

St Christopher Alumni Association

Celebrating our past and planning for our future



Alumni Newsletter – Spring, 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

Happy Easter!!! With Easter so early this year it seems we just finished the Christmas season. The school year will begin to wind down soon, but there are still many activities coming up to watch!!! Be sure to watch the bulletin online and also the Alumni Website.

Our forecast shows an enrollment decline next year. So be sure to talk up the school and please be as financially generous as possible. Past appeals haven't been as successful as we had hoped.

Thank you for all your interest in St. Christopher School. It has been a source of faith and education for many years and continues to be now. May we have many such years in the future.

Sincerely,

Fr. Mark Walter
Pastor

2008 Annual Alumni Appeal

The 2008 Annual Alumni Appeal is under way! We invite all alumni to participate in this effort to help and stay connected with our school. All proceeds from this appeal will go directly toward helping our school to grow and thrive.

For more on how you can help, please see the article on page 3 of this newsletter. Thank you.

Alumni Homecoming Social & Spring-Fling on April 19th!

The 2008 Alumni Homecoming Social will be on Saturday, April 19 from 6-10pm at the Parish Spring Fling dinner dance in the school gym. All alumni are invited to a special alumni-only reception at 5:30pm in the Christopher Room prior to the dinner dance to enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres and fellowship with other alumni. You can view silent auction items & tour the school.

The cost of the event is \$40 per person and includes dinner, bar (beer, wine and soda), dessert and entertainment. This is a family event. **All children are free**, and children 3 and older will enjoy dinner and their own entertainment in Unit D (movies, games, etc).

The Spring-Fling is the major fund-raising event for the school and will feature a silent auction, where you can bid on prizes including airline and sporting event tickets, hotel stays and more. The Homecoming Social and Spring-Fling will also be a celebration of the 20th anniversary of our Pastor, Fr. Mark, being ordained as a priest.

The Homecoming Social is a great chance to meet with your old friends and make some new ones, while enjoying food, drink, music and dancing and a huge silent auction.

Tickets can be reserved by calling the parish center at 708-388-8190. For more information, visit our web site at www.stchrisalumni.org or email us at info@stchrisalumni.org.

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From the Desk of Principal Mike Johnson

It's funny how fast the year goes. At first, you are overwhelmed trying to get ready for a new year of school and the next thing you know the year is almost over. This year we started a new writing program, increased our technology program, and started our school newspaper. Our counseling department curriculum has increased too from individual and group counseling to incorporating group classes in various areas. The teachers have developed as educators by attending workshops in areas of incorporating technology in the classroom, differentiated instruction, and learning modifications.

For next year, we are investigating reading recovery programs for the elementary, math and reading preparation programs to help raise test scores on standardized tests, and a health curriculum for the junior high. In addition, a stronger focus on study skills will also be emphasized. All of these changes are important as we continue to develop as an institution.

During Catholic Schools Week, I made a speech after every Mass to let the members of the parish know how important their support and help is. This speech was intended to not only thank the parents of our students for their continued belief in Catholic education but also to thank the parish as a whole for their support as well. My speech was basically trying to convey the idea that "It Takes a Parish To Raise a School." The truth is it does take everyone's efforts, our Alumni included, to make our school a success. This spring we will be having our Spring Fling on April 19th. This event's proceeds will go entirely to help the school and will include dinner, entertainment and a silent auction as well as child care for the evening (free of charge). I hope everyone will make an effort and be part of this fun filled evening.

Mr. Michael Johnson, Principal

Parish News

The parish mission, entitled "Make a Difference", was held on the first five Mondays of Lent. The series featured five speakers, each with a unique perspective on how each one of us can make a difference in this world.

The Music Ministry again featured a Lenten performance of the cantata "Once Upon a Tree" on March 9 in the church. This performance was a powerful re-telling of the mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. It featured the music of the St. Chris chamber orchestra and the singing of the adult and children's choirs, as well as an appearance by the Oswego High School Choir.

The renovation of the cafeteria kitchen is nearly complete. The plumbing, electrical, ventilation, and safety systems were brought up to modern standards, and new sinks, ovens, stoves, microwaves, and deep-fryers were installed. A new commercial-grade floor was laid and stainless steel tables and serving surfaces purchased.

Our Associate Pastor, Fr. Mike Kalck, has accepted an assignment from the Cardinal to be Pastor at Holy Rosary Parish on North Western Ave. in Chicago. While we are all sad to see Fr. Mike leave after many years at St. Christopher, we wish him well in his new assignment. We welcome our new Associate Pastor, Fr. Laurent Mhagama, who will begin his assignment at St. Chris on July 1st. Fr. Laurent will be ordained a priest in May and we are very excited to have him begin his ministry at our parish.

