

It's All In The Numbers...

How are recent Lamb of God School grads faring in high school? Here's a glimpse at the numbers:

84 graduates in high school in the 2007-2008 school year

25 National Honors Society members out of 67 eligible

31 sports team captains or recipients of sports awards

55 honor roll students

26 class/student council officers or won major character awards or scholarships



L to R: Zachary Smith, Aliya Mooney, and Sean Honck celebrate School Spirit Day

The Lamb of God School Newsletter



1810 Fairview Avenue
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2008 - 2009 School Calendar

Dec. 12
Christmas Concert

Jan. 25
Winter Open House 1-3 p.m.
(snow date Feb. 8)

March 28
Silent Auction

April 24
Sports Day (rain date May 1)

May 13
Family Picnic

May 22
Family Pizza Day

May 29
Last Day of School

June 4
Graduation

The Lamb of God School admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.



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LOG On

Fall 2008

From The Principal

Foundations

One of this summer's projects was to shore up our foundation. In the late nineties, work on our new addition began. A few years after construction was complete, we noticed places where the 1st floor slab had settled (apparently caused by two severe storms that washed through the building during construction). Luckily this was mostly cosmetic. The restoration process was a marvelous thing to watch. Technicians arrived, discovered there were voids beneath the floors and determined what needed to happen to rectify the problem. Then laborers came and pumped concrete under pressure through 1 ½ inch holes drilled through the fallen slab. The pumped concrete filled the voids, which in a few places were up to sixteen inches deep. It was amazing to see the floor slowly rise. Only one place did not elevate completely. The men who were to do the finishing work of relaying the tile tackled this problem. Before laying the tile, I watched them pour a self-leveling concrete that brought the floor back to where it needed to be.

As I watched the men who finished this work, incredible servants of God very much given to speaking God's love, I felt as if the Holy Spirit was revealing something to me. The natural shoring up the foundations was an important work, but more important for us was the shoring up of the foundations of hearts. Often, the things that hinder our work in the Kingdom are gaps in our foundations. To be effective as Christians and to become fully who God created us to be, we need to know who we are in God. The love of the Father has to be our foundation to deeply accept Jesus Christ and respond to the Holy Spirit.

This year will present opportunities to speak the truth to the hearts of our students. Our students will face a multitude of choices and decisions through the year. Only knowing they are rooted in God's love will permit them to walk in the purposes that God places before them. Watching the work on our building has opened my understanding that a key aspect of our mission is to shore up the foundations of hearts. May God give all of us the wisdom and insight to do so.

Eileen Clark



Above: Mr. Buck greets 3rd graders on the 1st day of school.

Below: Kendall Ramsland helps out with the School Summer Cleanup.



Alumni & Student Spotlights

Pete Arconti ('96) and **Alison Brokke Arconti** ('96) have a neat story to tell. Friends from middle school, the two kept in touch when they went on to separate high schools as well as through college where Pete went to John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio and Alison went to Franciscan University

not too far away in Steubenville, Ohio. Shortly after the two graduated from college, their friendship blossomed into a relationship. They began dating in June 2005 and were married in June 2006. Their first child, Michael, was born August 2007 and they are expecting their second child in February.

"He is my Gilbert Blythe," Alison explains of Pete. "First he was my friend and then it happened all of a sudden."

"I think it's kind of a unique story," Pete agreed.

Pete is now an operations manager for T. Rowe Price and Alison is a nurse on the cardiac floor at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Opera fans might have caught sight of **Catherine Szczybor** ('04) last May in the Baltimore Opera Company's production of "Romeo and Juliet" at the Lyric Opera House. Catherine, along with a friend, were supernumeraries in the opera which essentially means they were "extras" without speaking or singing roles. They were Juliet's friends who wore huge puffy dresses, big hats and giggled on the edge of the stage, Catherine explained.

Catherine graduated from Mt. De Sales Academy in 2007 and is a sophomore at McDaniel College. She also planned to take part as an extra in the Opera's fall production of "Aida" and has the part of Happy in the college's production of the traditional British farce version of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."

While enjoying her theatrical pursuits, Catherine said it's mostly for fun, and she does not plan on seeking a career in the theater. She is considering a double major in sociology and communication and is involved in the campus' Intersarsity Christian Fellowship. She is the historian with Catholic Campus Ministries and will be inducted this fall into the college national honor society, Alpha Lambda Delta.



A Tribute to Toni Reddy

When Donna Ascosi went to visit Toni Reddy the day before she died, there was a huge stack of books beside her bed with everything from novels, to a Bible, to educational materials and more.

"There was a whole variety of books, overflowing," Mrs. Ascosi said. "It's hard to keep up with curriculums and students, but she was always going beyond. ... She was the best. Not only did she love kids, she loved teaching and more important she loved learning."

Toni continued to research and was always trying to find the best way to teach, Mrs. Ascosi explained.

Toni Reddy taught at The Lamb of God School for 14 years, sharing the 3rd grade with Mrs. Ascosi, before passing away last spring after a year-long illness. She is remembered fondly by teachers, staff and students alike as the ultimate educator.

