



Distinguished Graduate

Mrs. Mackay is many things to many people: a wonderful mother, an unbeatable mother-in-law, a hip grandmother and loyal friend, but also a bookkeeper, secretary, committee head and fund-raiser. This year's Distinguished Graduate exemplifies Christian values in all that she is and all that she does. From the time she was a student here at SJS, Jan Mackay's loyalty to her faith and parish has never faltered. Through the years,

many changes were made at St. Joseph, yet Jan found the revered traditions her families foundation was built on imperative to the upbringing of her own family. Living just a block away, the choice was never pondered of where her family would embed themselves in the Catholic community. Providing a catholic education to her three sons was a must!

As a lifetime member of St. Joseph Parish, Jan is an example of one who has lived her life demonstrating the way of God. Jan is not only a beautiful woman on the outside, but is incredible on the inside. Over the past 40+ years, Jan has worn many hats here at St. Joseph. She has held office for 13 years on Parents Club, held office on the Athletic Board, chaired craft shows, bake sales, salad bar luncheons, style shows, talent shows, garage sales and put together two Parish cook books. She volunteered for 10 years at the church rectory and when the last of her 3 sons graduated, Jan joined St. Joseph's Council of Catholic Women and was named

Woman of Year in 1986 and she currently is an officer of the Alumni Mothers Association.

Jan may not be known by all us, but for those of us who know her well we know that this small but mighty woman is something else! She prefers to work behind the scenes, yet continues to share her time and talents with us in an effort to maintain a nurturing environment and education for the children of St. Joseph, both now and in the future. Jan believes in this community, in this school and in this parish. She is a heartwarming woman who leaves an undeniable mark on hearts and souls. St. Joseph is blessed and ever so fortunate to be led by her example of supporting our faith's foundation and sustaining the important value of loyalty: loyalty to our faith, our church, our family and ourselves. To her parish and school, she remains distinguished in her loyalty, her generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure, and most importantly, her love for St. Joseph... its past, present and

future. This love for St. Joseph has distinguished Jan for a lifetime.

We were so pleased to offer our recent graduates such a great example and role model of a dedicated, respected, and loyal St. Joseph Alum. It was a true honor to present the Distinguished Graduate Award to Janet Mackay from the St. Joseph Class of

It is a pleasure and privilege to announce that Janet Stellan Mackay, Class of 1951 was chosen as the St. Joseph School Distinguished Graduate of 2005. This award is given each year at the 8th grade graduation ceremony to an alum who has shown unselfish dedication to both the community, church, family, and in this case, our school. The award, sponsored by the National Catholic Education Association, is awarded each year to one of our alumni who exemplified the ideals and philosophy of St. Joseph School throughout his/her life. Mrs. Mackay has certainly done that.

When most of us hear the words "Distinguished Graduate," we often think of someone who we have all seen time after time contributing to the efforts of our school. Many times, however, those who contribute the most are often unseen. Although this year's Distinguished Graduate is well known in our parish community, she may not be well know in our school community.

Congratulations
Janet Mackay!!!

Principal's Corner

It is hard to believe that we are already in the Summer of 2006! Our school year flew by. Our annual Alumni Reunion newsletter has wonderful reports for our school. Our school continues to be blessed the generous gifts, wonderful opportunities, and a never ending supply of wonderful children and families. I remain in awe of the many blessings that the past year has brought to our school and our children.

Once again, SJS continued to increase in enrollment and maintained the lowest tuition in the surrounding area. This wouldn't be possible without the support of our parish, our families, and our alumni. Our gratitude is beyond measure as SJS has been the recipient of generous gifts and outstanding scholarship opportunities for our students. The following pages will demonstrate some of these highlights.

In the six years that I have called SJS home, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our alumni, who shared with me fond memories of their elementary school days. The underlying themes of these conversations have been the caring nature of the St. Joseph community and the richness of the learning experiences offered here. The statement so many alumni repeated that most reflects the SJS philosophy was, "St. Joe's prepared me for life." A true measure of our commitment to the SJS mission, we are preparing our children for the future.

"...SJS continued to increase in enrollment and maintained the lowest tuition in the surrounding area."

