

FACULTY

Our New Principal

Our new Mother Superior, Sister Regina Immaculate, came in March with a big welcome. Sister taught at Hallahan High School, then became Mother Superior of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Chester for six months before coming here.

When asked how she liked St. John's, Sister said, "I love it". (Was she really thinking about St. John's?) She is looking forward to the use of the new materials and the completion of the new library which is being financed by the Home and School Association.

Sister has done something very unusual for grade school--hired a guidance counselor, Miss Engart. Mother said, "she is mostly for the children to let out all their problems on".

Sister Regina has said if the children are ready for a student council, then she will have one next year.

Sister's message to the eighth grade is "Good Luck" in high school. "If you ever need help, remember the sisters who taught you. We'll be glad to help!"

By
Ellen Thornton

Sister Christopher

In reading, Sister Christopher has given the eighth grade changes of pace. Instead of the dull routine, we have discussions. Sister said, "Reading is an art; real thinking on key issues prompts one to read carefully."

Before coming to St. John's, Sister taught at the Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill. Sister has been in our school for four years. Her favorite subjects are religion and history and she teaches both. We asked her how she felt about peace in Vietnam and her reply was, "It's great; and I hope it's lasting." When asked about the school regulations, Sister said in one word, "Necessary!"

Sister's eighth grade homeroom, 18, went to a play called "Godspell". It is about the Gospel of St. Matthew. From what we heard, it was good and everyone enjoyed it.

We also asked Sister what she thought about the federal government taking a firmer stand on religion in schools and she said, "I think the government should save tax money for the Catholic schools so they can continue doing their necessary work." When asked how she feels about religion, Sister's reply was, "It is a way of life and can't be separated." Her summary of this past year was "Interesting and challenging."

By
John Bolger
Neil Beahan
Redmond McConnell

Sister St. Michael

Sister St. Michael has been at St. John's for 3½ years. She came from Sacred Heart Parish in South Philadelphia.

In her time at St. John's, Sister has produced and directed three plays, one of which won an award for the best play of the year.

Sister kept us laughing for hours with plays such as "One Happy Family", "The Gimmick" and has advised us on "The Oddfather". Sister St. Michael's successful plays are due to the eighth grade cooperation and hard work of the actors combined with her patient leadership. The play the eighth grade was most involved in was "The Gimmick", published by The Arts and Craft Company and written by Andrew Boracci.

Sister teaches English, Spelling, Poetry, Composition, Religion and History. She likes Creative English best. Sister M.C.ed the Forensic recital and also helped our speech makers with poise, clearness of voice and volume.

Sister says she liked the eighth grade this year very much and hopes she can return again next year.

By
Redmond McConnell
Neil Beahan

*... life goes
not backward
nor carries with
yesterday.*

Miss McCarthy

Miss McCarthy has been teaching sixteen years and taught at St. Athanasius before coming to St. John's. She has a special degree in Math and Science--one reason why she is such an excellent teacher, especially in these two subjects.

She would like to teach more with materials such as headphones and tapes. Then each child or a group of children could learn at their own speed. In difficult areas of learning, materials like this are needed.

Her opinion of our school regulations (even though we may hate them) is that they are necessary for order.

We're especially grateful for her hard work getting the skating party prepared for us. Again, we thank Miss McCarthy for a very nice year and more to come.

ACTIVITIES

Roller Skating Party

To add to the excitement of the eighth grade, we had a roller skating party. For the first time as a complete grade, it was more fun than a dance because it was a big change. Not that we don't like dances, but at a roller skating party you can fall, "break your neck" and even learn how to skate, but how could this happen at a dance? It was all planned and headed by Miss McCarthy who gave a final touch when she got up on her own two feet and skated, a feat no one thought any teacher would perform! We went to Jamison Skating Rink. It had games, contests and refreshments, who could ask for more? Stephen Hartsough and Vince Wixted won medals because they were the only ones left in the contest. Everyone had a great time and hopes to do more of it in years to come.

Our second roller skating party was much the same as the first but each were full of their own surprises. Again, we would like to thank Miss McCarthy for her help and time which made it all possible.

More About Skating.....

This year there was a first in our eighth grade. Yes, through the gallant efforts of Miss McCarthy, our Science and Math teacher, almost every one got what they wanted...a roller skating party.

It came with all its bumps, bruises and aggravation for many of us, especially me, (Vincent D'Imperio) as many will remember.

It was held at the Jamison Skating Rink on York Road in Warminster. The games and contests started right after the first "Everybody Skate" as the announcer would say. The "games" were the couples skate, the triples, the crazy triples (when the whistle blew the couples have to turn around), the numbers game (which was won by Dave Nerz and John Manning) and the one everybody loved, the scooter races. This was especially loved by Miss McCarthy and Ellen Thornton who got off to a "flying start" and landed with a bang...two feet from where they started. The medal winners in this contest were Steve Hartsough and Vince Wixted and in the girls' competition by Marian McGowan and Donna Thompson.

