



NEWSLETTER February, 2017

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

May the Lord give you His peace!

It is reported that Sir Winston Churchill was touring a distillery in Scotland during World War II. When asked his thoughts, while in the warehouse gazing upon the mountains of casks and cartons, he said, "So much to do. So little time."



I know the feeling! Report cards, registration and re-registration, the Science Fair, reports to the archdiocese, NY City, NY State, teacher observations, reviewing student work, and taking care of 210 children takes up a lot of time every day.

I'm so blessed to be here at Saint John's with so many great colleagues, children, families, and friends. We made some new friends recently, The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. The sisters were the beneficiaries of our Feeding Our Neighbors Campaign for 2017! They enjoyed their brief time here so much that they wish to return!

The Capital Campaign to build a Science Lab has been a great success. THANK YOU! In addition to the funds raised by the Alumni Association, we have applied for a grant. Because of the history of generosity and our detailed plans, the grant application has been accepted and is being favorably considered! Keep your fingers crossed.

Recently, the Archdiocese of New York has announced that in June 2017 several schools in the Bronx, including Visitation, will cease operations. St. John's will do everything we can to help children and families in the affected schools to make a smooth transition. It is our sincere hope that they consider St. John's School to continue a CATHOLIC education for their children.

I began my message with a story about Churchill. As a history teacher (albeit one who has lapsed into administration) I consider him to be a great statesman and political figure. This is something I came across while reading one day: "Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb."

All the best, Ed Higgins, Principal



ALUMNI ACTIVITY

This is the first Newsletter of our third year, and the Alumni continue to make strides in providing meaningful material support to St. John's School.

In this issue, Mr. Higgins reports on School activities, the Capital Campaign, a related financial grant possibility and recently announced Archdiocese decisions re school closings. The Alumni Activities report provides a final report on the Capital Campaign, as well as recent and upcoming activities of the Alumni and Alumnae, while our Distinguished Graduate article is very proud to feature inventor, entrepreneur and philanthropist Michael Kakos, Class of 1950. Sixth Grader Jean Carlos Rodriguez, Class of 2019, tells us about his experience and aspirations for the future.

Capital Campaign Result:



The 2016 Capital Campaign ran from October 15, 2016 to December 30, 2016 (officially), and donations continued to come in until early February. The Campaign has again been a great success. Our initial target of \$54,000 to help the School build a new Science Lab was significantly exceeded, as the generous Alumni/ae contributed over \$62,000. The additional funds will be used to purchase more equipment for the Lab.

The Campaign raised \$62,464 from 187 donations. Individual contributions ranged from \$10 up to \$5,000+, and **every** contribution is very much appreciated and will be well used for the benefit of the students. Not counted in the above is a potential additional \$2,850 in corporate Matching Gifts applied for by two Alums. The Class of 1955 again led the way with 18 donations, followed by the Class of 1960 with 17. Amongst our donors, once again Eileen T. Curran, Class of 1941, was our "earliest grad" contributor, while Richard Gonzalez, Jr., 2015, is our most recent donor graduate.... with a span of nearly 75 years, it is a nice example of historical continuity! The Parents of several current students (future Alums) also contributed. **Attached to the Newsletter is an "Honor Roll of Donors" listing all the financial contributors by level of giving.**



The Students and teachers, as well as the Alumni Association, are very grateful for your extraordinary financial generosity, and also want to acknowledge the obviously many prayers offered in support of the Campaign. We can see the Lord's hand in the results.



St. Patrick's Day Breakfast-2017

St. John's Kingsbridge Alumni Breakfast Committee will hold its annual Irish Breakfast on Sunday, March 12 in the Godwin Terrace School Auditorium , after the 11:30 Mass at the Church. Tickets are \$20.00 each if purchased in advance and \$25.00 at the door. The breakfast includes: Irish Bacon, Irish Sausages, Blood Pudding, White Pudding, Eggs, Potatoes, Oatmeal, Irish Soda Bread, Juice, Coffee and Tea. Door prizes too.

In conjunction with the breakfast we will hold our traditional raffle, including a Waterford O'Mara Bowl, a Baleek Braided Lamp and a \$50. Visa Gift Card.

For additional information on the Irish Breakfast event contact Joan Beck at 718-543-3117 or email her at jeannedarc2@aol.com

Reunions:

Keep in mind that many Classes have now held successful Reunions (1949, 1955, 1959, 1960, 1969, 1975, 1976...that we know about), and it is a great way to reconnect with your old buddies from St. John's. To those members of classes with, or even without, big milestones coming up in the next few years, think about stepping up and organizing one for your class.

