.

As we reflect, we look back on our first year with our new science and technology labs. Both created exciting learning opportunities for our students, enabling them to create Power Point presentations from their reports; and take part in hands-on experiments, including frog dissection and blood typing. Thanks to a grant submitted by our technology teacher and a very generous donation from a Transfiguration School family, we were able to purchase two Smartboards, a projector, and five laptop computers. Another generous school family donated three new laptop computers. This equipment comes just in time for our new student-data management system which the school will be piloting for the New York Archdiocese this Fall.

Academically, Transfiguration students are doing exceptionally well. As a whole, the school scored above the ninetyeth percentile on standardized tests this year. Ninety-six percent of our eighth-grade students and ninety-seven percent of our fourth-grade students scored above average on New York

State assessments. In addition, all 27 eighth graders were accepted into the high schools of their choice. Many of them received scholarships. All of our students are well equipped for high school and beyond, thanks to our outstanding middle-school curriculum.

I am proud of our students' academic achievements, but even more proud of who they are as people. In our Christ-centered school, we are helping to mold Christ-centered children. Wonderful things can happen when faculty, parents, guardians, and the parish community work in concert for the benefit of our children.

Our committed and enthusiastic teachers are willing to give freely of their time to provide numerous opportunities for our young people to take on challenges and enjoy new experiences. I consider myself extremely lucky to have faculty members who are so much more than classroom teachers. They are stakeholders in keeping our school academically and spiritually strong.

I look forward to the new school year, fresh challenges, and exciting opportunities.

**Congratulations! Seventh-Grade Girls 2005-2006 CYO Basketball "A" Division Champions!
Varsity Boys 2005-2006 WCAA Basketball North Division Champions!**



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