



St. Joseph School

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St. Joseph School

A newsletter for alumni, parents and
friends of St. Joe's



July
2009

Seventh Annual Celebration of Music

A Huge Success!

May 20 marked St. Joseph's seventh annual successful Celebration of Music. Over 140 people gathered at St. Jean Baptiste High School to enjoy a powerful performance by the St. Joseph School band.

commanding finale, *Mission Impossible*, the band had the audience on the edge of their seats. The performance was the result of hours of practice and total dedication.

Before the band's opening number, Brendan Hanley, a longstanding member of the St. Joseph Advisory Board, spoke movingly about the dedication of St. Joseph's supporters. Despite the difficult economic climate, every seat in the auditorium was taken. Principal Janine Hughes passionately expressed her gratitude. "Our students always return, wanting to give back to their school. That is a testament to what we do at St. Joseph and to what you do for us," she said.

Following the band's performance, a group of St. Joseph School's young musicians mingled with the audience sharing their intense commitment to the band. "Playing in the band is the best experience that I have ever had," said eighth grader Roberto Ovalle.

The event also featured a silent auction made possible by the generous donations from New York restaurants, retailers and hotels. Many thanks to the St. Joseph School Advisory Board and all of St. Joseph School's committed benefactors. As a result of their combined efforts, the event raised over \$60,000 for the school's Music and Extended Day Programs.

The band is conducted by Ed Ornowski and includes every student in grades 5 through 8 for a whopping total of 160 members! From their opening piece *St. Joseph Blues* to the

Principal's Corner

Dear Friends,

The 2008-2009 school year was truly a success. The year culminated with another wonderful Benefit concert and the graduation of 34 8th grade students.

In watching these graduates move on to some of the city's top high schools, I am reminded of the importance of the educational foundation provided here at St. Joseph.

Through the generosity of friends like yourself we are able to provide an excellent education and extracurricular activities to our students. I am ever grateful to our supporters, who make it possible for us to keep our programs going and growing.

Thank you to all who have contributed to a brighter future for the children of St. Joe's.

Help the Children of St. Joseph Fulfill their Dreams

I want to help the school achieve its goals!

My contribution level is:

_____ **\$50** (Provides music books for 10 band members) _____ **\$500** (Provides a *Big Books* collection for a Kindergarten class)
_____ **\$100** (Provides a collection of leveled readers for 4th grade) _____
_____ **\$250** (Provides a listening center for a 2nd grade class) _____ **Other Amount:** _____

My name _____ Phone & Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My check is enclosed payable to St. Joseph School in the amount of \$ _____

Please charge my credit card for the amount of \$ _____ (circle one) Visa MC AMEX

Card number _____ Expiration Date _____

Cardholder Name _____ Signature _____

This DONATION IS A GIFT in honor of the person I have named below.

SJS will send a personalized letter to the person or family listed below. The amount will not be disclosed.

Gift Recipient Name: _____

Gift Recipient Address: _____

Occasion: _____

Please mail your donation to:
St. Joseph School, c/o Fiona O'Sullivan
1946 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457

Gifts of stocks and bonds are deductible at the fair market value on the day they are received by the school. Real estate is also accepted. Please let your company know about your donation if they have a matching gift program. You could potentially double your gift to our school. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Advisory Board Chair Jill Zucker (right), husband Joshua & friend Josh Budway chat with band members after their performance.



Advisory Board member Chris Murphy (right), Beth Rigert and Courtney King enjoy their time with two seventh grade flautists.

