

THE PAVONIAN

THE MISSION CONTINUES



St. Joseph School Alumni Newsletter

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

Saint Joseph Catholic Elementary School is an educational community committed to preparing our students spiritually, intellectually, socially and emotionally for the future.

Our shared efforts are directed toward creating an environment rich in diverse opportunities that support academic challenge and that will ultimately lead our students toward self confidence and independence. Our commitment to excellence fosters students who as adults, will possess strong Christian values, be prepared to adapt to an ever changing world, and continue to be guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

IN THIS ISSUE:



- PASTOR'S LETTER.....
- PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME.....
- PEACEABLE GARDEN.....
- TEACHER SPOTLIGHT.....

STAY CONNECTED!!!

Give us your e-mail address & "LIKE" us on Facebook www.Facebook.com/StJosephJerseyCity

Find our Facebook Group: St. Joseph's Grammar School Alumni <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjosephjerseycityalumni/>

Email: alumni@stjosephjc.com

PAYONIAN VOLUNTEERS:
 DINA KHIRY '99, EDITOR
 KATHY ROONEY VALERIUS '62, CONTRIBUTOR
 KEVIN LYONS '84', CONTRIBUTOR
 JOHN RICHARDS '67', CONTRIBUTOR

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

In the Fall, the alumni conducted their 3rd Annual Fundraiser for the school. We have been successful for the past two years with increasing donations every year and are hoping for this same accomplishment for the 2014-2015 school year. Your gift, no matter how large or how small, will make a difference in the lives of the students at St. Joseph. One of the greatest challenges facing Catholic Schools here in Jersey City and across our country is covering the increasing operational costs without raising tuition to a level difference in Schools here in Jersey City and across our country the lives of the students at St. Joseph. One of the greatest challenges facing Catholic is covering the increasing operational costs without raising tuition to a level that is unaffordable for the families in St. Joseph School. Your monetary gift will continue to share directly in the mission of our school and keep quality Catholic Education accessible to all families. Thank you to those that donated this year and we ask that you make this fundraiser a victory by donating when you receive your letter in the future.

FROM THE PASTOR,

REV JAMES V. PAGNOTTA

SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL & PARISH NEWS

Dear Alumni,

I am happy to greet you once again and I am excited to talk about our Saint Joseph Family! The Parish is now in its 159th year; the school came along a few years later.

Over the years, the Hilltop neighborhood has experienced many cultures, languages, cuisines and people, but there was one thing that remained constant – our Catholic faith and blessings, through the intercessions of our patron Joseph, the beloved spouse of Mary and foster father of Our Savior.

So many wonderful families, benefactors and alumni have blessed us. I am most grateful to those who have already responded to our 2014 Annual Giving Campaign.

I am excited about the major neighborhood development already under way, just up the block on Pavonia & Summit. In the next few years, thousands of new families will be living in the Hilltop/Journal Square zone and we cannot but benefit.

Your school is very much alive with ongoing enrollment and development. Our place in “Lighting the Way” – the Archdiocesan new school initiative is secure; our future is bright.

Please keep our Saint Joseph family in your prayers and heart. Also, please know you are welcome to visit at any time! We have specific reunions at the annual Alumni BBQ on Saturday, May 16th and the annual Parish Festival on September 9-13.

Sincerely,

Rev. James V. Pagnotta, *Pastor*

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I wish you and your family All the Best for a Happy and Blessed New Year. I send you my warm greetings hoping this newsletter finds all of you well. I would like to thank so many of our Alumni who donated so generously to our Annual Alumni Fund Drive. You can be assured that all donations will be used to benefit our students and enhance our school building. We were able to purchase Interactive Smart Boards, iPads and other supplies to improve our Technology Program.

During the summer, new classroom floors were installed, hallways and classrooms were painted, additional Security Cameras were added to our buildings and additional STEM Workshops were held for our teachers so we can continue to integrate STEM into our Curriculum. This was all accomplished through your extreme generosity. If you have not donated to our Annual Fund Drive and you would like to do so, it would be greatly appreciated and will certainly be used to benefit our School and Students. We began another exciting school year on September 4th and had a beautiful outdoor Opening Day Mass at Pershing Field celebrated by Bishop Manuel Cruz, Our Pastor, Fr. Pagnotta and Pastor of Saint Nicholas Parish – Fr Bruce; it was a great way to open the school year. Our current enrollment this year is 322 students.; so, we are doing very well. We are so proud of eighteen of our 7th and 8th grade students who were inducted into The National Junior Honor Society in December. They are now busy working on various projects and activities and are taking an active role in the Qualities of Service, Leadership, Knowledge, Scholarship, Citizenship and Character. I would like to let you know about some upcoming School and Alumni Events. Hopefully, you would be able to join us at some of these wonderful events:

