



Principal's Corner

This will be the last Family Link for 2015-2016. It has been a wonderful year filled with many successes.

Last Friday diplomas were conferred upon our Class of 2016. This has been a class marked by many successes, coming together as a class through their overnight outdoor experience, working with their kindergarten buddies and serving as leaders. They have generously given service to the school community as a whole. We are grateful to them for sharing the "gift" of themselves with us throughout the years. We congratulate these students and wish them much success in their future endeavors. We will miss them.

Tuesday we sent off our preschool and kindergarteners as they "stepped-up" to their new grades for next year. We are grateful for learning from them the gifts of spontaneity, laughter and innocence. May they have a safe and fun summer.

As we prepare for the lazier days of summer vacation, we hope that everything our children have learned stays with them—especially development of their faith life. During the unstructured summer months it's always tempting to kick back and find excuses to stay away from Mass. We hope that will not happen with our children. They need you, as parents, to "keep them on the straight and narrow" - and the path to weekly Mass should be a part of it. Children need to know that attending Mass is a family priority—even on vacation, camping, visiting or whatever.

Summer is a great time for unstructured fun for kids. Try to avoid scheduling every waking moment. It's so important for children to have free time. They, like we, need to take time to dream, plan their lives, figure out their problems and pray. They need to lay on their backs on the fresh green grass and look at clouds sometimes.

They need to play in the neighborhood and figure out how to solve their own problems with friends. They need to test their solutions and see if they work—and if they don't, they need the time and freedom to try new ones. We can't solve our children's problems for them. If we do, they never have any practice solving their own, and making mistakes—important lessons in life. I do again caution you to supervise any Internet activities.

God bless you all this summer with good health, relaxation and fun. Thank you for all you have done for all of us!

REMINDERS

Friday, August 19: Meet the Teacher and supply drop-off.

Monday, Aug.22: First day of school for the 2016-2017 school year.

Thank you to Jeff Ward for updating and maintaining our website over these past many years. Mr. Ward has officially retired as Webmaster as his son Andrew has graduated from 8th grade.

Under the guidance of Mr. Ward the St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick school is

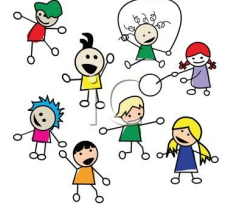


proud to announce a new web design coming this Fall! Catapult is the company who will be working with us. Thank you also to the BSJ who reviewed and offered suggestions for the website, assisted with selecting the final website design.

Be sure to continue checking our website for our new and exciting design which will launch by August 15 (or sooner).



PRESCHOOL KINDERGARTEN STEP-UP



2016





SHOP Corner

There will be a summer order on **Tuesday, July 5**. Cards will be available for pick up on/after **Thursday, July 7**. Please place your orders online at www.mannaorders.net. Please consider using the MannaPay Option, as it would be the most convenient payment method. If paying by check, payment for your order needs to be received prior to the order being accepted. Please have all orders and payments turned in by **Wednesday, June 29**, at the school office. Have your envelope clearly labeled as a SHOP Order/Attn: Candy Alfonso. Note that the school's summer hours are Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Keep in mind that the Manna eScript option can also be used anytime over the summer. The credit earned will be applied to your 2016 – 2017 fundraising goal! Please contact Candy Alfonso if you have any questions at (630) 910-1064 or candicemalfonso@yahoo.com.



Thank you
Your SHOP Team .
Your SHOP Team

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Kyle K., Class of 2016, on his reception of the **Marist RedHawk Scholar Award**.

This scholarship is given to those young men and women who tested in the top 5% on the High School Placement Test. To give you an idea, Marist High School welcomed just under 600 young men and women to the entrance exam. It is a four year scholarship based on academic success.

Congratulations to Sarah K. and Kyle K., recipients of the 2016 **Celtic Award**. This award is given to one boy and one girl each year to honor them for living out our Celtic Mission.

MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with families, we provide a strong faith community...

Carrying out the mission of Christ,

Excelling in academics,

Leading by promoting respect, integrity, discipline, and citizenship,

Teaching a foundation of right judgment, values, and confidence needed for a life of success and purpose,

Instilling a commitment to serving others according to Gospel values,

Celebrating our varied cultures, heritage, learning styles, and social backgrounds, and

Sharing the Word of God through prayer, worship, and example.

Congratulations to Mateo S. recipient of the St. Al/St. Pat's **Citizenship Award**. This award is given in recognition of someone who has assumed responsibility for improving the school and community and has shown reverence for life. He has demonstrated a great willingness to work hard toward goals and has a strong sense of making good decisions.

THANK YOU

It's hard to know where to begin to say thank you to all of the many organizations that helped us throughout the school year. The danger is in forgetting someone so I apologize ahead of time if I inadvertently leave someone out.

First, I would like to thank the members of the Board of Specified Jurisdiction who work with Fr. Brian, Fr. Kurt and myself to guide the decision making regarding various facets of the school operations. I appreciate the time and energy they put into making St. Al/St. Pat's a great place for our children.

What would we do without the Family School Association who so graciously gives of their time and energy to enrich our students' school experience. A special thank you to Mrs. Julie Malone, President, and the board of officers.

Coaches, you tirelessly instruct our students in the fundamentals of sports, as well as, sportsmanship. Thank you to the Athletic Director, Mr. Dwayne Meeks, and the Athletic Board under the direction of Mr. Paul Andreotti, President.