The parish annual St. Joseph's Table was held on Sunday, March 16, in the school gym, and featured spaghetti, fish, and a huge sweet table. Proceeds went to St. Vincent DePaul Society.

This Lent, the parish participated in Operation Rice Bowl, the Lenten solidarity program that calls us to pray, fast, learn, and give contributions to those in need around the world.

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Calendar of Events

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

May 30 – 8th Grade Graduation.

July 13 – Annual Parish Garage Sale

July 16-20 – Parish Fiesta

July 18 – Alumni Night at Fiesta

Nov, 2008 – Alumni Mass TBD

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

New Year's Eve Party

The Alumni Association sponsored a parish New Year's Eve Party. Thanks to all who helped plan the event and turn the gym into an elegant ballroom with Christmas lights and candlelight. Guests enjoyed dinner, dessert, a raffle and conversation, followed by dancing.

The balloon drop was bigger than ever and once again Fr. Mark serenaded the crowd with a beautiful rendition of "New York, New York" at 11:00 pm. Congratulations to our lucky raffle winners who received a variety of prizes, including a Sony digital camera, Blackhawks, Rush, and Wolves tickets, and a variety of restaurant and store gift certificates.

We thank all of those who braved the harsh winter weather to enjoy an evening of food, drink, and dancing, and hope to see everyone again at next year New Year's Eve party!



Second Annual Alumni Appeal

March brings the kick-off of the Second Annual Alumni Appeal. The Alumni Appeal was instituted last year as a way for alumni to help and stay connected with our school.

St. Christopher and other Catholic schools are needed today more than ever, to serve as a spiritual beacon for our children in the face of the negative forces in our popular culture. However, the future of our school depends on our ability to stay financially competitive in areas such as salary and technology while keeping tuition affordable. This is not an easy task and is not something that we can do alone.

We ask you, as an alumni or friend of the school, to consider assisting us by making a donation in the enclosed envelope or by mailing a contribution to the parish center at 4130 W. 147th St, Midlothian, IL 60445.

There are many causes to contribute to, all of them worthy. We ask you to consider our school as a worthy cause. Donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. All funds from the Alumni Appeal will be used in one of three areas – improving our classroom technology and equipment, assisting in teacher salaries, and providing for tuition reduction.

We invite you to be part of the wonderful things going on at our school and to participate in the Alumni Appeal. With consistent help from you, our alumni and friends, St. Christopher can continue its great tradition of Catholic education.



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School News

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated the week of January 27th with a variety of activities and events. Students could participate in "Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader?" or "Deal or No Deal!" game shows, where their knowledge was tested on a variety of subjects. A fifth grade boy and a seventh grade girl were selected as "Principals for a Day", based on insightful essays that they wrote. Both of them spent a day with Mr. Johnson and learned what a principal's day really consists of.

A cultural fair entitled "A Passport to Culture" was held on Thursday of Catholic Schools Week. The fair featured such exhibits as an Italian Puppet show by the 1st grade, a historical play on the invasion of Ethiopia by Italy by the 5th grade, and various food stations featuring the cuisine of a number of countries. The 5th grade class spent the evening educating visitors about the malaria epidemic in Africa and collected donations for the "Nothing but Net" malaria abatement program. So far the 5th grade has raise over \$700 to assist in this worthy venture. Finally, Tuesday, January 29th, was "Pajamas Day", with all students allowed to wear their pajamas to school.

On Sunday, January 13th, the 8th-graders celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation at 1:00 pm in the church. Most Reverend Bishop John Manz was the celebrant.

The St. Christopher School newspaper is up and running. A contest was held to name the paper and the winning entry was "The Tattle Tale". The paper includes school news, sports news and entertainment information, as well as a raffle.

This Lent, the school participated in a number of activities to help others. Students collected money for Operation Rice Bowl, to help feed the needy. The school sponsored a drive for a troop in Afghanistan. Each class brought in one or two products to send to the troop to help make them more comfortable. Finally, students supported the St. Baldrick's Foundation for childhood cancer research by sponsoring a graduate from the Class of '07.

The school continues its "Going Green" initiatives. Students support many recycling and environmentally friendly programs. Help the Alumni Association "Go Green" by registering your e-mail address with us so we can cut down on paper and help the environment. Register at: www.stchrisalumni.org

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 _____

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