



# ILLUMINATIONS

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016



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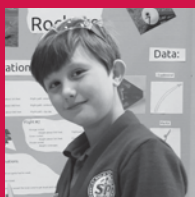
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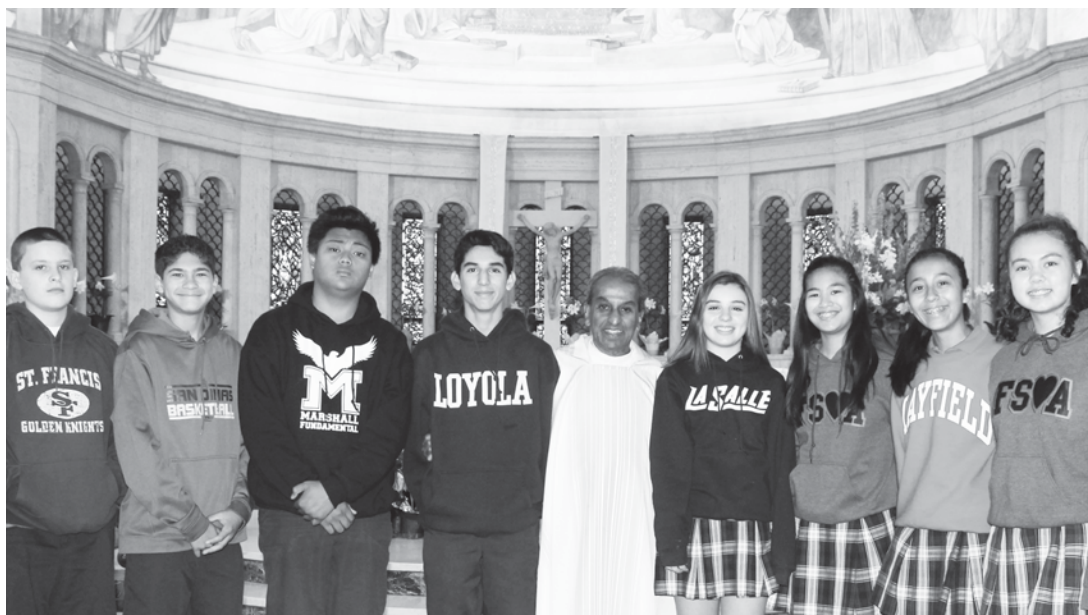


**St. Philip the Apostle School**

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*Fr. Joe surrounded by 8th grade students he baptized (from left to right) Robert Giardello, Brandon Casini, Lewor Lazaro, Anthony Stone, Mackenzie Grube, Katrina Manaloto, Paloma Torres and Grace Kelley.*

## *Get to Know Father Joe*

**F**r. Joe, the eldest of 8 children, has been our pastor since 1998; anyone who knows him knows that as much as he loves the parish, it is his love for children that excites and energizes him. This excitement is reciprocated from the children; it is a relationship and friendship that are mutually valued and nurtured.

One of the reasons that Fr. Joe accepted the pastoral leadership at the parish is because of the opportunity to be involved with its largest ministry: our school. Although Fr. Joe has many pastoral strengths, he sees himself not only as a motivator for the children but also a listener and an educator. He considers himself very much an extension of the school's faculty and someone who can support and encourage the children through their life's journey.

At the beginning of the school year in October 2015, Fr. Joe interviewed every 8<sup>th</sup> grader with the objective of getting to know the individual a little better. He did this through a series of questions such as:

1. What is your God-given gift?

2. What has changed for you as you start your final year here at St. Philip the Apostle School?
3. What are your plans for High School?

Through this process he learned about many of the students' dreams such as Samantha Kennedy's aspiration to become the first woman professional baseball manager and Samantha Santoro's desire to be the first woman to walk on Mars.

Fr. Joe's affability is one of his greatest strengths and the reason why many children feel loved and welcomed when interacting with him. It may be because of this that a sense of benevolence permeates through our 8<sup>th</sup> graders such as Brandon Casini who wants to work with and influence the lives of children, and Lewor Lazaro who wishes to be a role model and support for younger children.

