

PACK *Press*



Mitch Villavaso, 6th grade student at St. Joseph School - Fullerton. Photo taken by Storia Studio.

Student Service that Inspires Us All

To serve God is to serve others. This can sometimes be a daunting task, and we often find great difficulty knowing where to start or in what capacity we can serve others. A sixth grade student at St. Joseph School is here to offer all of us, young and old, the inspiration we need!

Two years ago, Mitch Villavaso and his family visited a local family shelter to drop off donations. Upon leaving, he was inspired to find a more meaningful way to help the residents, especially the children. Mitch says, "I originally thought that raising money would be great, but then I realized that



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PASTOR

Rev. Jesse L. Bolger

PRINCIPAL

Kenneth J. Pipkin

ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL

Christina Ashby

DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING AND
ADVANCEMENT

Francesca Troiano

ADVANCEMENT
ASSOCIATES

Paula Beres

Angela Corno

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Andrea Edwards

MISSION
STATEMENT

St. Joseph School educates children PreK-4 through eighth grade in the Catholic Tradition. Our mission is to provide a positive learning environment in which every child is challenged to develop his/her full potential: academically, spiritually, and morally.

St. Joseph School - Fullerton
8416 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21236
410-256-8026
www.stjoeschool.org

A Note from the Principal



I am excited to share that St. Joseph School will soon celebrate its 150th anniversary!

On June 20, 1869, the cornerstone of the original schoolhouse was blessed and laid at the current Belair Road property. We hope you will join us for the many events we are planning to celebrate this milestone.

While we celebrate the past, we also look to the future in continuing to provide the best academic programs for our students. This summer, we will transform our Library into a modern Multimedia Center, where robotics, books, and computers will reside, continuing to launch our students into their bright futures!

Thank you to those who reached out to us after our Fall 2018 inaugural edition of the *Pack Press*. We heard so many wonderful stories from all of you. Please stay in touch!

Blessings and Peace,

Kenneth J. Pipkin
Principal



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I want to take this opportunity to thank our teachers and support staff for another stellar year- under the dynamic leadership of our

Principal, Mr. Pipkin. As we look forward to the 2019-2020 academic year and our 150th anniversary as a school, I am grateful for the sacrifices of so many past leaders as we look forward to what the future may hold in store. To our Alumni, I hope you find in these pages stories that inspire you and remind you of your St. Joseph School experience and the role our school played in helping to form you.

Our mission as a parish community is to strengthen marriage and the family. As one

who comes from a large family, it brings me great joy to see our school children growing as beloved sons and daughters of God the Father. I believe a Catholic education and a parish in general, should help to form the future leaders of our Church and society not only academically, but spiritually and humanly as well. May St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, intercede for us as we seek to grow as one family of faith- for the good of the Church and society.

In Christ,

Rev. Jesse L. Bolger
Pastor

Student Service (continued from front page)

donating my time was just as valuable, especially since the kids there have very little to do for fun.” Mitch always loved playing with Legos and thought the children in a shelter would enjoy playing with them, too.

Mitch met with the Volunteer Coordinator at the Eastern Family Resource Center located in Baltimore County to discuss his idea. Now, Mitch’s idea has transformed into a weekly program at the shelter called “Mitch Bricks.” Mitch and his family set up stations in a room at the shelter and assist the children with building and playing with Legos. Many of the children have never even played with Legos before and get very excited when he visits. Mitch also enjoys getting to know the children at the shelter. Mitch admits he has “learned lots from our

conversations and I get to hear all about their hopes of living in a home again someday.”

As Keynote Speaker at our Student Retreat in March, Mitch shared some inspiring words with students. He said, “It’s not hard to come up with an idea of how to help others. No idea is ever too small, you just have to have faith and make it happen.”

Mitch not only spends time at the shelter, but also organizes frequent clothing drives and donations for those in need. Mitch is truly an inspiration to us all.

To learn more about the Mitch Bricks Program, visit his Facebook page, @Michbricks. To see the feature story about Mitch on WMAR-TV, please visit www.stjoeschool.org/news.

