

*News & Notes from the Principal's Desk*  
*†Christ Be Our Light*  
January 13, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our faculty and staff are attending a "Promoting Excellence Celebration", sponsored by several Principals in our Council, including me, on Wednesday, January 20, 2010. Our guest speaker is Mary Foley, President of Foley Consulting Firm. In order to accommodate the various dismissal times of the participating schools, we will have **dismissal at 3:00 p.m., on Wednesday, January 20**. Please mark your calendars. This development opportunity will "kick-off" our Catholic Schools Week celebration at the end of the month.

**Special Intentions:** We ask for your continued prayers for Fr. Ron and Judy Vuich.

**2009 Tax Information:** Please note that the K-8 tuition and EDP information for tax returns are enclosed in today's Wednesday Folders.

**Explorations:** Our Explorations Book Club has a website that you can visit: <http://sites.google.com/site/explorationsbookclub>.

**Fundraiser:** Luigi's Pizza on 176, across from school, is offering 15% of their Transfiguration sales to our school from January 16-24. When you place your order, mention our school and leave your name at the counter to help support our school! Take a break and let Luigi cook for you!

**Mission Committee:** Our Mission Committee is holding its annual popcorn, juice, and a movie on Friday, February 5, 2010. The popcorn has been generously donated. We are looking for some people to provide juice boxes for the movie. If you are able to contribute, please leave the juice boxes in our school office. All of the proceeds go to the Holy Childhood Association. Thank you for your generosity.

**Chicago Brass Band:** Our very own Mr. Sartori will have a solo in the Chicago Brass Band performance at Wauconda High School on Thursday, January 14, 2010. The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m., and last about an hour. Tickets are \$8 and available for purchase at WMS on Jan 4. Tickets not pre-sold will be sold at the door for the same price.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Tina Vakilynejad  
Principal



**Frassati Catholic Academy**, a new Catholic middle school in central Lake County, will open for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in August, 2010.

The new Catholic academy is named after Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young, athletic and outgoing man who through constant acts of service to the poor showed his love for Christ, rooted in the Eucharist.

**Frassati Catholic Academy** is dedicated to excellence in education with a strong Catholic identity, with a program geared to the age and psychology of middle school students, where students are inspired to become Christian leaders for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The new school will be located on the campus of Transfiguration Parish in Wauconda. Bus service will be available. The new school is the collaborative effort of three participating parishes: Santa Maria del Popolo in Mundelein, Transfiguration in Wauconda and St. Mary of the Annunciation in Fremont Center.

Parents can reserve a place for their child at Frassati Catholic Academy with a \$75 deposit per student. You can call the Academy at 847.487.5600 or refer to the website at [www.frassaticatholicacademy.org](http://www.frassaticatholicacademy.org) for more information.

**DISCOUNTED TUITION AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO REGISTER PRIOR TO APRIL 1, 2010**

	Founding Family Discounted Tuition*
1 Child	\$4,075
2 Children	\$3,464
3 Children	\$3,260
4 Children	\$2,870
5 Children	\$2,649

\*Discount provided for families from participating parishes registering a child into the Middle School for the school year 2010-2011. This tuition rate (\$4,075 per student with multi-child discounts as appropriate in each year) will be fixed for all children from a family for a period of five years.

Additional Fees: Book Fee per student \$225.00 and Science/Technology Fee per student of \$80.00

Financial Aid and Scholarships will be available. Please contact the school for further information. Students will be registered on a first come, first served basis.

**Transfiguration Catholic School Celebrates  
Catholic Schools Week 2010!  
Dividends for Life!**

**Pre-CSW Activities**

**Fri., Jan. 15:** CSW Essay and Picture Contest

**Fri., Jan. 22:** Grades 5-8 Geography Bee at 2:00 p.m. (Café)

**Mon., Jan. 25:** CSW Celebration with Pastor Rich Rubietta at 1:45 p.m. (PLC)

**Sat., Jan. 30:** TFSA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Fun and Appreciation Dinner 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. (PLC)

**CSW 2010**

**Sat., 1/30 and Sun., 1/31: Hospitality Weekend**

Student CSW Essay Winners will speak during masses. Faculty and Staff provide hospitality in the PLC hallway after masses. Come and see pictures and student work!

