



Spectrum

A Publication of
St. Joseph's School
for the Deaf

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Spring 2013

From the Director's Desk

Greetings!

I write this as we wind down the 2012-2013 school year, looking back on the many events of this year and looking forward to the upcoming ones in store for us in the 2013-2014 school year.

A school year, while only 180 days for a student, is filled with so much activity, so many accomplishments, challenges and successes that it always feels like more than 180 days for most of us. That 'end of the year fatigue' is always a good sign, a marker that reminds us that we surely have accomplished great things and have been part of the transformation in a child's life in one way or another. Of that we can be sure. And with that 'fatigue' comes a deep satisfaction knowing we were a part of that change. It is the gift of teaching.

To 'be at work' in the lives of children, making a difference for them, and with them. Being transformed ourselves because of this very special work we are here to do is the real gift. We are as much the learners as they are our 'teachers'. What a great profession in which one can take part. The tradition of teaching and learning has a very long history at St. Joseph's, with our founders establishing the roots of this noble tradition back in 1869.

One hundred and forty three years later we can look back over many years and know there is still a great tradition evolving and shaping lives today much like it did in the late 19th century. There is so much to celebrate with such a long history, but 2013 is a particularly special year for us, as it marks the 100th Anniversary at the current location of St. Joseph's School for the Deaf.

While the school has been in existence for more than 140 years (144 to be exact), the Throgg's Neck location at 1000 Hutchinson River Parkway was completed in 1913. The original purpose of this site was to house the girl's department to complement the boy's department (completed in 1882), situated across the way on what is now the Monsignor Scanlon property. In the 1950's the Boy's department was merged with the Girl's at the current location and was to be known as we know it today, a coed day program for Deaf students.

On the occasion of our 100th Anniversary I would like to dedicate this issue to all the teachers, staff members, students, families, neighbors and friends who have been a part of the SJSJ legacy. With our 8th Grade Graduation so fresh in my mind, I cannot help but think and thank Senator Gustavo Rivera and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto for being part of our celebration and our special Anniversary year. They each made the day extra special by taking time out of their busy schedules to share a few words of encouragement and congratulations with our graduates and their families. They are our neighbors and have certainly proven they are our friends as they continue to support Deaf students and their right to an education in a 4201 school.

We will continue our work in educating ourselves, our community, friends, families and neighbors so that Deaf students continue to have as an option the access, opportunity and challenge a school for the Deaf, like St.

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From the Director's Desk (continued)

Joseph's, can offer them. As the 2012-2013 year comes to a close, our eyes are on 2013-2014 ready to take on the challenges and rewards of being a part of this very complex profession we call "teaching". It has never been an easy one, but it has always been rewarding. It is my hope that we will continue our work in this gorgeous building that is now 100 years old, ever mindful of the visionaries that started our tradition of educating Deaf children and ever hopeful we can and will be gifted with the opportunity to transform lives for the next 100 years! Wishing everyone a peace-filled, relaxing summer. I am looking forward to joining forces in the Fall as we make our way down this path and carry on the SJSD tradition of educating Deaf children with a deep sense of commitment, concern and respect for all who cross our paths.

With warmest wishes,
Debra Arles
Executive Director

Room 318 Learns About the 3 Rs



Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
Atik, Dana, Winifel, Najay and Clive did research on the use of paper products as compared to styrofoam and plastic products. They learned that foam cups and plates are cheaper to make, but that paper cups and plates are biodegradable. Plastic bags get stuck in trees and stay there for long time. Paper bags will biodegrade. They learned the best thing to do is use reusable cups, plates and bags. Their opinions were presented during the 6th, 7th and 8th grades joint literacy time. They realized that it is important to recycle and they became involved in that process by asking students and staff to bring each small blue paper recycling pail to one of the large blue containers by each copy machine. One day a week, all the paper is collected and dropped off in the basement. The bags are then brought outside to the recycling pick-up area. Go Green!

Jeanne Sarran
6th Grade Teacher, Upper School

A Queen of our own



Congratulations to 7th grade SJSD student Anjel Perez who won the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade Pre-Teen Pageant in May. Anjel is pictured here with her teacher Toni Fusco and Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade Queen, Evelyn Torres.