Mitch with WMAR 2 News Anchor, Jamie Costello.



CURRENT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Eighth grade student Madison Villarba has been awarded a prestigious Knott Scholarship. The Knott Scholarship Funds awards four year, full tuition scholarships to academically talented Catholic students who wish to continue their education in a Catholic school within certain areas of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Madison will attend Notre Dame Preparatory School in the fall.

In addition to her outstanding academic work, Madison is involved in 16 church and school-related clubs. While she enjoys participating in school clubs such as the robotics team and the school band, she is most interested serving others, particularly through our parish’s Connect Camp, a week-long service camp.

Congratulations, Madison!

YEAR OF SERVICE
Snapshots



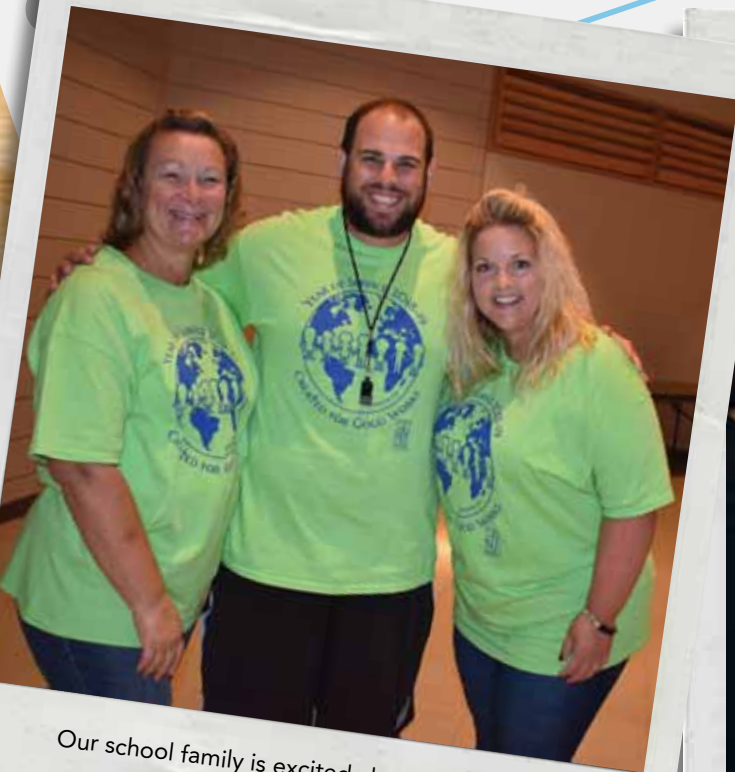
During the month of March, students dropped everything to read and donated thousands of books to the Maryland Book Bank.



We made 409 bagged lunches for the Weinberg Center and every grade helped by decorating lunch bags, making sandwiches, and filling the lunch bags with food.



At the beginning of each month, we have a Year of Service assembly to share the service project with the school community.



Our school family is excited about the Year of Service!



Our school participated in a school-wide service project to help feed the hungry in January.



During the month of April, students donated money to help those in need through the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl project.



We collected over 6,000 canned goods for the St. Clements Food Pantry in November so Mr. Pipkin wore a turkey costume!

What's Happening at St. Joseph: A Musical Tribute to Our School

Each week, after the final hymn of the school Mass, a tune erupts as 600 beautiful voices begin to sing a lively song that makes everyone smile. It is the St. Joseph School song!

As we embark on our school's 150th anniversary, our school song is not only a prized piece of our school's history, but a testament to what we hold true as a St. Joseph School family. The song was written by Mrs. Patricia Amato in 1992, who at that time, worked as Assistant Organist at St. Joseph Church and Director of the Children's Choir. She also volunteered by playing the piano at school Masses when her daughters attended St. Joseph School.

