



# TRANSFIGURATION SCHOOL TIMES

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

FEBRUARY 2007

## SCHOOL ART PROJECT DEBUTS

Transfiguration students are transforming a cement-block wall of their cafeteria into a work of original art, with the help of 500 pounds of clay and one dedicated artist.

Students from every grade will fill the wall with their individual tile creations, reflecting the common values and religious education they find every day at Transfiguration. Each grade will create a scene that relates directly to the religion curriculum. The tiles will be a permanent part of the school.

The actual fun—and messy part—of the effort is being guided by artist Emily Phillips, a member of the Westchester Arts Council's Artist Roster. Phillips' public work includes collaborations with Yonkers, the Town of Cortlandt, and Westchester public schools. Here at Transfiguration, her efforts are part of the overall arts curriculum taught by art teacher Sheila Amato, under the guiding hand of Principal Audrey Woods. The entire project is expected to be finished sometime in March.

All of this is made possible through a

matching grant from the Westchester Arts Council's "Arts Partners" program for schools, under the auspices of the Transfiguration Parents' Guild's Cultural Committee. Committee members Nicky Voyer and Frances Mourani, along with Guild presidents Lisa Fiore and Jennifer Tucci are leading the effort to make this plan a reality.

For school principal Audrey Woods, the project brings together all of the many parts of the overall curriculum. "It is art, it is religion, it is language," she said, "and it belongs to everyone. But ultimately the students create it. That's what makes this enterprise so special." Mrs. Woods noted that the project extends beyond the school walls and up into Pocantico Hills. Some students visited nearby Union Church to study the famous stained-glass windows designed by Marc Chagall and fabricated by the Louis Comfort Tiffany Company. "It takes us out into the community to learn," she said, "and the children come back to apply that new knowledge in expressions of their faith and spirituality."

## 3 R's: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Members of the Transfiguration School community can now proudly say, "We Recycle!" It all started in the beginning of the school year when Principal Audrey Woods, and a parent volunteer, met with a representative from Westchester County's Recycling Office in order to exchange ideas and obtain information on how to start a school-wide recycling program. The Village of Tarrytown Department of Public Works was also consulted, and was very helpful in setting up a plan for the school.

The first step was to obtain a suitable number of containers to accommodate the collection and separate storage of recyclable mate-

rials. For paper, large blue wastebaskets, marked with the recycling logo in white, were placed in each of Transfiguration's classrooms, as well as in the library, art room, faculty room, and office. Another blue receptacle—specifically designed for bottles and cans—was placed in the cafeteria. Next, Mrs. Woods, in conjunction with the faculty, worked to instruct students about what to separate from the garbage and where to deposit the recyclables. Finally, Transfiguration's seventh-graders took on the responsibility of consolidating recyclables into two, large containers on a weekly basis.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### KEY DATES

#### JANUARY 2

CLASSES RESUME

#### JANUARY 28

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK BEGINS  
FAMILY BREAKFAST

#### JANUARY 30

OPEN HOUSE

#### FEBRUARY 1

HERITAGE DAY

#### FEBRUARY 19-23

MID-WINTER RECESS

#### MARCH 8

TEACHER-APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

#### MARCH 11

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

#### APRIL 5-13

EASTER RECESS

#### APRIL 21

SPRING FUNDRAISER

#### MAY 12

FIRST COMMUNION

#### MAY 31

FIELD DAY

#### JUNE 16

EIGHTH-GRADE GRADUATION

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## A TRADITION OF COMMUNITY

### ALUMNI CORNER STAY CONNECTED!

Let us know where you are and what you're up to!

Or, maybe you know of an Alumnus that could be featured in our *Alumni Corner*.

Send your information via mail (school office) or by e-mail:  
W545@ADNYSCHOOLS.ORG

In recognition of St. Francis of Assisi's feast day on October 4, Transfiguration's fourth-grade students, under the direction of their teacher Mrs. O'Neill, organized a school-wide collection of items for the Elmsford Animal Shelter. St. Francis of Assisi, as the children learned, is the patron saint of animals and the environment.

The response to the collection was overwhelming. The school lobby quickly filled with generous offerings, including food, cages, blankets, towels, toys, and leashes. Three cars (and the help of Mrs. Plunkett, Mrs. Coughlin, and several students) were needed to transport the donated goods. The staff at the shelter was pleasantly surprised and grateful for the much-needed donations, which were used to both offset the increasing cost of running the center, and make the animals more comfortable.

