

St Christopher Alumni Association

Celebrating our past and planning for our future



Alumni Newsletter – Fall 2007

Welcome to the St. Christopher Alumni Association!

The Alumni Association was founded to promote alumni activities, to help alums keep in touch with each other and with the school, and to promote continued success at St. Christopher School.

Fr. Mark's Corner

Greetings Alumni of St. Christopher School! Hopefully, you had a great summer. We have started our 84th school year and so far, it has been a great start. The Alumni Planning Committee, as always, is hard at work to promote this association and our school.

We hope you enjoy hearing from us and visiting us. Please join us for any or all of our upcoming events. And if possible, please be generous in your support of St. Christopher School. Our future depends upon the generosity of people like you.

Thank you. I look forward to seeing you this year.

Fr. Mark Walter, Pastor

Alumni New Years Eve Party

The Alumni Association is again sponsoring a New Year's Eve Party, on December 31, 2007, from 8:00 pm – 1:00 am in the school gym. Everyone is invited to attend. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance and \$35 at the door and include a catered meal, a DJ, dancing, and a cash bar. To purchase tickets in advance, contact the Parish Center at 708-388-8190.

It should be a great time and the ballon drop promises to be bigger than ever! Rumors are that Fr. Mark may again entertain the crowd with his gifted voice. Hope to see you there!

All-Alumni Mass on Nov 11!

The Third Annual All-Alumni Mass will be held on **Sunday, November 11, 2007**, at the 9:30 Mass. All alumni and friends of the school are invited to this special Mass.

After Mass, the Holy Name Society will be sponsoring a pancake breakfast in the cafeteria and Franciscan Room. At the breakfast, you can:

- win a prize in our free raffle
- take tours of the school
- look at vintage St. Chris school and parish pictures and memorabilia
- renew friendships with old friends
- make some new friends!
- watch new video wishes from Franciscan sisters who were formerly at St. Chris including: Sr. Patricia and Sr. Bertha Marie
- and much more!

We are anticipating a big crowd, so this should be a great chance to see your former classmates and renew old acquaintances. In addition, the school will be open so you can see the many improvements made this past summer. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions about the All-Alumni Mass, the New Year's Party, or an other alumni event or activity, you can email us at events@stchrisalumni.org. As always, visit our web site at www.stchrisalumni.org for the latest news and info about events.

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From the Desk of Principal Mike Johnson

This summer proved to be a busy one! Besides all of the painting that was done, new carpeting was installed in four of our classrooms as well as new water fountains in the primary wing. Our primary bathrooms were also updated with new sinks and tile. The new second computer lab is also up and running. Teachers and students have already begun to utilize it for lab reports and research, as well as the new online programs.

In addition to these physical improvements, we as a staff are working hard to improve and develop our academic pursuits. We have begun work on improving our math scores, our new writing materials have arrived, and writing instructional workshops are scheduled. This year, we have a counseling staff from Governors State University who will have the ability to work one on one with students as well as conduct classes which will help students develop better social skills, as well as academic skills. In terms of student life, the school has begun a scholastic bowl league in order to give students the opportunity to compete against students from other Catholic schools. Plans are being made to start a school newspaper and drama club this year. The school will also be adding an environmental club and possibly intramural sports this fall.

We welcome Jeanne Lassandrello as our new director of religious education. She will work with our teachers to help further improve our religion curriculum and help teachers prepare their students to receive their sacraments. In addition, Jeanne will provide more opportunities for student retreats and social projects for our students. With all of these new advances and opportunities, this school year should prove to be a pivotal and exciting one.

Michael Johnson, Principal

Alumni Night at Fiesta

The 3rd Annual St. Chris All-Alumni Fiesta Reunion was held on **Friday, July 20, 2007**, from 7:00 pm until closing, in the main food and beer tent. Nearly 200 alumni enjoyed food, drink, and fellowship under the big tent.

The alumni were entertained by the band “Infinity”, who gave a high-energy performance with hits from the 80's & 90's by artists such as Journey, Kansas, Styx, Queen, Foreigner, and Bon Jovi.

Thanks to all who stopped by the Alumni Booth to receive their free St. Christopher 85th Anniversary Mug and congratulations to the 15 lucky winners of our free raffle.



All-Alumni Homecoming Social & Spring-Fling

The All-Alumni Homecoming Social/Parish Spring-Fling will be held on **Saturday, April 19, 2008**, so save the date! This event will be an opportunity for alumni to get together and a chance for our parish and school community to celebrate 84 years of excellence at our school.

The Homecoming Social/Parish Spring-Fling will be held in the parish gym and will feature a dinner, music and dancing.

More details will be available as the date approaches, so watch our web site at www.stchrisalumni.org

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Calendar of Events

Nov 11, 2007 – All-Alumni Mass/Breakfast, 9:30 am in Church.

Dec 31, 2007 – Alumni-sponsored New Year's Eve party in parish gym, 8pm-1am.

Jan 27, 2008 – Late-Night Catechism, 2:00pm in the school gym.

