



# HOPE IN THE HEIGHTS

*A Newsletter for the Alumni, Parents and Friends of*

## ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

*Washington Heights, New York City*

*Summer 2008*

## Pope Benedict XVI Visits New York!



Thirteen students, accompanied by teachers Mr. Michael O'Boyle and Mr. Mark McDonald had the privilege of attending the Youth Rally with His Holiness, Pope

Benedict XVI, on April 19 at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York. The students, were chosen by lottery.

Father Peter Pomposello, former Parochial Vicar at St. Elizabeth Church, initiated an Archdiocesan-wide contest to design an official papal skateboard. Krystal Melendez '07, right, an alum of St. Elizabeth School, won first place in the Skateboard Contest. As the first place winner, Krystal received tickets to attend the Youth Rally.



Father Pomposello, who moderated the school's Skateboarding Club was interviewed at the school about the contest by CBS News and other television and radio stations. As part of the visit, students from St.

Elizabeth, St. Jude and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Schools were present and some demonstrated their skateboarding skills, and were interviewed as well.

Everyone in the school became involved in the visit, through special religion lessons on Church history and the life of Pope Benedict XVI, special projects and art work. Pictured here are just a few of the wonderful pieces created by the students to honor Pope Benedict.



What a wonderful opportunity for our students to be a part of such a wonderful historic event!

## Challenge Grant Funds Completion of Peace Garden Play Yard Renovation

We are so grateful to the many parents, alumni and friends, we have raised over \$20,000 needed to match a \$20,000 Challenge Grant from The Endowment for Inner-City Education to renovate the school's Peace Garden play yard! Over \$7,500 was raised and matched from our recent Candy Sale.

Matching gifts include \$2,000 from Mr. Ted Buczek, in memory of his son Police Officer Michael Buczek; \$6000 from the Betty Barrett & Juanita Bateman Foundation, arranged by Father Joseph Sanches, Class of 1953; and

donations from the Class of 1947 in honor of their 61st Anniversary Reunion.

Renovation of this play yard will include new fencing, a soft playground surface, benches, repair and repainting of the surrounding wall, lighting, safety upgrades and placement of the engraved bricks donated by friends and alumni of St. Elizabeth School.

Work will be completed over the summer.

*(continued on page 8)*

## Letter from the Principal



Dear Friends,

Pope Benedict XVI recently told our youth, “As young Americans you are offered many opportunities for personal development, and you are brought up with a sense of generosity, service and fairness.”

This has been the Mission of St. Elizabeth School for 72 years, and the stories and photos on these pages celebrate its vitality! Catholic education plays an important role in the development of the values that he praised.

As one school year has come to an end and we prepare for a new one to begin, we are grateful to you, our alumni and friends, who continue to support St. Elizabeth School. You make it possible for so many Washington Heights children to receive a quality academic education infused with Catholic values.

It is our hope that they will become true “Bearers of Hope,” always living lives of Christian Witness and being of service to others.

“Education is integral to the Mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News.” These are the words of Pope Benedict XVI at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

*Sr. Noreen Nolan O.P.*

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***Hope in the Heights***  
A Newsletter published by  
**THE SCHOOL OF ST. ELIZABETH**  
A Catholic Elementary School  
in Washington Heights  
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Editor: Jenny Kaepfner, Director of Development

## Class of 1947 Celebrates “60th + 1” Reunion



The Class of 1947 celebrated a reunion at Greentree Restaurant on April 24. Pictured above are (Left to Right) Thomas Hughes, Lorraine (McConnell) McDonald, Mary (Ellicott) Funcheon, Patricia (Fitzpatrick) Surdoval, Edmund Maloney, Veronica Tracey, Sr. Nancy Callahan SHCJ, Alfred Alcaro, Ann (McCaffrey) McGuire, Edward Mulvey, and Jim McLaughlin.

Below, in a photo taken by Tom Hughes, Meg and Ed Maloney, current Principal Sr. Noreen Nolan, OP, and current Assistant Principal Sr. Eileen Barrow, OP, enjoy the afternoon.



