



HOPE IN THE HEIGHTS

A Newsletter for the Alumni, Parents and Friends of

ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

Washington Heights, New York City

Summer 2005

School Receives Grants for New Science Lab!

St. Elizabeth School is happy to announce the establishment of a Science Lab, thanks to several grants we have received. A portion of funds will be used from a very generous gift from Alexandra Garcia Cohen, class of 1978 (see side-bar). Renovations will also be sponsored by a \$40,000 grant from the Endowment for Inner-City Education of the Archdiocese, and a matching \$40,000 grant from the Charles Hayden Foundation.

Equipment and furnishings will be funded by a \$17,300 grant from The Betty Barrett and Juanita Bateman Foundation. Fr. Joseph Sanches, a graduate of the class of 1953, is a trustee of the foundation and was instrumental in securing the gift.

The science center will include student lab tables, new desks, an instructor's demonstration table and projection equipment, electrified microscopes, life science models, earth science samples, and existing equipment such as fish tanks and robotics supplies, used for the Learning Technology Grant Project.

Work on the lab is currently underway, with the completion expected in October 2005. Please watch our website for further details about the lab's dedication ceremony. *(continued on page 3)*

St. Elizabeth School Reaccredited by the Middle States Association

St. Elizabeth School has been awarded reaccreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

The process was a cooperative effort by the entire school community, including teachers, administration, clergy, parents, and students. The school-wide project "Bridging the Islands of Communication," focused on the integration of reading and language arts across the curriculum.

According to Dr. Catherine Hickey, Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York, "Middle States accreditation recognizes the professional quality present

Alum Makes Record Gift

For **Alexandra Garcia Cohen '78**, it was an opportunity to give back to the school she loved and that had done so much for her and her family.

Ms. Cohen recently made a very generous gift of \$100,000 to the school in support of its programs, the largest individual gift in school history.

Funded by the Steven A & Alexandra M Cohen Foundation, Inc., the gift will help support the Science Lab renovations, and other capital improvements. Remaining funds will be used for student tuition assistance.

in a school. It puts the official 'stamp' on the good work done each day in the classrooms to provide quality academic education to the children whose parents have chosen our schools."

Accreditation also signifies that St. Elizabeth School has met the MSCES Standards for a quality school, and reflects the best of current research and practices from throughout the education profession.

The Middle States Association is the second-oldest regional accreditor in the United States. The school was originally accredited in 1993.

Letter from the Principal



Dear Friends,

This issue of *Hope in the Heights* is so full of good news that we had to expand it to eight pages! This school year, we have been thrilled to see our dreams realized, with important additions and updates to our programs, so many made possible by foundation grants and your own support and generosity.

However, while grants help us increase opportunities for achievement, we are facing a critical financial deficit in the operating budget, as it becomes increasingly difficult to meet the rising cost of salaries, benefits and utility costs. Presently, tuition and fees only cover about 70 percent of the operating budget.

It is important for us to keep tuition affordable so that parents who seek to send their children to St. Elizabeth School, just as the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus intended when they first established the school in 1936.

Once again, we are calling on you this summer to help us meet this gap between tuition and operating costs, as we prepare for the 2005-2006 school year. If you have not been able to give before, please know that every gift, helps us to reach our goal. To our faithful supporters, we appreciate for your continued generosity.

On behalf of the children of St. Elizabeth, thank you for playing such an important part in their lives. May God bless you and your families today and always.

Sincerely,
Sr. Noreen Nolan, O.P.

*Please see
the enclosed envelope
to make a gift
to the Annual Appeal,
if you have not yet
already.*

Class Reunion News:

Class of 1955

The Class of 1955 will celebrate their 50th reunion, "50 Years in the Making," on Saturday, September 24, 2005, at the Pearl River Elks Lodge in Nanuet, New York. The event will be from 6 to 10 p.m., with appetizers, cocktails and a buffet dinner.

Alumni are also invited to an informal gathering early that day from 3-5 p.m. at the Comfort Inn, and to attend Mass together at 5 p.m. at the nearby Church of St. Anthony. Anyone staying at the Comfort Inn can also join the group for breakfast the following morning.

Cost of the event is \$119 per couple, \$59.50 per person.

Over 35 people have already confirmed their attendance at what the organizers describe as "a once in a lifetime event."

