



The BUGLE

**St. Bartholomew Academy Newsletter
February 2016**

Dear Parents,

Twelve thousand, one million, twenty-million, thirty-eight million, four hundred twenty-five million - you may have heard these numbers announced over and over again some time ago in the media. They are the amounts of money that were contributed from around the world to our brothers and sisters experiencing one of the worst devastating disasters in South Asia. The outpouring of monies, medical supplies, clothing, building materials, food and water had been overwhelming. What causes so many people to respond so generously, while others do not respond at all?

In Boston, Massachusetts, Gerard Quinn, a well to do businessman read about an immigrant, named Franklin Paseros, who needed a kidney transplant, but had no insurance or money to pay for the procedure. Franklin Paseros had written to our government and had received no answer. He had contacted the Ecuadorian consulate who advised him that it would be best to go back home and live out the remaining days of his life in his native country.

Gerald Quinn was in the process of making a final payment for his waterfront home. After reading the article, he decided that he really did not need to have a home that looked over the water. He contacted Franklin and both men met. In the near future, Franklin Paseros would have his kidney transplant and Mr. Quinn would pay for the entire expense of the surgery. Since his family would not be able to be with him, Gerald Quinn would also go with him to the hospital so he would not be alone. What causes one person to respond so generously, while another does not respond at all?

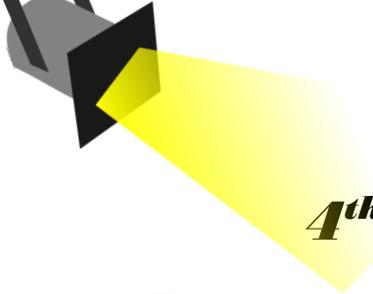
This month we celebrate the gifts of love and generosity. Being generous with our love does not just happen. It needs to be cultivated and nurtured over time. It needs to be taught when children are young. They need to understand why it is important to give.

Great nations only continue to be great and wonderful families only continue to be wonderful when they give of themselves. A heart that gives is responding to a heart in need. And how much this is needed today.

Our world is changing. The massive movements of the earth, the seeming endless wars and acts of violence, thousands living in poverty, the increase of hate and greed, the excessive accumulation of goods, the denial of rights and freedoms are all signs of a world crying for generous hearts.

Let us together make a commitment with our families, that whenever there is a need, that we respond, whether big or small, with a generous heart. The world awaits our response and so does our God.

In Christ,
Sr. Elizabeth

A graphic of a spotlight shining from the top left corner onto the title.

4th Grade Spotlight

The fourth graders at St. Bartholomew Academy have had a year of many achievements. They are looking forward to many more as the school year moves forward. They are continuing to progress in their studies and accomplish the tasks needed to further their learning experiences.

Religion plays an essential part of the students' day. Through their daily prayers and actions they are learning to use the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes as guidelines to live good Christian lives.

Written communication is an integral part of the fourth grade curriculum. The students have been sharpening their writing skills by writing personal narratives, news articles, and couplets.

The fourth graders have been immersed in the technology of learning which is so important to today's society. The computer lab is used for curriculum review, research, and the publishing of written communications. The SMARTBoard is used in Religion for unit reviews, to write problems in math class, and in science and social studies they gain more information through viewing websites that reinforce information on the subject areas they are studying.

The fourth grade social studies' curriculum focuses on learning about our wonderful state. The students have been learning the history, geography, and important places that make our state great. They have already done several projects that have enriched their knowledge of New Jersey. Through the use of the internet, encyclopedias, and research books, they have made Alphabet Books and poems about New Jersey's regions which presented facts that emphasized why New Jersey is a wonderful place to live. As the school year continues, the children will be making mobiles which will exhibit great places to visit in the 22 counties of New Jersey.

The fourth grade students are competitive and especially like to enter contests. They have already participated in a contest run by the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey. They submitted posters portraying the idea of doing fun activities instead of drugs. They will also be participating in the "My County" poster contest. The contest theme focuses on important historical and geographical places to visit in Union County. There are twelve winning posters that will be published in an annual Union County poster calendar.

The fourth grade at St. Bartholomew Academy has achieved a lot of accomplishments and the school year is only half over!

Sincerely,
Ms. MaryEllen Lamb



Maxwell Anderson
Bianca Barreto
Shelby Carmant
Jocelyn Griffith
Anthony Kwiatkowski
Nicholas Marko
Francesco Pitonzo
Chelsea Taylor

Brandon Archer
Morgan Boyd
Robert Constant
Justin Klein
Christopher LaLande
Chiamaka Nwokike
Kassidy Renosa
Nia Vaughn

Nicholas Aumenta
Jackson Byrne
Domenic Erbafina
Garrett Kluckas
Michael Markho
Ella Peoples
Heidi Schulze



IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday, February 3: Catholic Schools Week Closing Mass
Pretzel Sale, \$1.00
NOON DISMISSAL
Bowling Party, Linden Lanes

Wednesday, February 10: Ash Wednesday, 8:30 AM Liturgy

Tuesday, February 12: Tag Day, \$1.00, Wear Red

Monday, February 20: NO SCHOOL – President's Day

Middle States Update – On the Path to Re-accreditation!

