

## St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

# The Mustang Connection

### *Alumni and Friends Newsletter*

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School  
2270 East Stadium Boulevard  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 821-2200  
<http://www.stfrancisa2.com/school>

Summer 2010

### In This Issue:

#### Page 1:

**New Teachers at St. Francis**

#### Page 2:

**The Pastor's Perspective  
From the Principal's Pen**

#### Page 3:

**Capital Improvements  
Notable Alumni  
Upcoming Events**

#### Page 4:

**Golf Outing**

#### Special Report:

**Development Office  
2009-2010 Annual Report**

### **Philosophy and Mission Statement**

*St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is a family-oriented mission of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish community where each student is valued, respected and nurtured as a unique creation of God. We challenge our students spiritually, academically and physically to learn, care and lead as they work to discover the plan that God intends for them. As followers of Christ, we strive always to instill in our students the words of St. Francis of Assisi... "Preach the Gospel always, and when necessary, use words."*

## **New Teachers at St. Francis**

### **Mrs. Rachel Johnson, First Grade**



Welcome Rachel Johnson, our new first-grade teacher. Mrs. Johnson graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 2007 with a degree in Elementary Education. She majored in Integrated Science and minored in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Johnson is currently pursuing a master's degree in Educational Media and Technology at Eastern Michigan University. She grew up in Milan and graduated from Milan Area Schools. In January, she married her husband, Ben, and they moved to Ann Arbor. Mrs. Johnson has been a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Milan for 26 years.

### **Ms. Carlye Malcolm, Third Grade**



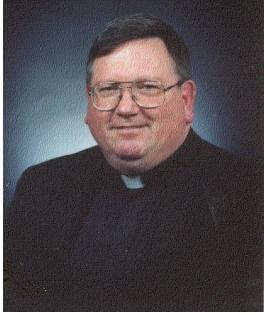
If the name of our new third-grade teacher sounds familiar to you, it's because Carlye Malcolm ('00) is a St. Francis of Assisi alumna! St. Francis is pleased to welcome Ms. Malcolm back to our hallways as our new third-grade teacher. Ms. Malcolm is a graduate of the University of Michigan ('09) and taught in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in the 2009-10 school year as a Title I Math Intervention Specialist at Lakewood Elementary School in Farmington Hills, MI. "...I really do love math. It was one of my favorite subjects as a student and is now one of my favorite subjects to teach. Besides math, I really enjoy listening to music, reading (especially in hammocks) and playing volleyball," says Ms. Malcolm.

### **Mr. Brian Wyzlic, Middle School**



Mr. Brian Wyzlic joins the St. Francis of Assisi Middle School staff, and will teach Literature, Religion and Math. Mr. Wyzlic comes to St. Francis of Assisi School from the Sacred Heart Academy in Mount Pleasant, MI. He is a graduate of Central Michigan University and is currently working on a master's degree in Educational Technology. "Though I did not attend Catholic schools myself, I have grown to see the important and necessary role they play. I am very excited to be at St. Francis, and I look forward to teaching middle-school students and meeting everyone in the Fall."

## The Pastor's Perspective



A new fiscal year commenced at St. Francis of Assisi on July 1. Milestones such as this help us reflect upon the past and look forward to the future. Several faculty retired at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. We bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Barera, Mrs. Boivin, Mrs. Hatch, and Mrs. Nichols. May God bless them for their dedicated service to our community. In September, many new teachers will join our school – we welcome them and wish them the very best.

In June, we said goodbye to Fr. John Linden; we will miss him in the days ahead. Fr. Prabhu Lakra is now our new parochial vicar. Here are some words from him ... *"I am looking forward to meeting you all and helping you on your faith journey to love and trust God more. I assure you that all of your prayers will help glorify God. May the loving Lord bless you all!"* Please join me in welcoming Fr. Prabhu.

We are full of hope for a great, new school year. Our enrollment continues to be strong. Our community is ever changing, yet, one constant remains: together, we help the world know Christ's redeeming power. Thank you for the role you play in helping us teach our children to know and love Christ. Through your prayers and generosity, we are able to provide them with a Catholic education today, while securing that gift for the future too.

In closing, I look forward to your continued commitment to St. Francis of Assisi School. Please join us at one, or all, of our special events this year, beginning with our first annual Golf Outing on Tuesday, September 21, at The Polo Fields Golf & Country Clubs. Proceeds from the Outing will help us meet the need for tuition assistance for many of our school families.

May you continue to grow in your relationship with God in this new year.

Most Sincerely,

Fr. Jim McDougall  
Pastor

## From the Principal's Pen



We begin our new school year mindful of our school's history. We are privileged to have so many St. Francis alumni as part of our current school community! We are blessed by their presence as we continue the tradition of providing Catholic education in Ann Arbor.