Thank you to this year's Gala Committee: Mrs. Stephanie Kula and Mrs. Nanci Smith who were instrumental in raising funds for our school and providing a great night out.

And what would we do without Mrs. Alfonso and her band of helpers who operate our SHOP program? Their contributions to this program make it the success it is at our school.

Thank you to Mrs. Julie Leonard, Mrs. Karen King and Mrs. Melissa McGuire for the gift of their time in making special lunch a great way to beat brown bag lunches.

Thank you to our lunchroom staff for their dedication to our students. We appreciate all that you do.

A huge thank you to you, the parents, who have supported the school throughout this past year. We couldn't have done all that we did without your enthusiasm, support and assistance.

Of course, thank you to the teachers and staff who always seem to go that extra mile to help a student or help out where needed in the school.

Thank you to Fr. Brian and Fr. Kurt for being so supportive of our students, faculty, administration and school community.

All of you make St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School the great place that it is! Know that we appreciate all that you do for our students!



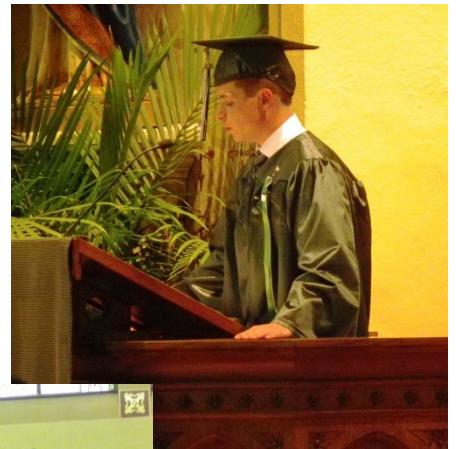
Congratulations to Kyle and his family!

Graduation 2016

On Friday, June 3, our eighth graders graduated during a tradition filled Graduation Mass and commencement ceremony at St. Alphonsus Church. This culminated the activities that allow us to bid a fitting and fond farewell to these students who have spent many years at St. Al/St. Pat's. They have evolved into fine young men and women and we are all very proud of them. We are confident that they will continue to succeed in their chosen high schools and that every one of them will continue to live the Celtic Mission and be Powered by Love as they go on to make the world a better place. They will remain always S.H.A.R.K.S.: Strong, Humble, Accepting, Respectful, Kind-Hearted, and Smart. Best wishes to all of our fine graduates!



Graduation is a time of completion, of finishing, of an ending, however, it is also a time of celebration of achievement and a beginning for the new graduate.



**REACH
FOR THE
STARS**

**Thank you for being
gift to us!**



I am happy to say that we have been doing many things regarding marketing our school. Under the direction of Ms. Wenzel, our new marketing person—you may know her better as the gym teacher, many things have been happening in order to increase our enrollment. Ms. Wenzel (in her previous life and current life) has done a great deal of marketing for the various companies she has been involved with as the director or assistant director. Promotion was one of her main responsibilities. Below are some of the actions that have been taken or are going to be taken regarding marketing our school.

- Participated in PreSchool Open House at Lemont Library.
- Planned to participate in Touch a Truck Event. The rescheduled date is September 19 and we have confirmed we will be there.
- We are scheduled to be at Lemont Park District concert in the park – June 9.
- Planning to attend downtown Drive Car Nights, Keepataw parade, Kops for Kids, and other events as they arise.
- Working with the Lemont Park District to hang a banner in the core; banner is provided by district and requires an annual fee to hang banner.
- Calls have been placed to DuPage County to determine if a school sign with arrow can be placed on the corner of Lemont Street & Davey Road.
- Placing ads and signs in variety of places. (Have noticed some signs have been removed.)
- The Parent Ambassador program will kick off in August which will enable the school to build a team of 10-12 school cheerleaders, if you will, that can participate/assist in outreach events for our school.
- Placed ad in ValPak coupon mailing.
- Reaching out to children registered in St. Al's and St. Pat's Parishes from ages birth to seven. Would send them welcome letter, birthday certificates, school event information, etc. in order to keep our school forefront in their minds.
- Coordinating, etc. the Day of Play (see Flyer on eThursday.)
- Creating uniform book for marketing pieces.
- Development of website
- Ads in newspaper, posting upcoming events (i.e. Day of Play, etc.) on Lemont calendar, and Chamber of Commerce calendars
- Analyze cost effective marketing pieces.
- Meeting with Archdiocese to analyze best trends in marketing..
- Marketing piece in bulletin to reflect our motto.

We all know that “word of mouth” is really the best avenue of marketing. So, the positive comments we make when we are “out and about” goes a long way in encouraging people to visit us.

Learners today, Leaders tomorrow

STUDENTS LIVING OUT OUR CELTIC MISSION

Thank you to Claire (gr. 3) and Haley (gr. 1) for hosting a Birthday party in which instead of receiving gifts asked their friends to donate money to a scholarship fund for parents who can't afford to send their children to our school. This type of learning how to be a role model is invaluable. Thank you to their parents for instilling this type of giving in these girls. Thank you also to the many children/parents who gave so generously to this scholarship fund.





CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016

SOCKS OF LOVE

Girl Scout troop 70929 4th grade girls that participated in the Catholic "I Live My Faith" Medal program put together a service project called "Socks of Love" for the homeless. They were able to make 405 pairs of socks filled with the personal care items donated from the Lemont/Woodridge communities. They plan to give these to the Family Shelter Services in Downers Grove that helps about 3000 homeless families each year. They want to thank all who donated or helped in any way.

