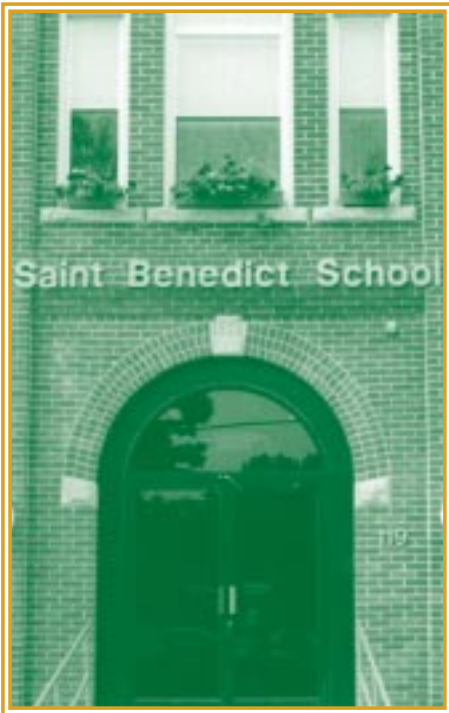


Beautifying the Grounds



When architects designed the Saint Benedict School building some one hundred and fifty years ago, they could never have imagined that the building would withstand the passage of time to stand as proudly and beautifully as it does today. The School building has been restored to its original stateliness from the attractive main entrance to the bell tower that once again reverberates with the sounds of the school bell calling students to classes. It is only fitting, then, that the grounds surrounding the School are maintained with

unparalleled tender loving care.

The front lawn of the School is lush green grass hemmed in by a low fence which imitates the Romanesque arches of the building's bell tower. Mr. Dan Bechel takes pride in maintaining the lawn. Tidy flowerbeds immediately in front of the building come to life with rich purple irises in the spring and thrive through the summer months with hostas, daylilies and black-eyed susans. The flowerbeds were planted and are cared for by Janet Gaul, her mother Mary Serafin and her sister Carol Serafin. Janet shared that she enjoyed this type of work because she loves to watch things grow. This summer was a challenge due to the hot, dry weather. "The best part of the job," Janet says, "is the many compliments and words of thanks we receive from everyone." She emphasizes too, that her mother taught her and Carol everything they know.

By design, each window on the front of the Saint Benedict School building is accented by a stone lintel and window sill. Several years ago flower boxes were designed by Parishioner, Pat Stevens, to accent each window sill. The flowers of choice for the flowerboxes are red and pink vining geraniums. The window boxes are placed on the building in early May and remain until the

first autumn frost threatens Carrolltown. While the boxes are in place, the Saint Benedict School building takes on a very European flavor. Parishioners Karen Kirsch and Mary Lou Stainback care for the flowers. Both Karen and Mary Lou enjoy watering and pruning the flowers. Mary Lou feels that the flowers make the School look more pleasant and inviting. Karen agrees, "The flower boxes definitely enhance the building. Passers-by comment on how beautiful the flowers are and thank us for taking care of them."

Eventually the weather demands that it is time for parishioner Jeannine Cymbor to arrange to take the flower boxes from the School building for winter storage.

Members of the Saint Benedict School Community are indebted to our groundskeepers and Parish gardeners who give so generously of their time and talents to beautify the grounds at our School.



2nd Kindergarten Teacher Added



This past summer was an important one for Saint Benedict School. A large and enthusiastic number of families enrolled their kindergarten students in our School so that their children could be educated in a Catholic environment. As the end of summer vacation neared, Mrs. Kathy Lamont, Father Vincent, and the Saint Benedict School Council agreed that these students would be best served in two smaller kindergarten classes rather than in one large class. Miss Bensor was

returning to teach one class, but another kindergarten teacher was still needed. Fortunately, Saint Benedict School was able to hire Mrs. Jackie Paronish to fill this important position.