Author Steven Kroll returns to Bathgate Avenue

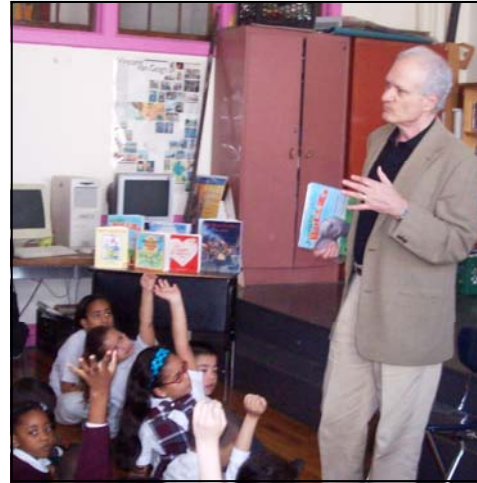
For the second year, St. Joseph School received a visit from *Scholastic's* author Steven Kroll who has written 92 children's books, including titles such as *Jungle Bullies* and *Sweet America, an Immigrant's Story*. Mr. Kroll read from his newest books, *Stuff! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* and *BARBARIANS!*, discussed the process of writing, and heard the St. Joseph School band rehearse and perform their favorite pieces: *Peanuts* and *Mission Impossible*. He is an outstanding role model for all our students.

Inspired by St. Joseph's students, faculty and staff Mr.

Kroll returned to Bathgate Avenue as the Keynote Speaker at the school's graduation ceremony on June 19th. His address to the 34 graduating 8th graders emphasized the importance courage, bravery and perseverance. "I've visited a lot of schools over many years. Hands-down, St. Joe's is the best I've ever visited," said Mr. Kroll. "Never have I met and been delighted to know a group of kids as poised, responsive, and eager to learn as those at St. Joe's," he added.

St. Joseph is delighted that Mr. Kroll has become a part of our family and will remain a part of

our students' school experience for years to come.



Steven Kroll shares *Jungle Bullies* with St. Joseph's enthusiastic Kindergarten class.

SJS Expands Support Services

Next year St. Joseph School will begin to offer speech therapy services. With help from the school's psychologist, Ms. O'Toole, St. Joseph evaluated students during the 2008-2009 school year to determine which students needed help. Our new speech therapist, Ms. Fern will be at St. Joseph School for one full day each week. These services are paid for by New York State.

A Makeover for St. Joseph



This dangerous metal grating in St. Joe's playground will be replaced before students return in September.

Thanks to financial support from *The Endowment for Inner-City Education* and an anonymous donor, St. Joe's will soon replace dangerous metal playground gratings and install school signs.

Because a large strip of the school's small playground is made up of rickety metal grating, the students walk and sit on this rusty and unstable structure every day. The capital grant is also funding new signage for St. Joseph School which has always been without an appropriate sign. In fact, prospective parents often say they have walked by the school for years without knowing it is a school!

Career Day At Credit Suisse



Advisory Board members Tom (left) and Chris and St. Joseph's Eighth Graders at Credit Suisse.

In February, St. Joseph School's 8th grade class got a glimpse of the "real working world" with a visit to Credit Suisse when Advisory Board members Tom Ritchie and Chris Murphy hosted a career day at their office.

Credit Suisse employees discussed their motivation for pursuing finance and led the thirty 8th grade students on a tour of the trading floor. The highlight of the afternoon was when Chris and Tom led them

in a trading game that simulated the stock market. They loved watching the St. Joseph School Band's stock soar and competing with their classmates to come out on top. All of the students were winners in the end, taking home Credit Suisse pens, hats and tee shirts!

The field trip taught the students about a potential career path while inspiring them to work hard and set attainable goals.

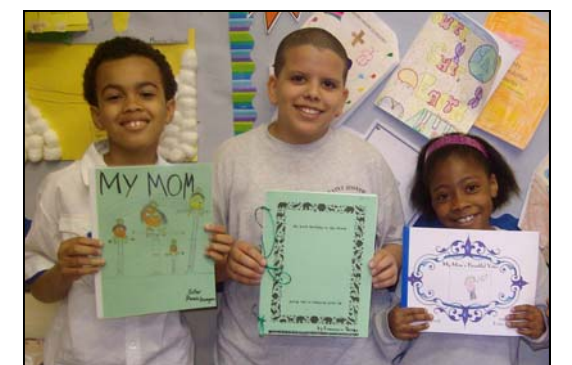
St. Joe's Students Give Back

St. Joseph School students don't set limits on their desire to help others. Recently they made books to send to children in Uganda. This project was inspired by their reading of *Listen to the Wind*, the remarkable true story about Dr. Greg Mortenson's humanitarian campaign to open schools in impoverished Pakistani villages.

