

PARENT NEWSLETTER

May/June 2014

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

-Mr. Michael McArdle

Our Returning Students Will Welcome a New School President

In early April, I announced to the school community that I would be leaving Archbishop Ryan High School at the end of the current school year to become the director of financial aid and scholarship programs for the Office of Catholic Education. I have realized that in some cases that news did not make it home to our families so for some of you this may be news.

It cannot be denied that my ten year tenure as our school's president has been tumultuous. When I arrived in the summer of 2004, the school community was contending with many difficult issues some of which we are still working to overcome. However, I also believe that during the last decade Ryan has become one of the best schools in our area and in the archdiocese with a program that truly meets the needs of our students. I am confident that my colleagues here at Ryan will continue that good work into the future.

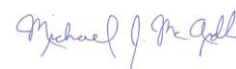
I am grateful to the administration, faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work. I am thankful for our

graduates and friends who have been such a great support for the Ryan family. I am grateful to our parents and extended families for all the sacrifices you have made to provide hundreds of students with a Ryan education. I am thankful for our students. I have always referred to them as a gift, a gift to our school. It is because of them that this school exists and, in part, it is because of them that our school is a vibrant and exciting place to learn and work.

The late Mr. John Quinn, teacher and legendary football coach, once described Ryan as a small town with all the hopes, concerns, joys and the sorrows of a community. We have had our share of each of those. In one of my personal meditations about Ryan, I have wondered what our community, our world would be like if Ryan never existed, if these 44 acres were just an empty field or additional housing. I believe this school is making an important difference in the lives of students and the larger community. Ryan prepares young men and women to lead productive and meaningful lives that will make a difference! It has been my privilege to be a part of that.

For the last month, the Office of Catholic Education has been accepting applications for the position of president of Archbishop Ryan. I expect that

the interview process will begin shortly. I am hopeful that we will know who my successor is during the month of June. I officially begin my new job on July 1. I know I will miss Ryan, and it will always have a place in my heart. *We are AR!*



Michael J. McArdle
President

SOFTBALL PCL CHAMPS!



Our girls' softball team captured the Philadelphia Catholic League Championship with a 5-0 win over Lansdale Catholic on Thursday, May 22. The Ragdolls will now compete for the District 12 Championship. The PCL title victory capped off an impressive undefeated league season that was dedicated to Coach Andy Hafele, who died in February. Congratulations to our players and coaches!



Dear Parents,

As the Spring sun now shines upon us, it is hard to believe that we weathered such severe conditions this winter. The end of the year has truly arrived.

This issue of the Parent Newsletter highlights much of the important end of the year information. I encourage you to please take note of these details. Also, we have included in this issue candid pictures from this year's Senior Prom at the New Jersey Adventure Aquarium that was held on May 9. The next Family Newsletter for the summer will be published in July.

As we conclude this school year, we say farewell to our seniors as the Class of 2014 takes its place as proud alumni of Archbishop Ryan High School. We will remember their contributions to our Ryan Family and keep them in our prayers.

Thank you for a wonderful year! Please have a safe and happy summer.

Gratefully,



James D. Meredith
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Mr. Joseph McFadden

It seems like just yesterday I was writing about roster changes and PSAT tests and here we are at the end of the year. Just as important as a great start is a great finish. With so few days remaining, please encourage your

students to finish strongly in their classes. Underclass exams begin in ELA on May 27 and all other courses finish on Thursday, June 5.

Any senior who has not passed a class has been notified. They will not be able to participate in any Graduation exercises and will be required to attend the Archdiocesan Online Summer School Program. If the credit is not made up, a diploma will not be given nor will final transcripts be released.

Underclassmen who fail any class will also be required to attend the Archdiocesan Online Summer School Program. Students will be notified the final week of school. If a credit is not made up, students will not be allowed to return the next year.

Summer School

Students in the Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who have **not** met the academic expectations during the school year 2013-2014 are required to attend the Archdiocesan Summer School Education Program. Summer school provides an opportunity for students to learn the course material, earn a passing grade, work at their own pace and be eligible to return to their Catholic high school for the following school year. In order to return for the school year 2014-2015 all failures must be successfully remediated. The Archdiocesan Summer School Online Education Program is offered through Educere.