## 1959 Reunion Being Planned

Bill Appel from the Class of 1959 is hoping to put together a 50th Anniversary Reunion during 2009. Anyone interested in attending or helping to plan the event, please contact him at [tellappel@aol.com](mailto:tellappel@aol.com). Also, please see our website at [www.steliznyc.org/alummissing.asp#1959](http://www.steliznyc.org/alummissing.asp#1959) to see if you have information on anyone who is “missing.”

## St. Elizabeth Students in the News

St. Elizabeth students make us proud every day. Their effort and success in the classroom is exemplary, and is evident in the recent awards they have received.

Jeremy Yela was the Grade 6 winner of the *District Science Fair sponsored by the Catholic Schools for North Manhattan* on May 15, for his project "Eggsperiment." The other school representatives were Michael Honrado (Grade 5), Brian Batista (Grade 7) and Lucien Liz-Lepiorz (Grade 8). They are all pictured below with their science teacher Mr. James Tomassi.

Eighth grader Lucien Liz-Lepiorz placed third in science in the *Academic Olympics at Mount St. Michael Academy* on January 12.

Many students excelled at the school's annual Speech Bee. Eighth grader Marcela Madera (photo right) came in second place at the *North Manhattan Catholic Schools Speech Bee*. Eighth grader Amber Hamilton (pictured) and seventh grader Carlos Morales (not pictured) were also school Speech Bee winners.



Three seventh grade students were accepted into the *Aquinas High School PULSE* (Partnership for Urban Life Science Education) *Program*, a challenging Saturday enrichment science program. Congratulations to Elka Morety, Maria Grullon and Jerlene Rodriguez.

The art work of our students was recently exhibited at the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian Hospital. The event was part of the *Creative Classrooms Visual Arts Program*, sponsored by the Patrons Program of the Archdiocese of New York. Students with work exhibited were Jose Mosso (Grade 2), Joshua Martinez (Grade 2), Roger Sanchez (Kindergarten), Maria Ojeda (Grade 8), Estefani Hernandez (Grade 5), and Coral Caceras (Grade 4).

## Our Girls are Manhattan CYO Champs!

On March 6, the St. Elizabeth Girls Varsity Basketball Team won 27-26 over St. Charles Borromeo, with a clutch shot in the final seconds of the game.

On their road to the championship, they were also victorious over St. Joseph and Epiphany in the playoff round. On March 8 they were eliminated in the Bronx CYO Championship, losing to St. Barnabas, Bronx. Many thanks to those who came out to support the team.

Congratulations to the girls and Coach Mr. Michael O'Boyle and Assistant Coach Mr. Richard Solis! Thank you to the faithful parents, teachers and students who supported all the teams throughout the season, and to Coach Ms. Justine Clifford and Assistant Coach Mr. Ruben Segui, for the boys' teams.

Pictured left to right are (Front Row) Amber Hamilton, Gabriela Morales, Jalven Almeida; (Middle Row)



Mariaelena Guerrero, Doshary Abreu, Nohely Vasquez, Jessica Idrovo; (Back Row) Alexa Valerio, Christine Gonsalves, Dyani Martinez, Marcela Madera, Geraldine Hernandez

*We Educate the Whole Child for a Full Life*

## Title IID Grant Provides In-Service Opportunities for Teachers

Teachers Mrs. Eileen Ferry (Grade 3), Ms. Thelma Morillo (Grade 4) and Ms. Natividad Lorica (Grade 8) had the opportunity this winter to participate in a remarkable workshop series in Mathematics as part of a New York State Department of Education Title IID Grant. The Marilyn Burns Workshop Series focused on professional development in math instruction.

## Yankees Visit St. Elizabeth



On May 15, the New York Yankees Organization visited the school to present to the Church of St. Elizabeth a check for \$17,000 for a summer project that Parochial Vicar, Father Peter Pomposello organized to make it possible for young adults of the parish to partner with Habitat for Humanity, and build homes in the Dominican Republic.

