

Alumni and Friends

St. Cecelia Interparochial Catholic School

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Alumni Spotlight on Caroline '10 and Claire '08 Csege



In early June, the Csege family, including Caroline; her older sister Claire, who graduated from CCC in May; and father, Stephen, chartered a 45-foot Beneteau sailboat to cruise the British Virgin Islands. On June 7, as they sailed toward Cane Garden Bay on Tortola, Caroline wrote a note on paper from her travel journal, slipped it into a Shiraz wine bottle, and tossed it into the Caribbean Sea. On the paper, she wrote: "I've always believed in the power of fate. Maybe it is just a way to get through the harder days of my life. Knowing there's a greater reason for all the little things makes each day a little easier. So therefore I believe, if this bottle reaches someone, there's a greater reason for it." Caroline included her phone number and address on the message, but not her name. After she tossed the bottle in the water, she put thoughts of fate, and the bottle aside for a time. After the family's seven-day cruise, she headed to another vacation in Larchmont, N.Y., where she had lived until moving to Largo at age 9. Meanwhile, the bottle was completing an 11-day, 5-mile journey. It sat glistening on the shoreline on the island of Jost Van Dyke. On June 18, while Cindy Decker and her husband, Jeff Frontz, were walking along the water's edge, the bottle caught Frontz's eye. "I could tell by the handwriting that it was written by

a teenage girl, and I did feel an obligation to let her know I found it. I remember what it was like to be a teenage girl," she said. Although she considers herself a romantic and she "believes in sweet stories," Decker was not familiar with either the Nicholas Sparks book, *Message in a Bottle*, or the 1999 movie by the same name that starred Kevin Costner, Robin Wright and Paul Newman. In the story, a newspaper researcher discovers a note in a discarded bottle. The character, Theresa Osborne, is so moved by the words written by someone named Garret, she decides to search for him. When Decker told Caroline that she had found the bottle, Caroline, of course, was thrilled. "But when she told me she was also a newspaper editor, I couldn't believe it. It's like I was living the movie," Caroline said. Decker got permission from Caroline's parents to make her the subject of a newspaper column, which was printed Aug. 11 in the *Columbus Dispatch*. Mrs. Csege said that when she got home from work the day Decker called, "Caroline was smiling ear to ear. I remember she said, "You are not going to believe what happened to me." Mrs. Csege believes Caroline had this experience for a reason. Like her daughter, she is also "a big believer in fate," she said. "When something like this happens, it brings it all home," she said. "Now she knows if you have a dream, it can come true."



Annual Crusader Gallop ♦ 5K & 1 Mile Sunset Run

Saturday, March 23, 2013

Cost \$25—19 and over ♦ \$20 for students

Walsingham Park ♦ 12615 102nd Ave. North ♦ Largo, FL

5K begins at 4:00 PM (registration 3:00PM) Fun run 4:30 PM

After run event; hot dogs, chips and drinks, bounce house, music and more....

Check the www.scsfundraiser website, registration forms will be available soon.

Alumni Officers: Maryanne Del Monte, Development • Steve Paul, President • Marreen Majer, Vice President • Vicki Vaughan, Treasurer • Teresa Malke, Secretary/Historian • Mike Baralt, Class Representative

"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 New Principal

Greetings! My name is Valerie Wostbrock and I'm the new principal of St. Cecelia Interparochial School. I feel very blessed to be at St. Cecelia's and joining this wonderful community. I'd like to tell you a little about myself. I presently reside in Largo and have been a member of St. Jerome Parish in Largo since 1976. I am the oldest of six children- four boys and two girls. In 1976, my parents moved our family from northern New Jersey to Seminole, Florida. My siblings and I attended the Seminole schools (Bauder Elementary, Seminole Middle School, and Seminole High School). My parents and all of my siblings still live in this area. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, going to movies, gardening, attending Rays games and other sporting events, cooking, and reading. In 1980, I received a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Petersburg Junior College. Eventually I was drawn back to school and attended the University of South Florida, Bayboro Campus, where I received two degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education in 1988 and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership in 1994.



I thoroughly enjoyed being an elementary teacher teaching 1st - 5th grade for the Pinellas County School System for 14 years, but I always felt drawn to something else. I knew what it was when in 2002 the position of assistant principal at St. Jude Cathedral School was available. God was calling me and I served at St. Jude's proudly for four years. From St. Jude's I went on to serve for six years as the principal of St. Raphael Catholic School. Over the years I have grown both as a Catholic and an administrator. I know my experience at these schools has prepared me for the position of principal at St. Cecelia Interparochial School where God has now called me.

I officially started at St. Cecelia's on July 2nd and have been very busy since then moving in, meeting everyone, and learning my way around. School officially started for our 490 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students on August 20th. The administrative offices are constantly busy providing tours and keeping up with the needs of 490 students. A new Social Studies series was ordered for all K-8th graders along with Spanish books for the 6th and 7th graders. Many of our teachers attended summer trainings to keep current with best practices. Mr. Grieves and the maintenance team worked hard to prepare the school buildings and grounds. Some of the noticeable changes around our campus are:

- ◆ The installation of covered walkways.
- ◆ The girls' bathroom in the cafeteria was remodeled.
- ◆ 30 Netbooks and a cart were purchased for the lower grades along with 11 new teacher stations.
- ◆ The lower school computer lab was disassembled and will be converted into a technological collaboration room.
- ◆ The administrative offices and lobby were painted.
- ◆ Through the generosity of several donors, the gymnasium is getting a new roof. We plan to install new floors with wall pads and would welcome any financial contributions to support this project.
- ◆ There are bumpers and additional curbing installed in the front office parking area.