I am pleased that SJS hosted several alumni gatherings this year. Members of the SJS Class of 2001 joined us just as they were celebrating their high school graduations and getting ready to move on to college, a big step in their academic careers and in their lives. We gathered both parents and students for a wonderful evening. They had a wonderful time reconnecting with old SJS friends. As my first graduating class as SJS principal, they carry a special place in my heart. Many of them spoke of the ways that SJS prepared them academically, nourished their spirituality, developed their creativity, and empowered them to be successful in high school. We wish them the best in their college years. Grounded in faith and values from their families and time at SJS, we know that the future holds no bounds for their success!

Our annual Octoberfest reunions for the classes of 1975, 1985, and 1995 led to the connection of many old friends. Our alumni attending the reunion events had a wonderful time reminiscing and sharing SJS stories. As I listened to their stories, I was struck by the effect that SJS has had on their lives. All spoke about their teachers, fondly recalling many special learning

experiences. Their stories emphasized the importance of good teaching and the role that teacher knowledge plays in creating an effective environment for learning. Each of them also had stories about events at SJS that made a lasting impression on them. Without a doubt, their stories included the sense of family that had long been established at SJS. I had a humbling moment as I spoke with alumni from the class of 1975. The alumni spoke so highly of fellow classmates, teachers, and beloved principal Sr. Thaddeus. Sharing what great impacts these people had on their life, it was humbling to see prayer cards from a fellow classmate and Sr. Thaddeus remains in the wallet of one alum. How humbling it was to see that twenty years later a fellow classmate and principal would be so remembered. I have often wondered since that reunion.....would my time as principal....would a SJS teacher's work.....would a current fellow student... make such an impact on your life that you would carry the prayer card remembrance with you? The truth is that while we may never know what impact we are making to those around us, we are called to do just that. I can only pray that our efforts at SJS to make will make such an impact in the lives of our children....past, present, and future. I also pray that Sr. Thaddeus and deceased members of St. Joseph continue to be our guardian angels and watch over us from above.

We ask for your continued support and prayers for the vitality and continued success at SJS. While we are so pleased with our improvements, academic excellence, and the expansion of our programs and school, we are most proud of our efforts to build faith in our children. Your support, both prayerful and financial, is truly the reason for our success. At a time when Catholic schools are faced with financial burdens and decreased enrollment, our school remains strong and steadfast. At St. Joseph, we continue to provide quality Catholic education, and we continue to do so because of you. We can never fully measure the commitment and support has been generously given to Catholic education at St. Joseph. However, we know it exists and continues to grow in strength. It is more than evident that at SJS we are truly committed to the mission of Catholic education and academic excellence.

Many Blessings to You,

Miss Scheffler

Dear St. Joseph Family,

Approaching two years as Development Director, I am sure now more than I ever of the wise choice I made agreeing to promote St. Joseph. I shared with you last year that St. Joseph is an amazing place...it hasn't ceased to amaze me. Since then, I have moved closer to Lockport, joined the parish and enrolled my oldest child in St. Joseph School for 1st grade next school year. I can't imagine my children anywhere else. St. Joseph truly is a place to call home with a strong sense of faith and community. I am proud to be a part of the family as a parishioner, teacher, parent and Development Director...working hard to ensure its future wearing each and every hat.

This past year has brought much growth to the school and parish. We introduced a Raise the Roof Campaign to raise funds for the much needed school roofs and other capitol improvements. Our Brick Campaign is in its final preparations as we begin plans for ground-breaking. With these two added projects, our St. Joseph School Annual Fund continued to thrive. Three amazing families were honored at our 3rd annual Legacy Gala. Lastly, and most importantly...283 children have received the most wonderful gift of all...an unbeatable education at St. Joseph School, Lockport! Flip through the following pages to learn further of these and more of our accomplishments since the last Reunion issue March 2005. We are blessed.

With all this excitement around us, and with the many ways in which you are asked to contribute, the St. Joseph family continues to support the school. Thank you. We continue to count on you for that support!!! We could not do it without you!! We hope you are pleasantly surprised at all the positive change and community building taking place here at St. Joseph School. We strive to make St. Joseph a place you always come home to...and as the saying goes..."There's no place like home!"

Gratefully,

Mrs. Michelle Ray

Director of Development

Another class has left the nest...

It is with great joy that we wished the SJS Class of 2006 all the best for the future. While we know that they have been prepared well for the next level of their journey we take great pride in knowing that most importantly they have been given a spiritual

foundation that is second to none. In our hearts, we believe that each graduate holds unlimited potential and an incredible future ahead as they are young men and woman centered on the core areas of prayer, respect, compassion, and faith.