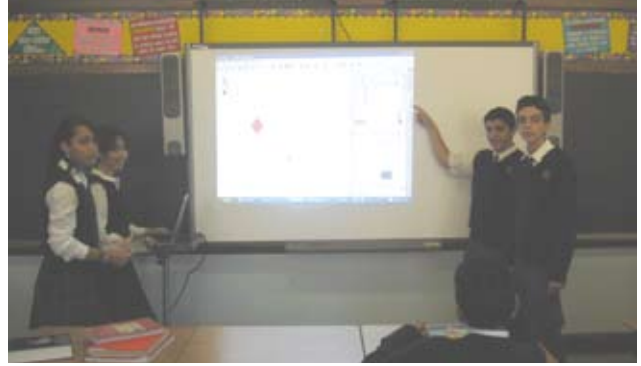
Pastor, Father Daniel Kearney and former Pastor, Bishop Gerald T. Walsh were also present. Guests included Joe Pepitone, who played with Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris, and representatives of the New York Archdiocese.

Upon their return from the Dominican Republic, the young adults from the parish were moved by the poverty they saw. They shared that many children they met were without basic school supplies! One of St. Elizabeth School's mission projects next year will be to collect essential school supplies for these children.

## Alumni Features Online

Our website at [www.steliznyc.org](http://www.steliznyc.org) has lots of interesting features for alumni. Be sure to check out the alumni memory page, reunion information and photos, old class pictures, and email addresses for many of these classmates and more. Updates are made regularly and we welcome your contributions.

## School Receives Smartboard



The school now has its first Smart Board, an interactive whiteboard, onto which is projected the computer's desktop image. Students can "write" on the whiteboard and control computer applications by pointing and clicking on the board, just as with a desktop mouse.

The Smartboard is a wonderful addition to the teaching/learning process using the latest technology. We are hoping to raise the funds necessary to purchase two more in the coming year.

## "Friends of Nick" Scholarships Awarded



The Friends of Nick Foundation named four "Nick Forstmann Scholars" from St. Elizabeth School, who were awarded four-year high school scholarships. The winners were Marcela Madera and Juan Diaz (\$16,000) and Adeline Manzano and Nohely Vasquez (\$8,000). The students will attend St. Vincent Ferrer, Cardinal Spellman, Mother Cabrini and Aquinas High Schools respectively.

The Foundation sponsored a program for eighth graders focused on character-building sessions, as well as a series of evening workshops with the students and their parents. It is named after the late Nick Forstmann, benefactor of Archdiocesan programs, and administered by Elissa Moran, Program Director of the Foundation, as well as the sister of Mr. Forstmann.

Pictured above are Nohely, Adeline, Juan and Marcela, along with their parents at the program's Closing Event May 8.

# Alumni News

**Patricia McConville Steinbrecher '46** of Aurora, IN, reports that she stayed in touch with classmate Edmee Rodrigues for many years until her death in 1988.

**Catherine McGuinness Magee '55** of Somerset, NJ, welcomed her seventh grandchild Julia Catherine in October 2007.

**Luciano (Lou) Noselli '57** and **Maryellen McKeon Noselli '61** have three granddaughters. Lou, who is a retired New York City Firefighter and was at the site of the World Trade Center Disaster. Maryellen worked as a registered nurse and nurse manager in pediatrics, hospice and mother/baby units. They have moved to Plymouth, MA, and are enjoying life at the beach and riding their bikes.

**John Kiernan '58** of New York, NY, is part of the US Coast Guard Auxilliary as a Vice Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 5-11 Station in Washington Heights and Inwood, and also is an amateur radio operator. He asks that if anyone is interested in either, email him at [ke2un@msn.com](mailto:ke2un@msn.com).

**Thomas McGarry '58** of Yonkers, NY, retired in 2000 after about 32 years in the New York Fire Department. He is enjoying retirement, spending his winters in Bradenton, FL. He would love to hear from old classmates at [tj44mcg@aol.com](mailto:tj44mcg@aol.com).

