

A Middle States Moment

Renewing the Vision

Volume 1, Issue 5

December 2006

Principal's Corner

From the desk of Sister William Adele, SSJ

Dear Parents and Parishioners,

This is the final issue of our Middle States newsletter. We have been pleased to present these newsletters to you, our parents, and parishioners. We hope that you have found them informative. We appreciated hearing so many positive comments from you after each issue was published. It gave us a sense of being connected to the broader parish community as we traveled the road to reaccreditation.

This final issue of "A Middle States Moment" will provide you with information about the visit by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools to our school on November 14th through the 17th.

The visit began on the evening of November 14th with an opening prayer service in our church, followed by dinner, and a presentation that provided an overview of our work on the Renewing the Vision protocol. We proudly introduced the Faculty, the Planning Team, special guests from the Office of Catholic Education, and our former principal, Sister Helen Frederick.

Everyone who attended the opening event could sense the pride and enthusiasm that we all felt for our school. We were definitely off to a great start!

I could not close without a word of gratitude to our outstanding faculty who worked tirelessly for 18 months in preparation for the team visit. We worked together to renew the vision of Saint Luke the Evangelist School with great dedication. It is our sincere hope that our efforts will ensure that a quality Catholic education is available to parents in the Glenside community who seek to educate their children in the faith.

*Sister William Adele, SSJ
Principal*

As always, we welcome your comments or questions about our school. You may contact me at principal@saintlukeschool.org.

New Saint Luke Logo Unveiled

We are grateful to Sister Mary Boyer, SSJ who designed the cover art specifically for this reaccreditation process, Renewing the Vision. Based on Ephesians 3: 14-17, the hands reach downward in heart-shaped roots, depicting our need to be grounded in God's love, in order to grow strong and be nourished by God's Word. Open hands stretch upward to embrace the world and fashion it into what God intends it to be.



Correction – Our Faces are Red!

We apologize to Mr. Joe Phillips whose name was omitted from the last issue of A Middle States Moment. Joe has been an invaluable member of our Technology Team. Joe has done much of our technical work over the last several years. Most recently, he was instrumental in getting all of our new computers up and running for the faculty. We regret this error.

PRESENTING THE VISITING TEAM

Visiting Team members are our colleagues in education. They are generally principals and/or teachers who volunteer to participate in the evaluation process by submitting applications to the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools. Once selected to participate on a team, they follow guidelines developed by the Middle States Commission. The members that visited Saint Luke School included:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|
| Mr. Edward Tray | Teacher | Port Carbon, PA | Chairperson |
| Sister Virginia Pfau, IHM | Principal | Wilmington, DE | Team Member |
| Ms. Mary Casey | Teacher | Claymont, DE | Team Member |
| Mr. Michael Farrow | Teacher | Egg Harbor City, NJ | Team Member |

THE TEAM VISIT

What Exactly Does the Visiting Team Do?

The team visit is intended to be a reflective experience not only for the team members, but for the faculty as well. The protocol (Renewing the Vision) is the essential part of the evaluation. A good visiting team enters the school through the protocol report, follows the path it lays down, and then it builds its own report as a commentary on the protocol.

During the visit to Saint Luke's, the team is required to review a variety of Archdiocesan and school documents. They also visit classrooms and speak informally with teachers. Meetings are scheduled with a group of parents, some fourth through eighth grade students, representative members of the Planning Team and the Core Committee (six faculty members).

In addition to these activities, they attended 8:30 AM Mass with one of our classes, witnessed a fire drill, and were present for the arrival and dismissal of students.

At the conclusion of the school day, the team met to work on the report that is required by the Middle States Commission and prepared an oral report that would be delivered to the pastor, the principal, and the faculty at the conclusion of their visit.

In several weeks we will receive a written report that is also sent to the Middle States Commission. Once that is complete, we will await word regarding our reaccreditation status.

Opening Prayer Service



Our opening prayer service participants included alumni, current students in grades 1-5 and new Kindergartners. This was intended to illustrate that we are rooted in the past, nourished in the present and creating the future church of Glenside. This presented a powerful image to our visitors and all who attended the opening event.



Father Fitzpatrick Hall, decorated by our faculty decorating committee, was picture perfect for the welcome reception.

GRATITUDE TO OUR FACILITATOR

Saint Luke School was extremely fortunate to have the services of a professional facilitator who guided our Core Committee and Planning Team through the strategic planning process of this Middle States protocol. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. David Trevaskis for his service and commitment to our school.

David is an attorney and former third grade teacher with a Master's Degree in Education. He is the Pro Bono Coordinator for Legal Services for the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA), responsible for assisting local bar associations, legal services programs and other groups who offer pro bono legal services across the Commonwealth. He conducts continuing legal education classes on the Ethics of Pro Bono and other topics across the Commonwealth and he travels regularly to every corner of Pennsylvania to encourage the access to justice for the neediest among us.