SJS Class of 2006

Anthony Biondo	Charles Gawle	Jillian Krauss	Robert Pollard
Megan Blake	Amanda Gesiorski	Samantha Lacy	Michelle Price
Charlie Booth	Bryanna Guerra	Monica Little	Alexandra Rossi
James Brightmore	Lauren Iacoponi	Megan Maloney	Sean Scaduto
Selena Cavillo	Jeremy Jackinoski	Kayleigh McGuire	Anna Sweeney
Dominique Dusek	Jill Jeffrey	Tyler Mikan	Bradley Tidwell
Kevin Fitzpatrick	Tomas Kleiza	Sarah Montefusco	Corey Verhoek
Kelsey Garr			

May God's blessings be with each of you.

Join us in Raising the Roof

Our school building is in need of repair and updating. We have assessed the building needs and have initiated projects of needed repair and replacement. In the next few years, we anticipate the need to replace the boiler system, a building roof, sections of windows, and plumbing updates. You may or may not be aware of the chronic problems we have faced with the roof of our school. We have attempted to repair the leaks every year for the past 5 years, however, according to multiple roofing professionals we were at the point that the roof finally needed to be replaced. It is no surprise that this is an expensive investment. The good news: the wait is over...this past summer the roofs were replaced! The bad news: we were unable to afford to pay for the new roofs and continue building improvements through either tuition or our normal fundraisers (used to subsidize the cost of tuition). In order to raise this money, we need to solicit pledges from both school families and the parish community. We are asking you, our St. Joseph Family, for your help. We ask that you contribute what you can with the hope that we will meet our goal to pay off our roof loan and complete the necessary updates to our school facility. Donations can be made directly to the school or church with funds directed toward to Raise the Roof Campaign.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

SJS Lucks Out with Tuition Raffle 2005-06

Our 2nd annual Free Tuition Raffle was held at Back-to-School night, September 19th. For every one hundred dollar donation made, a chance to receive one year free tuition was received. 139 chances went into the drum; those chances were shared amongst 46 families and the St. Joseph Temporary Assistance Fund for our needy families. Some chances were earned through direct donation, some chances were donated through alumni parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles. We had alumni families donating \$100 in the name of needy families that might need it, we had grandparents and special people designating their chance toward their favorite SJS students and we had friends and parishioners donate toward our efforts. In the end, we had 139 ways to help assist education for our families and chances and opportunities to win free tuition for one lucky family!!! The Grogan family name was drawn from the drum that evening. With lucky ticket in hand, the Grogans graciously handed it back to Miss Scheffler to be donated back to SJS. The winnings are now part of our Needy Family Fund, assisting families reaching out for our financial support.

Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Grogan, for your generous gift. We are truly grateful.

Hemlock Bank...our favorite bankers...overwhelm SJS with generosity!!!



In 2003, Hemlock Bank (located in Lemont on 127th Street) started a Bank at School Program for our students at St. Joseph School. Visiting our school several times a month, our students participate in the Bank at School Program with a student savings account. The primary goal of the program is to help children learn early in life the importance of savings and finances. Working with grade levels from K-8, Hemlock offers a wonderful program of mini classes for our students. Additionally, Hemlock Bank has been a generous benefactor to SJS. Since 2003, the Hemlock Federal Charitable Foundation has contributed \$27,500 in grant monies to our SJS educational programs. These funds have been used to improve our technology and fine arts programs. On March 18th, Hemlock Bank

presented Fr. Tom and Miss Scheffler with a check for \$20,000 towards a new Science Lab. Once more demonstrating their support and commitment to education at SJS, Hemlock Bank continues to amaze us with their dedication and commitment to our children!

Highest Enrollment at SJS...since the 1980s!

St. Joseph School has wonderful news to share!!! Our enrollment has reached the highest number since the 1980's. Presently, our student enrollment for Preschool through 8th grade consists of 283 students. We welcomed 280 students in the fall and continued to welcome new friends who transferred into the Lockport area throughout the spring.

At a Diocesan meeting in the fall, St. Joseph School received the enrollment figures across the Diocese of Joliet. Our Diocese covers five counties and a broad spectrum of economic status throughout these areas. It represents 57 elementary schools, 8 high schools, and 5 early childhood centers. A harsh reality across the country that Catholic education is facing lower school enrollments. While many factors contribute to the enrollment decline in Catholic schools, it has been and continues to remain a primary focus for our school board for improvement. Our school has been making great strides with our enrollment. In fact, we are one of seven elementary schools to maintain increased enrollment over a five-year period and one of ten elementary schools to maintain increased enrollment in the Diocese of Joliet at large. Quite a feat for our School Board, staff and parish!!!