The School Events:

- Catholic Schools Week Mass – Thursday, January 29 at 8:45 AM – Celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Hebda.
- Feast of Saint Joseph Liturgy – Thursday, March 19 at 8:45 AM. May Crowning and Rosary – Monday, May 4 or Thursday, May 7 at 1:00 PM in the Playground.
- Drama Club Play: Adams Family – Friday, May 1 at 7:00 PM in the Church Hall.
- Taste of the Town Fundraiser – Saturday, May 2 at 12:00/Noon (Tentative Date)
- Spring Concert – Friday, May 8 at 7:15 PM.
- Grade 8 Graduation – Friday, June 12 at 7:15 PM in Saint Joseph Church.

The Alumni Events:

- Alumni Bar-B-Q/Picnic – Saturday, May 16 – 12:30 PM (Tickets send checks to rectory. Adults 13 and older \$25/ Child \$12.50) Please join us!

As always, you are most welcome to visit Saint Joseph School if you are in the area. The students and I would love to see you and give you a tour. Saint Joseph School is alive and well. I hope to see you soon. God Bless You and your families.

Sincerely, Mr. John Richards, *Principal*

PEACE GARDEN

Life is well underway here at St. Joseph School, A Peaceable School. The theme for the 2014--2015 school year is: *"Peace Made Visible Through the Virtues"*. During the month of September, we studied and practiced the virtue of "Respect". Each month we will focus on a different virtue.

This fall we formally opened our schools "Peace Garden". The St. Joseph School community is extremely grateful for all that made the Peace Garden a reality and we would like to extend our deepest thanks to our parents, who volunteered their time, talent and treasure to make the Peace Garden a beautiful place of prayer and relaxation. We encourage you to please take time to view the pictures of the Peace Garden on the schools website.

Our Peace Garden is also a memorial garden. Throughout the school year flowers and vegetables will be planted in memory of loved ones who have passed away. The annual day of remembrance will be the last Thursday in the month of May. A special prayer service will be held in the Peace Garden on that day to remember our deceased loved ones.



If you wish to purchase a memorial card to remember a loved one, please call the school office (201-653-0128) and ask for Sister Barbara.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



ROBIN MORRI-



Robin Morrison was raised in Long Island, New York. She is the only girl and the 3rd oldest of 4 children. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Plattsburgh College in New York and her master's degree from St. Peter's College in Jersey City.

Robin started her teaching position at St. Joseph School in 1978 as a middle school science teacher. A few years later she was concerned about the declining enrollment in the school and suggested maybe kindergarten should be brought back. Because of her suggestion, she was given the teaching task. Approximately 30 years later, she is still educating the youth of St. Joseph School. In addition to this job, another role she fulfills is vice principal. Besides stepping in when the principal is out of the building, she takes pleasure in working curriculum development with teachers after school.

What little free time Robin has that is not devoted to education, she appreciates reading and actually traveling. She takes advantage of Facebook interacting with past students while they boast what they have accomplished since Kindergarten. She feels she has come full circle watching her students become productive members of the community.

Robin considers it a privilege to teach at the family atmosphere at St. Joseph School. In September she started her 36th year and has definitely been an asset to the school. Robin Morrison is one of those rare gifts that touched many lives in the past and is continuing to do so in the present. St. Joseph School received an extraordinary jewel when she joined the faculty in 1978. She just keeps getting better.

ATTENTION ALUMNI!

Did you recently get married? Graduate? Have a baby? Well, we'd love to hear from you! If you have any stories or news to share, we would like to hear about them to feature in future newsletters. Submit them either by email at alumni@stjosephjc.com or mail to the school office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - Please send us your new address when you move including your maiden name if applicable and class year. We LOVE hearing from alumni so please share with us your information so we can keep in touch!

Please take a few moments to give us an update:

Name: _____
 Maiden Name: _____
 Address: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Phone: _____
 Class of _____

You can email this information to alumni@stjosephjc.com or mail it to the school at: **Saint Joseph School**
 509 Pavonia Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07306
 Telephone: (201) 653-0128
 E-mail: stjosephjc@yahoo.com
 Website: www.stjosephjc.com

St. Joseph School
590 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Saint Joseph Church

511 Pavonia Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07306
 Telephone: (201) 653-0392
 E-mail: stjosephjc@yahoo.com
 Website: www.stjosephjc.com

Reverend James V. Pagnotta, Pastor
 John Richards '67, Principal