



Pope John Paul II REGIONAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

January 2007

A monthly progress report on the construction of our new Regional Catholic Elementary School

What's the Latest?

This edition will be the last Building for Tomorrow because tomorrow is today! This past week, the students from CACES ended their Christmas vacation by returning to school. But, they did not return to the old school buildings at St. Cecilia, St. Stanislaus Kostka or St. Joseph, but to their new school building up on Route 82 as Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School began to welcome them to a new era in Catholic education in the region. After a flurry of activity over the last month, the school received its final inspections on Monday and the upper grade students arrived on Tuesday; students in grades Kindergarten through fourth arrived on Wednesday!

The Big Move

Moving into the new school began during the third week of December with the arrival of several large trucks, filled with 900 new student desks and chairs, 27 teacher desks and chairs, computer, library and cafeteria tables, science lab experimentation pods and other miscellaneous furniture. The move continued last week when the faculty and staff, with the help of hundreds of dedicated volunteers, coordinated by Thom Lee, moved all their belongings from the old buildings to the new one. The classrooms, already outfitted with the new desks and chairs, were quickly filled with books, computers and everything else needed for teaching. And, the teachers decorated the bulletin boards outside each classroom in a variety of imaginative ways to make everyone feel welcome and eager to learn!

Students; Past, Present and Future



Outside the new school on December 30, 2006, First row: Payton Atkinson (K-next year), Cole Stiebritz (K-next year), Ryan O'Neill (K), Morgan Gilbert (K), Aubrey Freese (K), Brianna Bates (K), Andrew Pavelik (1st), Matthew Murray (1st), Teaghen Atkinson (1st), Kylie Souza (1st), Jessica O'Neill (2nd), Sean McBride (2nd). Second Row: Madison Fuller (3rd), Hunter Stiebritz (3rd), Andrew Hirthler (3rd), Emily Murray (3rd), Alyson Hinfey (3rd), Rachel Bernard (3rd), Laura Pavelik (4th), Colin McBride (4th), Ali March (4th), Joey LaClair (2nd), Patrick Hirthler (6th), Devon Fuller (7th). Third Row: Linda Laurento Fuller (1956), Albert Fuller, Jr. (1984), Niki LaClair (2006), Kathy Mancuso Hirthler (1979), Erin Taylor (1991), Noel DiDavide Bernard (1985), Kathy Phenneger Pavelik (1981), Katie Fedor (2000), Erica Souza (1988), Neera Souza, Bill Souza. Fourth Row: Jim Demchak (1984), Sara Taylor (1996), Brendan Taylor (1993), Mike Hirthler (1980), George Gregory (1981), Joe Mancuso (1976), Frank Haas (1988), Rob Hennessy (2000), Kevin Hennessy (1996), Michael Herley (St. Cecilia 1960), Mickey Herley (1996) and Chuck Kulp (1996).

A handsome hand-carved wooden plague, depicting Pope John Paul II surrounded by the patron saints of the five parishes whose students attend the school, hangs on the wall in the school foyer. Throughout the school all the walls have received their final coat of paint. The classroom entrances are accented in pumpkin orange and light maple-finished doors are framed in deep blue.

The computer lab is now set up with 35 new computers, made possible through a Connelly Grant. The music studio is also set up for both vocal and instrumental musical activities. And the state-of-the art science lab is also ready, with a demonstration table for the teacher and five 3-pronged student pods, each with its own sink, electrical outlets and computer jacks!

The library is ready with shelves filled with books from all three makeshift libraries in the old school buildings. Everyone is admiring the shelves, donated by a bookstore that was going out of business, since they match the carpeting so well. The two largest rooms of the school - the gymnasium and the multi-purpose room below it - are ready for use as well. Bleachers have been ordered for the gymnasium and installation is expected later this month. The funds raised from last year's Walk-A-Thon will pay for the bleachers. Already, the students are enjoying the gym, allowing them to play basketball, volleyball, and a variety of other activities. And, the multi-purpose room, complete with the new lunch tables and chairs, a fully equipped kitchen and a large stage, are serving the students well. The pastors of the five parishes involved are developing a set of policies and procedures for both the gymnasium and the multi-purpose room. As soon as these are developed, both facilities will be made available to a variety of school and parish-related organizations as well as other organizations and individuals. The pastors see this new facility as a great asset to the entire community and would like to make it available to everyone while first serving the needs of the parishes.

Yes, OUR new school building is ready for use! Last week, on the Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrated the wise men coming from afar to behold the wonder of the birth of our Savior. Now, all may come from far and wide to wonder at the opening of Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School, where our children, and everyone else who uses the facilities, will be welcomed to grow in faith and love of God and neighbor!

Financially Speaking

After five years, the Capital Campaign has finally been completed with excellent results. Although the final tally is not yet available, the total already exceeds \$3.5 million, well above the projections that the feasibility studies indicated could be raised! And it is important to note that this is in addition to the \$691,000.00 raised over the years through the Development Fund. This brings the total collected for the new school to \$4.2 million! Anyone who has not yet completed a pledge is encouraged to do so, but the Capital Campaign is now officially ended. A heart-felt "thank you!" to everyone who demonstrated their support for the school through their support of the Capital Campaign.

Now that the Capital Campaign is over, the pastors ask everyone to continue their financial support of the school by redirecting a substantial amount of the contributions they had directed to the Capital Campaign back to their parishes. The parish subsidy - that is, the funds all of the parishes provide to make up for the shortfall between tuition and the actual cost of operating the school - increased from \$230,000.00 to \$500,000.00 this year and is expected to increase in future years. The pastors rely on parishioners to give the additional funds needed to pay this parish subsidy.

Since this will be the final edition of Building For Tomorrow, special thanks are extended to the students who posed for pictures wearing their school uniform (on Saturdays!) and their parents. Thanks also to Bill Lamb for putting it all together over the past 25 months. His dedication to this school project has been inspirational.

For additional information regarding Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School, please contact your pastor or principal, Sister Helen Loretta, I.H.M. at 2875 Manor Road, West Brandywine, PA 19320
Phone: 610-384-5961, Fax: 610-384-5730, email: apcaces09@aol.com, website: www.popejohnpaul2sch.org.

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