In November, the Transfiguration School Choir, under the direction of eighth-grade teacher Ms. Deltoro, performed for the retired Sisters residing at Marymount Convent. Many of the Sisters had been educators at some point in their lives, and were delighted to have the fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-grade members of the Transfiguration School Choir entertain them with song.

In December, the seventh- and eighth-grade members of the choir sang Christmas carols at Tarrytown Hall Care Center. Ms. Deltoro accompanied the choir on her guitar, and the residents of the nursing home enjoyed singing along to popular favorites.

Thank you to Ms. Deltoro and Mrs. O'Neill for volunteering their time and for being role models for what community service is all about!

## ANNUAL BOOK FAIR HELD IN DECEMBER 2006

It was not your father's library at Transfiguration School in early December. Or your mom's either. There were grown-ups drinking punch, an upperclassman dressed as Santa Claus, and kids with cookies who got the crumbs on the floor and didn't get in trouble. They were all at the third-annual Book Fair sponsored by the Parents' Guild. According to school librarian Patrice Elmlinger, it was the biggest and best fair yet. She was thrilled by the response.

Mrs. Elmlinger started the fair three years ago, when she joined the school staff. "I love to see the excitement on the students' faces as we set up during the week," she said. "It creates a buzz in the building." It also creates much-needed income.

Proceeds from the fair go to the Parents' Guild, which makes a contribution back to the library later in the year. Without that money, according to Mrs. Elmlinger, the library would not be able to be the place it is: a vibrant, fully stocked resource room and lending library for all Transfiguration students.

Costumed upperclassmen entertained shoppers, and then went down to the gym to cheer on Transfiguration's basketball teams

who were playing a full day of games.

For those partial to things digital, there were video games and software and DVDs. Mrs. Elmlinger pointed out that there were fiction and nonfiction books drawn from current bestseller lists, and cookbooks galore for parents and grandparents. It was a perfect time for Christmas shopping, and all purchases could be gift wrapped as well.

Even graduates came to the fair: alumnus Brendan McGlynn, now at Fordham Prep, parted with some of his summer income.

Wrapped or not, interactive science kits ("Build Your Own Stegosaurus!") flew off the shelves along with mysteries and Newbury Award-winning novels. Fourth-grade boys held posters of LeBron James, Tiki Barber, and Eli Manning.

It was the row of brightly wrapped boxes next to the check out table that had Mrs. Elmlinger most excited. Every classroom teacher compiled a "wish list" of books she wanted for her classroom library. Shoppers consulted the list and chose a book or more to fulfill the teachers' wishes.

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

Other plans include the introduction of projects aimed, not only at promoting recycling, but also at the overall reduction of waste in our school. One idea of a creative, artistic, and fun way to do this is to have our first-grade students count the number of cans collected each week and post this information on a chart outside their classroom. Another idea is for our older students to track the school's waste-reduction efforts by logging the weight of the paper recyclables collected each week.

So far, recycling is popular with students and teachers alike,

as both are happy to do their part for the environment. However, placing containers around the school and instructing students on the process is only the first step in cultivating student interest and involvement.

In the future, Mrs. Woods hopes to arrange class visits to the Education Center of the Westchester County Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Yonkers. MRF tours are designed to educate participants about the recycling process, including its purposes and benefits.

## BASKETBALL PROGRAM THRIVES

The Transfiguration Basketball Program is alive and well! This year we have 125 children in grades 3 through 8 enrolled in the program. Girls and boys from Transfiguration School and CCD program are eligible to play. There are no tryouts or cuts, and everyone gets play-

ing time. Teams compete in CYO, WCAA, and WCGAA leagues.

Thanks to Terry McGlynn and John Lovett, who run the basketball program, and our dedicated volunteer coaches, we are off to another great year!

## PARENTS' GUILD UPDATE

The Transfiguration School community continues to support the school in many ways. The Annual Fall Dinner Dance held in November was a great success. Thanks to the efforts of parents, sponsors, and 130 attendees, the Annual Dinner Dance and Journal raised over \$1,200 for the Mary Margaret Henshaw Scholarship Fund. In particular, the Guild would like to thank Lauren Fregola and Cindy Premoli for making the evening a memorable way to honor Tom and Barbara Coughlin.

Also, Transfiguration Day at Yankee Stadium was another big hit. It was a great day—great seats and a great bus ride—too bad the Yankees lost. Many thanks to Terry McGlynn for hitting a home run with this event!