We are currently looking for "missing" members of the class of 1955, as well as pictures from their years at the school. For more information, please see the school's website at www.steliznyc.org, or contact Liz (Ryan) Bowler at 845-623-2657 or Rich Kunzig at 617-782-7776.

Class of 1978

The Class of 1978 will hold a Family Reunion Day on July 16 at Rye Playland. The group will meet in front of the fountain at the entrance of the park at 12 noon. A rain date is set for July 30.

For more information, please contact Robert Abreu at raabreu@yahoo.com or Maritza Palacios at MariTeach428@hotmail.com.

Any other classes interested in gathering your classmates together can contact us at officdev@steliznyc.org. The school can provide contact information and publicity.

Hope in the Heights

A Newsletter published by
THE SCHOOL OF ST. ELIZABETH
A Catholic Elementary School
in Washington Heights
612 W. 187 St., New York, N.Y. 10033
(212) 568-7291 www.steliznyc.org

Publisher: Sr. Noreen Nolan, O.P., Principal
Editor: Jenny Kaepfner, Director of Development

Neighborhood Grant Funds Wellness Program

Thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the Neighborhood Fund, St. Elizabeth School will initiate a Wellness Program to encourage physical fitness and healthy attitudes toward eating and nutrition for our students, going beyond the confines of their weekly physical education classes.

Next year, third, fourth and fifth grade students will participate in an after school exercise class, attend workshops on health and nutrition from the school nurse and a nutritionist, learn to cook healthy recipes in our school kitchen, and produce a school cookbook. The school hopes to continue this valuable program for additional grades in the future.

The lessons will be integrated across all curriculum areas including the library and technology. The culminating activity will be a health fair, with displays on fitness, health and nutrition. Students will also take the Presidential Physical Fitness Test and participate in the Jump Rope for Heart, sponsored by the American Heart Association.

The Neighborhood Fund is sponsored by Columbia University Medical Center, New York State Psychiatric Institute, and New York Presbyterian Hospital.

New Science Lab Established *(continued from page 1)*

The Science Lab would provide the appropriate space necessary to house our expanding science program, including a WeatherBug weather station, a distance learning program, and a long-standing New York State Learning Technology Grant involving robotics.

Through opportunities to understand and care for God's creations, the children will learn that all life is precious and must be respected. Also, the Science Lab will provide yet another opportunity for our students to use collaborative experiential learning, thus becoming lifelong learners.

It is our hope to create a space within the children's courtyard play area for them to plant and cultivate gardens, so that they may carry out what they have learned in their science lessons.

Grants and Donations Enhance Technology Program

The school's technology resources are being greatly expanded, through several grants and donations we have recently received.

Edward Fener, Director of Technology, has been extremely instrumental in securing and implementing these programs. An anonymous alumni gift of almost \$19,000 will be used for technology supplies and upgrades, such as wiring, that will support our Technology Program.

The Beaumont Foundation of America will be providing \$32,500 worth of 15 new wireless laptops, a laser printer, several digital cameras, and a data projector. The equipment will be used across all areas of the curriculum, including the new Science Lab. William Cullen '70 was instrumental in securing the grant.

Through the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, the school has received 18 new computers for the Earobics Literacy Launch Program, which increases literacy skills through technology in grades kindergarten through three. The school also currently participates in the Orchard-Lexia Reading Program also for the primary grades, and Read 180 for grades three through five .

The New York State Department of Education Title IID Program will be renewed for an additional two years. Through this grant the school receives equipment

and professional development to use distance learning for improvement in mathematics and integrated subjects, in collaboration with the Hudson River Project. St. Elizabeth School mentors public schools in Districts 9 and 10, now known as Region 1, as part of the program.

We are now able to use video conferencing equipment we received through the grant and are partnered with the following outside agencies; The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Cleveland Institute of Culinary Skills, The Bronx Zoo, The NY museum of Radio and Television, and The Liberty Science Center.

The grant also involves work with Young McDonald's Farm, a telerobotic aqua-culture farm in New Jersey. With the assistance of Daniel McVeigh of Columbia University, the students monitor data on various sensors at the fish hatchery and green house (which features an ecosystem utilizing fish and aquaponic grown plants and flowers) and use remote interaction with robots to control maintenance systems. They have also recreated parts of the farm at the school, setting up tanks and building robots with the help of a scientist at the University of Maine.