April 19 2007 – All-Alumni Homecoming Social/Parish Spring-Fling.

For more info call the parish center (708-388-8190) or visit the alumni website.

2007 Alumni Appeal Results

A big thanks to all of you who participated in the 2007 Alumni Appeal!!! Alumni contributed over \$7,600 to St. Christopher School. This money was used to help fund recent capital improvements made to our school building, as described in Principal Johnson's column on page 2 and will help with additional improvements that continue to be made.

Below is the list of donors. Thanks again for your support. Your generosity and leadership help make St. Christopher School possible!!

Anonymous (4)	William Konley '48
Bernie (Biela) Alfano '52	Karen (Wilfenger) Kreis '69
Joseph Alfano '77	Mary (Sautter) Maurer '57
Philip Banaszak '72	Ted Maurer '55
Mark Bell '75	Susan (Martin) Meyer '70
William Blakemore '54	Thomas Millar '53
Kathleen Bradley '88	Daniel Monahan '85
John Bradley '82	Thomas Moody '73
Eugene Callham '44	Dorothy (Wagner) Oleshko '37
Lawrence Callham '46	Jim Pignatiello '59
Melvin Costello '58	Leo Pochinskas Jr. '62
Judith (McKinnon) D'Ambrosio '70	
Tom Dempsey '84	Stan Potempa '64
George Fina '53	Patricia (Weber) Powers '79
Raymond Foose '32	Maggie (Duffy) Radgowski '88
Dan Fox '58	Kathleen (Bard) Richmond '59
Tony Glowacki '80	Pat Roe '71
Marge (Gabay) Grande '67	Amy (Digenan) Sullivan '80
John (Jack) Konley '44	Eileen (Sullivan) Taeyaerts '79

Parish News

Many improvements were made around the parish grounds this summer. Landscaping and painting was completed in several areas. Concrete was replaced by the front entrance of the church. The area between the school building and Unit D has been transformed into a beautiful garden now called, "St. Joseph's Garden". It contains a fountain given to the school by graduating eighth graders and benches, where someone can sit quietly and pray. Future plans also include having school children plant gardens in the area. Make sure to stop by and visit St. Joseph's Garden if you are in the neighborhood.

The Building and Grounds Committee is currently undertaking a complete renovation of the kitchen in the cafeteria. New plumbing, electrical, and gas lines are being installed and a commercial-grade floor is being laid. New stoves, ovens, and deep-fryers will be purchased to complete the renovation.

The Music Ministry recently purchased a new grand piano. The piano is located in the front of church and is used during liturgies. The new piano, combined with our talented choir and music ministers, have helped to fill our Masses with beautiful sacred music and song. Thanks to all who contributed to make this possible.

The Bible Study Group has begun its fall session. Nearly 50 parishioners meet weekly to learn and reflect on the Word of God. Currently the group is studying St. Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians.

Christ Renews His Parish (CHRP) retreats have changed to a single-day format. Retreats are scheduled for men on October 20 and women on November 3. CHRP recently sponsored a parish paint-ball outing where 18 men from the parish enjoyed an afternoon of high-energy fun.

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School News

School began on August 22, with a half-day of school for grades K - 8. The school hot-lunch program began its second year of operation the following day, on August 23. School Open House for parents was held on, August 30. The Open House began with a prayer service in the Church, conducted by Fr. Mike and followed with an open house in the school. The first All-School Mass was held on Wednesday, September 5, at the 9:00 am Mass. All-School Masses are held every Wednesday at 9:05am during the school year.

Major changes have been made to our school web site, located at www.stchrisschool.org. The daily homework site has been reworked and now provides a forum for daily communication between teachers and parents. Each day, every teacher posts homework, announcements and other information.

The preschool program hit an all-time high in enrollment with 29 students enrolled in the program. As a result, the program now offers both morning and afternoon sessions for both three and four year olds. Also, a second certified teacher, Ms. Dain, now assists Mrs. McShea in running the program.

Grandparents Day will be held on Tuesday, October 16. The day will begin with the grandparents attending a prayer service in the Church with their grandchildren. The grandparents are then invited to the school to visit their classrooms and to enjoy refreshments courtesy of the Mother's Club.

The school offers the Rainbow program to help students who experience loss of a close family member. The program provides small group activities to help student work through their loss with trained counselors and peers.

The school is "going green!" The school "Go Green" Club aims to help our school and the environment via various recycling initiatives, including ink, toner, cell phone, paper, and pop cans. For further information, visit the "Ways to Help" page on the web site.



Are you moving? Have your email or phone number changed? Do you have news to share with fellow alumni? Send us your information online at www.stchrisalumni.org or by mailing this form to: St. Chris Alumni Association, 4130 W. 147th St., Midlothian, IL 60445

Name: First _____ Last _____ Last Name as Student _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell/Work Phone _____

Home Email _____ Work Email _____

Graduation Year _____ Willing to Help at Future Alumni Events _____

News/Favorite Memories _____

St. Christopher Alumni Association • www.stchrisalumni.org