St. Joseph's fourth, fifth and eighth graders wrote and illustrated picture books for the children at the COBURWAS Orphanage in Uganda, Africa. They were directed by Ms. Vera Kohn, the school's literacy coach from the Cooke Center for Learning and Development. The *Books to Uganda* project was made

possible by the Calder Foundation and the Cooke Center. "We thought writing picture books and sending them to an orphanage would be a wonderful writing experience and a natural way to give back to children who are less fortunate," said Ms. Kohn.

Before sending the picture books to Uganda, St. Joseph gave the entire school an opportunity to read them at a culminating celebration. *Books to Uganda* was such a success that next year more classes will participate and thus increase the number of books sent to children in need.



Big Help From Our Friends

Laurie & John Camm
 Joe Cassin
 Elaine Crocker
 Douglas Day
 William Finneran
 Henry Grady
 Andrew Gross
 Chris & Courtney Hardart
 Frances Hardart
 Donald Kendall
 John McAuliffe
 Fredrick McCarthy
 John & Kristen Marshburn
 Mike Melnick
 Chris Murphy
 Leslie Perkins
 Shibu Punnoose
 Thomas & Debra Ritchie
 Deirdre Sheehan
 Stanley Shopkorn
 Jane Turley
 Tom Turley
 Kim White
 Thomas J. Woods
 Jill & Joshua Zucker

Thank you to the above donors for generously contributing over \$1,000 to St. Joseph during the 2008-09 school year.

Foundation Support in 2008-2009

Thank you to the following foundations and corporations for their generous support of St. Joseph:

The Antoinette and Lawrence Iannotti Foundation
 The Bank of New York Mellon
 The Barbara Dorsch Foundation
 The Bernard and Muriel Lauren Foundation
 The Bonnie Cashin Fund
 The Calder Foundation
 Camulos Capital LP
 Cassin & Cassin LLP
 The Charlotte A. Koch Foundation
 The Credit Suisse Foundation
 Diageo
 The Endowment for Inner-City Education
 Friendly Sons of St. Patrick
 HSBC
 The Marlot Foundation
 Mildred Arcadipane Foundation
 The New Yankee Stadium
 Community Benefits Fund
 New York Community Trust
 Purchase Street Partners
 Ridgewood Management Corp.
 Xhema of New York



Board member Brett Shisler (right) and Hrish Lotlikar unwind to the sounds of SJS band.



Board members Amanda Kramer and Anuj Aggarwal enjoy the annual benefit.



8th grader Eric Cornier & Kevin Weithman pose for the camera after the band's performance

Help Our School When Our Needs Are Greater Than Ever

The following list outlines our greatest needs. We would be grateful for your support.

- **Funding for two students to participate in one year of music instruction: \$1,000**
- **A full classroom library for a First Grade Classroom: \$2,000**
- **New computers for the St. Joseph School lab: \$5,000**
- **Scholarships for the school's neediest children: \$50,000**

You will find a detachable contribution form on the last page of this newsletter.

For more information, contact Fiona O'Sullivan, Development Director, at 718.583.9432 ext. 3 or stjosephbronx@gmail.com.

SJS Plays On Thanks to the Yankees

A \$5,000 grant from *The New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund* will allow St. Joseph School to purchase equipment for its Physical Education program. Up to now the school has had minimal sports equipment, and the children have been limited to playing simple games like kickball and dodge ball during gym class.

The grant has enabled the school to purchase basketball hoops, hockey equipment, baseball sets, a volleyball net and even bowling balls and pins! Next school year St. Joseph students will enjoy a dynamic physical education program that stresses teamwork and an active lifestyle.

Thank you Yankees!

Behind the Scenes at Radio City



Board Member Joe Cassin takes his adopted 5th grade class on a field trip to Radio City!

Visit Us Online!

St. Joseph School has a brand new, professionally designed website. Please visit our website at www.stjosephbronx.org.