Respect the Earth



What on earth are you doing? That was the question answered by SJSD. On Monday April 22nd, 2013, the students took part in displaying their projects made from recycled materials.

In room 205, Lindsay and Andrea's students learned in science class about oil spills and their affect on animals. Jacob, Andy, Brianna and Gloria recreated this by pouring chocolate syrup (which served as the oil all over the plastic rubber ducks (which served as the

animals.)

They washed, bathed and cleaned the ducks off using Dawn liquid detergent which environmentalists use to clean animals from oil spills. Room 205 learned a valuable lesson. They also set up a display to explain Earth Day from the Native American perspective. Andrea, using her Native heritage as a teaching tool, had each student make their favorite animal from a recycled item. The class setup the animals (which were a giraffe, lion, tiger, and frog) along with various items that can hurt them in the environment. The message was simple – Respect the Earth! Room 205 made Earth Day a Great Day!
-Andrea Hurtt



Kudos Korner!



Congratulations to our recent graduates from Hunter College. From left to right: Lisa Santiago, Ryan Smith, Stacy Ruiz and Caitlyn Tweedy.

A big thank you to our student teachers, Brynjar Liefsson from NTID and Kimberly Rodriquez, & Mira Tal from Teacher's College Columbia University.



New Tablets for Students



Due to the cooperative efforts of Sprint representatives, students at St. Joseph's School for the Deaf were given Samsung ZTE Optik tablets this school year. Representatives Enrique Torres and Bob Harbeck explored the possibility with the School and found it was possible to provide the students with tablets for no cost.

Because of technology funding challenges, the idea was met with some skepticism but Technology Coordinator Adrienne Grant and Media Assistant Valerie Valentin visited Sprint offices to explore options for the School.

During the meeting, they met with various representatives who were familiar with K-12 school funding options and the E-rate program. The proposition sounded ideal for St. Joseph's Deaf students, but the cost of the devices and MDM management tools were a strong deterrent. Having those costs often make it virtually impossible for most schools to experience the technological advantages presented by having Tablets/Notebooks utilized for mobile learning initiatives.

The good news is that Sprint was able to provide St. Joseph's School for the Deaf with the tablets for our students! Lisa Santiago, computer teacher, began introducing the students to the technology during computer sessions throughout the school year.

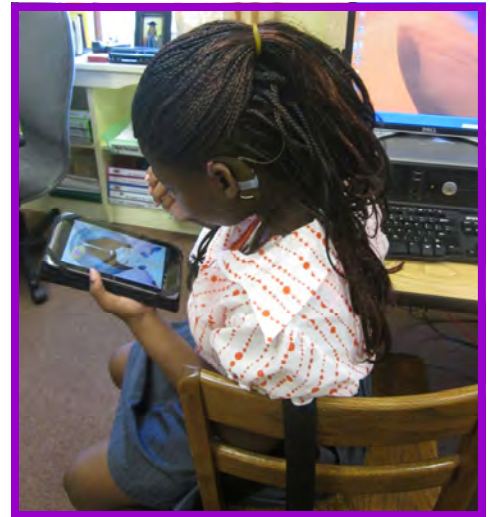


The Sprint NYC K-12 Vertical Sales Team is now making it possible for schools to have the opportunity to provide Tablets/Notebooks at a substantial discount and we hope to continue the initiative with their help.

All of the SJSJ students from Kindergarten through 8th Grade have learned to use this technology. They practice their skills in Literacy, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students have been able to incorporate those skills into many lessons. Our Special Needs department has participated by using many wonderful apps that have been adapted to meet their unique needs. We look forward to on-

going learning and to expanding our knowledge in technology.

-by Lisa Santiago



Garden Work

SJSD Children's Garden is in its third year and growing strong! Thank You Chris Needham for teaching our students about gardening and providing the SJSD community with a year round earth day experience



Parents and students work together to prepare the garden for a new season.

Presidential Fitness Challenge

Congratulations to the following students for passing the Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge
National Award (passing 5 areas at 50%)



Anjel P.
Julio N.
Abdulla A.
Christian G.
Jasmine C.
Yasmine C.