As we wish farewell to our graduating class of 2016, the sadness of saying goodbye is overshadowed by the enormous opportunity and excitement that we know lie ahead for each of these young and talented lives. We will miss you and wish you all the success—may our Lord bless you all and guide you on your travels.

## Mark the Date

May 6  
Grandparents and  
Special Friends Day

May 11  
Dollar Dress for  
Pregnancy Help Center

May 20  
Spring Concert

May 24  
1st Communion  
School Mass

May 26  
New Parent Orientation  
and Mentor Social

May 27  
Spirit Shirt Day

June 3, 4, 5  
Drama Club's  
Spring Musical  
Beauty and the Beast

June 5  
Unity Sunday  
with 2nd Grade

# Sharing the Joy of Service



St. Philip the Apostle School prides itself on shaping well rounded students while building a strong sense of community. One way the school accomplishes this goal is by teaching the students the joy of serving others. The Christian Community Service program starts in Kindergarten and is fostered throughout the student's time at St. Philip the Apostle School.

Parent volunteers, teachers and students work together to complete community service projects throughout the school year. Each grade focusses on age-appropriate activities that provide the students with hands on opportunities to make a difference in the broader community. Recipients range from the elderly and homeless to soldiers and babies.

Following are some examples of how the students are giving back:

- Kindergarteners spread holiday cheer to the elderly at Del Mar Park Assisted Living Facility.
- The first grade brightens the day of Meals on Wheels recipients with special cards throughout the year.
- Second grade students created placemats for the Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon.
- In honor of "Respect for Life Month," the third graders decorated boxes and filled them with baby items for mothers in need.
- Fourth grade students collected items like socks and toiletries for soldiers deployed abroad.
- The fifth grade welcomed the newest members of our parish by creating beautiful

## The Living Stations of the Cross



The 8th grade class took center stage on Holy Thursday as they reenacted the Living Stations of the Cross for the St. Philip the Apostle School community. Parents, students and teachers watched 8th grade student Anthony Stone play "Jesus" as he carried the cross to his ultimate crucifixion on the altar of the church.

All 8th grade students took an active role in the Living Stations as they stood around the altar taking specific roles while the audience reflected on each station. Religion teacher, Irma Bello, randomly picked students for roles





#### Baptism Banners.

- Sixth grade collected socks and coffee for the homeless served by Union Station.
- Thanksgiving and Christmas meals were collected by the seventh grade for the needy of the parish.
- Four to five eighth graders purchase food, bring it to the Union Station and prepare and serve meals to the homeless every month.

Through Christian Community Service projects like these, the school is able to foster the joy of being of service to the broader community and start the students on a lifelong path of giving back.

## Inspiring Young Scientists

Every year more than half of St. Philip the Apostle School children participate in a science fair. In February, Mrs. Gripp guided the 4th and 5th graders in their first formal endeavors of scientific inquiry. Every 4th grade student chose something to plant (seed or plant part), a medium to try and grow it in (soil, rice, styrofoam) and a container to grow it in (like a water bottle, can, boot or a ball). Fifth graders were able to choose their own experiments. Students had very creative ideas and hypotheses, and they had fun testing them and sharing their results with each other.

The junior high science fair was in March. In January, junior high students made an observation about the world around them and devised a question they wanted to address. They formed hypotheses, designed

and ran experiments, made observations and presented their conclusions. The varied projects encompassed many fields including the physical world (stains, parachutes, photography), plants, the human body (heart rate, tooth decay) and human behavior and emotions. On the day of the Science Fair, Ms. France coordinated almost twenty parents, grandparents and other friends who came to school to talk to the students about what they learned, new questions they had, and other types of experiments they could do to learn even more. During the process the students had a chance to ask interesting questions and learn that sometimes the answers are unexpected.

Congratulations to all the young scientists, and thank you to all the teachers and families supporting them!



such as Jesus, the Virgin Mary, Pilate, the Weeping Women, Veronica, Simon and the soldiers. Students also volunteered to write their own reflections for the 14 stations.