We are also blessed to have several St. Francis alumni who serve as teachers in our school. Elizabeth Allore Shurmur, Maura Dalian, Nancy Lemmer, and Julie Fantone are all St. Francis graduates. We are also pleased to welcome Carlye Malcolm ('00), to our teaching staff for the 2010-11 school year.

Julie Fantone ('95), who has taught third grade at St. Francis of Assisi School for six years, will begin her career in administration as the assistant principal in the 2010-2011 school year. I am delighted to welcome Julie into this administrative role.

With the help of our entire dedicated teaching staff, St. Francis of Assisi School truly represents the Apostolic tradition of passing faith directly from one believer to another. We are especially honored by these amazing alumni, who now share the love of Christ and learning they first experienced as St. Francis of Assisi School students with the students who fill their classrooms today!

As we prepare to begin the new school year, we ask that you pray for the students who attend St. Francis of Assisi School, our wonderful teaching and administrative staff, and the families who have brought their children to our community to learn how to live a Christ-centered life.

Yours in Christ's Peace,

Ms. Sara Collins  
Principal

**Blessed are you, God our Father, Maker of the universe. You have sent Jesus to be our brother and to save us in Your love.**

**Bless us as we begin this year, and help us in all we do for You. Let Your Holy Spirit give us light, and lead us to You through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# Capital Improvements

During the summer months, capital improvements are made to the school. This year several projects have been completed to update our facility for our students and families.



First, the middle-school roof was replaced. After approximately 27 years, the old roof had surpassed its useful life.

Second, the concrete at the school's main entrance was replaced. The existing concrete was deteriorating, particularly around the drains.

Third, the milk room was converted to a functional office for the new assistant principal. Upgrades to that space included the addition of voice and data lines for Ms. Fantone (new assistant principal). As a result of that change, the milk coolers were relocated within the school and power lines were added to accommodate them.

Fourth, the water lines from the second- and third-grade restrooms, the hallway drinking fountain, and the janitorial closet were replaced. The original pipes had developed leaks, which damaged the ceiling in the Extended School Program classroom. The ceiling was also replaced.

Fifth, new steel outside entry doors were installed to the Music room and the Art room hallway, similar to those at the main, K/1 and 2/3 entrances.

Thank you to all who contribute to the Development efforts of the School and to the Stewardship effort of the Parish. It is your generosity that helps to make these necessary improvements possible!



# Notable Alumni

St. Francis of Assisi School extends its congratulations to two St. Francis alumni who were named to the list of Top Scholars at Father Gabriel Richard High School (FGRHS) in Ann Arbor, by AnnArbor.com.

## Ryan Wawrzaszek (Class of 2006)

Ryan Wawrzaszek was named 2010 Class Valedictorian. While at FGRHS, Ryan was named a National Merit finalist and received a National Merit Scholarship and a University of Michigan Regents Scholarship.

Ryan served as the captain of the FGRHS track team for two years, and was recognized for accomplishments in both track and soccer, as well as being named an All Academic.

Ryan also earned his BSA Eagle Scout designation in June 2010. He will attend the University of Michigan in the fall and plans to study biomedical engineering.

## Philip Stella (Class of 2006)

While at FGRHS, Philip served for two years as the captain of the varsity tennis team. He received the Fighting Irish MVP Award, the Coach's Award and was nominated for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar Athlete Award.

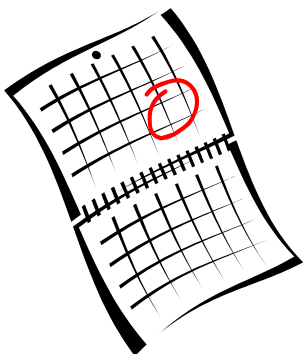
Philip also served as the Junior Class President and was inducted into the National Honor Society. He will attend the University of Notre Dame in the fall and plans to study either medicine or engineering.

Congratulations to two of our notable alums on a job well done!

If you have "Notable Alumni" news to share with the St. Francis of Assisi School community, please send it to Colleen Pierce, Director of Stewardship & Development at [cpierce@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:cpierce@stfrancisa2.org).

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## Upcoming Events



- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| September 8     | First Day of School  |
| September 10    | First All-School Mass at 8:15 a.m.   |
| September 12    | Parish Picnic<br><i>(With 12:15 p.m. Outdoor Liturgy)</i>  |
| September 18-19 | Parish Time & Talent Weekend<br><i>(Ministry Fair following the 8:45 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m. Masses)</i> |
| September 21    | First Annual Tuition Assistance Golf Outing<br><i>(The Polo Fields Golf &amp; Country Clubs)</i>       |
| October 29      | Halloween Carnival   |
| December 14     | Christmas Program  |

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St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School  
1st Annual  
Tuition Assistance  
**Golf Outing**  
Great Fun & Recreation!