It was a very enjoyable evening for everyone concerned even if some of us came home slightly injured, and we thank Miss McCarthy and everyone else involved very, very much for arranging it. The next day was fondly known as "Ben Gay Day".

By
Vincent D'Imperio

The Gimmick

The eighth grade play this year was "The Gimmick", a one act fantasy written by Andrew Boracci. There were two casts for the play which alternated performances. The play was good and a great success.

The only problem was the flash gun. On opening night, Kevin Madden tried to use a dead bulb. He was unsuccessful. The next night John Whelan accidentally ejected the bulb. After retrieving it and having it flash, he took a bow. These accidents only doubled us up more with laughter.

After each performance, Sister St. Michael, the producer, received ten roses.

"The Gimmick" later competed for the St. Luke's trophy. Competing were St. Bede with "Man of La Mancha", St. John's with "The Gimmick" and our host, St. Luke's, with "Sorry, Wrong Number".

"Sorry, Wrong Number" won a good number of awards which were well deserved. It was beautifully executed and well done.

"The Gimmick" received some recognition for St. John's also. John Whelan scooped up "Best Actor." It was well deserved. St. Bede's with its musical presentation won Michael McCrane an award as "Best Singing Actor".

To all the cast (listed below), we say a "job well done":

CAST A

Kevin Madden

Joe Steindl

*Vincent D'Imperio

*Michele Oppelt

*Dorothy Devers

Edward Kelly

CAST B

*John Whelan

*Tony Pannullo

Bill Smart

Eileen Beahan

Jeanette Kuter

Edward Miller

*David Kraynik

*Denotes being in the competition.

Stage Manager - Chris Norwood

Sound Effects - Brendan Burke

Asst. Director - Susan Corley

The Oddfather

"The Oddfather" was a one act satire that really amused the audience because it was made into a comedy from the hit movie, "The Godfather". It was nicely written and directed by Stephen Coffee. The play was a hit thanks to its great cast of eighth graders (who are listed at the end of this article).

It was somewhat difficult getting it on because the play had to have good timing and the actors had to know when their parts came in. The lead was played by Tony Pannullo who looked great with a hair-do out of the thirties. He had sons who were smoking and making a million bucks at the ages of six and seven.

Ma Fia was given an excellent performance by Marion McGowen and Ellen Thornton as "Bunny" was a chewing gum expert who was turned on by a soap called "A Sweet Bar Named Desire".

She had a husband who has a name out of a 12th century story book. Their announcer, who is also the author, looked like a chicken ready to lay an egg.

CAST

Ma Fia

- Marion McGowen

Sonny

- Frank D'Amore

Mikey

- Thomas Cicala

Marlon

- Tony Pannullo

Uncle

- Dan Pannullo

Bunny

- Ellen Thornton

Police Officer

- Rob Welsh

Stage Crew

Jim Gracyk

Kevin Gavin

TO THE READERS: This play was an offer you couldn't refuse!

BY

Redmond McConnell

1776

1776 is a splendid re-creation of the Broadway hit play, artfully written and developed so that a vast audience may understand and feel the situation and people of two centuries ago.

This country was undergoing birth pains and its representatives were practicing midwifery at the Continental Congress, where the Declaration of Independence was born. Song and dance sequences are cleverly integrated and never seem intrusive, because of the superior talents of choreographer Gona White and musical director, Peter Howard.

Peter Stone has created a stunning scenario from his own play, bringing to vibrant life such lively figures as Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the great document, John Adams, whom no one could keep quiet, John Hancock, who had a unique way of writing his name, and many others who made the screen version of this show a huge success.

When the characters in the movie made a point for the good side there was a roar of applause and cheers from the audience which was made up of three schools.

A special thanks to Miss O'Donnell for getting 8 busses. If it wasn't for them we would have had to walk to the theater to see the movie.

By

Neil Beahan

Redmond McConnell

Thanks and Congratulations STEVE!

RESPECT LIFE WEEK

During our 8th grade year we had a week we called Respect Life week. It was not only celebrated in St. John's and in the 8th grade but in the whole church. Everyone celebrated by trying to respect everyone, the elderly and the young.

The boys and girls from Bishop McDevitt came and talked to us about respecting life. But, respecting life was more than that.

Although we speak of youth as if it were a single culture, there are great diversities among the young. Yet reacting differently within these various peer groups they do proclaim a common truth. The world must not be as it is, rather it must become a place in which all can achieve true personhood.

Today there are more than 20 million persons. An important segment of the population, respect, is due to the elderly, for their knowledge and experience.

We can gain much from them. According to the Ten Commandments the only one who can take or give life is God. No man or woman can take a life. Everyone has the right to live.

