



The Messenger

Defibrillators on the way

SPRING 2007

The School of St. Elizabeth soon will be the proud owner of two new portable defibrillators, also known as artificial external defibrillators (AEDs).

The HSA has agreed to purchase the AEDs from CPRheartbeat911, a group that has worked closely with **Dr. Edward Harback's** cardiology group.

The AEDs will be placed strategically, allowing easy access from the gym and the cafeteria.

The HSA plans to pay for the training of all teachers,

staff and coaches.

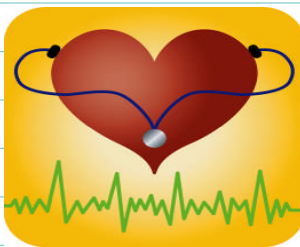
Because it is imperative that parents are familiar with this life-saving device, the HSA also would like to extend an invitation to all who are interested in being trained.

All parents are urged to set aside time to learn how to use this life-saving tool, not

only for the health and safety of the children, but that of adults as well.

A convenient training time is in the process of being scheduled, so please stay tuned for more details as they become available.

Special thanks to **Dr. Harback** for his guidance, insight and assistance with this project.



Amy DeMilt

Read all about it...

- ✓ Relay for Education set later this month
- ✓ Field Day on tap in June
- ✓ May brings concert, musical
- ✓ Students' artwork to star in annual show
- ✓ Book Fair slated for November
- ✓ Class news

HSA Board Members (2006-2008)

Trudy Clancy, President

Amy DeMilt, Vice president

Susan Howley, Treasurer

Jackie DeMarrais, Ways and Means

Mary Garubo, Hospitality

Rhonda Calinda
Mary Ketchum, Cultural Affairs

Colleen Mason, Publicity

Irene Catucci, Spirituality

Amy Baratta, Secretary

A message from the president

Last June, I decided to embark on a journey into a somewhat unknown territory.

Although I had just served a two-year term on the Home School Association as publicity officer, I was not sure that I was ready to be president.

As I thought about it, though, I realized that our school environment was changing with the arrival of a new administrator and decided that a little consistency would be a great asset.

As the new HSA executive

board developed, I found myself much more comfortable and ready for the challenges that lay ahead.

Faced with a very large fundraising goal, we attacked our mission with determination, energy and drive.

I would like to thank those who have helped us by volunteering and participating in all of the HSA events so far this year.

Without involvement from all of our parents, it becomes a very difficult task to achieve our goal.

Thanks, also, to the members of the HSA board who have sacrificed many hours away from their families to be a part of such a vision to raise as many funds as possible.

Through the commitment of the board, and the dedication of volunteers and participants alike, we have made tremendous strides toward a great outcome for the 2006-2007 school year.

We look forward to an even more productive year in 2007-2008.

Trudy Clancy



Relay for Education set for April 24

The HSA is looking forward to another first-time event this spring.

On April 24, students will participate in Relay for Education to raise money for the School of Saint Elizabeth.

Starting the week of Easter vacation, they can sign up pledge amounts from family, friends and neighbors.

They will walk a relay course set up in the gym and, with the help of a third-party provider, the HSA will handle the collection of all of the pledges.

This is a "win-win" for St. Elizabeth's because the children get to play a first-hand role in raising money for their school and parents do not have to deal with the hassle of collecting money after the event is over.

We encourage all families to participate in the Relay for Education.

There will be terrific incentives for participation, including a prize for the class that raises the most money. See you there!

Jackie DeMarrais



Let's have a field day!

Grades 1-7 are looking forward to some fun in the sun June 5.

That's the date for this year's Field Day, where students participate in games and races at the Polo Grounds by the elementary and middle schools.

Students then walk to the Bernardsville Pool, eat lunch and enjoy the swimming facilities until it's time to head back to school and then home.

Parent volunteers will be needed, so mark the date on your calendar and get ready for some fun!

The gifts that keep on giving

We have done a great job with fundraising this year!

Thanks to raising \$2,575 from Wrapping Paper sales, \$1,552 from the St. Patrick's Day Social, \$566 from Cookie Dough sales and \$125 from the sale of extra school directories, the HSA has been able to fund the Parent's Tea and Back-To-School Night, various school assemblies, the Junior High dances, Family Bowling Night and bracelets for the students to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

We raised an amazing \$36,000 with the 2007 Elizabethan Ball, which we are currently showing as our HSA profit thus far.