As we identify the areas that helped us maintain the growth, it remains consistent with my beliefs about SJS. Committed to academic excellence, we have not wavered from the strong and consistent curriculum that continues to prepare our students for the next level of education. Our current students' test scores and our alumni students' demonstrated success in high school and beyond speak volumes for our academic program. SJS has a long and storied history of successful alumni and student achievement that continues to perpetuate today. Committed to spiritual and moral development, we continue to develop and guide faith-filled students who are educated to live and speak the words of Christ. Living faithful lives that demonstrate service and values, our students and alumni continue to live and model the gospel message.

Committed to making a world of difference in our children, we have a staff that is exceptional. Wonderful, dedicated teachers who seek to assist each child to reaching his or her highest potential sets our school apart from any other. Their consistent and committed dedication to Catholic education is the secret to our success at SJS. Yet, we find that it is no longer a secret. Our students recognize their gifts, our alumni students continue to come back and visit our staff, and our community has recognized the value of their efforts throughout the years.

Committed to perpetuating our mission, our families (current and alumni) continue to be generous and committed supporters of Catholic Education at SJS. Our families, alumni students, alumni parents, and friends continue to share and express the benefits of education at SJS and encourage more students and families to be a part of our mission. Truly, they are the best marketing and public relations department. Thanks to so many, we have continued to grow and thrive.

Committed to Catholic education, we have a wonderful pastor and parish who support our school. Continuing to make Catholic education a priority at St. Joseph, our school will perpetuate the rich history of spiritual guidance and academic excellence that transcends generations of students. We are blessed with dedicated volunteers, generous benefactors, and a healthy parish investment that has allowed our school to keep our tuition costs one of the lowest in the area.

Thank you to all of our committed families, staff, and parish community. Our school and our children are blessed abundantly by your efforts. Keep up the great recommendations and continued support. Our goal is to continue to increase our enrollment and share the wonderful education at SJS with many new families in our future. Currently, we have several openings for the school year of 2006-07. Please contact the school office for more information at 815-838-8173 or visit our website at www.stjoeschool.com.

We're looking for you...Classes of 2002 and 1982!

Development is seeking all interested Alumni from the class of 2002 for a reunion this summer before you head off to college. We are also looking for the members of the Class of 1982 to hold a 25 year reunion in conjunction with St. Joseph Parish's annual Octoberfest. The 25 year reunion will coincide with "Alumni Night" on Friday, September 29th. We also encourage ALL Alumni to attend that evening. Will you help your class organize its upcoming reunion at Octoberfest 2006? If interested in becoming a Reunion Planner for you're the Class of 2002 or 1982, contact the Development Office at 815-838-0415 or via email at sjsdevelopment@sbcglobal.net.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart Scholarship

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the Staff at St. Joseph School, Lockport are committed to educating young people who will be prepared to meet the challenges that life presents to them. It is out of this determination that a scholarship is made available to students of our community who exemplify Christian values and service to others. St. Joseph School has been blessed by the Franciscans Sisters' service in educational ministry since 1893. In honor of the intangible contribution of their ministry, we are proud to present these scholarships in their name. The scholarship consists of a monetary award of \$500.00 that is applied to the recipient's tuition.

The scholarship is awarded to four families who:

Demonstrate solid Christian living in the context of our community.

Have a student who performs academically to the best of their ability.

Actively participate in extra-curricular activities and opportunities for service.

Project a positive image of our school.

These scholarship winners conveyed the appreciation and importance of their St. Joseph Catholic education in their heartfelt application responses:

The 2005/2006 recipients of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart Scholarship:

**Matthew King
Abigail Rodewald
Nathaniel Stojak
Rachel Weis**

"I like to go to St. Joseph School because I get to see all of my friends there, and at church too!"
- Matt (Kindergarten)

"Our school feels good because everyone is treated like family. We care about each other and help each other when in need. We also

pray for each others intentions each day. We are lucky to have our school family to support us." - Abby (7th grade)

"I like to share with others and show I care for them by helping them. I love and pray to God everyday. I try my hardest for my teachers and parents so they will be proud of me." - Nathan (4th grade)

"At first coming to SJS was important to me because I knew it was what my parents wanted. As I'm getting older, I am beginning to see the importance that my parents have always seen. I enjoy being in a school where the staff repeats things my parents would say and where we come together and count on one another the way my family does. I love the comfort of SJS." - Rachel (4th grade)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

For information on applying for the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart scholarship, contact the school office at (815) 838-8173.



