

St Christopher Alumni Association

Celebrating our past and planning for our future



Alumni Newsletter – Fall, 2008

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

Hello again to all our Alumni and Friends of St. Christopher School. The school year is off to a great start. A beautiful statue of Jesus and the Children was donated for the front of our school. If you are in the neighborhood, stop and take a look. Our enrollment is down tremendously this year, but we have been able to meet expenses so far. This is becoming increasingly difficult to do.

To those alumni who have contributed to our past alumni appeals, thank you for your support. Most people do not contribute to their grade school and economic times are difficult. But if you are able, please consider a contribution to our school. Our children appreciate it.

Thank you for all your interest and support of St. Christopher School.

Fr. Mark Walter, Pastor

Party for 85th Anniversary of St. Chris School!

The 2008-2009 school years marks the 85th Anniversary of St. Chris School. To celebrate 85 years of excellence, we will be having an 85th Anniversary Celebration and Spring-Fling on **Saturday, May 2nd, 2009**, in our school gym, so save the date! The Celebration will feature dinner, music, dancing, raffles, and a huge silent auction featuring more than 200 great items! Look to our web site for additional information as the date approaches.

Alumni Mass and Breakfast on November 16th

The Fourth Annual All-Alumni Mass will be held on **Sunday, November 16, 2008**, at the 9:30 Mass. All alumni and friends of the school are invited to this special Mass.

Following the Mass, please join us for a reception in the cafeteria and Franciscan Room, where you can:

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

This is a great chance to see former classmates and renew acquaintances, as well as meet some of current students, teachers, and administrators of the school. Hope you can make it!

If you have any questions about the Alumni Mass or other alumni events or activities, email us at info@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

There have been a lot of improvements and changes made to the school recently. New carpeting was installed in the religious education office and kindergarten, our middle school and junior high water fountains were updated, new tile was installed in the middle school hallway, and new bushes and a statue of Jesus was added to the front façade of the school helping to beautify our school.

In addition to physical improvements, we as a staff are working hard to improve and develop our academic pursuits. We have continued our work on improving our math and science scores, writing standards meetings are being scheduled, and our after-school program to help improve math and reading skills will finally begin after three years of work. We have adopted a new reading series focused on differentiation and are expanding our science curriculum too.

In terms of student life, the school has begun to foster our student leadership program with our 8th grade promoting leadership through mentoring, community service and parish service. We are also beginning a literary journal which will highlight student work twice a year. Mrs. Lassandrello, our director of religious education, has also been working hard rewriting the school's entire religious curriculum to give us a more balanced approach to knowledge and understanding each student should possess when they graduate St. Christopher School. She has also been instrumental in helping to develop the leadership program with me and Mr. Laurinaitis, our 8th grade teacher. The leadership program is an initiative developed to help our 8th grade students develop as leaders through mentorship of our younger grades as well as allowing them to participate in community service projects. With all of these new advances and opportunities, this school year should prove to be another pivotal and exciting one.

Alumni Night at Fiesta 2008

The 4th Annual Alumni Night at Fiesta 2008 was held on July 18, 2008. Over 150 alums attended. We had a great time watching the meatball-eating contest and listening to music by the band *Infinity*, all while enjoying friends and drinks under the big tent. Check out pictures from the event at the alumni web site. Thanks for coming out and helping to make Fiesta 2008 such a success. See you next year!



Parish News

The Kelly-Miller circus hosted two shows under the big tent at our parish on September 2nd.

The Bible Study Group has resumed studies, covering St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, in honor of the Year of St. Paul.

The annual Blessing of Animals took place on Saturday, Oct 4th, on the Feast of St. Francis. The Blessing was at 9:30AM at the Shrine.

The parish was chosen by the Archdiocese to host the weekly Catholic Charities dinner for the southwest suburbs, helping feed needy families in the area. Volunteers from surrounding parishes and non-profit groups will take turn preparing and serving the dinner every Tuesday.

The Holy Name Society held their annual golf outing on Saturday, September 20th, at Fountain Hill Golf Course, in Alsip. Seventy eight golfers enjoyed breakfast, golf, lunch, and prizes.

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Calendar of Events

Nov. 1 – Parish Fall Festival, 5-11pm, gym

Nov 16 – 8th Alumni Mass (9:30am) and reception

Jan 11 – School Fashion Show, Gaelic Park

May 2 –85th Anniversary Party/Spring Fling,

For more information, call the parish center (708-388-8190) or visit the alumni website at www.stchrisalumni.org.