The school will hold a program during the month of July, to provide remedial instruction for students using the various technology programs, and to continue their work with the Title IID Program.

School Establishes Weather Station

St. Elizabeth School students now have the opportunity to become meteorologists. The school has installed a weather station at the school, thanks to a very generous anonymous alum.

Students are participating in WeatherBug Achieve, monitoring readings from their computers and following online interactive lessons using the data and images from their own station and others around the world. According to WeatherBug, “the



program uses tracking stations to integrate live, local weather data and technology into classroom learning.”

The station, located on the west side of the building, includes a camera, precipitation gauge, wind speed monitor, and solar radiation shield. The picture to the left is a view of the Church and the George Washington Bridge from the station camera.

For more information and for up-to-the-minute weather readings, see the school's website at www.steliznyc.org, or watch WNBC in New York for reports from the school.



St. Elizabeth CYO Basketball Program Grows

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our CYO basketball program stronger this year. Recently, the school was fortunate to replace one of the backboards, which had been broken for a number of years, through donations from Joseph Cullen '72, Michael Duignan '72, Jerry McAvey '71, and Lou McElwain '72. New uniforms were also purchased through donations from the 352 Restaurant Corporation (Mustang Harry's) and the Clifford Family.

Pictured below at one of the CYO games are, from left to right, Michael Duignan, Lou McElwain, Jerry McAvey, Nora McAvey, Joseph Cullen, and William Knoess '76.



Both the boys' and girls' programs have made great strides. In addition, eight players were named to the 2005 CYO All-Star teams. With continued perseverance and hard work the 2005-2006 season will be an exciting one.

The third time seemed to be the charm for the teachers and coaches who were victorious over the students in the annual Faculty/ Student game on February 2. The packed house was treated to a wonderful game from start to finish.

It is always exciting to see our players go on to do even more great things. Idelissa Lluveres '02 was recently selected to the New York Daily News All-Bronx Girls' Basketball team.

Special thanks to our coaches, physical education teacher Michael O'Boyle and former teacher Justine Clifford, and their assistants Ms. Marlene Harthman '75 and parishioner Mr. Richard Solis!

The CYO program hopes to expand next year to include a fifth and sixth grade school girls team, in addition to the existing varsity boys and girls, and junior varsity boys teams. The school will also continue to offer the City Track Program for sixth and seventh graders.

Administrators would love to add softball and soccer teams and are looking for volunteer coaches. Please contact the school if you are interested in assisting.

Alumni News

Stephen Frank '43 has retired with his wife Pat to Naples, FL. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

Stephen '44 and Mary Geary '45 McLaughlin of Mahwah, NJ, report that they have been traveling, last year to France, and this year to the Panama Canal. **Virginia Heitmann Eichenberger '44** of Mount Vernon, NY, is a widow and retired administrative assistant with two sons and two grandsons.

Thomas '53 and Suzanne Brown '56 O'Donnell of Staten Island are married, and have four grown children. They are grateful for the spiritual guidance and well-rounded education provided at St. Elizabeth's.

Julieann Brennan Poppito '54 of Wantagh, NY, graduated from Holy Child in Rye in 1958. She is a wife, a mother of four daughters who college graduates, and a Title I reading teacher in the New York City public schools.

Michael Brennan '55 of Perkasio, PA, spent Christmas in Coogee, NSW, Australia, playing Santa with his new year-old granddaughter Nora Brennan. While there he traveled much of the East Coast.

Catherine McGuinness Magee '55 of Fanwood, NJ, has two new grandchildren, Grace Danielle Kautzmann, born February 2004, and Seamus Patrick Magee, born July 2004.

Ellen Jaenike Marsh '57 is retired from nursing and lives in Salisbury, MD, with her husband Vic. They moved there from New Jersey three years ago to experience the joy of watching their grandchildren grow.

Bill Appel '59 of Brooklyn and his wife Kathy celebrated their 35th anniversary last December. They have two daughters, a grandson and another due in August. Bill would like to hear from any of his old classmates (tellappel@aol.com) with the thought of a possible reunion in the not too distant future. **Michael McTague '59** has a Ph.D. in English and an M.B.A. in Finance, and has written articles and a book. He currently works as a professor and an academic dean, and lives in the Bronx with his wife Rose, with whom he has a grown daughter. **Kathleen Pierce O'Toole '59** of Pelham Manor, NY, is enjoying semi-retirement, traveling with her husband Jack. Her son Charles just graduated from Mercy College summa cum laude.