Earth Day April 22, 2013



Classes throughout the school were involved in Earth Day activities. The goal was to make our students aware of the importance of protecting our environment by recycling. Lindsay Curtin and Andrea Hurtt's third grade class used a very creative approach by demonstrating how the Native Americans value the environment and the safety of the animals and sea life. The students work was on



display in the lobby so that everyone could see and learn from their work. The Arts and Crafts Club, led by Rose Aversano, displayed all their projects that are made from all recycled materials.



Our special needs classes and grades 3 to 5 worked in the front of the school clearing away debris from a long winter and on weeding, raking and planting two gardens. These gardens were made in loving memory of two former teaching assistants, Florence Donovan and Sheila McKenna.



We had a dedication ceremony where we spoke of the love Flo and Sheila had for the children and the school. Two bricks in their names were put in our Memorial Garden in front of the school. Andrea Hurtt wrote a touching poem in their honor:

NATIVE AMERICAN WISDOM

What we are told as children is that people when they walk on land leave their breath wherever they go. So wherever we walk, that particular spot on the earth never forgets us, and when we go back to these places, we know that the people who lived there are in some way still there, and that we can actually partake of their breath and their spirit.

Jeanne Sarran's sixth grade class has taken over the recycling collection in the Upper School and carries out these responsibilities weekly. Art Teacher Isabel Ring entered our students into a earth day poster contest sponsored by Senator Jeffrey Klein.

-By Christine Needham

Save the Date



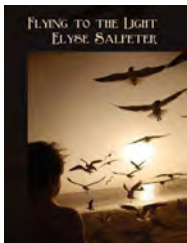
SJSJ 145th Anniversary Dinner Dance hosted by the St. Joseph's Alumni Association and St. Joseph's School - October 5th, 2014 at the Marina del Rey.

World Read Aloud Day

We were fortunate enough to get two authors, Elyse Salpeter and Elizabeth Uhlig, to come to our school to read their books to us on March 6, 2013 for World Read Out Aloud Day.



Elyse Salpeter read an excerpt from her book "Flying into the Light" which is about a deaf character. She narrated some short stories to students in grades 4 thru 8. She also discussed how she got her ideas, settings, and how often she has to edit. The children asked questions, and they got a big kick out of the fact that one of her books had a main character who is deaf.



Here is the introduction of the story.

Flying to the Light
by [Elyse Salpeter](#)

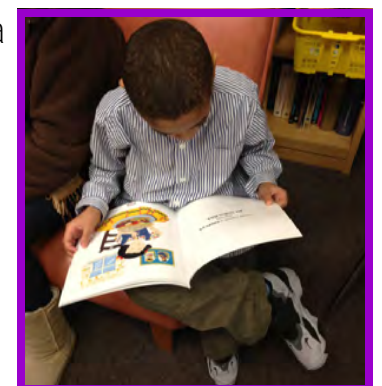
Seventeen year old Michael Anderson and his kid brother, Danny, find themselves in mortal danger after their parents are kidnapped. Michael discovers Danny has a special gift—he knows what happens after a person dies—and now others want to know too. The brothers must outwit and outrun Samuel Herrington, a lethal biophysicist, the FBI, and even fellow Americans in a harrowing cross-country chase, because whoever gets to Danny first will have the power to rule the world.



Elizabeth Uhlig is an amazing creative author with various artistic talents. The students from Kindergarten thru 8th grade were really fascinated by her handmade works and her stories such as "Albee's Apple", "What is it about Doggies?" and "My Sandwich". The children understood that not only can you draw or paint, but you can also sew or collage different kinds of materials which then can be converted to book illustrations. 1st and 2nd graders were able to do a



Literacy Art project with Isabel Ring and Amy Sincoff with the book "My Sandwich". They made the connection of their work to the book's artwork.



St. Joseph's Children's Fund

Thank you to the St. Joseph's Children's Fund for the following funding support:

Transportation for the Rhinelander Saturday program
Transportation to see 2 Broadway shows, Annie and Spiderman
Grant to purchase games for the recess closet
Transportation for the Trout Release program
Advocacy Day on March 5, 2013 in Albany, New York
The Scholastic Book Fair – Student home libraries and classroom libraries
Museum Educator Program
NY Games for the Physically Challenged



Students and staff at the Broadway show "Annie"



Students, parents and staff with Senator Gustavo Rivera on Advocacy Day.



Students prepare and release trout



Through their generosity SJSD students have enjoyed many enriching activities.
Thank You SJSD Children's Fund!