Please note: Refunds of HSA deposits will be written in June to those who have completed and logged their volunteer hours in the HSA logbook located in the front office (10 hours for Pre-K families and 20 hours for Grade K-8 families).

Don't forget to log your volunteer hours!

It is our hope that all families will seriously consider donating all or part of this refund, after fulfilling their volunteer time requirement, to assist in meeting the HSA's budget obligation for the school year.

Any donation of this refund is

greatly appreciated!

Donors also will receive a recognition letter for tax purposes.

If donating your refund, please don't forget to check with your employer to see if a donation-matching program is offered.

Susan Howley

There's music in the air

Students in Grades 4-8 and Drama Club members, directed by **Mrs. Amy Wurst** and **Mrs. Helenann Quinn**, will perform "Li'l Abner" during the annual Spring Concert May 11.

The show will start at 7 p.m. in the auditorium with performances by students in the band program, which is directed by **Mr. Christopher Balas**.

Get a grip on Smart Dollars, Scrip programs

The School of Saint Elizabeth is making great strides in its Smart Dollars and Scrip programs.

Sales from both this year have netted more than \$21,000, enabling the school to take home a profit of nearly \$1,000.

Thirty families have participated in the programs at least once this year and eight families have collective standing monthly orders totaling

\$2,600.

The program is becoming more convenient every day, as orders can be placed online, via credit card and through order forms for gift cards.

The year-end goal is a collective standing monthly order of \$10,000, so we urge you to try the program — we think you'll like it!

Liz McCormack

Parish School Advisory Council reports progress

The Parish School Advisory Council (PSAC) is a collaborative group of parents, teachers and other stakeholders in the school community.

It is responsible for advising the principal and pastor on a variety of issues affecting the school, from curriculum enhancements and student life to finance and facilities planning.

The 14-member council is organized into subcommittees that are led by council members but may include non-council members.

The council meets bimonthly to discuss the progress of the various subcommittees and goals for the future.

The **executive committee** includes the principal, pastor, chairperson, co-chairperson and HSA president. They meet ahead of each council meeting to set meeting agenda and discuss other topics pertinent to the council.

Chairwoman **Janet Keating** has additionally been asked to serve on the Bishop's task force studying Catholic schools in our diocese.

The goal of the task force is to make recommendations to ensure that Catholic schools remain available, affordable and academically excellent.

The **technology subcommittee** works closely with the school tech team, and together they have made huge strides this school year, including:

- The acquisition and installation of a new server
- The installation and maintenance of sufficient firewalls
- The installation of at least two operational computers and one new printer in every classroom

— The move of the school Web site maintenance in-house

— The maintenance of the school Web site by a small group, each responsible for specific sections of the site

— Assignment of an operational e-mail address to each teacher that is linked to the Web site

— Accessibility of school library online catalogue by all school computers

— Anticipated addition of alumni section to the Web site

Together with the school administration and school nurses, the **policy subcommittee** has addressed the need for improved policies to manage the special needs of students with various allergies and other health concerns.

The new policy, which has been adopted, includes:

— Child-specific care plans to be drafted by the principal, nurses and parents for any child with a health issue. Copies of these care plans will be kept in a known area of the main office.

— Epipens are located in a specific, accessible, identified areas in the main office as well as the nurse's office. Follow-up epipen training will be provided for all faculty and staff members.

— Allergy/nut-free table provided in cafeteria

— Operational walkie-talkies utilized during lunchtime in case of emergency

— Mrs. Benson will meet with school nurses regularly to receive updates concerning health/safety issues

Parish School Advisory Council

Mrs. Janet Keating,
Chairperson

Mrs. Robin Cooney,
Vice Chair

Rev. John N. Fell,
Pastor

Mrs. Christine Benson,
School Principal

Mrs. Barbara Bolehala and
Mrs. Joanne Mitchell,
Teacher Representatives

Mrs. Trudy Clancy,
HSA President

Mrs. Marilee Braue, Dr. Edward Harback, Mrs. Maria Marino and Mrs. Kelly Zimmerman,
School Parents

Mr. Joseph McMenamin,
School Finance Committee Representative

Mr. Douglas deMarrais and
Mr. Robert Dooley,
Parish Representatives

The **academic subcommittee** has, in consultation with Mrs. Benson, discussed guidelines for participation in the school enrichment program, including consideration of Terra Nova scores, teacher recommendation, classroom performance, principal consultation and parental consent.

The academic subcommittee also will focus on reading, writing and literacy programs to enhance existing curriculum.