**Bill Appel '59** of Brooklyn, NY, completed the New York City Five Borough Bike Tour this past May, along with fellow alumni **Bill Busby '59** and **Jim Flynn '59**.

**Jean Mirenda Landaker '59** is a "not quite ready to retire" counselor in the International Baccalaureate Programme at a Delray Beach, FL, high school. She has two daughters and a son, and three grandchildren, and would love to hear from classmates, especially in Florida. You can email her at [j189@bellsouth.net](mailto:j189@bellsouth.net).

**Kathleen Pierce O'Toole '59** of Pelham Manor, NY, has eight grandsons (two brand new), three granddaughters, and one great-grandson. She and her husband Jack still enjoy traveling and celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary in July 2008.

**Katherine O'Leary Fletcher '62** of El Dorado Hills, CA, recently retired after 21 years in the mortgage industry and is trying to start up her own equipment leasing business. She has two grown daughters and was widowed 10 years ago. She has fond memories of St. Elizabeth's.

**Susan White Mercurio '62** currently lives in Carmel, IN, but her husband's job has taken them all over the world, living in Italy, Portugal, Sweden and Ohio. They have been married for 32 years and have two sons in Boston and their first grandchild (a girl) on the way. She still considers New York City home and hopes to retire soon somewhere on the East Coast.

**Michael O'Connell '63** of Newport, NH, has "unretired" and is now an Associate Professor in the Business Department at River Valley Community College in Claremont, NH, and Director of the Accounting Program.

**Russell Youknot '64** is now known as Jason Stuart, and is a professional recording artist from Rock Island, IL, recording radio and TV commercials and many narrations. He says that of all the classmates, who took part in a mock Beatle-like festival, he bets he is the only one who makes his living playing an instrument today. Jason has a son and daughter, and five grandsons, and offers his thanks to the Sisters who insisted that he take up public speaking, since it has proven a very profitable career in addition to his music.

**Charles Gambaro '65** of Oviedo, FL, is married and has two children, one granddaughter, and one grandson on the way. He works with NASA as a Senior Project Manager for the new Constellation Program, which will succeed the Space Shuttle Program in 2010. He served in the Army for 31 years between active duty and reserves and retired as a full Colonel. He had two combat tours, the last serving as Engineer Brigade Commander for the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq from 2003 through 2004.

**Martha Barrera '66** of Tallahassee, FL, has practiced as an attorney for 31 years. She is the widow of Steve Dubey, and has a son and a daughter.

**Susan Ruggiero Lawson '67** of Lake Hopatcong, NJ, has been happily married for 22 year and has two labrador puppies. She works for her brother, **Robert Ruggiero '67**, who owns a carpet store and has been quite successful. She manages the store while he does the installation.

**Richard Neff '69** said that the website "brought back great memories for a guy now living in the Midwest (but will always be a Washington Heights boy)." He works for the Indiana Secretary of State as their Chief Investigator, involved in fighting white collar crime. He has lived in Indiana since 1984, and returned to New York in 2006 to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

**Piedad Palencia '70** just moved back to the USA (Lake Mary, FL) after living in the United Kingdom for 25 years. She has been working as the creative director for a large European fashion house. She went to Parsons The New School for Design after St. Elizabeth, traveled a lot to places such as Africa and Iceland, and has one daughter.

*(continued)*

## † In Memoriam † Mother Mary St. Cecelia, SHCJ



*Sr. Roberta McInerney, SHCJ, passed away on February 21, 2008 in Rosemont, PA. She was a teacher at St. Elizabeth School, full-time from 1956-1960 and part-time 1967-1971. Her religious name was Mother Mary St Cecelia, to reflect her love of singing.*

*Sr. Roberta entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in 1953 and worked at various sites as a teacher, campus minister and director of religious education. She retired in 2004, living in Rye, NY. Following cancer surgery in January of this year, she was brought to Holy Child Center in Rosemont, where she died peacefully less than a month later.*