Alumni in the News

We are extremely proud to recognize one of our own! Rev. Michael Novick, a graduate of St. Christopher School (class of 1981) and Mundelein Seminary has been appointed Pastor of St. Lawrence O'Toole parish in Matteson, Il. Prior to his current assignment, Fr. Mike served as Associate Pastor for 5 years at St. George in Tinley Park and the last 2 years at Holy Name Cathedral. Congratulations Fr. Mike!

2008 Alumni Appeal Results

A big thanks to all of you who participated in the 2008 Alumni Appeal!!! Alumni contributed \$4,160 to St. Christopher School. This money was used to help fund capital improvements and programs for our school. Below is the list of donors to the 2008 campaign. Thanks again for your help! Your generosity and leadership help make our school possible!!

Anonymous (8)	Phillip Kelleher '74
Bernie Biela Alfano '52	Richard Kieffer '57
Joseph Alfano '77	Diane Frawley Nilsson '68
Karen Probst Bettencourt '70	Christine Koch O'Brien '79
Carolyn Gorth Blanchette '51	Dorothy Oleshko '37
David Burke '69	Janet Hartmann O'Shea '61
Eugene Callham '44	Deborah Snyders Pellegrini '70
Lawrence Callham '46	Amy Peters '81
Barbara Compton Castaneda '67	
Melvin Costello '58	Regina Figliulo Phelps '63
Matt Dombrowski '71	James Pignatiello '59
Denise Marquette Evans '75	John Ridgeway '55
Chester Stranczek, '43	Vincent Schavone '61
George Fina '53	Keith Witt '72
Robert House '54	Carol Rupert Woods '63
Noreen Hickey Kaczanowski '72	Linda Yucuis '72

Class Reunions in Spring 2009

The class of **1959** is planning a 50th reunion.

For more information contact Kathleen at RichmondK8@aol.com, or at 708-687-6044.

The class of **1969** is having a 40th reunion. Email Mary at mstadter@comcast.net or call the parish center at 708-388-8190 for more information.

The classes of **1979** (30th), **1984**(25th), and **1989** (20th) will be having reunions at the school 85th Anniversary Party/Spring Fling on May 2, 2009. For more information or to learn how you can help, please email info@stchrisalumni.org or call the parish center at 708-388-8190.

To insure you always receive the latest news about your class reunions, make sure you register with the Alumni Association via our web site at www.stchrisalumni.org.

St. Chris School Receives Archdiocesan Grant

St. Christopher School recently received an Archdiocese of Chicago Transitional Grant. This grant is renewable for a total of three years, and is designed to help St. Christopher grow the school and its programs and resources. The school administration and staff are currently developing implementation plans that map out the best way to use the grant funding.



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School News

School for kindergarten through eight grade students began on Monday, August 25th, with preschool students starting on September 2nd. A school Open House/Parent's Meeting was held on September 4th in the evening. Parents braved the inclement weather to meet with Principal Johnson and the teachers, and to tour the school. Thanks to Mother's Club for providing refreshments.

We welcome three new teachers to our school staff. Ms. Patti Barry is our new 6th grade teacher; Mr. Matt Verble is our new physical education teacher, and Mr. Anthony Fasano is our new computer teacher.

Our building and grounds staff made a number of improvements to our school during the summer. The classrooms were painted, and some re-carpeted. The gym floor was professionally stripped and re-finished. A new handicapped bathroom was added to the school cafeteria. Baby changing stations were installed in the handicapped and women's restrooms in the gym. New fire doors were installed in the primary wing. Finally, the main entrance was landscaped and adorned with a beautiful statue of Jesus

and the little children (see page 2 for a picture of this statue).

Mr. Johnson has added several new features to the school curriculum. The school recently acquired several new GPS units. These will be used to augment our computer curriculum. A new writing program was implemented for all grades. This program provides a set of standards that each student will achieve based on grade level. A new reading program was developed for kindergarten and first grade. During the second quarter, a new study skills curriculum will be rolled out to all grades.

The school received a grant that allows for a tutor to provide one hour of individualized assistance daily for students in the Extended Day Program who require assistance. In addition, undergraduate education majors from Governors State University and St. Xavier University will be leading an after-school homework club to begin later this fall. Selected 8th grade students will be participating in a Leadership Program, where they will learn to work with students in lower grades. Finally, a Community Service program for junior high students will be implemented later in the school year.

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