The amount of work is not overwhelming, and often several classmates work together to get it organized. **Bill Colbert 1955** (wrcolbert41@gmail.com), **Larry Parker 1959** (lapar46@optonline.net), **Joe Boland 1960** (jboland@optonline.net), **Roger O'Sullivan 1969** (yowser32@optonline.net) and **Bernadette Huvane 1976** (t5610@aol.com) would be happy to share their experiences organizing their class reunions. Further, the Alumni Association can provide assistance in sharing relevant contact info on classmates in our database, posting notices in the Newsletter and helping with email communications.



DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE



Each Newsletter, we will highlight a St. John's Kingsbridge graduate who has distinguished him/herself in their chosen field: clergy, business, public service, military, education etc. as a source of pride for the Alumni population and as an example of a successful St. John's grad's career for the current students.



Michael J. Kakos, Class of 1950.....The son of a Slovakian immigrant with a long, distinguished career as chemist, innovator/inventor, successful entrepreneur and now philanthropist

Both Michael's Dad, an immigrant from Slovakia and for 23 years a New York City police officer, and Mom, a second generation Slovakian, were long term members of St. John's Parish. The four Kakos children, Michael, Richard, Carol and Barry were raised on Johnson Avenue in a house owned by their grandparents, and all attended St. John's School.

While life subsequently led Michael to many "faraway" places, he recalls fondly his youth in Kingsbridge, including the long walks to and from school on Godwin Terrace with his siblings and friends, and doing all the things youngsters did in those days....playing ball, hanging out in Ewen Park, doing his chores at home and studying hard to do well at St. John's and to get onto a good high school.

He graduated from the parish grammar school, St John's, in 1950 and then attended Cardinal Hayes High School in the lower Bronx. He later was awarded degrees from Manhattan College (BS in Chemistry), Niagara University (MS Chemistry), and Steven's Institute of Technology (MS Industrial Engineering).

He began his very successful professional career as a scientist in various industrial laboratories researching and developing metals, ceramics and plastics materials. He holds several patents. After a few years developing engineering thermoplastic raw materials in the Celanese Corporation laboratories in New Jersey, he moved into business positions with the firm including sales development, product management and international marketing.



Michael's management talent brought him to London, England, in 1975 to become the Managing Director of Celanese' European, Middle East and African operations, a very senior and important executive responsibility.

He remained with Celanese until 1987, when founded Resin Express Ltd. in the UK. Resin Express was a distributor of engineering thermoplastic raw materials which were sourced from worldwide producers for sale to UK based small molders. Michael married Aimee Rusinko of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, in 1989. She joined the new firm as a Director. Shortly after developing and growing this business quite successfully, Michael and Aimee sold the company in 1990 to a European plastics firm and retired to the next phase of life.

Relocating to Florida, while maintaining a home in London, Michael worked as executive volunteer at various educationally related charities and non-profit organizations in the U.S., and with other U.S. and London based organizations

Focused on helping the homeless. Says Michael: " Aimee and I have had a fair degree of success in life, and we felt a strong need to share what we know and what we have to assist the next generations of young people also make good decisions and have good preparation, and to help those who perhaps have not been as fortunate."

More recently, Michael and Aimee have set up a Donor Advise Fund and Charity Foundation to fulfill their philanthropic ambitions for charities in their native home towns, schools and universities and various other national organizations.

The **Kakos'** reside, seasonally, in Winter Park, Florida, London, England and Latrobe, PA. A golfer and traveler for enjoyment, Michael is also an avid patron of the Arts, enjoying especially Opera and Classical music with Aimee.

Looking back, Michael credits his early and consistent dedication to education as a key to his success. He says: " In my experience, it wasn't clear very early in life just what course my career and life would take. However, by applying myself diligently to my studies, starting in St. John's, through Cardinal Hayes and Manhattan College, when the time came to make choices, I was well prepared. Today's students should get the most they can out of their educational experience, as it is a strong foundation for future success and happiness."

Michael Kakos, the highly educated and very successful son of immigrants, generous philanthropist and proud graduate of St. John's Kingsbridge!

STUDENT ESSAY/PROJECT

In each issue, we will include a brief essay from one of the current students at St. John's, telling us a little bit about themselves, their experience at the school and their aspirations.

Jean Carlos Rodriguez, Class of 2019



My name is Jean Carlos Rodriguez and I have been a student at St. John's School for five years. I also serve the community as an altar server in St. John's – Visitation parish. The teachers and students here are great. They make you feel welcome and loved. It is a blessing to be part of this community.

My mom is an alumna of St. John's School. She came to St. John's School in the third grade, and graduated in 2001. When she came to St. John's, the computers were old and outdated. Recently, St. John's has upgraded the computer lab. We now have 25 brand new iMac computers thanks to the St. John's Alumni Association. We are very grateful that this upgrade has finally happened.