During a conversation with former music teacher, Mrs. Sklar, and past principal, Mrs. Thaler, the idea of writing a song our students could call their own and sing regularly was born. "My goal was to develop a song that was not trite or juvenile, but meaningful to the students", says Amato. "It needed to have a sense of spiritual groundedness and would serve to pay homage to a beloved school." She found a 16th century German chorale that paid tribute to our parish's German heritage and combined it with her own lyrics. The St. Joseph School Song debuted at the opening school Mass of the 1992-1993 school year, with Amato at the piano, directing a newly formed student choir. Mrs. Amato is "delighted" to learn that 27 years later, the song is still being sung.



Mrs. Patricia Amato (center) with Fr. Jesse Bolger and Vice Principal Christina Ashby.

Mrs. Amato expresses much gratitude to the teachers here at St. Joseph School for the education her daughters, Elena ('99), Antonette ('02), and Angela ('06), received. Twenty-seven years later, our past and present students continue to be connected by the song that "may one day heal our world."

"ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL SONG"

St. Joseph School we honor you
with joyful heart and mind!
Maroon and grey the colors
that join our hands in kind.
We remember all the moments
of friendship, peace and love.
Empowered by Christ together
we may one day heal our world.

PHOTO: GREGORY KEATING

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Karla Foreman

Mrs. Karla Foreman's enthusiasm and love for teaching is apparent as she weaves through her middle school classroom, picking up on the vibe of her class, and making sure all her students understand the concepts being taught. In her 28 years of teaching, four years at St. Joseph School, Mrs. Foreman has taught a variety of subjects. Every day, she brings creativity and inspiration to her middle school Math and Language Arts students.

Mrs. Foreman has an interest in technology and uses it frequently with her classes, but sees technology more "as an extension of a lesson, to be incorporated if it fits naturally." She doesn't feel the use of technology should be forced if the lesson is better served

with a group discussion or hands-on learning.

Four years ago, Mrs. Foreman launched our robotics programs for students in grades 5 through 8. Under her tutelage, the First Lego League team and the Vex IQ team meet to program and build robotic systems, research issues, create solutions, and learn to communicate and collaborate as a team. Throughout the school year, these teams enter local robotic competitions to test their skills on a larger stage.

Her finest moments as a teacher are, "when a student doesn't think they are going to understand a concept, but finally has that aha moment," and "helping students see the connections of what they are learning to the real world."



We are blessed to have Mrs. Foreman at St. Joseph School and we appreciate the expertise and enthusiasm she brings to her classroom and our robotics program.

PHOTO: STORIA STUDIO

ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 1986: Eric Gomez became First President and Charter Member of IBEW Local 410.

CLASS OF 1994: Kerry Loftus started the Katie and Wil Brady Memorial Foundation in memory of Katherine Loftus-Brady and her son.

CLASS OF 2002: Tiffani Coster got engaged to Derek Muller on April 5, 2019.

CLASS OF 2004: Kate Beres and her husband, Will, were married on August 12, 2017.

CLASS OF 2006 Mindy McGuire got engaged to PJ Sullivan in December 2017.

CLASS OF 2008: On September 27, 2019 Racquelle Contreras will wed Stephen Oursler.

CLASS OF 2010: In August 2018, Caroline Schlee began her first year of medical school at University of Maryland School of Medicine.

In 2018, Jordan Meyerl graduated from Arcadia University with a BA in English Literature.

CLASS OF 2011: In May 2019, Emily Meyerl will be graduating from University of South Carolina.

WHERE ARE THEY HEADED?

Congratulations to our 2019 graduating class! Students will be attending the following high schools in the fall of 2019:

Catholic High - 12	Mercy - 11	Calvert Hall - 10
John Carroll - 2	Notre Dame Preparatory - 6	Mount de Sales - 1
Archbishop Curley - 9	Eastern Tech - 3	Patapsco - 1



Where are you now?

ALUMNI UPDATE

As we approach our 150th anniversary, you are an important part of our school history and we would love to hear from you. Stay connected with St. Joseph School! Go to www.stjoeschool.org.

Follow St. Joseph School – Fullerton on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and stjoeschool.org for updates on our 150th anniversary celebrations and alumni reunion.