Matthew King



Abigail Rodewald



Nathaniel Stojak



Rachel Weis

Alumni Families Honored at Legacy Gala

On September 10th, 2005, St. Joseph School honored three amazing families at our 3rd annual Legacy Gala. We were pleased to honor three alumni parents who exemplify the spirit of St. Joseph through their continued involvement with our school and parish long after their children have graduated from St. Joseph School. The gala's theme was "Building the Bridge" and guests enjoyed a lovely evening of dinner and dancing at Willowbrook Holiday Inn. Our 2005 Honorees included Carl & Jan Kman, Tony & Mary Pragovich and Bob Sullivan. Surrounded by their families and friends, these honorees humbly accepted this honor with distinction, charm and grace. Storyboards of each family surrounded our guests and depicted the dedication of these families, not only to providing for their own families, but selflessly serving our community. Truly, they are fine examples of bridging the revered tradition of St.

Joseph School to the expansion and improvement of the future that we are embracing. Their selfless service and continued support of SJS and parish stand as a testament of our Catholic faith and service to others, and their legacy will live on through future generations of our students.

As recipients of the Legacy Honor, each honoree will serve a three year term on the SJS Alumni Board and assist Development in a variety of areas by "bridging" our school's

vision, values and traditions to current and future families of St. Joseph School. The proceeds from this event benefited SJS's Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$4,428.52!!!! The Capital Improvement Fund provides finances for the facility necessities that are over and above our school budget allocations. The true success of the evening could be measured in the way of many new and old friends of St. Joseph School who reconnected at the Gala. What a thrill to witness alumni and their families reminiscing about their wonderful experiences at St. Joseph.

St. Joseph School's 2006 Legacy Gala will again be held at Willowbrook Holiday Inn on Saturday, September 9th. Honorees for the 2006 event will be announced later in the year.



From left: Principal Lynne Scheffler, Mary & Tony Pragovich, Robert Sullivan, Jan & Carl Kman and Fr. Tom McGivney

St. Joseph School's 2006 Wish List...We'll keep our fingers crossed for 2006

From time to time, friends of SJS request to help our school by purchasing items for the benefit of the academic and physical building improvements. The items on the list below are still needed to help improve our campus and academic programs. Our initial cost of tuition cannot cover extraordinary needs that may come up annually...so we are asking for your assistance by either sponsoring an item on the list or helping us get in contact with someone who can help.

General / Facility

New tile floor in upstairs junior high wing (\$3000 per room)
Update security system \$4000
New desks for junior high \$4800 (\$150 each)
Replace blackboards with White Boards in primary classrooms \$4000

Academics

Hands on Science Material for primary classrooms \$4500
Accelerated and remedial reading program- \$2,000

Library, General Equipment - \$1,000

Library Software upgrade \$2000
Calculators for classrooms in junior high (SET for \$320)

Science Lab & Technology Needs

New Lab tables (\$7000)
Science Lab chairs (\$2500)
Computers (\$4000)
LCD projector (\$1000)
SmartBoard (\$3500)
Google Wash Station (\$2500)
Eye Wash Station (\$2000)

If you or someone you know can help SJS shorten our list of needs, please call Michelle Ray, Development Director, at 815-838-8173 or via email at sjsdevelopment@sbcglobal.net.

Give Something Back Foundation

The Give Something Back Foundation has sponsored two special awards at to Lockport schools this spring. The GSBF was established by the Carr Family. The Carr's have made many donations funding scholarships in Lockport over the years. In 2002, the family gave \$100,000 to initiate a scholarship fund for Lockport high school students. As a student at Lockport High School, Robert Carr received a college scholarship. This prompted him to want to give back to students who have financial need; therefore he and his wife created this generous foundation.

In the spring of 2006, the Give Something Back Foundation established the opportunity for two 8th grade students from each school in the Lockport district (which includes St. Joseph) to receive 4 year full-college scholarships. The students must meet established criteria and complete a detailed application. In late May, SJS will learn the recipient's names. These scholarships are funded by LTHS graduates, Bob and Jill Carr, both who won scholarships many years ago and wish to give something back to the next generations of LTHS graduates. The goal is to allow students to dream big and gain acceptance to the best schools in the country. The scholarship will provide for all expenses of college including room and board for four years. Additionally, the GSBF's goal is to establish a model to take across the country to have other groups in the position replicate these efforts. It is the hope of the donors that recipients of this award will someday give back through the donation of time and monies if their financial circumstances permit.