THE CHRISTMAS DANCE

One of the main events of the year was the Christmas dance held a few days after Christmas vacation. It was the first dance for the 8th graders. After everyone got used to it, they began to enjoy themselves.

The girls started to dance with the boys and vice-versa. Since it was our first dance, it seemed that everyone was quite shy and fearful.

It took about two hours for the tension to ease. The selection of songs was good, but all we needed was a little encourage-

ment, and guess who gave it to us - not only the ladies who worked there, but Father Joseph as well.

We'll experience many dances during the years to come, but we will never forget our first dance.

THE SAFETIES (DETECTIVE BOUCER)

In the month of January, Detective Boucer visited the safeties and told them the importance of being a safety. Mr. Boucer said that all safeties must be alert and alive. He told them if there are any questions about the people in cars, that they should take down the licence plate number.

It is always important to get one he said. If you can't write it down on a pad and pencil then find a dirty car and write it down on that. Find a berry and write it down on the sidewalk. The safeties are important not only to keep the kids in line, but to help us stay alive.

PIANO FRANKS - by Neil Beahan

On Saturday, March 10th, the second Annual Piano Festival, sponsored by the Sisters of the IHM, was held at the Villa Maria Academy. Twenty-three schools with some one hundred - twenty five students, were represented. Three students from St John's took part. They were Eileen Beahan, Liz Paslavich, and Linda Wilson, who are students of Mrs. Shirley Beahan. Each were awarded with a superior rating on their performance.

On Saturday night, May 5th, another show was presented. St. John's piano students gave a show of their own. This recital was held in the school auditorium from 7:30 - 9:00 P.M. An hour and a half of music with featured pieces like Musette by Bach and Furellis by Beethoven, made for an enjoyable evening. Also, two duets and three extra songs given by the three girls who attended the Villa Maria Festival were presented. We wish to congratulate both piano teachers, Mrs. Shirley Beahan and Mrs. DeRosquale, for their hard work and on their success.

SCHOLARSHIP

William Smart, along with two other 3th grade boys, Frank D'Amore and Charles Sheild received a scholarship to La Salle High School around March 18. He accepted the \$800 a year scholarship with a proud and happy feeling.

Bill said the reason he accepted the money was because it is well known for being a nice school and for the education. Six or seven hundred students from this didtrict took the tests. Their average had to be a 98 or 99.

Bill received with great honor a 98 average. St. John's, and especially the 8th grade should be proud of these future geniuses.

BEST ACTOR

John Whelan, actor of '73, was asked how he felt about being the best actor in the recent competition. He replied "very honored and surprised." The play he thought was honestly the best was our own "The Gimmick", but in spite of this John thought that "Sorry, Wrong Number" and "Don Quixote" were very good.

When we asked John how he liked playing Charlie Brown and what he thought of the devil, he said "it was a fun part to play." He said that the devil was very convincing." He attributes his success to Sister St. Michael because she took time to coach him.

WATERGATE FLOODED

by 4th graders (their observations)

In Charlotte, North Carolina, the newspaper "The Charlotte Observer" asked some 4th graders to tell about Watergate. Here are some of their answers.

----a big building with leaks----
---a Democratic building trying to

stop water pollution-----

----a few weeks ago I thought it was where boats got threw a gate. But now I know what it is. It is where the Democrats bugged the Republican headquarters, but I don't know why.-----

----China's great wall with water in it.-----

----I think it is plain dumb. Republicans should not interrupt the phone service----

----Some people put bugs in the Democratic headquarters and got caught.-----

----I think it is where bugs ate the telephone messages and got their wings clipped.-----

What is your answer?

THE MYSTERY OF THE FEEBETHS

The Feebeth family consists of seven male fireflies, one female firefly, and three male cousins. Nearing the end of the year, Mike Cannon created a firefly in Miss O'Donnell's reading class. The closest relative is John Manning and second is Sue McGlauglin, with Mike as his owner. Near the end of this year Mike thought he lost him, and said he was in a car accident and was killed. At the funeral, with sympathy cards being given to him by everyone, Feebe returned from what was supposedly the Dead. But really he went to visit a cousin without giving Mike any notice. When they saw him everyone rejoiced. The word spread quickly and Mike was back to his normal self again. After this scary incident all of the cousins came to 1. together with Freebe. The names are Freebe, of course, Oscar, Curly, Zeke, Alfred, Oogie, Jake, Rosco, Bruce, and the largest one "Andre the Giant." The one girl is Marge. No relation to anyone in our grade. The family lives in Mike's English copybook. The smaller ones live on page 40, The larger ones, who are Bruce and Rosco, live on page 60 and Andre lives on page 10. Marge will arrive and live on page 45. If you ever wish to see the family, just a Mike.