



# News & Notes

From the Principal's Desk of St. Katharine of Siena School



Volume 5, Issue 18 - June 15, 2010

**Quote: "Time to say goodbye."**

**Song sung by Andrea Boccelli & Sarah Brightman**

Dear Parent(s),

This is the last edition of *News & Notes* for this school year. On behalf of the faculty and staff I want to thank the 237 families of our school community for a wonderful year. We are ending with a flurry of activities as we celebrate our many successes and events that took place:

- ❖ Our Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony
- ❖ Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade's presentation of their Ocean Exhibit and their graduation party
- ❖ Another fun filled Spirit Day
- ❖ Several Grades had exciting field trips
- ❖ A music assembly featuring members of the Philadelphia Symphony
- ❖ Donuts with Dad with our 1<sup>st</sup> graders and the KG Mother's Day Picnic
- ❖ A beautiful May Procession
- ❖ Yearbooks were distributed to the Class of 2010, by moderator, Mrs. Chrissy O'Sullivan and co - editors, Shannon Maguire and Brendan Mc Cabe. The yearbook was dedicated to 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Ruth Sullivan

These were just some of the end of year events to cap off another terrific school year. We will conclude with two final celebratory events: On Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M., the Class of 2010 will graduate. On Friday morning, at 9:00 A. M., we will have our closing school mass followed by an awards ceremony for grades 1 – 7. As we move ahead, we look forward to improving our school in a few ways:

- ❖ Our Technology Committee has written a new three year plan and is working to keep us moving ahead in the never ending job of keeping us in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. We expect to have the new laptop cart from the Connelly Grant delivered to us in late July. The two Smart Boards included in the grant will be here in September after state funding approval of the grant. We are also looking to purchase additional Smart Boards with funds donated by generous families.
- ❖ Using our Middle States Action Plan, The Strategic Plan from the Office of Catholic Education, and input from family and student surveys to implement future planning.
- ❖ Using our *Advancement Teams* to help our school community by improving our efforts spiritually, educationally, and financially. Several ideas are already in the works by our committees including creating an SKS Alumni data base, an *SKS Family 5 K Fun Run/Walk*, and several ideas for families/students to be more engaged and participate more fully in their faith. I invite you again to be a part of an Advancement Team that will further the mission of our school.

*Have you ever heard of the beautiful rendition of Time to Say Goodbye by Andrea Boccelli & Sarah Brightman? That touching song comes to mind as we say farewell to the Class of 2010. I will play it this last week of school for our graduating class. The theme for their graduating mass is: "Together We Stand." I believe this class has stood tall, and more importantly, stood together as a class. The way they have supported and cared for each other, as one 8<sup>th</sup> grader aptly said to me "with little or no drama," is an exemplary model for other classes to follow. I am proud of the Class of 2010. They are a class filled with personality, exuberance and energy. They have been a pleasure to be around, and I see them doing great things in the years to come. I will miss them and will welcome them back anytime as alumni to their alma mater.*



*At the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dinner two weeks ago, we said goodbye to 13 families whose last child is leaving SKS. In some cases, these families leave a legacy that included multiple siblings with a time span of well over twenty years of commitment to our school. I express my heartfelt thanks again to the following families for their commitment in supporting the mission of St Katharine of Siena School: Barker, Braithwaite, Chesky, Evans, Hurley, Kershner, Hercer, Hobson, Lorenz, Marchino, McCabe, McNeill, and Paolantonio Families.*

*Below are some bulleted items of importance for your families:*

- ❖ On the Principal's Notebook page is a copy of the slightly revised Mission Statement for our school. This was done as part of the OCE's Strategic Plan looking ahead and the "Catholic" element was sorely missing from our original mission statement.
- ❖ **Special Note:** The yearly calendar that was sent to you earlier via the VTE will have several changes to it, as we try to complete and fine tune the school calendar. An updated version will be sent to you shortly when we have everything in place.
- ❖ For parents, you have minimal summer homework to do: Please make sure you are helping by making sure all medical forms, stationery dues, transportation, etc. are in on time. Anne will be forwarding an email this week with your checklist of all paperwork needed by the first day of school.
- ❖ The SKS Student Summer Reading List will be posted on the website this week. Please have your child read over the summer.