Mr. Trevaskis also serves as the Executive Director for Law, Education and Peace for Kids (LEAP-Kids), the Pennsylvania branch of a national network organized by the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to promote law-related education and civics (LRCE). LEAP-Kids is the statewide center for civic learning.

Mr. Trevaskis has taught at every level, from elementary school through law school. He is the developer and original trainer for Project PEACE (Peaceful Endings through Attorneys, Children and Educators) that has brought peer mediation and conflict resolution education to nearly 500 schools in Indiana and Pennsylvania in partnership with each state's Bar Association and Attorney General. David is the recipient of the 1996 Philadelphia Bar Association's Leon J. Obermayer Education Award, a 2000 President's Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association for teaching law-related and civic education to children from kindergarten through high school, the Philadelphia Bar Association's Young Lawyer Division's 2002 F. Sean Peretta Service Award, a 2004 President's Award from the Chester County Bar Association, a 2006 Presidential Citation from the Indiana State Bar Association and he is the second winner, after Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, of the PennCORD (Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy, an initiative of Pennsylvania First Lady and Federal Judge Marjorie Rendell) Compass Award, given December 5, 2006. He is the President-Elect of the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies, a Board Member for Phi Alpha Delta's Public Service Center and a state liaison to the Youth for Justice program. David is married with two children and one grandson

HELPING HANDS

As always, when we send out an S.O.S. to our parents, you can be sure of a wonderful response! This time was no exception! We asked parents who were available to give us a few hours during the school day or in the evening to do some heavy-duty cleaning in both buildings. We had over 30 volunteers who came with sleeves rolled up and ready to work. And once they started... there was no stopping this crew! They went above and beyond the call of duty to get at those hard to reach places where somehow little hands and feet leave their mark. Our sincere thanks to each and every one of our "HELPING HANDS CREW"!

Anne Marie Burns
Jackie Cranch
Thomas Crawford
J.J. Cunnane
Karen Daemer
Laurie Dubyk
Jim Dwyer
Carolyn Donahue
Beth Gillaspay

Christine King
Michele Long
Nancy Matthews
Carianne Marino
Bernie Mc Dermott
Tara Monihan
Sue Nedbal
Kathleen O'Connell
Joann Priole

Siobhain Regan
Lisa Rock
Maureen Ryan
Mary Saurman
Cathy Sgro
Sharon Slusarski
Patrice Trauffer
Patricia Wallace
Gina Yohe

Hats Off to the Hammer and Saw Team

The faithful members of the Hammer and Saw Team met each week beginning in September to take care of odd jobs around the school so that our buildings would be in tip-top shape for our visitors.

The work done by the team included ceiling repair, sanding and staining damaged classroom doors, spackling and painting trouble spots on walls, and hanging various pictures in classrooms and corridors.

We extend our gratitude to these dads who came to school at night after a full day's work to make sure that our school looked its best for the visit.

Hats off to the Hammer and Saw Team !

*Joe Hart
Mark Hildebrand
Steve Hober
Joe Hughes
Mark Slusarski
Egon Voltmer*

Seventh Grade Service

The final day of preparation for the visit came on Friday, November 10th. So that the faculty could put the finishing touches on their classrooms, the day was designated as a holiday for students – most students that is! But not for our seventh grade Confirmation class.

As part of the service that students perform in preparation for the reception of Confirmation, our seventh graders came to school, “on their day off” to join the faculty in doing whatever needed to be done to get ready for the team visit.

These students were a wonderful help to all of us. We are so proud of their willingness to help and their obvious pride in their school.

We salute our seventh grade students!

An Extra Special Touch!

Our Home and School Board took on the task of hospitality for the visiting team while they were present in our school. Three of our members took care of providing morning refreshments and lunch for the team during the visit. We thank our gracious hostesses:

Mary Fran Mc Namara
Sue Johnston
Leigh Kolonis

A Bright Idea!

For years, the entry of our school has needed additional lighting. It couldn't have come at a better time. We now have a beautiful fixture that brightens up the entrance to the main school building. This would not have been possible without the generosity of Mr. Paul Bielarski who installed the fixture for us. Another example of someone who shared his time and talent to make our school a more attractive and inviting environment. Many thanks to you, Paul!

Special Mention for Special Help

Someone once said: “the devil is in the details” and the final preparation for the visit included countless details. We are grateful to the following persons who assisted us behind the scenes. This kind of involvement speaks to the spirit and generosity of our many benefactors.

Preparation of floor plans for both buildings
Mr. Mike Santarelli

Transportation for the team
Mr. Harry May

Decorator and Consultant
Mr. John Yohe

Windows in School Entry
Mr. Mark Branco

Landscaping
Mr. Leo Lorenz