The GSBF will also offer a 2006 Teacher Award. Teachers are nominated by parents, students, fellow staff members, and community members. The Teacher Award is in memory of Mr. Jackson, Jill Carr's father, who was an exceptional teacher at Lockport Township High School for many years. The recipient will be a teacher who significantly has impacted the life of one or more students in a very positive way whether in or outside of the classroom. The award will be given to an individual who serves as a role model and displays compassion for students as well as his/her peers at St. Joseph. The award will consist of a special award symbolizing excellence and a check for \$2,500. "There are many teachers who quietly impact the lives of students through acts of kindness. Hopefully, we can shed some light on these individuals so they can be an example to their peers as well as the community," said Jill Carr, co-founder of GSBF. "The Give Something Back Foundation is proud



to provide teachers with a monetary grant for their dedication to students that often extends beyond regular classroom expectations," said Cardemone.

St. Joseph School was honored to host the press conference for the Give Something Back Foundation on March 29th. Blessed by the wonderful opportunity the foundation has given to this community, it was a pleasure to have the local media, many honored guests, Lockport area superintendents, and the daughter of the co-founder of GSBF here at SJS. It was a wonderful

opportunity to highlight our school and our children. Our guests were delighted to meet our 7th and 8th graders, as they were warmly welcomed to SJS. The compliments from our honored guests included everything from the friendly and polite children.....the incredible Activity Center.....to the beautiful setting provided.....to the amazing and spectacular presentation of our continental breakfast.....to the grateful and proud parents who assisted.....and so much more! "While it was a proud moment for SJS, it was a proud and humbling experience for me. I can't imagine the long-term effects of these generous gifts to our students and teachers. The incredible generosity is simply amazing," said Miss Scheffler. "I find myself looking into the eyes of our students as young as Kindergartners and just wonder. Will you be the 8th grader that receives a dream of a lifetime? Will you choose

Harvard or Notre Dame? How will you change the world with this incredible opportunity to attend any college or university of your choice with an all expenses paid? So often, we encourage our children to reach for the highest star and dream big. Through the efforts of the Give Something Back Foundation, many of our children's dreams will come true. It is truly giving two of our current 8th grade students and many students in the years to come a dream of a lifetime and a life changing opportunity." As a community who embraces sharing our time, talents, and treasures, we have been given such an incredible example of a giving spirit.

At St. Joseph School we are excited about this partnership with the Give Something Back Foundation. It is the our hope that our alumni who are looking for ways to give something back, will also initiate scholarship opportunities for our students and dedicated faculty. If anyone is interested in setting up a scholarship to fund a St. Joseph School student, please contact Michelle Ray at (815) 838-0415.

Class of 2001

Life changes quickly..often more rapidly than I realize. At times, I find myself longing for when problems were simpler, friends were closer, and choices were less profound. Almost always, when I try to remember a time like this I find myself thinking back to the years spent at St. Joseph School. This significant period of my young life was a time I cherish. While I had so many fun times with teachers and friends, the memories I love the most are those of a certain bond I shared with my classmates. This bond was in Jesus. He was our closest friend. Together with Him, the thirty of us transformed from strangers into brothers and sisters. This transformation ensured that we will forever be connected. Even if we move away and lose touch, we are forever connected in Christ. When we are apart we can get by, but there always seems to be something missing. When the chance came for us to come together once again, I jumped at it and the results were outstanding!



In July of last year, the class of 2001 gathered in the St. Joe's Activity Center for our reunion...a place where we created so many shared memories in the past. During planning, we hoped for a good turnout. It was even better than expected! Almost the entire class came back to SJS one more time to gather as a unique group that bonded as young children and taught each other how to live and how to grow. The

joy that I felt and could see in the eyes of so many of my classmates was incredible. The night was filled with fun and laughter and simple happiness. My joy came not only from seeing those who I've missed so much, but also from those who had missed me and were so happy to reunite with me. Some I had kept close contact with and seen only days before, but others I saw for the first time in nearly four years. Bringing together more mature and educated versions of the people I had spent so much of my life with was a thrill I will not soon forget. In addition to a large classmate turnout, many parents attended, too. They shared in our joy as they caught up with us and other parents. Some they frequently saw, but many they had not seen in years. The reunion provided a unique opportunity for members of a special

community to come together and share new stories and old memories. It was a truly delightful night that allowed us to once again confide in the foundation of our youth before taking the next step in our lives.