*In late May, Student Council Elections were held.. I am proud to announce next year's Student Council:*

*President: Kylie Johnson; Vice President: Isa Bruner; Secretaries: Katherine Finley & Victoria Evans; Treasurer: Matt Grubb; and Public Relations: Maeve Mulvanerty.*

*I would also like to commend those that ran for office: Caitlin Conner, Part Frohner, John Munshower, Brendan O'Connor, Griffin Smith, Jack Terzian, Ryan Bowman, Jake Ordonio, Grace Parker, Maria Isabel Sowden, Kiersten Mc Donald, and Bridget Moran. It takes great courage to run for office, and each of our candidates did a wonderful job of showing their desire to serve our school.*

To quote Dr. Robert Palestini, the Academic Dean of Educational leadership at St Joseph's University, who is an author of several books, and my former JV basketball coach in high school: ***"In the humanist tradition of leadership, the first responsibility of a leader is to define the reality of a school through a vision; the final responsibility is to say "thank you." In between, the leader is to become a server of servants. Being a leader means having the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who allow leaders to lead."***

My thanks go to Monsignor Close, the faculty and staff, and to the SKS Families who have shown faith and trust in me. My humble prayer is that I served you well. Truly, I feel blessed to be a part of this community. May God bless our entire St. Katharine of Siena community with a happy, restful, and safe summer.

Gratefully,

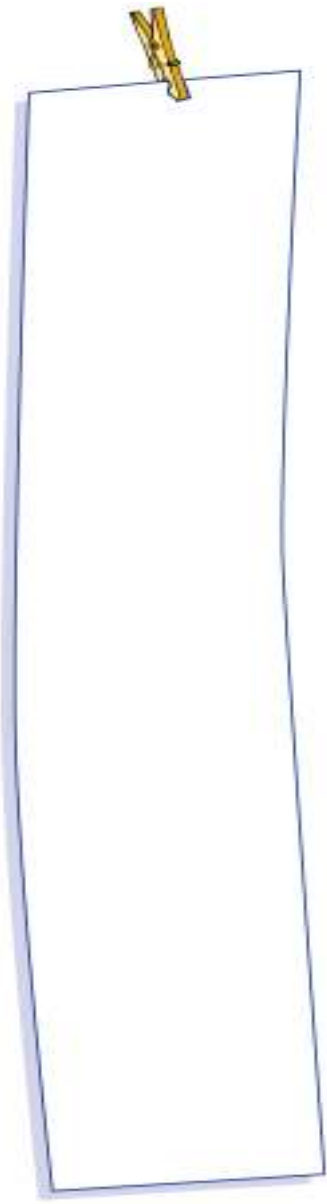


Bud Tosti





**Mr. T's L A U N D R Y L I S T**



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# The Principal's NOTEBOOK

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## St. Katharine of Siena School Mission Statement (Revised Spring, 2010)

*As a Catholic community, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we dedicate ourselves to educate our students to the highest standards of spiritual, moral, and social responsibility. We are committed to academic excellence through a rigorous learning environment that fosters love, acceptance, and respect for all of God's people.*

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**The game between the SKS Faculty vs SKS Girls Softball Team was tons of fun. Thanks to Mrs. Jackie Sevag and Ms. De Fino who organized the event. (missing from picture is Mrs. Orsatti, Mr. Heacock and Mr. Tosti)**

**Next page please.....**





**The First Grade Brownies enjoy an evening around the campfire.**



**SKS runners Brian Long, Dan Finley, Zac Fernandez and David Wiener participated in the Archdiocesan track and field championship – June 6, 2010 at Franklin Field**