"I wanted them to think of their station as a meditation. To place themselves in that time period, watching their station play out," said Irma Bello.

When none of the students volunteered to take the station of Jesus meeting his mother, Mrs. Bello stepped up.

"I finally took the station because I felt a deep connection to it because I am

a mother. This station is very close to my heart, especially now that I am a mother."

Some of the students' own personal reflections included their experiences in dealing with the death of a grandparent, learning to have greater patience, and being more selfless.

The Living Stations of the Cross has been reenacted by the graduating 8th grade class for many years. It's a treasured tradition at St. Philip.

## We Love Our Alumni!

Please share your stories: Colleen Welsh,  
[cwelsh@stphiliptheapostle.org](mailto:cwelsh@stphiliptheapostle.org)

## Awesome Alumni

**Katie Hughes '13**, earned the top score of 36 on the ACT college admissions test. The ACT test consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Only .1 percent of students taking the test receive the top score.

# Falcons Participate in Annual Academic Decathlon



*1st row: Ryan Miller, Robert Giardello, Maria Luiso, Claudia D'Auria, Maggie Giardello, Katrina Manaloto, Gene Smith. 2nd row: Ethan Gray, Vivian Nguyen, Matthew Cabato, Heather Dopke, Christopher Tom, Angela Estrada, Emily Wallace, and Will Sturgeon*

**O**n March 13th the Archdiocese of Los Angeles hosted the Annual Academic Junior High Decathlon. It is an all day event with over 100 schools participating in a variety of academic categories. There are individual subject tests, a team logic test, and a fun Super

Quiz Event where the audience can follow along with how the team is doing. This year the theme included biographies of "strong-minded men and women who have impacted our world in extraordinary ways." Congratulations to our Falcons who placed 16th overall and 6th in Logic.

**St. Philip School Board PR Committee:** Kathy Andric; Ken DeSouza; Amy Giardello; Lois Hankins, *Chair*; Adriana Leyva; Cindy McCarthy; Suzanne Nightingale; Erica Pegram; Julie Schnieders; Michelle Winschel; Anthony Yniguez; Shante Younker; Sherry Russell, *Illuminations*; Colleen Welsh, *Development Director*

**FALCON**  
FAST FORWARD

*Mark the Date continued*

June 7  
Sports Recognition Night

June 7  
Student Council Olympics

June 10  
8th Grade Graduation

June 14  
Used Uniform Sale

June 14  
Awards Assembly  
Kindergarten and  
1st Grades

June 15  
12:30 Dismissal  
Awards Assembly  
2nd through 5th Grades

June 16  
10:30 Dismissal  
Last Day of School

August 24  
First Day of School  
Meet the Teacher Day

Katie attends Immaculate Heart High School.

**Claire Ganguin '14** will be attending the Joffrey Ballet School seven week summer ballet intensive in New York City. She was selected during their national auditions and will perform in New York City at the end of the program. Claire is currently a sophomore at La Salle High School.

**Lauren Mendoza '15** was recently elected as Mayfield's Freshman Class representative. She joins Falcons **Ellie Parisi '14**, Sophomore Class President, and **Alix Winschel '12**, Publicity Director, on Mayfield's ASB.

**Carter Provencio '13** was elected Student Body President of St. Francis High School for the 2016-2017 school year. Serving with him as Vice-President will be **Trafton Welsh '13**.



*Claire Ganguin '14*

**Laura Searcy '14**, recently returned from a five-week trip to Killiney, Ireland as one of three Mayfield students representing the school on their exchange program with Holy Child Secondary School in Killiney. Laura's Irish host student will arrive to stay with the Searcy family later this month.

Our students travel the world! Eight boys from the classes of 2012 and 2013 traveled on the St. Francis Pilgrimage to Assisi over Spring Break. Attending were **Adrian Ballard**, **Gabriel Ballard**, **Max Coontz**, **Aidan Marick**, **Carter Provencio**, **Tomas Seager**, **Aidan Tracey** and **Trafton Welsh**. **Emily Gray '13**, **Natalie Burnham '14**, **Madeline Gray '14** and **Leah Rassam '14** traveled on the Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy trip to Italy over Spring Break.