My door is always open to you. I am looking forward to providing the children of St. Cecelia School with an exciting and enriching 2012-2013 school year. May God continue to bless each and every one of you, and may His peace be with you.

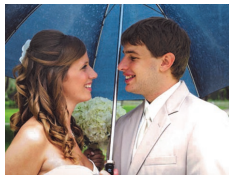
Your partner in faith education,
Miss Wostbrock, Principal

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

Alumni Awards, Honors & News

Weddings

Ashley Brew and Ralph Shaw - June 23, 2012



Congratulations SCS Alumni

2012—CCC— IB Diploma Program Co-Salutatorian, Alexandra Alberdi

2012—CCC—Co –Salutatorian, Michael Purcell, a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student

2012— CCC—Jared Brown signs with LSU Tigers Track team.

2012—CCC—Kyle Curinga signs with FAU to play soccer.

2012—PHU—Samantha McCloskey Softball Player of the year

2012—CCC—Austin Miceli earned the rank of Eagle Scout with his project “How to Pray the Rosary-guidance in the Garden.” Austin constructed two arbor structures on each side of the Madonna statue in the St. Cecelia Church prayer garden.

2012—CCC—Alex Alberdi shadowed local veterinarian and CCC parent at Tampa Bay Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Care Center. Alex is attending UF to study Veterinary medicine.

Jared Brown



SCS Graduating class of 1983, Katie O’Keefe Nolte. Katie has a Doctoral degree in Speech language pathology.

Sustaining member of Junior League. Delta Gamma Alumna. Katie lives in Katy, TX and is married to Alex Nolte. They have a 3year old little girl named Mabry and Twin 7 month old girls Natalie and Abby.

SCS Graduating class of 2004, Katherine Spoto. Graduated from USF, Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science in Public Health, Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society, Golden Key National Honor Society, College of Public Health “Dean’s List of Scholars”.

SCS Graduating class of 1986, Kathleen Irwin. Graduated from UF in 1995 and received a M.S. Computer Information Systems from Georgia State University, 1999. Kathleen currently resides in Decatur, GA with her husband, Michael, married in May of 2005. Kathleen works as a Senior It Project Manager at Georgia Pacific.

Raymond Fox ‘08 has joined the United States Marine Corp. currently Raymond is undergoing boot camp at Paris Island, South Carolina. Graduation is scheduled for November 21st.

Welcome Fr. Dermot Dunne

At the school of St. Cecelia, I am one of the new faces. This summer I became pastor both for the parish and school of St. Cecelia and I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children. I am 43 years of age and grew up in Ireland. I am the youngest of 9 children and thankfully we all enjoy each other’s company (it wasn’t always that way when we were younger). I moved to the States in 1998 and was Ordained in the year 2000 for Omaha, Nebraska. In 2010 I moved to St. Petersburg and spent the last two years living on the beach at St. John Vianney. If I can be of any help on your spiritual journey as a family please do not hesitate to ask, that is why I am here. By your sacrifices you are helping to educate the future Catholic leaders of our community and country. Thank you for everything you do to pass on the faith that was passed onto you.

God Bless.

Fr. Dermot Dunne



“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...”



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scsoffice@st-cecelia.org

St. Cecelia is looking for Class Representatives...Call 727.443.5479
Please visit our school website www.st-cecelia.org

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

WHAT'S NEW AT SCS?

Our Lady's Garden was dedicated to Mary Beth Scanlon, principal of St. Cecelia School from 1999-2012. Mrs. Scanlon has taken a position as Deputy Superintendent for the Diocese.

A farewell was said to Msgr. Pat Irwin ... who is retired. His presence at St. Cecelia school since 2005 was an inspiration to all of us.



Exciting News!

St. Cecelia's gym is getting a much needed facelift. Built in 1978 the gym has virtually gone untouched until now. A new roof, ceiling and upper metal panels are in the process of being completed. Thanks to the generosity of two donors \$125,000 has been raised that will pay the costs associated with these improvements. We are currently trying to raise funds to put in a new wood gym floor and wall padding for the interior gym walls. The cost for this project will exceed \$65,000 and to date we have raised \$25,000 toward this endeavor. We need your help. Please consider giving a gift to make this renovation a reality. For questions or to make a donation contact Maryanne Del Monte at 727 461-1207. Donations can also be mailed to 1350 Court St., Clearwater, FL. 33756

Important Dates

- ◆ **Oct. 10th**—Italian Night
- ◆ **Nov. 3rd**—SCS Golf Tournament—Bellevue Biltmore
- ◆ **Nov. 7th**—Open House, 8:30 am & 6:00 pm
- ◆ **Dec. 14th**—Christmas Program
- ◆ **Jan. 31st**—Open House
- ◆ **Feb. 1st**—Grandparent's Day
- ◆ **Feb. 9th**—Gala
- ◆ **March 1,2 & 3** Drama Production
- ◆ **March 8th**—Fish Fry
- ◆ **March 23rd**—Alumni Crusader 5K Gallop
- ◆ **April 18th**—Fiesta Night
- ◆ **May 10th & 11th** Drama Production



The Cup Crusader Golf Classic Saturday, November 3, 2012 Bellevue Biltmore Golf Club

- ◆ 10am Registration
- ◆ Noon shot gun start
- ◆ 4-7pm wine tasting
- ◆ Live entertainment
- ◆ 5:30pm Dinner/silent auction

Register at:

<http://scsfundraiser.com/golf-tournament-2011/>



“CRUSADERS FOREVER! Faith, Scholarship, Athletics, Academics”