"Toni was an educator thru and thru," said Principal Eileen Clark. "She wanted kids to think, and she really respected where they were. In elementary school, many of us are into putting content into kids' heads. She just went deeper. She wanted kids to think, to experience."

Mrs. Reddy had a background in early childhood education and had taught at Baltimore City public schools before stopping to raise her family. It was in 1993 that both Mrs. Ascosi and Mrs. Reddy decided to go back to teaching. They were both members of the Lamb of God Community, had children in the school and had been volunteering. Together they came up with

the idea of job sharing—an idea embraced by headmaster Phil Buck. They had the choice between second and third grade, but both had children going into second—so they chose third.



When they went to divide up the subjects, it fell into place perfectly.

"Everything I liked and wanted to teach, she didn't and everything she wanted, I didn't," Mrs. Ascosi said. "She was a morning person and I was not. It just worked."

Joan Jopson, a member of that first class, remembers mornings with Mrs. Reddy being very peaceful.

"She was always so focused and encouraging," Joan said. "All throughout growing up,

"I am so looking forward to that," she says. "We so believe in the school—the ministry and mission. I always plan to volunteer there."

After five years at The Lamb of God School, 4th grade teacher **Tom McDade** decided to retire as a full time educator this year. For three and a half decades, Mr. McDade has been inspiring and challenging elementary school students, first in the Baltimore County School system and most recently at LOG School. Now he's ready to slow down and enjoy a more relaxed schedule.

"I've been working in the yard and doing lots of reading and taking my dog Scout for

third grade always stood out as my favorite year in elementary school, I know in part because of Mrs. Reddy and the impact she had on my life. She just created a peaceful and still fun loving atmosphere."

Many of the programs that the school implemented over the years—including the phonics and accelerated reading programs—came, in part, from Mrs. Reddy, according to Mr. Buck.

No matter what subject she was teaching, what she really focused on was teaching how to learn, Mrs. Ascosi said. She wanted children to think outside of the box.

"She didn't mind asking unusual questions to the kids because she really wanted them to think and she was always asking them 'but why?'" Mrs. Ascosi said.

Mrs. Reddy was not only a true educator, she was a compassionate listener and steadfast in her belief in the Lord, according to Mrs. Ascosi. "She was so easy going and quiet, but she was solid. She was a rock in her walk with the Lord and her trust in the Lord."

Miss Clark and Mrs. Reddy often had coffee dates together where they would talk about education and the kids. After Mrs. Reddy's funeral, Miss Clark went to Barnes & Noble and had one last coffee with her friend.

"She really left her mark on the school. She was quiet and humble and so concerned about excellence in the school and in her students," Miss Clark said. "We really miss her."

By Betsy Stein

long walks," says Mr. McDade. "It's been wonderful."

But don't think you've seen the last of Mr. McDade! He has agreed to teach writing once a week to Mrs. Bettis' 4th grade class. And you may also see him at Hillcrest Elementary School, where he's signed up as a volunteer to help first graders with reading.

As Mr. McDade looks back over his 36 years of teaching, he is glad it included time at The Lamb of God School.

"I love how this school focuses on the spiritual aspect of a child's life," he said. "There's something beautiful about hearing children openly talk about God and their faith."

Gollum & Dishes

Gollum, the pathetic creature in *The Lord of the Rings*, is a "type" for fallen man. He was a joyful playful hobbit living in the "garden" of the Shire when he came upon an object that would bring him power and wealth. "We must have precious." So he steals what he covets and murders his brother and his whole body, mind and spirit become distorted into a miserable, ugly and lonely thing that bears little resemblance to his original dignity. His lust is never sated and he constantly pursues his precious until it consumes him, and he and it perish in the lake of fire.

Is this not what happens when someone gives up one's life for drugs, alcohol, an illegal relationship or money and fame? It starts very subtly like when the tide changes, but the desire to have and possess, for some, becomes an irresistible current. They forget about their covenants and inflict harm on those closest to them because they love something illegal or themselves more. Some are saved by the Father's glorious and strong lifeguard.

Anything noble requires great sacrifice and is difficult. Being a parent today is all about self-denial, pouring into others. Only in Christ can we find the love to meet our needs so we can meet the needs of others. Only true love is strong enough to resist the tide that tries to pull us to satisfy our lust. "It is the Spirit that gives life, The flesh profits nothing," (John 6:63).

The start of the school year is demanding: meetings, soccer practice, homework, financial and job pressure. When you look for relief, look to God first. His calling at times seems stern and difficult.

"After you have worked all day, prepare my supper (feed the kids) and wait on me (do dishes and homework) and after that you can relax and go on the computer."

See Luke 17:7-10. Jesus says we are only doing our duty. He wouldn't ask it of us if we couldn't do it. His nature is in us. The secret is that we have to realize through intimacy with Him that dishes, lunch making and insufferable homework can be worship, a living sacrifice if done unto Him. We can glorify God in our bodies and find unbelievable life and joy. It is all in Romans 12:1-2. Seek out this treasure. What is truly Precious awaits us.

Jack Baronas

What issues would you like Jack to discuss in his next column on practical parenting? Let him know via email at john@drbaronas.com.