Now we have more access to new software, applications, and we are able to use web sites that help us learn, such as interactive Science websites. Having experience with both Apple and Microsoft products and software will prepare me for high school and college. I am looking forward to being in the seventh grade next year. I will receive my own St. John's School email and be able to work with the Google Classroom. This will allow my classmates and me to submit classwork online like students in high school do.

St. John's School is a very special place; I guess that is why my mom brought me here. Some teachers who taught my mom are still working here today. The teachers are very helpful and they make learning fun. They work very hard to help prepare us for our future. In the past five years, St. John's has not only become a source of a fine education but it has become a part of my extended family. I hope that one day I will be able to help the future students of St. John's just like the alumni have helped us.

2016 Alumni Capital Campaign Honor Roll

PRINCIPAL'S DIAMOND CIRCLE (\$2,500 and up)

Joe Boland	1960	
Daniel H. Fitzgerald	1966	
Paul D. Hagan		IMO James F. Hagan, Jr.(1943)
Michael J.(1950) & Aimee R. Kakos	1950	
Alice Mack	1957	
Richard J. McLynn	1953	
Carol Kwalwasser (1967) & Finbarr (1965) O'Neill	1965	

PLATINUM FOUNDER'S SOCIETY (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Kathleen(Kay) Buckley Allaire	1954	
Patrick G Boyle	1967	
Cathy Rega Brudnicki	1960	
William R. Colbert	1955	
Thomas Fehily	1955	
Michael J. Gibbons	1954	
Thomas J. Hickey	1949	
John J. Higgins	1947	
John W. Hyland	1960	
Lu-Del's		Uniform Company
Joanne Campbell Martin	1956	
Eileen Daly Morgan	1956	
Patrick J. O'Neill	1946	
Deacon Donald M. Quigley	1959	
Sheila Seery	1949	IMO Anne Marie Kerrigan Seery(1949)

GOLD LEADERSHIP GROUP
(\$500-\$999)

Richard J. Browne	1959	
Maureen Cluen	1955	
Joan Fogarty Craig	1959	
Patrick(1956) & Eileen Shanley(1957) Draper	1956	
Elizabeth Halm	1949	
Marianne Walker Hansen	1972	
Francis P. Joyce	1947	
John Kearney	1965	
John Kiernan	1964	IMO John and Eileen Kiernan
Stephen Markardt	1962	
Jeanne Davey McMahan	1949	
Rev. Monsignor Hugh F. McManus	1949	
Helen O'Leary	1955	
James P. Quigley, PhD.	1956	IMO Claire Quigley Romano (1948)
Irene Gould Regan	1961	
Anonymous	1947	
Anonymous	1960	

SILVER KINGSMAN CLUB
(\$250-\$499)

Diane Sanchez Carmona	1962	
Neil Colbert	1953	
Susan Sullivan D'Adamo	1957	
Mary Draper	1950	
Julie Enright-Commane	1975	
Maureen Baldwin Flood	1965	
Michael Hurley	1974	
Bernadette Enright(1976) & Tom Huvane	1976	
Josephine Daly Joyce	1964	
Ann Marie McNally Lynch	1978	
John P. O'Sullivan	1959	
Mary O'Neill	1970	
Richard(1956) & Noreen Anne Duffy(1957) Rodrigue	1956	
Manuel Rubio	1976	
Geraldine Moylan Ryan	1960	
Jack(1953) and Frances Sullivan	1953	

**“1903” BRONZE SOCIETY
(\$100-\$249)**

John(1963) & Dorothy Ryan(1963) Beck	1963	
Lawrence Boland	1948	
Barbara Brady	1952	IMO John Brady (1951)
Joanne O'Dowd Brown	1956	
Charles M. (1948)& Mary Brady (1949) Carroll	1948	
Class of 1976 Reunion	1976	
Mary Keane Cronin	1955	
Richard(1954) & Marie(1955) Cronin	1954	IMO members of the Sullivan and Cronin families
Eileen T. Curran	1941	
Steve C. Denyko	1953	
Patrick J. Dillon	1949	
Thomas Doyle	1959	
Barbara Medwick Duffy	1960	
Patrick Egan	1950	
Sister Eileen Egan, SSD	1952	
Gerard Fallon	1956	
Barbara Frey Ferrante	1955	
Stephen W. Fitzgerald		
Noreen Lyons Flugger	1959	
Maureen Fogarty	1954	
Edward(1960) & Eileen O'Connor (1960) Gallagher	1960	
Margaret Cullinane Gallagher	1953	
Maribel Garcia		Parent of student
Theresa Ryan Genovese	1964	
Robert E.(1955) & Eileen Haverhn (1959) Gorman	1955	
Robert F.(1945) & Barbara Lee(1947) Gremillot	1947	
Viet Q. Hunyh		Parent of student
Barry J. Kakos	1960	
Carole L. Kakos	1957	
John Thomas Kane	1951	
Denise Kannar	1961	
John J.(1952) & Patricia A.(1952) Keenan	1952	
Thomas J. Kelly	1955	
Martin F.(1953) & Elaine Hagan(1950) Kennedy	1953	
Patricia M. Kenny	1953	
John Lavelle	1955	
Marilyn Lynch	1960	
Al Maclellan	1955	