The 2006 Innisbrook wrapping paper sale raised over \$6,000 for the school. The Annual Book Fair and Christmas Tree Sale was a winner for all.

In addition to fundraising activities, the Guild sponsors many fun activities and community-building events, that contribute to the growth and education of our children.

In the Fall, we were fortunate to meet visitors from our twin parish in Soyapango, El Salvador. Transfiguration school students had the opportunity to attend a special 11:00 a.m. Mass that, with the help of our students and interpreter parent Terry Fernandez, was celebrated in both English and Spanish. The Mass was followed by a luncheon for our visitors that was hosted by the Guild. It was a unique opportunity for all.

Mark your calendar now to join us at the Annual Spring Fundraiser on Saturday, April 21. Raffle tickets are on sale now for a chance to win \$20,000. Please call the school office for more details 914-631-3737. We are counting on your support.

**ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME  
SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2007**

**Join us on Saturday, March 31 at 3:00 p.m. in the Transfiguration School gym for the Alumni Basketball game. The game will be followed by a reception for players and spectators.**

**To sign up or learn more, please contact Terry McGlynn (tgmfinancial@msn.com or 914-288-8919).**

**Transfiguration School  
Alumni Association is  
under formation**

**Please contact the main office if you would like to become involved.**

## STUDENTS EAGER TO JOIN ENRICHMENT

Fourth grader Eric Paolicelli raised his hand and asked the teacher if the new, fresh-out-of-the-package "Cosmic Chronometers" should be set to Eastern standard time or military time. "Standard time" said the teacher, and Eric, along with about 20 other budding techies pressed and poked the black watches until they set the time of day: 3:25 p.m. Too late in the day for class. Too much fun for detention. What exactly was going on?

After-school Enrichment was what was going on. Eric was in a class called "Mad Science,"—one of eleven classes in the After-school Enrichment Program at Transfiguration this Fall. The offerings ranged from ceramics to Power Point®.

The impetus for the After-school Enrichment Program came from parents who approached school administration about offering something not available during the school day. Megan Papaleo, whose two children, Amanda and Nicholas, attend Transfiguration, took the lead and has watched the popular program blossom. Mrs. Papaleo was quick to credit the parent volunteers in the program. "Without them," she said, "we would be lost. They are so generous with their time."

The program is in its third year, and a walk around the building in the afternoon will convince any visitor just how much Transfiguration School cares about its children, even after the dismissal bell has rung.

From the Kindergarten comes bright voices singing "This Little Light of Mine." Inside, Marc "The Music Man" Jacob leads his charges in song and sound. He has distributed tambourines, bells, cymbals, and castanets to his choir and they noisily join in. The children learn about keeping time and rhythm, and there's a reward for the student who is especially well behaved: he or she gets to sit in the "drum chair" close to Marc to help lead the group.

"Creative Movement," ceramics, guitar, and drama classes offer opportunities for creative growth and expression.

Transfiguration School Principal Audrey Woods says the program fills many needs. "It's a win-win-win situation," she said. "The children are in a warm and familiar place with people they trust. The classes are informal and fun, yet they engage the students too. The price is right, and it all grew out of our Transfiguration community."



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Happy 2007 to all! A new year brings the excitement of renewed hope. As we begin 2007, we should reflect on all the things we have to be thankful for. As the principal of Transfiguration School, my list is long with talented staff and supportive parents.

The school continues to thrive, thanks to the continued support from the Parents' Guild. In addition to providing funding for class field trips and other cultural activities, last year, the Guild contributed \$35,000 towards the school operating budget. We are also fortunate to receive financial support from the Parish. Parish funding is put toward the school operating budget and also provides much-needed capital to continue to improve and modernize school facilities.

Our school is continuously blessed by the generosity of parents who, through their donations—of time and money—furnish resources that help to provide an exceptional educational experience. This

experience at Transfiguration School is based on a tradition of values and faith, and provides direction for the future.

During 2006, we were able to upgrade our technology equipment with the addition of two new interactive whiteboards, several state-of-the-art laptop computers, a new projector, and several flat-panel monitors. All these upgrades were a result of generous donations. The generosity and environmental concern of one family provided the school with the equipment and materials to launch an ongoing school-wide recycling program. I am so very grateful to these families.

Please consider making a donation to Transfiguration School. Even a small donation can help us to keep our school an affordable choice for families of all incomes.

May God bless you, and keep you and your families healthy during 2007.



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