## ✠ In Memoriam ✠

**Br. Matthew Snowden '44**, brother of **Thomas Snowden '46** - April 22, 2008

**Lawrence (Larry) Kelly '50**, brother of **Paula Kelly Kukk '57** and **Jean Kelly Welsh '60** - October 31, 2006

**James (Jim) McSherry '56**, brother of **John McSherry '52** - June 28, 2007

**Alice Fabregas '58** - August 13, 2007

**Nancy Garon Kahn '65**, wife of **George Kahn '63**, sister of **Jane McKeon O'Neill**, sister of **Maryellen McKeon Noselli '61**, sister-in-law of **Luciano Noselli '57** - June 24, 2002

Margaret Fitzpatrick, mother of **James '62**, **John '65**, and **Kevin '73 Fitzpatrick** and **Kathleen Fitzpatrick Ferre '67**, father-in-law of **William Ferre '66** - April 19, 2008

Michael Scerra, son of **Thomas Scerra '69** - June 28, 2008

Paul Farrell, father of **Eileen Farrell Dunnion '77** - April 4, 2007

**John McNamee**, dear friend of the school, June 14, 2008.

## Honors for Recent Grads

Congratulations to our young alumni, who have received honors at the high school level:

**Ladylaura Bueno '05**, Second Honors at Academy of Mount St. Ursula

**Kenelyn Rodriguez '04**, Second Honors at Cathedral High School

**Nicole Ruszczynski '07**, and **Liseidy Bueno '06**, First Honors at St. Vincent Ferrer High School

**Ronald Delphin '06** and **Varun Behl '06**, Second Honors at Xavier High School

Congratulations also to the following 2008 graduates who were awarded high school academic scholarships, in addition to those listed in the article on Page 4:

**Lucien Liz-Lepiorz**, four year full scholarships to Regis, Xavier and All Hallows High Schools.

**Amber Hamilton**, four year scholarship to Aquinas High School

**Marcela Madera**, partial scholarship to St. Vincent Ferrer High School

**Maria Ojeda**, partial scholarships to Aquinas and St. Vincent Ferrer High Schools

**Sharlene Espinosa**, partial scholarship to Mother Cabrini High School

**Alexa Valerio**, Sr. Mary Scanlon, RJM Memorial Scholarship

## (Alumni News continued)

**Denise Alvarez '72** lives in Miami, FL, and has two daughters and eight grandchildren. When she's not babysitting, she's visiting her mother in sunny Los Angeles.

**Patricia Lynch '75** of Boca Raton, FL, is a retired sergeant for the New York Police Department and has one beautiful daughter. She remembers her days at St. E's with a big smile.

**Patricia Behr '77** of Valley Cottage, NY, has been married for ten years, and has one adopted daughter from China who is six years old.

**Zoila Carvajal '77** of Riverdale, NY, teaches English literature at St. Barnabas High School in Woodlawn, the Bronx. She feels this is "a result, perhaps, of the wonderful example to me by my teachers at St. E's."

**Debra Koenig '78** of Haledon, NJ, has been working in the health care field since returning to the area after living in Pennsylvania for 17 years. She has a son who is turning 25 this year and getting married, a daughter who is almost 19, and a nine-year-old son.

**Lisa Morris '78** says that although she didn't get to graduate from St. Elizabeth's, her fond memories have stayed with her during a lifetime of moves and changes. Sr. Jane had such an influence on her that she became a teacher! She currently teaches fourth grade in Hardyston, NJ, and has also lived in Spain and Hawaii, dabbling in banking, psychology and even dolphin communication. She thanks her teachers and sends love and hugs to her classmates.

**Gabriel Iza '79** of Manlius, NY, is currently the President/CEO of Empire State Security, Inc., specializing in Executive/VIP Protection, and has a 21-year-old daughter. He has been a team member with the Navy SEALs and later with the Diplomatic Security Service, and is currently on the American Idol Tour as their Personal Security Director.