Grace Tuccio Morin '62 lives in Myrtle Beach, SC, where she works for the American Cancer Society and sells real estate part time. She is blessed to have both parents still alive and living in Bergenfield, NJ. She looks forward to hearing what everyone else is doing.

Daniel '63 and Gladys Manzanilla '66 Haren '63 live in West Covina, CA. Their son Danny Haren is a pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals, and played in the 2004 World Series. **Michael O'Connell '63** was recently married in Bermuda, and he and his wife have purchased a home in Newport, NH, where they plan to raise horses and enjoy the countryside.

Cathy Mirenda Fagan '64 has a master's degree in secondary education and a Ph.D. in English. She lives in Rockville Centre, NY, with her husband Jim, and is a mother of three and a professor at Nassau Community College and Hofstra. She also taught at St. Elizabeth's from 1972-1974.

Linda Caulfield Kurz '66 lives in the Bronx, has been married for 30 years, and has two daughters, one who just got married. She recently left Wells Fargo and was hired as Vice President of Marketing for a Tennessee corporation. **John O'Connor, Jr. '66** of Prattville, AL, is retired as a colonel from the U.S. Air Force, and was recently promoted to Vice President of Air Force Information Technology and Network Solutions with NCI Information System, Inc. **Areliya Yanes '66** currently works at Miami (FL) Children's Hospital in the Department of Orthopedics. She has worked in the medical field all her life and love every minute of it.

Pauline Como Saydeh '68 was only at the school until the seventh grade, but she and her sister Joelle have very fond memories, and would love to hear from some of the people from their classes. Please see the alumni website for her email address.

Lazaro Cabañas '70 lives in Northern, NJ, with his wife Alma and two children. He is the Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for eMedicine.com, and has received a number of marketing and communications awards while working in the health sector.

Cindi Cosgrove '71 lives in Cedar Grove, NJ, and is self-employed and very happy. She has two children, a son Eric who was just married and a daughter Shannon who is 17. She hopes all is well with everyone.

(continued on next page)

Wish List for Our School

Our website www.steliznyc.org includes a list of items that are important to continuing the excellent education at St. Elizabeth School.

Included in this list is information about our **Adopt-a-Classroom Program**. Today, most of the classrooms are equipped with the original furnishings of the building, from 1950. We are seeking alumni classes or individuals to "adopt a classroom" and sponsor necessary replacements of these worn-out furnishings. Your graduating class could have the opportunity to create a legacy for students that would last for many years to come. Memorial plaques are available.



Desks/Chairs
34 sets
at \$150 each



Blackboards
2 refinished
at \$900 each



Window Shades
6 custom size
at \$190 each

Please contact the Development Office at (212) 568-7291 or officedev@steliznyc.org to see how you can help. Memorial and/or donor plaques will be placed with gifts.

(Alumni News continued)

Francis Behr '72 lives in the Albany, NY area, and has been married for 12 years, with three children. Anybody that know him probably remembers how much he liked baseball and the Yankees. His twin sons were born on the day in 1996 when the Yankees won the World Series against the Braves. **Michael Doherty '72** of Maplewood, NJ, is the president of a janitorial and security firm in New York City. **Rosemary Mendoza Santiago '72** of the Bronx is married and working as a project manager for NBC Universal.

Omar Mariduena '88 is an operations manager for the TJX retail groups. He is currently writing a novel and working as a free-lance writer, and has one beautiful daughter who currently attends St. Elizabeth School.

Marlene Castro '91 of the Bronx received her bachelor's degree from Baruch and now works at Columbia University. She has a three-year-old son who now attends the pre-k program at St. Elizabeth's.

Michelle Acevedo Rivera '93 and her husband Jose, who live in San Sebastian, PR, celebrated the birth of her son Armando Miguel, last May, 21 2004. **Edwin Carlos Sanchez '93** lives in Clifton, NJ, and is concentrating on his career, working in New York City.

Cassandra Ortiz '97 is a senior at Buffalo State College, pursuing an Anthropology Degree, hopefully to become an Archaeologist. She lives in Lockport, NY, and is engaged to be married in 2007.

