

Alumni and Friends

St. Cecelia Interparochial Catholic School

Volume 1, October 2015

Fall 2015



Nathalie Sieh '15 uses talents for service in the Dominican Republic



This past summer, I went to “Batey Libertad” in the Dominican Republic. I spent 3 1/2 weeks living there, doing service work for a non-profit called Yspaniola (<http://yspaniola.org>) and assisting a Peace Corps



Volunteer teach health and wellness to children ages 5-14. “Bateys” are rural communities of Dominicans, Haitians, and Dominicans of Haitian descent that grew out of the sugar cane industry. In “bateys,” people of Haitian descent are often denied basic human and civil rights, including citizenship, the right to travel, due process, and have limited access to electricity, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and education. Listening to the people who live there, especially the kids, I began to uncover a larger picture of what living in a “batey”

means. I feel that my experience there has changed the way I can help people now. I understand more of the world. I know what happens around the world. I encourage everyone to make service projects “your own” – because the act of helping others will help you to grow and change.



CONGRATULATIONS CIARA LUSNIA '11

Ciara has been named Salutatorian for the Clearwater High School class of 2015. Ciara has earned a GPA of 4.85 in the AICE Cambridge program. Ciara is President of Mu Alpha Theta, the Math Honor Society and President of the Science National Honor Society. Ciara participated on the CHS Academic Team and is the Business Manager for the CHS Drama Troupe 1620. She competes in sports and served as captain of the volleyball team, earned a varsity letter in basketball and competed in the triple jump and distances up to 400 meters in track and field.



Open House

PreK-3 through 8th grade (VPK Provider)
November 17, 2015, Presentations at 8:30am & 6:00pm

Discovery Night is January 20, 2016 at 6:00pm

March 15, 2016, Presentations at 8:30am & 6:00pm

Call (727) 461-1207 to RSVP

Alumni Officers: Maryanne Del Monte, Development • Kevin Flynn, President • Marreen Majer, Vice President • Colleen Flynn, Treasurer • Steve Paul, Secretary

“Celebrate the uniqueness of each person as a child of God while we proclaim the Gospel message, pray together, build community, and serve others...”

A Message from the Admission Director

Dear Alumni,

St. Cecelia Catholic School is off to an amazing school year! Enrollment at the school is at 483 students in grades PK3-8th grade. Improvements to the school campus are ongoing and include the renovation of the primary playground with the addition of astro turf and a shade structure. Classroom updates continue with the complete restoration of a classroom in the Hillcrest wing. New drop ceiling, lighting, cabinetry for storage and new white boards have made the classroom look like new. Plans are in place to continue the much needed updates and we are hopeful that through the generous support of our current families and alumni that the plans become a reality. Please consider helping us with this endeavor by giving a gift to the school, any amount would be appreciated. Please visit our website at www.st-cecelia.org under the alumni section on ways to give.

St. Cecelia Catholic School continues to provide its students with excellent academic programs and officially became an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School for students enrolled in grades 6-8. Plans are currently being made to apply for the IB program for students in PK3-5th grade making SCS the first private school in Pinellas County to offer the program in all grades.

We are very proud of our alumni and the accomplishments they have made and hope that you will follow us on Facebook at St. Cecelia Interparochial Catholic School as well as St. Cecelia School Alumni & Friends. Please plan on joining us at this year's Crusader Gallop on February 6th at Eagle Lake Park to visit with friends and enjoy a morning of exercise and fun!

Maryanne Del Monte
Director of Admissions and Development
727-461-1207
mdelmonte@st-cecelia.org



CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. JEAN DORAN ON HER RETIREMENT!



This past June we said good-bye to Jean Doran who had dedicated over 20 years to educating students at St. Cecelia Catholic School. Mrs. Doran had a knack for identifying the gifts and talents of her students, creating an environment where students were able to share these gifts to help others. Mrs. Doran's love for learning was contagious and could be felt in her classroom. Students were always engaged. They read, they composed, they presented and they produced. Each year students created their own books, dressed as European Explorers, and prepared for Enterprise Village under her guidance. Mrs. Doran could write the book on rigor, engagement, and critical thinking. She knew students learned by doing.

Mrs. Doran will spend her retirement days between Largo and Cape Cod, where she will enjoy her pastimes of reading and attending Jazzercise. This fall will bring new joys for the Doran Family when they welcome their first grandchild. We wish every happiness to Mrs. Doran in the next chapter of her life, and know that she will visit often as she has agreed to be a substitute teacher this year. Thank you for everything Mrs. Doran. You will always be in our hearts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. BETH LUSNIA

The University of Florida F Club and Gator Boosters, Inc., have named the 2015 class of inductees into the UF Athletic Hall of Fame. The seven-member class of Gator Greats was honored at an induction banquet on Friday, April 10, 2015, at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. The 2015 induction class includes Gator Great **Beth Farmer Lusnia** (Women's Track/Cross Country). Congratulations Mrs. Lusnia!



Jerry James West, son of Alumni **James West '96**, was born April 29th, 2015 at 8:29am weighing in at 8lbs 12oz and measuring 21" in length.

“Encourage students to open their hearts to God, their minds to learning, and their talents to service...”

Alumni Awards, Honors & News

Alumnus **Jacque Lazaro '11** is attending the University of Connecticut playing college tennis. Jacque dominated at districts, made it to the championship at the state tournament and was ranked the 18th best senior in Florida. She was also Tampa Bay Times All-Tampa Bay Tennis 1st team. Congratulations Jacque!