**Diann Rivera Williams '81** of Clermont, FL, has three boys, 19, 5 and 1, and works for Disney two days a week to get free passes, while being a stay-at-home mom the rest of the week. Her husband is a licensed real estate salesman. Her parents have moved to Florida, as well as her sister **Nancy Rivera Acebal '80** and brother-in-law **John Acebal '79**, who have a boy and a girl. Last year they went on a Disney Cruise twice and loved the experience.

**Jenika Ventura '84** is the Northeast Regional Sales Manager in the third largest De Beers Sightholder in the world, and has no children yet.

**Patricia Mercado Bocio '91** has been living in Miami, FL for about 15 years, moving there right after she graduated from St. Elizabeth. She misses her friends a lot and was never able to keep in touch. She is married now, has two beautiful daughters, and works for the City of Miami Beach in the Public Works Department. She would love to hear from all her friends at [pepperbella28@yahoo.com](mailto:pepperbella28@yahoo.com) and catch up.

**Shayla Harris '91** lives in Owings, MD, and is currently a school counselor for the Baltimore City Public School System. She is getting married in August in Las Vegas.

**Rigoberto Martinez '91** of the Bronx, and his wife Susan welcomed their second child in 2007. Suri Martinez was born on October 11, 2007 and her big brother, Rodrigo looks out for his little sister.

**Jennie Alberto-Christian '92** is the Facilities Manager for a prestigious New York City Law Firm. She has three beautiful children who have been baptized at St. Elizabeth's Church and are active members of the parish.

(continued)

## (Alumni News continued)

**Nedinia Velez Lenitza '92** lives in Caguas, PR, and is an English teacher at Robinson School in San Juan. She obtained her bachelor's degree in English literature in 2001 at the University of Puerto Rico, is currently finishing her master's degree in criminal justice at the InterAmerican University, and plans to enter law school in 2009.

**Nathalie Santana Ramos '93** lives with her parents and brothers in the Dominican Republic. She is a student in the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra studying her second year of dentistry. She eventually hopes to be a surgeon.

**Jaelyn Merino Velazco '93** has been married since May 2007 and has an adorable son. She has a bachelor's degree in social work from Rutgers University and also a medical assisting certificate. She lives in Belleville, NJ, and likes it but is moving to Florida in the near future.

**Vernadine Crespo Echevarria '94** has been married for two years and recently had her first daughter. She is working as a stockbroker for a global financial firm and has happy living in Miami, FL, for the past four years.

**Kristina Lora '06** recently starred in the production "City of Peace." It is part of a nationally recognized non-profit organization that operates year-long programs in which they write original musicals whose stories come from their lives and their ideas for a better world. They also create community change projects.

## Can You Help?

### A Few Items From Our Wish List

- 1. Tuition Assistance** through our Sponsor a Student Program. Gifts will be used to assist families who need temporary help or are experiencing some sort of financial crisis, such as unemployment, illness or a rent increase, and also to subsidize families with more than one child at St. Elizabeth School.
- 2. Statues for the Classrooms** - \$250 each  
Each classroom has a statue of a saint, from when the new building first opened. Eight statues need replacements, as they are worn with age.
- 3. Restoration of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Mural** - \$20,000 - Preservation of this school icon, a gift from Msgr. Furlong, which has been a part of the school's history since the present building was built in 1950.

*For more information on how to contribute, please contact the Office of Development at 212-568-7291, extension 13, or email [officedev@steliznyc.org](mailto:officedev@steliznyc.org). More information is available at [www.steliznyc.org/wishlist.asp](http://www.steliznyc.org/wishlist.asp). God bless you for your support!*

## Published Authors Among St. Elizabeth School Alumni

St. Elizabeth alumni make us proud in a wide variety of professions and industries. In this issue we highlight two published authors among the ranks.

**Bill Jaenike '52** recently published *Black Robes in Paraguay, The Success of the Guaraní Missions Hastened the Abolition of the Jesuits*.

This is a true story about events in Europe and the Vatican which resulted in the total abolition of the Jesuit order by Pope Clement XIV in 1773, and how the Jesuits were reestablished by Pope Pius VII.