Noreen Mastrangelo	1975	
Daniel McNally	1972	
Michael McVey	1955	
Eugene P. Murnane	1944	
Kathy Murnion	1950	IMO John P. Murnion(1950)
James M. Murphy	1958	
Thomas Murray, Jr.	1956	
Helen (Patt) Nagle	1947	
Patricia O'Connell	1958	
Michael O'Connor	1955	
John O'Leary	1945	
Edward P.(1961) & Rosemary Dowling(1961) O'Malley	1961	
Madeline Lane O'Malley	1964	
Joanne Connaire O'Malley	1975	
Barbara O'Meara		Parent of graduates
Louis C. Pappas	1968	
Regina Pastore	1960	
Patricia Dooley Pogeweit	1970	
John Powers	1950	
John P. Pryor	1950	
Brian J. Quinn	1974	
Ethel McKeon Reese	1960	
Anne Rega		
Mary P. O'Connor Rogan	1953	
Richard D. Salmon	1955	
Robert Singleton	1962	
Eileen Penn Sullivan	1958	
Eugene P. Sullivan	1955	
Jeanette Russo Vlantis	1969	
James J. Vogt	1964	
Michael P.(1960) & Eileen O'Connor(1961) Walsh	1960	
Patricia Warde	1954	
Marilyn Mattison Wilde	1964	

EAGLE SUPPORTER
(\$1-\$99)

Kourtney Aracena	1992	
Patricia Bocker	1957	
John Boland	1961	
Helen Robertson Bowers	1955	
Patricia Hayes Brandstetter	1955	
Mary Catherine O'Connor Broglie	1965	
Margaret Noonan Brown	1960	
Katherine Carroll	1956	
Lynn Bertolas Chimblo	1976	
Thomas Colgan	1959	
Mary Ellen Thaczyk Connolly	1960	
George J. Conrad	1957	
Raymond J. Conrad	1949	
Rev. William Cosgrove	1962	
Francene C. Costello	1952	
Mary Boland Cunneen	1950	
Bernadette D'Alessandro	1972	
James J.(1954) & Anne Madigan(1955) Dillon	1954	
Phillip J. Dillon	1958	
Helen Byrne Dooley	1955	IMO Rev. John F.(1953) & James B.(1958)Byrne
Maureen Smith Dornau	1952	
Kevin J. Egan	1956	
Rosemary Sweeney Eisenhardt	1963	
Jacqueline Fitzgerald	1960	
William Frey	1954	
Karen Holevas Garifo	1976	
Richard Gonzalez, Jr.	2015	
Marty Halpin	1956	
Margaret O'Neill Hannigan	1951	
Maureen Murphy Hartwig	1955	
Dr. Kathleen O'Connor Hoekstra	1953	
Kathleen Farrell Hutchings	1966	
Frederick(1965) & Donna Venedam(1967) Jenks	1965	
Barbara Johnson	1945	
Ellen Finan Kelly	1960	
Joseph F. Klett	1948	
John Larkin	1954	
Kitty Jennings MacRae	1954	

Daniel J. Mahoney	1952	
Eileen Cullinane Malter	1950	
James J. McCarvill	1945	
Helen N. McGowan	1954	
John R. McIvor	1946	
John D. McParland	1970	
Neal Muldoon	1971	
Margaret Hartnett Murphy	1960	
Kathleen Murret	1949	
Denis F. O'Sullivan	1951	
Kathleen Cosgrove Pavletich	1959	
Francisco Polanco		Parent of student
Barbara Powers	1967	
Michael J. Prendergast	1962	
Judith Freeland Rooney	1949	
James F. Rosetti	1949	
Kathleen Russell Shea	1952	
Paul Shinnors	1953	
Georgia Strong	1948	IMO Claire Quigley Romano(1948)
John E. Sullivan	1957	
Edward(1946) & Nora (1948) Sweeney	1946	
Martha Ann Tynan		
Christine Vidal	1966	

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION THANKS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE STUDENTS OF OUR ALMA MATER, ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL KINGSBRIDGE