



The Foundation

Volume 5, Issue 3

Summer 2005

ST PAUL SCHOOL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jon Anderson-President
John Stacy -Past President
Clem May-Treasurer
Bernie Dorsey
Jim Hoffman
Pete Kerns
Corinne Kiefer
John Kieseewetter
Jim Menezes
Lori Romania
Tim Schor
Andy Storment
Al Whalen

EX- OFFICIO MEMBERS

Fr. Steve Clovis - Parish Pastor
Kelli Braud - School Principal

The St. Paul School Foundation...

*Building on the
spiritual foundation
and academic
excellence of
St. Paul School by
securing financial
support for tuition
assistance and
capital improvements.*

St Paul School
Foundation
1201 Satre Street
Eugene, OR 97401
www.saintpaul-school.org

For Stacy, Memories are Lasting

As I come to the close of my year as Foundation President and as I become a *former* St. Paul School parent, I would like to share a few select memories and some well-deserved thank yous.

It was 1975; I was an 8th grader at St. Paul School and playing in the second annual St. Paul Tournament of Excellence. Back then it was a 16-team boy's only tournament, and it was all about the basketball. It was also, as it remains today, one of the highlights of my 8th grade year. Tradition is a special thing. Thank you to all those dedicated parents who 50 years ago had a vision that became St. Paul Catholic School.

When my wife Julie and I co-chaired the St. Paul Auction with Jim and Carla Hoffman it was by far the biggest project we had ever taken on. We quickly found the task was made much easier because of the willingness of the many parent volunteers that freely gave of their time, talents and treasures to make it such a successful event. Thank you to all the parents who so generously give of themselves everyday. Your participation is the glue that holds our community together.

Finally, I reflect on this year's graduation night. As I watched my youngest daughter Brenna and her fellow graduates file out, I was flooded with memories of the last 13 years. I remember the many accomplishments of our students, the musicals and Christmas shows, parent/teacher conferences, community service projects and athletic events. Thank you to our wonderful teachers and staff. You are a blessing to us all. And, thank you to our students. You have given us much to be proud of.

I have one last item. I have a very special thank you to Mr. Jerry Ragan for his 10 years of dedicated service as Principal of St. Paul School. You have been a blessing to the school and community.

Indeed, St. Paul School is a special place and it has been an honor to be part of it. May God continue to bless this community.

Yours in Christ,

John Stacy

Foundation Adopts New Mission Statement

At its May meeting, the St. Paul School Foundation approved a revision of its mission statement (see inset, left). Board member Jim Menezes did the preliminary research and led the discussion, which centered around the group's desire to emphasize its priorities and focus its fundraising efforts more directly. The motion to approve the new statement received unanimous approval.

Festivities Commemorate Ragan's Service

Call it the end of an era. Jerry Ragan, principal of St. Paul School for the past ten years, will not be returning next year. As the school year came to a close, and in true New York Irish fashion, the St. Paul School community paid tribute to Ragan and his family.

The Class of 2005 kicked things off, singing an original song to Ragan at the class graduation party. They led a reprise with the entire student body during a special all-school assembly



Parents share a photo moment with Ragan. From left, Mike Donnelly, John Stacy, Cheryl Burr, Pete Drakatos, Jerry and Patty Ragan, Jeanne and Phil Weiler, Pete and Joan Kerns, and (front) Wade Fraser.



Ragan reacts to receiving the proverbial "pot of gold"—in this case, a trip to Ireland.

on the last day of school. The previous evening, parents held a reception in Ragan's honor that included

tributes, toasts, tunes, and tears. Comic relief was also abundant as speakers poked fun at everything from Ragan's (lack of) hair to his reputation as a fierce dictator in the parking lot. Patty Ragan was given the St. Paul School Longtime Friend Award and offered her own sentiments, saying "I feel like I'm losing my best friend." The School's Foundation and Advisory Council placed a plaque in the Marian Garden in honor of Ragan that features an Irish prayer for students and asks our Virgin Mother and St. Thomas Aquinas to pray for our students.

Finally, in an extraordinary display of appreciation, parents, staff, alumni, and friends contributed nearly \$6,000 to send the Ragan's on their dream trip to Ireland.

Ragan was quick to turn the tables, thanking all those present and attributing the school's success to its strong community and the passion and involvement of so many. "This is a great school," said Ragan. "I've been blessed on so many levels... I have colleagues that I can call friends; I work with parents that I can call friends. The essential ingredient to a great education is the partnership between the parents and the school. For us to be able to envelop that in Gospel values is priceless. But that's what we have here."

Ragan's accomplishments at St. Paul were many. Under his leadership, the school paid back its debt to the parish and subsequently began a capital improvement fund which led to upwards of \$300,000 in capital improvements. Ragan shepherded the school's first two accreditations, both of which resulted in glowing reports. He expanded the outreach programs at St. Paul School, building on the success of lenten

penny drive to partner with Project Starfish and seeing funds go from \$500 raised to nearly \$12,000 this year, Ragan was instrumental in starting the St. Paul School Auction, now in its ninth year. The first year, they hoped for \$10,000 and raised \$50,000. Last year's auction netted more than \$100,000. Ragan says he is most proud of what he calls the "spontaneous eruptions of service," such as the tsunami relief effort that students themselves initiated this year. "We've built a climate of service here, and that really shows in our students."