Lindsey Porter '14 took third place in the girls 14-15 division of this year's CrossFit Games, the first time the Games were opened to teenage athletes.

CCC delegates who went to the Florida American Legion Boys State program in Tallahassee: **Patrick Purcell '12** and **Gabe Brown '12**. Boys State is a comprehensive one week course in state and local government.



Emma Grantges '12, was the Tampa Bay Times Home Team Hot Shot in Sept. 2015 for her performance in cross Country.



Congratulations to Alumnus **Kage Jewell '11**, the recipient of the Blessed Mother Teresa Award. The award is given in recognition of "willingness to always say yes to helping others and giving unselfishly of their time for the benefit of the entire CCC Community."



Also, as a senior, Kage was selected to play for Team Pinellas in the Brighthouse Senior Soccer Challenge.

Elizabeth (Liza) Tench (now Brings) 1st to 5th grade (1961-1966) Currently resides in Richmond, VA.



Alumnus **Emma Spilman '11** committed to swim for the University of Florida.

ZOE LOMBARD VIES FOR OLYMPICS



Zoe Lombard's '06 athletic prowess spanned about every sport when she was in high school — from volleyball and

basketball to track and swimming. But the 2010 Palm Harbor University High graduate has always been most lauded as a soccer standout, her quick feet making her the team's varsity captain and helping to win two state championships. As Lombard neared graduation from Boston College in May, she got a surprising question: Would she try out for a spot in the 2016 Summer Olympics — in women's team handball? Never mind that Lombard had never heard of the game. She took the plunge anyway and was picked for the team, which will play several qualifiers in coming months in hopes of representing the United States at the Olympics for the first time since 1996.



In Loving Memory



Renee Klee went home to Our Lord June 2, 2015 after her second battle with cancer. Renee and her husband Neil taught at St. Cecelia Catholic School. Renee spent 33 years as the foundation of the science department, which always excelled, retiring in 2012. Renee was truly loved by her students, coworkers and principal. Renee was well known throughout the Diocese for her support of Catholic education. Her steadfast faith was always an example to all that knew her and carried her through her first battle with breast cancer and second battle with a very rare stomach/intestinal cancer. Although we know that Renee is at peace with Our Lady and Our Lord, we pray for her, her husband and their three sons in this time of sadness as well as the St. Cecelia Catholic School family who knew her, loved her and will miss her.

STEELE, Nancy McWhorter 53, of Safety Harbor, passed Aug. 15, 2015. She is survived by her loving husband of 27



years, William Perry Steele; children, Shane Steele of Los Angeles, CA; Zachary Steele of Tampa; Paige Steele of Safety Harbor.

WILSON, Mary Angela Squaceri 56,



passed on Sept. 7, 2015. She is survived by her father, Anthony Squaceri; and her two children, Melissa and Michael Wilson.

“Strive to provide a strong spiritual and academic foundation so that our students can become responsible members of the Church and the community now and in the future...”



Tampa Bay Rocks the Cure was established by St. Cecelia Alumni **Ken Jewell '81** and his wife Debi and their 3 SCS Alumni children **Lauren '08, Kage '11 and Ryan '14**. The purpose is to bring communities together using music and entertainment while helping members in the community who are in great need – children affected by cancer. The vision was finally put into motion in 2015. We have partnered with the Pediatric Cancer Foundation to fund research dedicated to curing childhood cancers. With this organization, we strive to tap into the healing power of music. On December 12th, The Outpatients (band members include, CCC Alum Ken Jewell, Steve McNulty, Jim Wasenda and Pat Edwards-all 1985 grads) will be opening for the very talented band, Sister Hazel playing the inaugural event for Tampa Bay Rocks the Cure! In support of the Pediatric Cancer Foundation, we will be raising money for childhood cancer research.

Doors open at 6:00pm and music starts at 7:45pm. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door.

They are on sale through Ticketfly - linked on our website www.tampabayrocksthecure.org

Important Dates

- 10/8-Books and BBQ, 5:30pm
- 10/30-Casino Night 7-10pm
- 12/4-Christmas Program
- 1/14-Grandparents Day, All School Mass
- 1/15-16-Sound of Music 7:00pm
- 1/17-Sound of Music 2:00pm
- 2/1-Begins Catholic Schools Week
- 2/6-Alumni 5K Crusader Gallop and Fun Walk
- 3/5-Golf Tournament
- 4/30-Fishing Tournament
- 5/13-15-Drama Production
- 5/27-8th Grade Graduation



7th Annual Crusader Gallop 5K & 1 Mile Run

Saturday, February 6, 2015

Cost \$30 for 5K ♦ \$25 for 1 Mile

Eagle Lake Park, 1800 Keene Rd., Largo, FL 33771

5K begins at 10:00 am (registration at 9:00 am)

Fun run 10:30 am

After the run join us for a post race picnic. Bounce house, music and more....

Registration forms will be available soon.

Give A Gift... to help St. Cecelia Catholic School continue its mission of providing students with an affordable Catholic education. Please consider giving a gift that makes a difference... now and forever.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I wish to make a donation of ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$200 to St. Cecelia School:
 ___ Where most needed ___ Alumni Scholarship Fund ___ Classroom Renovations
 ___ Enclosed is my check
 ___ Please bill my credit card (Visa, AMEX, MC#) _____

*How have you been?
 Let us know at
rlenhardt@st-cecelia.org*

Signature _____ Date _____

___ My company _____ will match my gift, I will send you the forms.
 ___ Enclosed is my membership fee in the amount of \$10.00