# CONGRATULATIONS *to the* CLASS of 2016!



Jake Ajamian • Kelsey Albino • Emily Alonso  
 Michael Anderson • Nicholas Antsos  
 Steven Arellano Jr. • Molly Atkinson  
 Alyssa Bruna • Rory Burke  
 Nicholas Casasante • Brandon Casini  
 Kenny Cervantes • Lauren Clawson  
 Greta Coontz • Dylan Crahan  
 Claudia d'Auria • Keegan Engstrom  
 Angela Estrada • Magdalena Galindo  
 Nathan Ganguin • Matthew Garvey

Robert Giardello • Ethan Gray • Brian Griffin  
 Mackenzie Grube • Megan Hanna  
 Andrew Huang • Madison Kane  
 Ben Karadizian • Carly Kejmar • Grace Kelley  
 Caitlin Kennedy • Samantha Kennedy  
 Maggie Kiechler • Ann Krappman  
 Lewor Lazaro • Thomas Link, Jr.  
 Maria Luiso • Lorenzo Madrigal  
 Katrina Manaloto • Lily Mendez  
 Elena Morales • Kevin Parada

Ryan Perham • Madeleine Petersen  
 Quentin Pithey • Elizabeth Rosenberger  
 Gabriel Ruiz • Agnese Sanavio  
 Edith Sanchez • Halei Santiago  
 Samantha Santoro • Joseph Savo  
 Stuart Serventi • Emma Stolpe  
 Anthony Stone • William Sturgeon  
 Lauren Sugiyama • Paloma Torres  
 Marcos Vargas • Roan Velasquez  
 Emily Wallace • Sofia Yanez





## Learning Continues Outside of School

Spring was action packed for St. Philip students. Many grades traveled on field trips to experience science, history and our social environment first hand. Teachers and students enjoy the opportunity to get out of the classroom and find the field trips an exhilarating way to enhance the school curriculum.

Kindergarten visited the Long Beach Aquarium where students explored sea life in its natural habitat. Children observed and touched ocean creatures they had only ever heard and read about. While the bus ride alone thrills a kindergartner, little did they know that they'd be exposed to octopi, jellyfish and sharks. It was an exciting day from start to finish!

A trip to Knott's Berry Farm was certainly a highlight for the St. Philip third grade class. Most know Knott's as an amusement park, but it also offers educational adventures to teach children about American history

including early California and Native Americans. Through the use of hands-on activities, live demonstrations, genuine artifacts and encounters with historical re-enactors, students participate in interactive learning. The log ride wasn't the only excitement as Native American culture came to life for our third graders. What a memorable day!

Our fifth grade class visited the Glendale Community College Planetarium. This field study reinforced Mrs. Gripp's science curriculum pertaining to the solar system. Students learned about our planet's moons as well as magnetism and the positive and negative pull from the poles of our planet. They also had the opportunity to experiment with magnets.

These opportunities take a hands-on approach to learning are not only fun for all involved, but truly expand the students understanding.



## Back to the 80's

*It was totally awesome!*



Co-chairs Tracy Casasante and Molly Kiechler

Enthusiastic party-goers got into the Back to the 80's theme going all out with their costumes for the 30th Annual Dinner Dance & Auction held at the Pasadena Convention Center March 5th. Co-Chairs, Molly Kiechler and Tracy Casasante were thrilled to have almost 500 guests in attendance. Legendary 80's KROQ DJ Richard Blade played the hits while guests raised money for the students of St. Philip through mobile bidding. A highlight of the evening was the showing of the St. Philip video featuring all the students, faculty and staff created by parents Bert Atkinson, Al Madrigal, Chris Marrs and Pepe Serventi. The video was an homage to The Breakfast Club and kicked off the Live Auction with an epic bang. Thank you to everyone who helped make this evening possible.