



Holy Rosary Graduates, Sr. Dianne Rumschlag, Principal & 8th grade teacher, Sr. Lynda Snyder.

Graduation 2009 ... The 2008-2009 school year is officially over but not without much to celebrate. St. Pius V's 2009 graduating class is the 87th in the school's history. Holy Rosary is marking the end of the school year with the 50th graduating class. 137 classes that have graduated from these two schools.

Holy Rosary held graduation on Saturday, May 23rd. Charmayne Anderson was the recipient of the Ronald Townsend Scholars Award. She will attend Bishop John J. Snyder High School. JaQuana Robinson was the recipient of the Bishop John J. Snyder Award and will participate in the Early College Program at Ribault High School. Tiana Myers and Isaiah Scott received The Sisters of Notre Dame Distinguished Graduate Award and both will attend Bishop Kenney High School. All 19 of Holy Rosary's eighth graders have been promoted; six have attended Holy Rosary since pre-k 3. The students celebrated their success by traveling to the Islands of Adventure in Orlando for their senior trip.

St. Pius held its graduation on May 26th. All 17 eighth graders have been promoted. Aja Fisher (1st lower right) maintained an A-B average all year long, read 38 books and had the highest average in science all year. Aja has received a scholarship and will attend The Bolles School. MacKenzie Dowdell (2nd lower right), who since first grade has read 504 books, had the highest average in social studies, spelling, vocabulary and religion and will also attend The Bolles School. MacKenzie received the 2009 President's Education Award for Academic Excellence. Anthwan Battle (3rd lower right) is this years recipient of the Ronald Townsend Scholars Award and will attend Episcopal High School. A special award is given for prefect attendance for the entire year. This award was given to Trevon James & Rasheed Muhammed. Congratulations to all of our graduates. We wish you the very best the future has to offer. We look forward to hearing of your successes.



We have a 5 Star Pre-K Program



Five Star Hotels, Five Star Restaurants, Five Star Pre-K's? The Early Learning Coalition of Duval County has provided yet another signal that our early childhood education initiative is paying dividends when they designated the Holy Rosary pre-k programs as "5 Star". The 5 Star designations were granted by the Early Learning Coalition in recognition that the Holy Rosary programs are among the highest quality pre-k programs in Duval County. Since November 2007, of the 318 pre-k programs working towards the star rating, only 27 have received the highest 5 Star designation. Our congratulations to Sister Darlene Siebneck, director of early childhood education at Holy Rosary and St. Pius. The 5 Star rating is based upon parental/family involvement, environment, student/teacher ratios, curriculum, and the quality of the staff.



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A special thank you to Chuck Recenello and National Equipment Corp. for sponsoring our 3rd Annual Wine & Cheese Evening. This event helps to bring new donors and benefactors to the Guardian family for the benefit of St. Pius V & Holy Rosary Catholic Schools.

RESOURCE VOLUNTEERS completes its first year – What a great year it's been!

Our Guardian effort to provide time and talent resources to our two schools is a broad mandate designed to address a range of Volunteer Opportunities (VOs) and leverage the significant talent and creativity of our volunteers. During the year 22 new volunteers were vetted and joined 30 legacy volunteers returning to positions held in prior years.

Our legacy VOs included Breakfast Clubs and STAR tutoring. New VOs included STAR tutoring at SP, expanded Reading Center and classroom tutoring at HR and library assisting. Our Resource Pool concept was well-received with many new volunteers accepting "one-off" assignments such as assistants at special on-campus events, chaperones for field trips, judges for the speech contests and lunch hosts.

We contributed to the programs at two Guardian events: The wine & cheese gathering and the donor reception. At the former we arranged for two graduates to update us on their academic progress and reflect on the positive roles our schools played in their success. At the later we formally launched the Walsh-Selzer Speech Award by honoring Lou Walsh and Jim Selzer and presenting the schools with perpetual plaques.

Our year culminated with The Jobs People Do Conference, a half day conference held at each school for the 5th-8th graders. Our 150 students attended 4 of 12 sessions and listened to speakers representing a range of industries and professions. Not only were they exposed to new and different occupations but they experienced a realistic conference format. We thank our terrific speakers who made the day very special.

We look forward to each of our 52 Resource Volunteers returning this fall to continue their great work. We could easily double our numbers again and still not have all of our VPs (Volunteer Positions) filled. For those potential volunteers, consider starting the application process this summer. volunteer@guardiancatholicschools.org.



Dear Friends,

This school year was one of the most successful in the long and distinguished histories of St. Pius and Holy Rosary schools. Our enrollment was at record levels, our pre-k program was recognized among the best in Jacksonville, our kindergarten children's reading levels increased to above age levels, our graduates received 5 full scholarships to high school, advanced math classes were offered to our upper grades, we moved into a new classroom complex at St. Pius, and are about to remodel and enlarge the library at St. Pius.

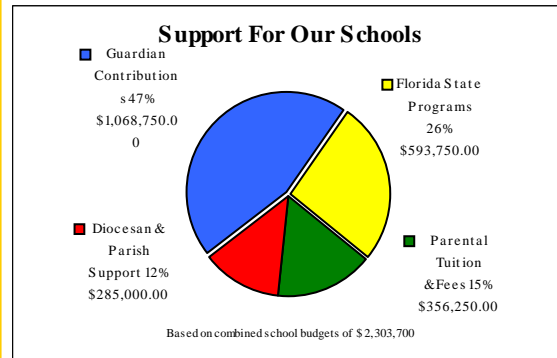
You have been so very generous and your generosity has paid dividends. The return on your investment can be seen in the academic progress of our children and the stability that our schools provide to the families. Our high school graduation rates remain uniformly over 90% and all of our 8th grade students were promoted.