I urge all St. Joseph Alumni to take advantage of their own opportunity to reunite with the people who had such a significant role in shaping their childhood. Together, you can reminisce with your friends of old and come together, once again, in Christ.

Kurt Gonska
Class of 2001
Reunion Planner

2005 Annual Fund Success

The 2005 Annual Fund was successful and a fitting tribute to our entire community. The Annual Fund represents one of many ways that our community unites toward a common goal of perpetuating the mission of SJS. Our 2005 Annual Fund Report will be sent at month's end. To everyone who made a gift to the 2005 St. Joseph School Annual Fund...we express heartfelt thanks. With your support, \$24,730.00 was collected for our school! Proceeds from our Annual Fund have been allocated for Franciscan of the Sacred Heart Scholarships, SJS endowment fund, educational improvement, students' temporary assistance fund, and budget needs (both budget relieving and budget enhancing). Most significantly, the financial support has enabled us to maintain an affordable tuition, which continues to have a positive effect on enrollment as evidenced this year, as we grew in size and sacredness. Through last year's Annual Fund success, our children will continue to grow in faith, knowledge and hope for our future.

Please continue to be generous to our Annual Fund 2006...and continue to watch St. Joseph School blossom with success.

Class of 1975 - 30th Reunion

On September 30th, 2005 the St. Joseph's Class of 1975 celebrated its 30th class reunion in conjunction with the annual Octoberfest Alumni Night. They had a great turnout with seventeen of their classmates attending. Lucy (Gariboldi) McBride came from South Dakota while Jonathan Kall made the trip from Pennsylvania. Four of their former teachers also attended including Mrs. Marge Mostyn, Mr. Paul Trick, Mr. Phil Reynolds and Ms. Carol Stech, who came all the way from California. The night was filled with conversation of their fond memories of St. Joseph. That special bond that was created between them so many years ago was still present and maybe even stronger today...a great testament to the teachings they received and the friendships they made during their days at St. Joseph. Other classmates in attendance were Ted Blahunka, Mark Garza, Jim Hess, Tom Homerding, Jane (Kijowski) Prince, Paula (Korczak) Walker, Pat Lind, Mark Michalak, Mike Millerin, John Piazza, John Provancal, Joe Strmec, Lenny Vrba, Kim (Weirschem) Gogerty, and Brad Young.

SJS Class of 1975 gathered in their old homeroom and remembered when....TIME FLIES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



" A f t e r talking to everyone I realize that each of us is very successful in our own way.. what I think success is all about is being

happy. I know that everyone I saw and talked to that night was happy. How lucky we are to perhaps have nothing..and yet have it all. I am very glad I attended to see the classmates and teachers that were an impact in my life, whether I realized it or not. I look forward to getting together soon with everyone, and I hope those who could not attend can make it this time."

Mark Michalak class of 1975

A Celtic Evening -

St. Joseph Dinner Dance/Auction 2006

March 18, 2006 brought us together as a school and parish community for the annual St. Joseph Dinner Dance & Auction....A Celtic Evening! Our Auction Chairs diligently worked since last spring to bring us another amazing evening to support our parish and school. The evening was simply wonderful. The setting, beautiful centerpieces, amazing auction items, superb live auction, incredible sponsors, fine dining, entertainment, and the best company of St. Joseph family and friends.....it was a night unlike any other!!! It will be forever a buzz in this community that our school's largest fundraiser reached an all-time high by raising almost \$75,000. With our largest attendance and maximum capacity, we celebrated in style at the new DiNolfo's in Homer Glen with our parish, SJS families, alumni parents, and alumni students!!!

Our deepest and sincerest gratitude goes to our co-chairs, Lisa Rasmussen and Julie Russell. As our "Dynamic Duo" for the past three years, they set the highest of goals and continued to EXCEED them! Together with a team of parent volunteers, they gave selflessly to make this event special and profitable. Every year, they continue to amaze us with their devotion and dedication to make this event an unprecedented success.

