



# The BUGLE

St. Bartholomew Academy Newsletter  
April 2017



Dear Parents,

*Immaculee Ilibagiza grew up in a country she loved, surrounded by a family she cherished. But in 1994 her world was ripped apart as Rwanda descended into a bloody genocide. Her mother, father and two of her brothers were brutally murdered during a killing spree that lasted three months and claimed the lives of nearly a million Rwandans.*

*During those months, Immaculee was hidden, by her pastor, in a bathroom with seven other women. For ninety-one days, these women were huddled silently in a space measuring 3 feet by 4 feet, while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for her. Imagine the fear, the pain, the desperation of being trapped in such a confining area waiting for the moment when her killers would find her.*

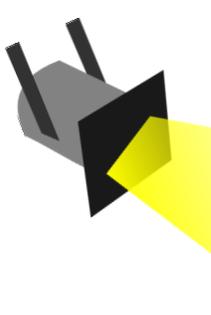
*The only possession she had were the clothes on her back and the rosary her father had given her. As the days wore on, she prayed for the safety of her family and her longing to be freed. She hated the killers who were merciless and barbaric. During those moments, she found her hope diminishing. She knew that to survive, she needed to stop these thoughts of hatred that were paralyzing her. She could actually hear the demons in her head. The hatred was so heavy it was crushing her inside. She prayed for God to touch her heart and show her how to forgive. The days turned into weeks and then one day, she heard God's voice as if he were right next to her. From that moment on, she held tightly to her father's rosary and asked God to help her. In those endless hours of terror, she discovered the power of prayer. Eventually she shed her fear of death and began a profound and lasting relationship with God. When she emerged from her hideout ninety-one days later, Immaculee had discovered the meaning of unconditional love. Her life was in constant communication with God and still is to this day. From Rwanda to the United States, to being employed by the United Nations in Manhattan, her thoughts and life have been driven by the relationship she has with her God.*

*Today, Immaculee is establishing the Illebagiza Foundation to help others heal from the effects of genocide and war. She believes that God saved her soul and spared her life to tell her story and to show as many people as possible the healing power of His love and forgiveness.*

*Soon we will celebrate Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life. Immaculee's life is a testament to the power of resurrection and the new life that Jesus offers to those who place their lives in his hands. You and I are surrounded by terrible evils these days. We cannot and must not allow them to take over our minds and hearts. The Easter gift of resurrection and new life is ours and it is given to us each time we turn from evil and choose good, each time we speak out against injustice, each time we act to bring about hope, each time we bring peace to a situation and each time we forgive. Easter is the story of our salvation. God has saved us and has given us this life to show others the healing power of His love and forgiveness.*

*Let us pray, this Easter season for each other, as we journey to discover the meaning of unconditional love.*

Happy Easter!  
**Sr. Elizabeth**



## ***2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Spotlight***

The last trimester of the school year is a great time to see the progress of the second grade students. They are continuing to develop their reading and writing skills and recently have completed several interesting activities. All of the students read biographies about a famous American and competed with each other in a Social Studies Bee based on the biographies.

Mrs. Delaney's students authored their first poems and Mrs. Szustwal's students wrote their first fables. They shared their writings with each other, practicing their public speaking skills.

The second grade math curriculum focuses on mastering addition and subtraction, mentally solving problems, and knowing how to add numbers from memory. The students have recently learned how to count coins including quarters, dimes and nickels and how to make change. The students have also learned to tell time and to determine elapsed time.

Second graders are natural explorers with great imaginations. This combination makes science class insightful and engaging. The students recently learned about dinosaurs and acted as paleontologists on a dig as they searched for candy dinosaurs in layers of Jell-O. We will soon be exploring how things move and our Solar System.

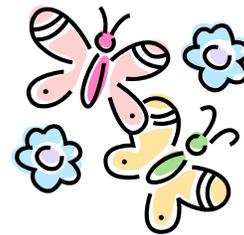
Our second graders continue learning and preparing for the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, which they will celebrate after Easter this year. The students have prepared their own altars in class and prayed the Stations of the Cross with the help of Mrs. Connie Boruch, our parish Pastoral Associate for Religious Education.

The second grade students are making great strides in preparing to be third graders. They are pleasures to share our day with.