Meeting minutes are available in the school office or can be downloaded from the school website.

Janet Keating and Mary Hughes

Artsonia by the numbers

\$270: Funds earned this year

734: Artwork published

271: Fan club members

29: Fan club comments

Picture this: School to host student art show

The art department, under the direction of **Mrs. Lisa Madson**, will present its second annual Student Art Show from 6:30-8 p.m. April 19.

All students will have artwork exhib-

ited in the show, which will include refreshments and an Artsonia station where visitors can check out the Web site for purchasing items emblazoned with students' artwork.

Library news: Read all about it

Mark your calendars: The annual Book Fair, whose profits benefit the school library, is scheduled for Nov. 14-16.

The student preview day will be Nov. 13.

For the second year, event organizers, who include librarian **Mrs. Cathy Enderle** and parent volunteers **Ms. Doreen Small** and **Mrs. Regina Janacek**, will be using Allbook, Inc.

The 2006 book fair made \$2,019. The library also received a \$500 book credit because sales, including books, software and online purchases, reached almost \$8,000.

That credit was used by the library to "buy" such books as "Smithsonian's

The Universe," "Smithsonian's The Brain," "The Goose Girl" by Shannon Hale and "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" by Ernest Hemingway.

In other library news, second-grader **Joseph Jara** won the Cat-In-The-Hat's Birthday drawing. He received four tickets to "Seussical" at Raritan Valley College...Fourth-grader **Devon Clancy** came up with a clever way to celebrate her birthday: In lieu of gifts, her party guests were invited to bring a book to donate to the library. The library received 20 new books. Thank you, Devon!

Doreen Small and Cathy Enderle

Eighth-graders take photo honors

Five School of St. Elizabeth eighth-graders — **Molly Koonz**, **Alec Antunes**, **Josemaria Agnese**, **Rose Braue** and **Erin Gray** — were recognized for their submissions to a photography contest sponsored by the Institute for Christian Spirituality at Seton Hall University.

The contest, entitled "The True, the Good, and the Beautiful," sought photos that depict God in the truth, beauty and goodness found in our school and parish community.

Working with **Mrs. Laura Capobianco** and **Mrs. Maureen Stevens**, who shared their expertise in photography techniques and photo editing, each eighth-grader submitted a photo to the contest along with a short essay explaining how the photo related to the true, the good, and the beautiful in our community.

The works were judged in three catego-

ries according to ages of the participants and six prizes were awarded in each category.

Five of the six winners in the 13- to 16-year-olds group were from our school, including Molly, who took second place; Alec, who placed third, and Josemaria, Rose and Erin, who earned honorable mention. Well done!

The winning photos will be displayed in the Walsh Gallery at Seton Hall University, the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., and the National Museum of Catholic Art and History in New York City.

All the photos that were entered by the 8th grade are currently on display in the school foyer and surrounding hallway. Come and see the great talent of our students!

Mary Hughes

Junior high school students recognized

Nicole Corcoran, **Abigail Gaxis** and **Fernando Garcia**, all seventh-graders, and sixth-grader **Thomas Hughes** have been recognized by the Junior National Youth Leadership Conference for outstanding academic

achievements and demonstrating leadership potential. They were invited to attend a leadership conference in Washington, D.C., offered to the nation's most outstanding sixth- and seventh-graders. Congratulations!



Class news

Miss Susan Duffy has been working diligently with **Pre-K 4** all year on the Letter People, a program designed to introduce children to letter and sound recognition, as well as Hands on Math, which helps children identify numbers and understand correlating quantities. The students also have created many beautiful art projects, and each month, they learn a new prayer that they recite before snacktime.

The **First Grade** has been traveling the world through a "Flat Stanley" project. With the help of **Mrs. Joan Sullivan**, the students created self-portraits which they then mailed in search of an adventure. The classroom bulletin board is covered with postcards, souvenirs and photographs of their very interesting and exciting travels! From skiing in the Swiss Alps to an exhibit of the Hope Diamond in Washington, D.C., their travels have sparked an interest in the wonderful places that the world has to share with them.

Mrs. Lisa Cirillo has turned reading into an adventure in the **Second Grade**, not only by using traditional book reports but also with such creative outlets as mobiles, paintings, and puppet shows. The students' love of reading is evident in their participation in the after-school book club on Thursdays. Second grade also is a very special year as the children received the sacrament of First Penance in January and prepare to receive their First Holy Communion on April 28.