**Monday, 2/1: Spirit Day**

2:00 p.m. Pep Rally and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade vs. Staff Volleyball Game in the PLC

**Tuesday, 2/2: Assembly Day**

p.m. Special assembly in the PLC

**Wednesday, 2/3: Faith and Academic Excellence Day**

9:00 Mass

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. OPEN HOUSE

1:30 p.m. 5-8 *Spelling Bee* in the Café (Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus)

**Thursday, 2/4: Welcoming Day**

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. OPEN HOUSE and PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

**Friday, 2/5: Mission Day**

*Faculty/Staff Luncheon* (Sponsored by TFSA)

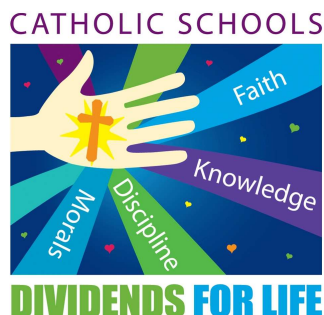
*PJ's, Partners, Pages, and Pictures* – Students wear pajamas and bring pillows to school. We will read stories with our Buddy Classes. Classes watch a movie together in the afternoon. Proceeds from the Mission Committee's popcorn and juice sale will benefit the Holy Childhood Association.

**Saturday, 2/6: Family Day**

Plan a family activity today! Spend time together!

10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Confirmation

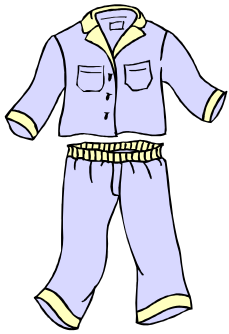
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. OPEN HOUSE



# **Wauconda Area Annual Pajama & Book Drive**

Help Local Children by Donating NEW Pajamas and Books  
Last year over 500 **NEW Pajama's and Books** were donated from the  
Wauconda area to local chapters of the **Pajama Program** providing  
warm pajamas to children in need.

The Pajama Program is a non-profit group that supplies new, warm pajamas and new books to needy children, many waiting and hoping to be adopted. They are youngsters who do not know the comforts of a mother or father to tuck them into bed and read them a bedtime story.



**Donations may be dropped off  
In the school office thru 2/1/10.**

**Thank you for your support.**

**(sizes needed from infant to children's size 16 for boys or girls)**

**Pajama Drive Sponsored by**

**NISP Queens Meg Basco and Sarah Ulrich**

Any questions please contact the Queens at [pjdrivequeens@yahoo.com](mailto:pjdrivequeens@yahoo.com) or  
call Mary Ulrich 847.721.5563 or Julie Basco 815-206-1894



*Remember one pair of pajamas can make a BIG Difference!*



## Transfiguration 2010—A New Beginning

Thank you to everyone who came to our meeting to discuss how we see Transfiguration as a Pre-school and K-5 Grade School. The topics of Athletics, School Uniform, Clubs, Activities and 5th Grade—The Transition Year were discussed by the participants. Everyone was asked to share their ideas. Below are some of the ideas that were proposed:

**School Uniforms**—Agreement was to stay the same with possibly looking at updating the gym uniforms. A committee to review school uniforms will meet in February.

**Athletics**—Agreement to continue sports at 5th grade level. Stay within Fox Valley Athletic

Conference.

**Clubs**—Suggestions included Student Council, Missions, Environmental club, Garden Club, Homework Club.

**Activities**— Suggestions included keeping Trak-a-thon, School Gala, have 5th grade buddies for Mass, Cultural Arts Program.

**5th Grad Transition Year**— Spend one day at the Frassati Catholic Academy, have a retreat day with Jr. High and St. Mary's and Santa Maria, School need to align curriculum so that 5th graders are ready for FCA transition.

**Other Suggestions**— 3—4th grade Day of Renewal with St.

Mary's and Santa Maria.

The new middle school, Frassati Catholic Academy, will have their own recess times, lunch times and mass schedules. It was agreed that FCA Masses would benefit middle school children by speaking directly to them. It will be up to the staffs of Transfiguration and Frassati Catholic Academy if they wish to have combined activities.

The Transfiguration Staff will review all of the suggestions for next year.

## Strategic Plan Revised

Welcome back from the Christmas Break! It's hard to believe we are half way through the school year already! The School Board was busy over the break reviewing the Strategic Plan for the school. As part of the transition to a Pre-K-

5, the Strategic Plan had to be revisited to ensure it aligned with the new vision for the K-5 program. In addition to reviewing the plan additional 2010 actions were added including: Create a new look and feel focusing on K-5 for the

Marketing of the school, to expand the communications committee with 3+ members and develop articulation for preparation for student transition to Frassati Catholic Academy. The updated Strategic Plan is on page 2.