Registration for the Online Education Program will be June 16th at Archbishop Ryan. The program will begin on June 23rd and end on August 11th. The cost is \$325 per course. Work will be completed online but students will be required to attend sessions at Archbishop Ryan also. More information will be available at registration.

Final report cards will be mailed out the week after school ends.



Summer Reading

Archbishop Ryan encourages students to become life-long readers and learners by asking them to read during non-instructional time. Summer reading provides students an opportunity to enhance their reading skills and enjoy a book they've selected. Our philosophy is that summer reading should be both pleasurable and thought provoking. With that in mind, we have provided a range of selections reflecting student interests and readability levels.

We believe that students who read over the summer:

- Maintain or improve reading comprehension and vocabulary.
- Broaden their experience, knowledge and

understanding of topics that are of personal interest.

- Experience personal and academic success by developing their literacy skills.
- Become lifelong readers by choosing a book and reading at their own pace.

The Summer Reading assignment is posted on the website and has been explained to the students. Students choose a book from the list, read at least one, and complete the online assignment.

I wish you and your family a happy, healthy, and holy summer. My office staff and I will be working away all summer on creating a schedule and rosters for your children. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to email or call our office so we can assist you.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Ms. Kathryn Schafer, Interim

It has been a whirlwind year and as we gear down for the end of our school year, there are still some important events that need to be accomplished and acknowledged.

- In lieu of Mr. Frank Morris's medical leave, Ms. Kathy Schafer will be interim Assistant Principal for Student Affairs.
- The Graduation ceremony for the Class of 2014 will be Monday, June 2, at Temple University's Liacouras Center. The ceremony begins promptly at 11:00 am. Senior students should arrive by 10:00am and go directly to the Liacouras Center garage. Parents and guests will enter by way of the center doors on Broad Street with your tickets.
- **This year the graduates will process to the stage and will be awarded their diplomas by the Administration.** At that time a picture will be taken by Gurcsik Studios- **do not leave your seat and approach the stage for a picture.** Home mailing addresses have been given to Gurcsik Studios. After Graduation day, a postcard will be mailed to your home with a picture on it of your son/daughter. Please follow the directions on the postcard to order your son's/daughter's picture. All interactions/transactions will be conducted with Gurcsik Studio not Archbishop Ryan for your order. (Gurcsik Studio - 215-663-0900)
- The 2013-2014 YEARBOOK (The Sentinel) will be made available to the underclassmen for purchase as of Tuesday May 27. Students are asked to go to the Tuition Office and make a payment of \$50.00 – then bring receipt to Student Affairs to receive the yearbook. Checks make payable to Archbishop Ryan High School.
- Septa Transpass are available for the month of June in Student Affairs.

Thank you to all our Ryan families who have helped to make the 2013-2014 school year a memorable one. Your sacrifices are acknowledged and greatly appreciated.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR STUDENT SERVICES

Mr. Glen Galeone

The administration is developing a new dress code enforcement policy for 2014-2015. The official policy will be released in the summer, but the key element is that the detentions will be issued for dress code violations. The detention will be served the day after it is issued. In an effort to promote proper

enforcement of the dress code, this policy will not only be punitive, but also incentive based for those students who do what is expected of them daily. When the policy is finalized this summer, it will be published and incorporated into the Student Handbook.



FROM THE SCHOOL MINISTER

Father John Donia

Ascension Thursday

Thursday, May 29, is the feast of the Ascension, a Holy Day of Obligation. A school-wide Mass will be celebrated during homeroom.

This feast commemorates the day Jesus ascended into heaven. Although his physical life on the earth came to an end, Jesus became present to his Church in a new way through his Spirit. At the Ascension, Jesus directed his disciples to go to the ends of the earth and proclaim the good news of God's love in the Gospel. We are his disciples today, whom Jesus sends out into the world to bear witness that He is alive among us and to tell others of God's love.