As you may know, throughout the spring of 2016, the faculty and staff completed the Self-Study for Accreditation using the Excellence by Design protocol studying 12 standards including:

- Mission
- Governance and Leadership
- School Improvement Planning
- Finances
- Facilities
- School Organization and Staff
- Health and Safety
- Educational Program
- Assessment and Evidence of Student Learning
- Student Services
- Student Life and Student Activities
- Information Resources



The faculty also studied four subject areas – English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Religion. After completing the self-study, the Planning Team and faculty decided upon three objectives for growth and improvement. As stated at Back to School Night in September, those objectives are focused on improving student performance in Mathematics and Science, and creating a culture of planning by creating a long-term strategic plan for the Academy.

In June, the faculty spent three days affirming the Objectives for Growth and Improvement and writing Action Plans to support the achievement of those Objectives. In the Fall, the Planning Team and faculty edited and affirmed the Action Plans. In January, the Objectives were sent to Middle States for a technical review. The Objectives were approved on January 11!

On Monday, January 23, the Visiting Team Chair, Dr. Karen Fasanella, visited our school to meet the administration, tour the school, see the Visiting Team accommodations, and to discuss the schedule of the Team Visit on March 12 – March 15. When the Visiting Team is here, they will compare our self-study to their observations, review our Objectives and Action Plans for Growth and Improvement, interview the administration, staff, teachers, students, and parents, and observe our school in action. Finally, on Wednesday, March 15, the Visiting Team will meet with the administration, staff, and teachers to make their oral report regarding their commendations and recommendations, and their recommendation for re-accreditation.

Electronic copies of the self-study, Objectives, and Action Plans are available upon request. Please contact Mrs. Florendo should you wish to receive a copy.



A note from the HSA

I hope everyone had a great first month of 2017! Here's a recap of what went on in January:

On January 27th, Comedy Night was held at SBA. Over 150 people enjoyed an evening of food, fun and laughter. A big thank you to Jennifer Mortarulo for organizing such an entertaining and successful event!

On January 29th, there was an Open House for prospective families. Many families attended who were interested in learning about the Academy and the new program being offered in the Fall, a half day Pre-Kindergarten 3 program!

What to look forward to this month:

Catholic Schools Week kicked off on January 29th. There were many activities for the week, including assemblies to acknowledge and thank Firefighters, Police Officers and Rescue Squad members. Students also participated in games and sporting events as well. The week will end with the annual bowling event at Linden Lanes on February 3rd!

The Middle School will hold a STEM Fair on Wednesday, February 1st in the Cafeteria from 6:30 pm – 8pm. There will also be a SBA Night at Darby Road that night as well. Come support SBA at Darby Road before you head over to view all of our Middle School's hard work!!

There will be an evening Open House, Thursday, February 2nd from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. If you or someone you know did not have a chance to attend Sunday's Open House, there is another chance to see all that SBA has to offer!

Calling all Volunteers!

We have an amazing community here at SBA! 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, 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 events coming up in the Spring such as the annual school picnic. Lastly, if you have a fundraising idea you'd like to share, we're all ears! Please contact Jeanette Gribbins at njgribbins@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continuing support!

Nicole Reagan
HSA Treasurer



Athletics Update

Basketball season is well underway and we couldn't be prouder of our teams. This is the first year that SBA has been able to field a Pee Wee Girls team and they've responded recently with a three-game winning streak! We also have two Pee Wee Boys teams in the CYO league, both of which are doing very well. The JV Boys and JV Girls teams are also performing well with multiple wins each. Our boys Varsity team currently holds a 4-1 record and our Varsity Girls recently secured a great win against Koinonia Academy! All of our teams have been cheered on by our wonderful Eagles cheerleaders, who continue to do a fantastic job and make every halftime performance fantastic.

Please look out for the SBA Athletics Night with the Harlem Globetrotters on February 19th. We hope you can make it!

We cannot express how proud we are of our teams and we wish them the best of luck heading into the playoffs. The playoff schedule will be distributed in early-March. Come out to cheer on our Eagles!

Bill Aumenta
SBA Athletics Director

Cheer on our girls' and boys' basketball teams in February!
See the Academy website for schedules and results:
<http://stbacademy.org/Athletics.html>



If you'd like to submit something to the monthly Bugle – please send digital content by the 20th of the month to Mrs. Florendo at aprincipaleddev@stbacademy.org