

St Christopher Alumni Association

Celebrating our past and planning for our future



Alumni Newsletter – Fall, 2011

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.

School pioneers new social studies curriculum

Our school is pioneering a new social studies curriculum developed by the curriculum committee of the Archdiocese Office of Catholic Education. Our junior high social studies teacher, Mr. Greg Laurinaitis, was a key member of this committee and spent many long hours at the Office of Catholic Education with other committee members, conceptualizing and designing this pioneering program.

In this program, students take an active role in their learning and develop experimental and analytical skills, rather than simply memorizing information. This curriculum examines five topics per grade spending 6-8 weeks per topic, aiming for a comprehensive understanding of key concepts rather than covering many topics at a superficial level.

We are among the first schools in the entire archdiocese to begin implementation of this cutting-edge program, thanks to the key role Mr. Laurinaitis has played in helping our school's education staff transition to the new curriculum.



Annual Slovey Fund Appeal

The second annual alumni appeal in support of **The Joanne Slovey Scholarship Fund** kicks off in November. The Fund provides need-based scholarships to our students and is named after our former school secretary, Mrs. Joanne Slovey, who retired in 2010 after 32 years of service.

Last year, thanks in part to your generosity, we raised over \$18,000 for the Slovey Fund and were able to provide tuition assistance to 36 students. Without this assistance, many of these students would not have been able to attend our school. While we strive to keep tuition affordable, tuition can be a struggle for many families in these difficult economic times.

Money from the Slovey Fund is distributed to families strictly and exclusively on the basis of demonstrated financial need, as determined by a formalized financial aid application process.

We invite all alumni to participate in the annual alumni appeal in support of the Slovey Fund. Your gift of \$50, \$100 or more can make a huge difference in the life of a child and help pass our Catholic faith to future generations. All gifts to the Slovey Fund are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

To learn more or to donate online, go to www.stchrisschool.org/donations

You can also contribute via mail to St. Christopher School, 14611 S. Keeler Ave, Midlothian, IL 60445.

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Upcoming Alumni Events

The Seventh Annual Alumni Night at the St. Chris Fiesta will be held on **Friday, July 20th, 2012**. Come on out and enjoy music, food and drink with fellow alumni under the Big Tent. For the latest information about Fiesta 2012 visit the fiesta web site at www.stchrisfiesta.com.

Alumni are invited to our inaugural St. Patrick's Day Party, on Saturday, **March 3rd, 2012**, in the school gym and cafeteria. The event will feature Irish music, dancing, and food. All proceeds will benefit the school.

Other alumni events are being planned for the upcoming months, so be sure to visit the alumni web site at www.stchrisalumni.org to get the latest information and to sign up for our alumni emails.

St. Chris School 5K Walk/Run

The 1st Annual St. Christopher School 5K Walk/Run was held on Saturday, October 1. Over 330 walkers and runners packed the school grounds for the event. After a prayer by our pastor, Fr. Mark, Midlothian Mayor Stephens fired the starter's gun and the race began. The 1st place male winner was Pablo Herrejen of Midlothian and female winner was Rachel Dulay of Arlington Heights. Thanks to the many alumni who returned to our school to participate in this event and we'll see you at next year's race!



School News

Our school continues to increase the use of new technology into our classrooms in an effort to augment and improve the educational experiences of our students. This past summer, we add two new "smart boards" to our school, bringing the total to five. This state-of-the-art technology enables students to learn using interactive content and helps teachers to create high-impact teaching lessons for the students. We are continually acquiring a variety of educational software expressly designed for use with Smart Boards.

On Saturday, October 1st, ten of our 7th and 8th graders participated in the Academic Bowl at Providence High School, competing against 16 other schools in the areas of Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Geography, and Math. Two of our 8th graders received awards. Philip Powers received 1st place in Geography and Erin Ludwig received first place in Language Arts.

Our school experienced a growth in enrollment this year. Our total student enrollment was 13 students higher than it was at the start of the last school year. This growth of our school would not be possible without the faithful support and encouragement of our alumni.

The 8th grade class was invited to participate in the 37th Annual Chemistry Career Conference at the Museum of Science & Industry. During the event, the students participated in chemistry "Jeopardy", interviewed men and women currently in chemistry careers and experienced a "weird science" demonstration. Our students learned about chemistry and other science-related jobs and how chemistry impacts their daily lives.

Archdiocese Seminarian Geoffrey Andama, currently in his final year at the seminary before priestly ordination, will be ministering at our school for the 2011-12 school year. He is working with our religion classes, leading each class in an age-appropriate religion-themed project to improve the religious formation of our students.