2014-15 Kairos Retreats

Recently students in grade 11 were asked to complete a survey concerning next year's Kairos Retreat program. Many have

indicated that they intend to participate in one of the retreats during senior year. If your child is currently a junior, I encourage you to speak with him or her about Kairos and to see which retreat dates may work best. The 2014-15 Kairos dates are:

October 17-19

December 5-7

February 13-15

April 17-19

Christian Service Program

Students who will be entering grade 11 in the Fall will be required to participate in the Christian Service Program which stipulates that they must perform 20 hours of Christian service. Details concerning the program can be found on the School Ministry section of the school's website. Please note that students may begin working on the required hours during the summer months.

HOLY SPIRIT GIFT OF THE MONTH



See the Parent Portal on our website for more information about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

April

Peter Grillo

Congratulations!

FACULTY FOCUS:

**Mr. Gerard Donahue, Science
Department**

By Jessica Kowalski, '14

Students at Archbishop Ryan are provided with many opportunities to broaden their experiences for future careers. One of these opportunities is shadowing at Holy Redeemer Hospital. Students are able to spend an entire day with health care professionals employed in their field of interest. Their field choices include: maternity, anesthesiology, physical therapy, cardiology, laboratory, and plenty more.

Every two months, Mr. Donahue, the coordinator of these trips and the moderator of the Health Careers Cub distributes forms to students so that they can choose in which area they would like to shadow. Students list their most preferred choices, ranked from one to ten, and they always receive two of them, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Shadowing experiences allow students to witness directly the reality of a hospital setting. It displays the everyday life of nurses and doctors, not the glamorized images depicted on television shows. There is unlimited access to the real-life workings of a hospital. If the patients at the hospital allow it, students may witness births, transfusions, simple surgeries, ultrasounds, x-rays, catheter or stent procedures, rehabilitation exercises, and laboratory research. However, students may

choose not to view procedures if they feel uncomfortable. Those who do participate are subject to the HIPAA laws of confidentiality.

The shadowing day starts off with a presentation by multiple health care professionals explaining their educational background, schools they attended, jobs, schedules, work life, and any advice they have for high school students in planning their future. Health care workers at Holy Redeemer are just as fond of these trips as the students are. They do not mind taking time to explain all the details of their job throughout the day.



After the presentations, students begin to split up into the different areas that they will shadow in, and spend an hour and half in that department. Then all the students convene and meet with the recruiter in charge to discuss their encounters, after which they eat lunch provided by the hospital. Following this is the second shadowing part in a different area of the hospital. Finally, students take a group tour of all the facilities of the hospital and receive a certificate of completion and a gift of a sports bag or t-shirt.

This eye-opening experience is usually not what students expect it to be. Jobs prove to be more

tedious and challenging than they thought! Learning this motivates students to apply themselves to their academics more to help them reach success. Even if students do not like the area which they shadowed, they can now cross that off the list of potential future careers for themselves. All experiences are valuable. Students have so many choices to make about their future that being aware of what they do not want to be involved in is just as useful as knowing what they do want to involve themselves in.

I am personally very grateful and thankful for being able to attend these trips because they have given me insight I could not gain anywhere else. I have met doctors and nurses that provided me with beneficial and lasting guidance for my future career in the medical field. Every trip has expanded my knowledge of health care positions and enhanced my appreciation for education.

On behalf of the students who attend these trips, I thank Mr. Donahue for taking the time to organize and schedule these enlightening experiences.

Congratulations!

MATTHEW DEVER

Four Years of Distinguished Honors

As a result of his transfer from another Archdiocesan high school, his name was omitted from the Senior Honors Convocation.

EAGLE SCOUT: STEPHEN BARRAS

Congratulations to senior Stephen Barras who earned the rank of Eagle Scout at the Court of Honor Ceremony in February.

His completed service project was to paint the entire exterior of the Friends of Pennypack Maintenance Facility located in Pennypack Park on Verree Road.

Again, congratulations Stephen!

CONGRATULATIONS, COACH ED ULMER!



Congratulations to Coach Ed Ulmer on his award for 50 years of service to the Philadelphia Catholic League. We are proud of his years of service and that so many were spent enhancing the athletic programs at Archbishop Ryan.

WELCOME CLASS OF 2018!



Congratulations to the above members of the Class of 2018 who were on hand at our Senior Honors Convocation to receive a certificate of scholarship for their upcoming academic year. We anxiously await their arrival at Archbishop Ryan!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thomas Powers

**Score of higher than 2000
on SAT**