Mr. Jaenike has generously offered to donate the author's commission of \$9.00 for each copy of his book purchased by alumni. For more information go to our website at [www.steliznyc.org](http://www.steliznyc.org).

Pictured right, **Maureen Murphy Nutting '52**, visited the school while in New York in May to speak with the eighth grade students about her work as a historian and on an upcoming book, *Becoming Historians*.

*Becoming Historians* is a collection of autobiographical essays by ten well-known historians, due out in early 2009. Dr. Nutting has written about St. Elizabeth School and the Heights in her chapter. She is



History Chair at North Seattle Community College and on the Council of the American Historical Association.

Dr. Nutting credits St. Elizabeth School with greatly influencing her interest in history, naming "Bishop Furlong who was our pastor and also author of our history textbooks; Msgr. Harrington, who saw to it that we had an incredibly good school library; and Mother Gregory, whose reading of a biography of Harriet Tubman still resonates in my soul. St. Elizabeth School was a most interesting place."

## Peace Garden Renovation

*(Continued from Page 1)*

The newly-renovated play yard will be used by all students during lunchtime, physical education classes, After School Program and sports programs, as a recreation area in addition to the gym, and as a place for learning, prayer and development events.

The St. Elizabeth School Peace Garden space was dedicated in 2002 to honor those who died in the crash of American Airlines Flight 587, bound for the Dominican Republic in 2001, and to the alumni and friends who were affected by 9/11.

Since then, fund-raising has included the generosity of many individual donors, as well as another large grant from the The Betty Barrett & Juanita Bateman Foundation and one from the Barrett Foundation, Inc., both in 2006 and also arranged by Father Sanches.

To see how you can help with other projects, see page 6 or go to the school's website at [www.steliznyc.org/wishlist.asp](http://www.steliznyc.org/wishlist.asp).

## School Submits Third Year Middle States Association Reaccreditation Report

The St. Elizabeth School community recently completed its Third Year Report, as required by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

The school was originally accredited in 1992 -- one of the first in the Archdiocese -- following a self-evaluation; hosting an evaluation team of independently-appointed educators; and the creation of an ongoing strategic plan.

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

Goals to be achieved are: (1) Increased opportunities for gifted and challenged learners, (2) Utilization and expansion of the library, (3) Upgrading of school technology, (4) Renovation of the Peace Garden play yard, and (5) Development strategies to increase enrollment.

### *Help Us Locate Classmates*

We are currently trying to update our database for future events. Please check our list of "missing alumni" on the website at [www.steliznyc.org/alummissing.asp](http://www.steliznyc.org/alummissing.asp) to see if you recognize any friends or family members on the list.

## *Students Celebrate Graduation*



*We celebrated the graduation of our 68 kindergarten students on June 11 and 12, and 40 eighth graders in the Class of 2008 on June 13. For more photos of school events, please go to our website at [www.steliznyc.org](http://www.steliznyc.org).*

## Music Enrichment at St. Elizabeth School

St. Elizabeth School recently received a \$1000 grant from the Medical Center Neighborhood Fund to sponsor its After School Music Program. This is the third year that we have received this grant.

As part of this program, third grade teacher Mrs. Eileen Ferry works with the St. Elizabeth School Choir and provides music instruction to students in the After School Program several hours a week.

The program includes outreach to the neighboring community, with visits to the STAR Senior Center and Isabella Nursing Home in Washington Heights. The choir also performs at special masses in the parish, including the annual Police Officer Michael Buczek Memorial Mass.

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

In addition to this program, ballroom dancing and piano instruction came to St. E's this past year! Last fall, over 30 kindergarten and first grade students took piano lessons from The Piano School of New York City. Also, an instructor provided ballroom dancing lessons to fifth and sixth grade students, arranged by former Parochial Vicar, Father Peter Pomposello.

These programs are part of the school's goal to provide enriching after-school activities for its students. The St. Elizabeth After-School Program has provided a valuable service to our parents since 1990 for grades kindergarten through eight.