### Upcoming Events:

#### Catholic Schools Week Open House

Feb. 3 10—11:30am

Feb. 4 7—8 pm

Feb. 6 10 am—12 pm

#### School Gala—April 17th.

School Board Meetings are open to the public. 3rd Monday each month

7 pm Parish Offices

If you are interested in joining the School Board, nominations will be accepted in February and elections will be in May. Please contact Mrs. Vakilynejad, Father Ron, or Julie Basco if you are interested.

Mrs. Vakilynejad

847-526-6311

Julie Basco

847-487-8231

## TRANSFIGURATION STRATEGIC PLAN

### ACADEMICS & PROGRAMS

- 5 Year Goals: Provide Ongoing Staff Development for faculty in technology (Started Fall 2009)  
Integrate technology and project based learning in the classroom (Started Fall 2009)
- 3 Year Goals: Implement requirements for the new School Improvement Process  
Develop and Implement unit plans (Started Fall 2009)  
Install wireless internet access in at least one wing of the school (Started Fall 2009)  
Obtain at least 10 laptops that classes can share (Complete Fall 2009)
- 1 Year Goals: Complete Year Long Plans for all grades and subject areas (Complete)
- 2009 Actions: Utilize curriculum checklists for instructional accountability (Complete)  
Provide 1-2 Staff Development days on technology (Complete)

### CATHOLIC IDENTITY

- 3 Year Goals: Establish additional opportunities for Faith Development
- 1 Year Goals: Essay contests for children "What does it mean to help others?" "What does it mean to be a Catholic?"  
Have School families participate in Weekend masses

### COMMUNICATION

- 3 Year Goals: Execute Website Strategy (to be determined in first year)  
Implement Regular Survey Process to collect feedback from school families
- 1 Year Goals: Redefine method(s) for school communication to families (started Fall 2009)  
Develop and Communicate Website strategy  
Re-platform the website with content management systems for administration reasons  
Train additional administrators
- 2009 Actions: Gather e-mail addresses for all school families (Complete Fall 2009)  
Conduct initial web surveys to assess effectiveness of current website (Complete Fall 2009)

### FINANCE

- 3 Year Goals: Maintain, document, and communicate ongoing 5 year plan to all parish stakeholders and community  
Link educational initiatives and goals with financial planning  
Explore electronic payment to simplify payments
- 1 Year Goals: Develop school performance measurements (Financial and Operational)
- 2009 Actions: Addition of quarterly envelopes for School Enrichment Fund (Complete Fall 2009)  
Acquire the grant writing book "Catholic Funding Guide"  
Write and Submit Grants (Received 2 in the fall of 2009 – AMEN Marketing Grant \$500, Illinois Safety Grant \$500)

### MARKETING

- 5 Year Goals: Prepare for annual alumnae fundraising campaign  
Increase the marketing budget and start to track the return on investment  
Maintain much of the repetitive marketing via school staff or office administration  
Market and communicate the benefits and attributes of the school via larger channels...i.e., AD, regional efforts...etc.  
Actively participate in an aggressive award program
- 3 Year Goals: Establish an alumnae team with a "leader" per decade of alums to help facilitate connection to the school  
Develop a process whereby the alums could provide financial support towards scholarships, school improvements or for the advancement of academic excellence  
To continue the current marketing efforts with PR, event marketing, mailer programs and bulletin communication – with a "do-it-yourself" guide that would allow a non- marketing school board member to manage the program.  
Create a marketing fund/budget  
Create an award program.
- 1 Year Goals: To deliver 3 touch points to the alums via a variety of means: phone, mailing, postcard, e – mail, or face book type of option  
To continue the current marketing efforts with PR, event marketing, and bulletin communication.  
A virtual tour of the building  
A variable data driven postcard campaign (tied into Alumni)  
Search out viable award opportunities
- 2009 Actions: Invite alumnae to key Transfiguration Events: Open House, Sporting Events  
Establish an alumnae team to assist with outreach program i.e. communication via postcards, face book, phone calls  
Explore Facebook with Alumni (Completed Spring 2009)  
Place a virtual tour on the website  
Research and begin the process to submit Transfiguration for awards.  
Create a stronger – scheduled and more consistent marketing action plan – that is both SB and School staff executed (Completed the logo, the car stickers, the newsletter, water bottles, the pre-K and Kindergarten banners and created spirit wear)