Save the date: **Tuesday, September 21, 2010**, at The Polo Fields Golf & Country Clubs for this special four-person, 18-hole Florida scramble. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. The day includes a continental breakfast, four-person, 18-hole Florida scramble, cart, snack and drink tickets, and lunch off the grill with a two-hour open bar. The event will also feature prizes and course games. Door prizes and an Awards Luncheon will follow at 2 p.m. The cost of a single golf package is \$125.

Golfer and non-golfer friends are welcome to attend! (Non-golfers can enjoy lunch off the grill.) All net proceeds will benefit the Tuition Assistance Fund at St. Francis of Assisi School to help families in need.

The tuition assistance needs at St. Francis of Assisi School are ever present. During the 2009-2010 school year, we supported 27 families with \$74,900 in tuition

Tuesday, September 21, 2010  
**The Polo Fields Golf & Country Clubs**  
5200 Polo Fields Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734.998.1555

assistance. That enabled 10% of our current enrollment, specifically 42 students, to attend St. Francis of Assisi School. This year, we have received aid requests totaling \$58,600, and that amount will likely increase.

Your participation in the St. Francis of Assisi School Tuition Assistance Golf Outing will help us continue to provide families who have a financial need the Catholic education they seek at our school. You will support our school's enrollment when you join us on September 21.

We hope you will attend this event, our newest back-to-school tradition. For more information, call Colleen Pierce, Director of Stewardship & Development at (734) 821-2208. To register online with a credit card, visit <http://stfrancisa2.com/golf/>, or download a brochure to register manually and pay by check. Space is limited to 120 golfers based on a first-come, first-served basis. **Please register by September 3, 2010.** Sponsorships are available.



# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

## *Development Office*

# 2009-2010 Annual Report

### Introduction

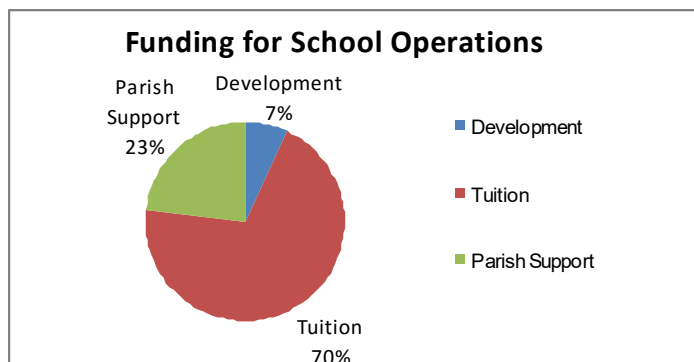
St. Francis of Assisi School remains strong and the Development Office is evolving in new and exciting ways in accordance with a five-year strategic plan that was created this past year. As a ministry of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the Development Office identified four primary goals in the Pastoral Plan for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, which was the first year of the five-year plan. Those goals included the following to provide funding support for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School:

1. Deliver the three major Development events, then evaluate and improve their effectiveness.
2. Build the Tuition Assistance Fund.
3. Broaden donor support for St. Francis of Assisi School.
4. Create a Major Gifts Program.

We are deeply grateful to all of our donors who care so much about Catholic education. St. Francis of Assisi School is preparing future generations with a strong faith as well as the education and life skills required to make a Christ-centered contribution to the world.

### 2009 – 2010 Results

The chart below shows overall funding for St. Francis of Assisi School for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Parish support funded 23% of total school costs and Development funded 7%. This support enabled the school to maintain the lowest tuition among area Catholic schools; it also kept Catholic education accessible to a wide range of families.



The following balance sheet shows funds raised versus goals and how the funds are used. The fund-raising results for the past fiscal year were below expectation and reflect the economic conditions in the region. The short-fall will delay funding for some school needs.

	Fund raising goal	Funds raised (gross)	
<b>School Operations</b>			<u>How funds were used:</u>
. School Appeal	\$100,000	\$67,011	o Teacher base salaries
. Car Raffle	\$70,000	\$55,051	o Math curriculum
. Other	-	\$6,681	o Tuition assistance
. ETF award	-	\$53,000	o Outdoor education
			o Athletics (Boosters)
			o School improvements
<b>Tuition Assistance</b>	-	<u>\$16,250</u>	\$74,900 awarded in
		\$197,993	2009-10 school year with
			\$65,195 Y/E fund balance
<b>Educational Trust Fund</b>			
. ETF Benefit	-	\$64,058	\$1,121,296 corpus
. New gifts	-	\$3,720	(as of 6/30/10)

### School Appeal

The Development Office in partnership with the Development Council is seeking support from a wider circle of possible donors. This year's School Appeal letter was segmented with unique messages to school parents, past school parents and alumni, grandparents, parishioners, and friends of the school.