Members of the Irish Echors sing tribute to Ragan.

St Paul Turns 50!

Summer 2006 will mark the 50th anniversary of St. Paul School and we want all those whose lives have been touched over the past five decades to have a chance to be a part of it. We'll need your help locating alumni and planning the festivities. If you know someone who should be included, please call 344-1401 and we'll add them to the mailing list.

Class of 2005 Bids a Fond Farewell

Their class motto reads, "After all, tomorrow is another day." The opening song for the graduation mass was the Rodgers and Hammerstein favorite, "You'll Never Walk Alone," and the recessional echoed the sentiment with "Lean on Me." The St. Paul School Class of 2005 is clearly ready to take on tomorrow, but classmates understand the value of



Vickie Hanson is all smiles as she accepts the St. Paul Award from Principal Jerry Ragan.

being able to rely on one another as they face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Gabe Schepergerdes received the Archbishop Vlazny Award for Christian Leadership and Brenna Stacy received the Lumen Gentium Award for service to the School and Parish presented by Fr. Steve Clovis. Service recognition was paid to Danielle Kast, Gabe Schepergerdes, and Brenna Stacy, and several students were recognized as presidential scholars. Following the mass, students moved into the Parish Hall for a party that featured food, music and dancing, a memorable slide show, and plenty of laughter and tears. Best of luck, class of 2005!



Class of 2005 members Ali Enright, Emilia Gubrud, Kaitlyn Damewood and Brenna Stacy open the graduation mass with "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Project Starfish Generates Dollars, Gratitude



Students at St. Paul School proudly presented Sen. Bill Morrisette and his wife, Janice, with an oversized check for \$11,625, representing the money raised during

the school's Lenten fundraising effort to help the homeless. After the presentation, students had the privilege of hearing from Micca Finigan who visited along with her son, Luke. She spoke of how sometimes bad things happen in people's lives and they need help. She found help through Project Starfish. "When my baby was born, I didn't have a place to stay," said Finigan, fighting back tears. "Now we have a nice, two-bedroom apartment...I don't know what I would have done without this program."

Sen. Morrisette started Project Starfish nine years ago as a way to help homeless families get back on their feet. To date, St. Paul School has contributed more than \$75,000 to the program and its stated goal of "breaking the cycle of homelessness, one family at a time." A contribution of approximately \$2,500.00 covers a family's initial move-in costs and helps fund career counseling or training as well as tools for effective home man-

agement. Families are identified and the move is coordinated through partnerships with St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Community Services, and Central Latino Americano.



Sen. Morrisette poses with Starfish beneficiaries Micca and Luke Finigan.

St. Paul Pre-School to Open Fall 2005
Ages 3 and 4
Teacher: Mrs. Laurie Zerzan
Information: 541/344-1401



Members of the fourth grade class visit with Governor Ted Kulongoski during the annual spring trip to the state capitol.

Calendar

Sept. 5	Labor Day
Sept. 6	School Registration Day Buddy Breakfast
Sept. 7	Classes Begin
Sept. 13	Curriculum Night
Sept. 15	Magazine Drive Begins
Sept. 16	Archdiocesan Inservice No school
Sept. 27	Magazine Drive Ends

**Save
the
Date!**

St. Paul Auction
Saturday, October 29, 2005
Cathleen and Joe Karcher,
Event Chairs

New Principal to Start July 1

Mrs. Kelli Braud takes the reigns as St. Paul School principal beginning July 1, 2005. Braud has more than 13 years experience in teaching, most recently at O'Hara Catholic School where she served as curriculum specialist and, for the past year, as assistant principal. Braud has four children, ages one, three, ten, and thirteen. Daughter Kayla will start at Marist this fall, while Megan will join the fifth grade at St. Paul School and Joey will enter St. Paul's inaugural preschool class this fall. Braud says she is pleased to be a part of launching the preschool, and is eager to join the St. Paul family. Of her new position, Braud says she was especially drawn to the parish school setting and the extended community that provides. Watch for a full story on Kelli Braud in the fall issue.



Foundation to Emphasize Scholarship Funding

As the St. Paul School Foundation fine-tuned its mission statement this year, it also worked on fine-tuning its fundraising efforts. The Foundation is pleased to announce a new emphasis on scholarships and tuition assistance in addition to capital improvements. This is of course while maintaining a commitment to long term support and endowment of the school and its programs.

"Each year, the school sees an increase in requests for tuition assistance," says Cathy Bloom, budget and finance committee chair for the St. Paul School Advisory Council. "The funds provided by the Foundation are critical to the school's ability to meet the needs of its families."

You can help. Please consider a gift to the St. Paul School Foundation. With your financial and prayerful support, we will make a lasting impact on students today and into the future.



YES, I want to help provide scholarships!

St. Paul School Foundation
1201 Satre St
Eugene, OR
97401

Please accept my tax-deductible gift of: _____

My Check is enclosed, payable to St. Paul Foundation.

Please charge my : VISA MASTERCARD

Account No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

You may may not publish my/our name(s) as follows:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NO. _____

My Employer will match my gift.
Employer _____

I would be interested in speaking to someone
about including St. Paul School in my estate plans.

This gift is given in honor memory of:

*Please complete this form and mail to St. Paul
School Foundation with your donation, or you
may fax to 541/344-2572. Thank You.*