Mrs Delaney and Mrs. Szustwal



## ***2<sup>nd</sup> Grade***



*Quinnton Battiste*



*Samantha Judd*

*Isaiah Boyd*

*John Krywicki*

*Lachlan Brown*

*Kyleigh Kwiatkowski*

*Mikayla Delaney*

*Charlotte LaCosta*

*Olivia Erbařina*

*Felicia Lavecchia*

*Alison Galvez Vial*

*Maximillian Markho*

*Charles Gilligan*

*Alexander Manguiat*

*Samantha Nicolas*

*John Nitro*

*Thomas Radice-O'Brien*

*William Rooney, III*

*Eliana Rotondo*

*Rocco Saltalamacchia*

*Theodore Schiller*

*Kiely Schoendorf*

*Paige Sheppard*

*Wilhelmina Stampfl*

*Mia Taylor*

*Nathan Thomas*

*Sebastian Torres*

*Jackson Vaughn*



### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Saturday, April 1:** SBA 5K and Fun Run, 9:00 AM

**Friday, April 7:** First Friday Liturgy, 8:30 AM  
Pretzel Sale, \$1.00  
**NOON DISMISSAL**

**Wednesday, April 12 – Friday, April 21:** Easter Recess

**Saturday, April 29:** Clothing Drive, 8 AM - NOON

**Save the date!**

The St. Bartholomew Academy Drama Club presents:



**Friday, May 5 at 7:00 PM.**

We hope you join us for a fun show!

### **Re-Accreditation Update**

On Sunday, March 12 we welcomed the Middle States Visiting Team for their re-accreditation evaluation visit. Despite a snow storm and subsequent icy roads, the Visiting Team was able to complete their work. The team presented their oral report on Wednesday, March 15. In summary, the team observed the following:

- An overwhelming sense of community and collaboration from the administration, teachers, students, and parents;
- The students not only knew and understood the Academy's mission, but are living it every day;
- The self-study and plan for growth and improvement were comprehensible and attainable, showed excellent collaboration from all stakeholders, and provide a good map for the future.

The team informed us that they recommend accreditation!

The next step is for the team to complete their written report and submit it to the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. There, our self-study, plan for growth and improvement, and visiting team's report will be read and submitted to the Association's board for accreditation approval. We hope to hear of our re-accreditation in October.

Thank you to everyone in the St. Bartholomew Academy that supported this process by completing surveys, giving feedback, meeting with the visiting team, and helping prepare for the team visit!

If you'd like to submit something to the monthly Bugle – please send digital content by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to Mrs. Florendo at [apricipaleddev@stbacademy.org](mailto:apricipaleddev@stbacademy.org).



## A Note from the Home School Association

Happy Spring! As I am writing this, there is still snow on the ground, but the calendar tells me that soon we'll be enjoying more time outside!

### **Recap of last month and shout out's:**

Thank you to Maria Amador and Frances Camargo for coordinating St. Joseph's Table! All of the students and faculty enjoyed a delicious feast!

Congratulations to Grade 1-1 on collecting the most Box Tops and winning the last contest! The students enjoyed an ice cream treat as a prize!

The return of the Gertrude Hawk fundraiser was a huge hit with the school making a profit of over \$1500! Orders are still being accepted online through April 10th and will be directly shipped in time for Easter!

Thank you to Lisa Byrne for coordinating the HSA sponsored author visit with K.L. Going! What a special opportunity for our students to be able to sit with a published author and learn about the process of writing a book, having it illustrated and published (and sometimes rejected!). Several lucky students won a raffle and were able to have lunch with K.L. Going and ask her questions. Every student came home with an autographed book by our author as well! These are your fundraising dollars at work!

### **What to look forward to this month:**

Pasta Night will be held on Friday April 7th. Ditch the dishes, skip the pizza and come enjoy pasta and treats with your SBA family! BYOB!

### **Calling all Volunteers!**

We have an amazing community here at SBA! Recently I was invited to sit in on a parent panel with the Middle States Team and one of the things that came up over and over is how the community at our school is like a family. That we can call on people for help and the call is always answered. We have lots of special events and fundraisers to make sure our children are getting the best experience here. None of these things are possible without volunteers. If you are looking for a way to get involved or help give back to our school community, our family, there are plenty of opportunities coming up. We need volunteers to help with grocery card sales after masses, lunch duty volunteers, as well as for upcoming events such as the annual school picnic.

Lastly, if you have a fundraising idea you'd like to share we're all ears! Please contact me at [njgribbins@gmail.com](mailto:njgribbins@gmail.com).

Thank you for your continuing support! I wish each and every one of you a Happy Easter and a safe and fun Spring Break!

Jeanette Gribbin  
HSA President