You have donated a record \$900,000 in this past year! From a very modest beginning in 1996, you now provide over 45% of the support for our schools: schools with new facilities, new curriculum, increased enrollment, and the same abiding belief in the power of education to overcome poverty. Please continue to help us. The coming year looks to be even more challenging than last year and your support is more vital to our success and survival than ever.

Thank you for all you have done to help preserve and improve our schools for the children of north Jacksonville.



Dan Rice
Board Chairman



After 29 years of dedicated service to the Diocese of St. Augustine and its schools,

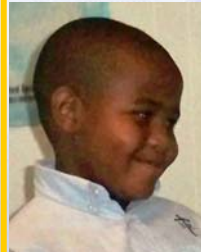
Mrs. Patricia Tierney, Superintendent of Schools, is retiring. Pat has served as a board member for The Guardian Catholic Schools since 1997 as a formidable advocate for our schools and the children of Jacksonville's north side. You will be missed by all who have been fortunate enough to work with you.
God Bless You!

2009 Donor Reception

Once again the annual donor reception brought our benefactors together so we could thank them and show our appreciation.

The Donor For Life Society has grown since its start two years ago. This group of donors is recognized for the number of cumulative years they have helped our schools. From our charter members to the newly added members, we thank all of you. (see list enclosed).

We also acknowledged our Guardian Angels. These donors are recognized for their total cumulative giving since the founding of Guardian. We've added Cherubim Angels this year for those who have given \$500,000 or more (see list enclosed). We thank you for the many ways you have helped our schools.



Walsh-Selzer Speech Award

Each year, Mike O'Hare (back center) teaches our students how to speak in public and to do so with enthusiasm and confidence. St. Pius 8th grader Tatiana Kitchen and Holy Rosary 6th grader Keith Palmer are the first to have their names added to the newly established Walsh-Selzer Speech Award.

The award is named after Mr. Lou Walsh (back right), who started The Guardian Catholic Schools in 1995 and our executive director, Jim Selzer (back left). Every year the winners of the annual contest will have their name added to the plaques that now hang in each school as a reminder of the doors that perseverance, dedication and commitment open. This is a life lesson for our students from three men who, through their own practice of these traits, have worked to educate our youth for 14 years. They are true role models.

The Tale of Two Libraries ~ A Happy Ending



In our last newsletter, we shared with you the many challenges of identifying funding sources for improvements to St. Pius' library. We are very happy to announce that a \$15,000 grant has been received that addresses those much needed renovations.

The grant is a gift from *The Rotary Club of Jacksonville*. Mr. Wyman Duggan, chair of the grants Project and Screening committee stated "In this economic environment, our resources are needed more than ever." Eight grants were awarded this year. Guardian received the largest grant.

During the summer the library will undergo many changes. New shelves, work surfaces, storage, fresh paint and new carpet will all be installed in order to make the library a fun and exciting place to learn. It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we thank The Rotary Club of Jacksonville for their generosity and commitment to making all of our communities a better place to live.

2009 Townsend Scholars Recipients

The second class of Townsend Scholars was announced at recent graduation ceremonies. Anthwan Battle from St. Pius and Charmayne Anderson from Holy Rosary were designated the Ronald Townsend scholars for the 2008-09 academic year. Anthwan received an academic scholarship to Episcopal High School and Charmayne will attend Bishop John J. Snyder High School on an academic scholarship. Anthwan and Charmayne join last year's scholars, Desmond Jackson and Eric Jackson both of whom attend Bishop Kenny High School on scholarship. In addition to the Townsend scholars, Aja Fisher and MacKenzie Dowdell were awarded academic scholarship to the Bolles School.

The Townsend Scholars program is design to recognize 8th grade students at our schools who have excelled in academics and who also are recognized as student leaders.

This past year's class started in August with 10 candidates. Mrs. Sue Goebertus led the year long effort to assist our students and their parents in all the phases of applying and qualifying for scholarships. The five scholarships awarded to our students is recognition of the outstanding education our children received at our schools. We are so very grateful to the admission officers and leadership at Bishop Kenny, Bishop John J. Snyder, the Bolles School and Episcopal High School for their interest, assistance, and investment in our children.

Reading Makes You a Star at Holy Rosary's Book Fair



This spring, Holy Rosary sponsored its first Scholastic book fair in over ten years. The book fair's theme was Lights! Camera! Book Fair!, and the goal was to raise money for Holy Rosary's library. Mrs. Rice, the media specialist, hosted the book fair, but it would not have been done without the help of many Guardian volunteers and Holy Rosary parents. Thank you again to all who helped out!

In order to kick off the book fair, students participated in a charitable program through Scholastic called One For Books. This program is an additional way to raise money for our school and classroom libraries. It is an honor to report that Holy Rosary students raised approximately \$400 in just one week. All of the proceeds went directly to the purchase of new books for classroom libraries and the school library. Holy Rosary's overall profit from their one week Scholastic book fair was approximately \$1,800.

Mrs. Rice surveyed the students to see if they would support another book fair next year, and ninety-nine percent of students said, "Yes!" Holy Rosary looks forward to another amazing book fair in the near future.