All proceeds will directly benefit SJS students as these profits contribute to our school budget and curriculum



Octoberfest

Our St. Joseph Parish 9th Annual Octoberfest 2005 fundraiser was a giant success again! Several new events were offered this year which includes a revised lineup on the main stage and a Hold 'Em Poker tournament in our Casino. We had our highest level of sponsorship ever thanks to all of our generous donors, who helped contribute to another great weekend!

Main Stage Sponsorships

Illinois Brick

Piazza Masonry

Prairie Material

Pro Refrigeration & Heating

Grounds & Tent Sponsorship

Hemlock Federal Bank

Grill Sponsorships

Northern Illinois Steel Supply Co.

Canals and Trails Credit Union

D'Arcy Oldsmobile

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary Octoberfest, we invite all our community to join us on September 29th, 30th and October 1st! Please visit our website to purchase a SuperCash Raffle Ticket, sponsor our event, share your favorite Octoberfest story over the past 10 years, submit ideas for anniversary t-shirts, and much more!

St. Joseph Garden...this is happening!!!!!!!

A place of calm and peace: a spot to remember and pray; a beautiful area of trees, bushes, flowers, benches and peace; a simple walkway with the name of a loved one etched in a brick; an area that can grow over the years as people discover this place of remembrance.

The dream of our St. Joseph Garden will become a reality in late June 2006! Ground-breaking is just around the corner! Join the excitement...this is the last call for ordering bricks to be installed in June. Orders thereafter will be installed in blocks of 50 at a time due to labor costs. Seating wall opportunities are sold out! There is always room for more gardens if you do so wish. So, now's the time!!!! You have the opportunity to be a part of the beginning of the St. Joseph Garden. With the generous "seed money" already received, we are able to begin to develop this garden. We invite you to be a part of this quiet place to remembrance. The garden will "grow" only to the extent that memorial gifts are given to the parish.

Garden and brick orders will be taken throughout the year through the Development office, rectory or collection basket. Orders can also be mailed directly to the school: Development Office - Michelle Ray, 529 Madison St., Lockport, IL 60441

Personalized bricks: \$150.00 each
□ Please reserve ___ brick(s) @ \$150 each

Brick personalization:

In the space below, please print the information as you would like it to appear on your paving stone.
Limit: 4 lines of 14 characters each

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Line 4

Garden opportunity with stone marker \$1000.00
Please reserve ___ garden(s) with stone marker
(ex: rose garden, perennial garden, etc. to be determined by designer.)
Stone marker to be discussed with designer.

Contact Michelle Ray, Development Director, at 815.838.0415 with any questions.

That 70's Reunion - St. Joseph School

Did you graduate from SJS in the 1970s? Please join us in planning a celebration with your classmates and teachers from your alma mater. We are currently looking for volunteers to organize and find classmates for Summer 2007's big reunion blast from the past!!!!

*Photos: We would like to borrow any old photographs you may have from grade school. Please write your name on the back of the photos so they can be returned the night of the celebration.

**Memories:

Please send in your favorite memories of grade school, or email sjsdevelopment@sbcglobal.net

Building Improvements

How can we begin to thank our B.A.G. (Building and Grounds) Committee for the dedication and hundreds of hours that have been donated, thousands of dollars donated for materials, and the amazing consultation and leadership that they give? They have made an incredible transition in our school. Over the past five years, they have saved us approximately \$250,000 in remodeling and renovation expenses. We are eternally grateful to them and their devotion to our children!

In 2005, the B.A.G. Committee has coordinated and seen the following projects through:

1. New roof
2. New water fountains
3. Boiler Controller upgraded for improved efficiency
4. Outside AC Electrical outlets installed
5. Outside Junior High Electrical outlets installed
6. New Timer/Controller for AC Outside lights installed
7. New Fire Alarm Covers installed
8. New Gutters
9. Father's Field leveled and seeded
10. Various painting projects
11. Second Cable & TV installation for art & kindergarten rooms
12. Asbestos tile removal
13. Second floor east wing window replacement
14. Security light installation
15. Window replacement in various areas of the school
16. Installed white boards

Upcoming Events 2006

June
Open Enrollment
& registration for
St. Joseph Preschool Program,
Full Day kindergarten
& grades 1-8

September
9th - St. Joseph School
Legacy Gala -
Holiday Inn Willowbrook

29th & 30th -
Octoberfest 2006 begins
Class of 1982 Reunion

October
1st - Octoberfest continues -
St. Joseph Parish Grounds

St. Joseph School
529 Madison Street
Lockport, IL 60441