Ely Pena '00 attends Iona College as a business major. She was nominated for President of LaNueva Alianza Youth Group at St. Elizabeth Parish, and **Amy Catano '00** was nominated as Vice President. She reports that they are always looking for new members!

† † *In Memoriam* † †

William A. Feeney '40 - December 1, 2004

Leila Borgatta Noz '44 - March 4, 2005

George Schott '56 - January 30, 2004

John Edward McDonagh, son of **Margaret Ryan McDonagh '56** and husband John - November 21, 2004

Margaret Short Timoney '65 - September 27, 2004

We would love to share with your classmates what you have been up to, in an upcoming newsletter. Where are you working and what are you doing? Any children or grandchildren? Any exciting trips or other happenings in the last year? Please let us know!

Name (including maiden): _____

Class year: _____ **Email address:** _____

We're always searching for St. Elizabeth alumni to add to our mailing list. If you know of persons who are not receiving correspondence from us, we would appreciate the following information. (Also, be sure to let us know when your own address changes!)

Name (including maiden): _____

Class year: _____ **Email address:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Name (including maiden): _____

Class year: _____ **Email address:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Early Childhood Literacy Enhanced Through Multicultural Program

Thanks to teachers Grace Taccad and Mary Soto, the school was awarded a \$5,000 Early Childhood Literacy Grant from Inner-City Scholarship Fund for its project, "Reading: A Bridge Between You and Me." The project provided students in grades pre-k through one with literary experiences highlighting the cultures of the world. They learn that all cultures, including their own, are special, and that all the people of the world are God's children.

Through the grant, teachers are able to read and expose students to a wide variety of multicultural books such as folk tales, fairy tales, and historical fiction, and create multicultural text sets focusing on specific themes. Because English is a second language for many of our students, teachers use technology and audiovisual materials to assist students in developing fluency. This includes colorful posters with multicultural themes, flannel boards, audio books and activities, videos, and CD-roms with reading and multicultural awareness.

Especially at the early childhood level, children learn through play. Teachers use a variety of dramatic and artistic activities, including role-playing, puppet shows, dramatic play, music, crafts, rhymes, and dance.



Depicted in the photo above, the students and teachers celebrated the culmination of their project with a presentation for parents and school community members, on May 26. The teachers also presented the unit at the reporting session for Library Connections, a library resource grant funded by the Patrons Program of the Archdiocese of New York.

More St. Elizabeth School News and Photos on the Web

Between issues of *Hope in the Heights*, be sure to check out the school website, www.steliznyc.org, for frequent updates of school news and photos. Recent photos include a visit from a New York City police officer, the school Science Fair, and the eighth grade class trip. Past issues of *Hope in the Heights* and the Annual Report are also available online. The alumni page is full of old photos, reunion information and an alumni email directory.

We have recently added a page for your alumni memories. Feel free to write us with your favorite recollections of teachers, classes and events. Your classmates will enjoy the trip down memory lane!

You will also find a form to submit prayer requests to be remembered at parish masses. You may also email them to officedev@steliznyc.org.

In addition to our own website, you may want to try these resources online: www.classmates.com and www.manhattanboard.com. Each site has an alumni listing, message board and the Manhattan Board has lost of photos. Happy virtual reunions!

A monthly email newsletter is also sent to alumni during the school year. To sign up, please email Jenny Kaepfner, Director of Development at officedev@steliznyc.org.

Students Make Us Proud



We congratulate fifth graders Marcela Madera and Gabrielle Mariduena, Manhattan Borough winners in the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's 19th Annual Water Conservation Art and Poetry Contest. The students were honored at a special award ceremony at The Great Hall at The Cooper Union on May 7. They are pictured above with their families, Assistant Principal Sr. Eileen Barrow, OP and Principal Sr. Noreen Nolan, OP.

Also, eighth graders Ileana Paulino and Maridalia Martinez received Honorable Mention in the Letters for Literature Contest, sponsored by the New York Center for the Book, in cooperation with the Library of Congress. Over 1000 students participated in the national contest.



Development Office
St. Elizabeth School
612 W. 187 Street
New York, NY 10033

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Annual Appeal information is enclosed.
Please help us keep St. Elizabeth School thriving!**



AROUND THE SCHOOL - Above, students show off multicultural puppets from their Early Childhood Literacy Grant (see page 7). Below, eighth grade students take care of Tilapia fish in our temporary science lab (see page 3).



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