Mrs. Paronish is a native of Northern Cambria and graduated from Northern Cambria High School. After studying elementary education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, she taught pre-kindergarten for three years and also worked as a full-time substitute teacher in second grade at Northern Cambria Catholic School. This experience insures that Mrs. Paronish will be more-than-ready to work with our second kindergarten class.

Because she already has a background in Catholic education, Mrs. Paronish is well aware of the

benefits offered by a small parochial school. Although she says that the main strength of a Catholic school is "the ability to teach both values and education," she also appreciates the attitudes and involvement of the families and community members who work with our students. Overall, Mrs. Paronish wants each of her students to grow academically, socially, and spiritually so that by May they are fully prepared to enter first grade. Although the year has just begun, Mrs. Paronish has already had positive experiences at Saint Benedict School as she acquaints herself with the program, aided by Miss Bensor.

When she is not in school, Mrs. Paronish spends time with her husband and eight-month old son, Colton.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

No. 2

The IOWA tests of Basic Skills measure the skills and achievement of students in grades two through eight. It provides an in-depth assessment of a student's mastery of important educational objectives. Tests in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and information sources yield reliable and comprehensive information both about the development of students' skills and about their ability to think critically.

The IOWA tests are given annually in the spring of each school year. The results from the 2004-2005 school year show that 95% of Saint Benedict School students

tested on or above grade level. The parents receive a copy of their child(ren's) report. The teachers receive a class report of their students test results.

Saint Benedict School has a proud record of academic excellence record that reflects parent and teacher collaboration in the students' education. The test results clearly reflect the emphasis on academic achievement provided at Saint Benedict School .

We are all very proud of our students! We hope they will continue to strive to do their very best throughout their lives.

New Physical Education Teacher

When students returned to Saint Benedict School for the 2005-2006 academic year, they learned that they were going to have a new physical education teacher. Mr. Andy Susick had served our School in this capacity last year, but was unable to teach this year because he returned to college. However, we have been blessed to find Ms. Toni DePetro to serve as our new physical education teacher. Ms. DePetro's background makes her very well-qualified to work at our School, and her dedication and enthusiasm are an asset to the physical education program at Saint Benedict.

Ms. DePetro was raised and presently lives in Northern Cambria. Upon her graduation from Northern Cambria High School, she attended

Indiana University of Pennsylvania and earned a degree in Elementary Education. Her previous experience in the field of education includes working both as a substitute teacher and as an aide to students with special needs.

Ms. DePetro sees the value in Catholic education and is using the small class sizes and spiritual environment at Saint Benedict School to help students understand the importance of making good lifestyle choices. She wants students to understand that exercise is not limited to the drudgery of doing sit-ups until they can no longer move. Instead, she encourages her students to make exercise enjoyable. Additionally, Ms. DePetro wants parents to join their children in staying fit and in good

health. Certainly this philosophy will help our School's students to develop sound minds, bodies and spirits.

When she is not teaching, Ms. DePetro enjoys spending time with her family. Her pride and joy is Hannah, her four year old daughter who is in her second year of pre-school this fall.

The members of Saint Benedict School Community welcome Ms. DePetro to the faculty and applaud her in her efforts to teach students to make healthy decisions in their lives.



Floors Take on a New Shine



It is back to school time once again, and once again Saint Benedict School has prepared for another exceptional school year with the refinishing of the hardwood floors in classrooms 101, 102, 103, 104, and 201. Gerald Sloat, Quality Refinishing, was awarded a contract to sand and apply a "Bona Kemi" commercial grade water based polyurethane and a top finish coat to the floors. The average cost per room was approximately \$2,200 and the results are spectacular. Karen Kirsch, janitorial assistant, commented that the teachers and students very much like the natural appearance of the hardwood floors. Karen says the regular maintenance is relatively simple, that odors from liquid spills are eliminated and that the hardwood floors make for a healthier school environment. In fact, a recent article by the National Wood Flooring Association cited that testing by leading allergist has proven that wood

flooring brings a substantially healthier environment as bacteria, dirt, dust, and other allergens do not embed as they do with carpeted floors.

Complementing the hardwood floors, wood toe molding was installed in the classrooms to enhance the decor even more.