The \$67,011 raised was lower than results in the last 8 years. Based on benchmarking visits to several Catholic Schools during the past year, a number of improvements are planned for the 2010-2011 School Appeal process.

### Car Raffle

In 2010, for the 14th year, St. Francis of Assisi School received a vehicle from the Gene Butman Ford dealership. Cumulatively, almost \$1 million has been raised for the school through this event. Patrice Deutschmann and Julianna Feeney, this year's co-chairs, along with the entire school community are united in expressing profound gratitude to Ken Butman and the Butman family.

The Car Raffle is a cornerstone of our Development program and this year 77% of school families participated in the raffle either by selling tickets or making a donation. A total of \$55,051 was raised, 21% short of the goal.

To keep the car raffle strong and vibrant, a focus group was held on June 15 to gather perspectives from a wide range of school families regarding ways to improve it. Expert help was offered by the U of M Survey Research Institute and a skilled parish volunteer moderated this successful event. We anticipate implementing the recommended improvements beginning in the Fall of 2010.

### **Educational Trust Fund (ETF) and Annual Benefit**

Since its inception in 1987, the Educational Trust Fund has grown to over \$1 million today. The initial goal for the Trust Fund was \$1 million and we recognize and thank all of the donors who made this possible. In the 2009-2010 school year, many donors contributed \$3,720 to the ETF in memory or in honor of someone or sometime. Because of the fiscal health of the ETF, per an established formula, \$53,000 was awarded to the school last year to help meet school operating needs.

The 9th annual ETF Benefit on April 24, 2010, was an elegant event chaired by Michael & Laura DeBacker along with the ETF Trustees. With a “Kentucky Derby” theme, over 200 guests enjoyed an exciting evening of horse racing, a wide array of silent and live auction items and Derby Pie after a lovely dinner. A gross of \$64,058 was raised for the endowment, which included \$7,679 in donations from those unable to attend the event.

A strength of the Development Office continues to be the number of volunteers involved. An example of this is our Development Liaisons (DL). The DLs are individuals from the School and the Parish at large who wrote personal notes on ETF Benefit invitations. This year 300 of the nearly 1,300 invitations mailed included personal invitations. We appreciate the dedication of our DLs as well as the commitment of our many other volunteers who contribute their time and talent on behalf of the ETF.

Now we will focus on the continued growth of the ETF and its long-term goal of \$10 million. The annual ETF Benefit will remain a social highlight for so many of us who care deeply about the Catholic education provided by St. Francis of Assisi School.

### **Building a Tuition Assistance Fund**

To minimize tuition increases, a decision was made this past fiscal year to no longer fund tuition assistance with operational dollars. At the same time, the number of families seeking tuition assistance is ever present. To ensure that St. Francis families continue to have access to affordable Catholic education, the Development Office took on the challenge of building the Tuition Assistance Fund and three strategies are now in place:

1. Conduct a Tuition Assistance Appeal at the conclusion of the ETF Benefit while the community that cares deeply about Catholic education is gathered. During the Benefit on April 24, \$16,250 was raised.
2. Host an annual Golf Outing beginning in September 2010.
3. Include an option for school families on the monthly tuition payment coupon to donate to the Tuition Assistance Fund, starting in the 2011–2012 school year.

In the last school year, partial tuition assistance was provided to 27 families, totaling \$74,900. That support enabled about 10% of the total school enrollment.

### **Laying the Groundwork for Success**

During these leaner years, the Development Office is being strengthened in a number of ways to lay the foundation for continued growth. In addition to what has been described above, key improvements within the office include:

- An annual calendar of Development events including both established and new initiatives;
- Marketing and communication enhancements with expert help from a volunteer Development Council member;
- Continued publication of the “Mustang Connection” newsletter;
- An expanded volunteer Development Council reflecting the donor base;
- An orientation process for new Development Council members;
- An annual benchmarking process to understand best practices from other Catholic and private schools;
- An Advisor to the Development Office (5-10 hrs/wk) to further strengthen the Development process.

The Development Office, the Development Council and the ETF Trustees remain committed to ensuring the long-term viability and success of St. Francis of Assisi School and to providing outstanding Catholic education to future generations. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all of our donors for their continued investment in the Catholic education provided at St. Francis of Assisi School. May God bless you, and thank you for your support and prayers.

*Colleen Pierce*, Director of Stewardship & Development

*Jane Vogel*, MBA, Advisor to the Development Office

Development Council - 2009-2010      ETF Trustees - 2009-2010

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Richard Miller  
Tom O’Sullivan  
Ed Walsh

*For more information about the activity of the Development Office, please call Colleen Pierce at 734/821-2208.*