In addition to the hardwood floors, the tile in the School's hallways, bathrooms, music room, and conference room were stripped and waxed by Jim Barnosky and Paul Kibler this summer at a cost of approximately \$800.00.

Although it is recommended to reapply a topcoat once a year to preserve the natural wood, whether it is done is contingent on available funds. Funding has been provided by the "Tree of Life" fund campaign which has been instrumental in restoring the School bell tower, railing

installation at the soccer field, new School lighting fixtures, among many other special School enhancement projects. The remaining classroom floors will be refinished as funds become available. Funds for the "Tree of Life" campaign are obtained through corporate and/or private sponsorship of individual leaves. Only a handful of leaves are available.

The investment Saint Benedict School has made in academics is quite visible and is complemented by the investment in the exterior and interior of the School building. At Saint Benedict School, says Father Vincent, not only do we take pride in superior academics but we also take pride in creating a superior learning environment for our students. It is quite evident the students agree also, as eighth grader, Lindsay Sammarco sums it up by saying, "I am really going to miss our School next year."

Replicas of Saint Benedict School . . .

Ceramic replicas of Saint Benedict School (6" x 4 1/2") are available for purchase at the Parish Office. The three dimensional replicas are hand crafted and painted from Columbia. They are free-standing or may be hung. Individual tower crosses come with each replica, but because of breakage concerns, they must be attached separately. The cost is only \$15 each. Purchase your replicas now. Supplies are limited.



2005: Year of the Languages

A resolution before the United States Senate has established 2005 as the Year of Languages. This has been done to show the cultural, educational, economic, and social benefits that result when Americans gain proficiency in other languages. A yearlong celebration will take place over America. A wealth of research that has been conducted in recent years has shown the benefits of an early start and long sequence of language study.

The foreign language program was introduced to Saint Benedict School seven years ago. Mr. Jenaro Rodriguez is the Spanish instructor at Saint Benedict School. All students enrolled in grades K through 8 have Spanish. Mr. Rodriguez stated that, "Grades K through four have one 40 minute class a week and grades five through eight have two 40 minute periods a week. The students in kindergarten through fourth grade recognize meanings by listening. This starts with numbers, colors, greetings, questions and answers, highly used words and verbs, and simple sentences. These students also use

flash cards to help learn new vocabulary and say simple sentences in Spanish. The students in grades fifth through eighth build on these skills also adding Spanish reading skills and writing skills. They eventually compose stories, read and act them out."

The parents of the school children are very pleased with the foreign language program and are often amazed at how much the children learn. Many were very surprised at the end of the 2004-2005 school year when the children sang many of the songs at Mass in Spanish before the class field trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo. The children had been practicing for quite a while and it paid off. They did an excellent job. Mr Rodriguez also stated, "many of the School's graduates do go on to take additional Spanish classes and usually do very well."

Studying a foreign language exposes students to more than just language - they learn about culture and the societies of the native speakers. This can help students understand and accept people of other cultures more readily.

What You Leave Behind

It is said, and it is so true, that the only things we take with us to Heaven are the acts of charity we do in this life. So our legacy of generosity, of sharing with others is important. That is why we ask you to remember Saint Benedict School in your Will. It is important for people to perpetuate the good work of Saint Benedict School. Some of our Parishioners and alumni do just that by setting aside something of theirs for the School. This can be done in wills, estates and/or charitable trust funds. To remember Saint Benedict School, talk this over with your attorney or the trust officer in your bank. Our benefactors are remembered in our daily prayers.

Attention Business Owners and Employers

Your business may be able to earn substantial tax credit while supporting Catholic Education. If it is subject to PA Corp Net Income, Capital Stock & Franchise, or Bank & Trust Co. Shares taxes, please visit www.SecondCenturyFund.org today to learn more and to access official DCED applications. The Second Century Fund provides aid to students throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. Please consider restricting your contribution to Saint Benedict School. Apply for your business tax Credits today before they are claimed by others.

Saint Benedict School

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