



# Saint Denis – Saint Columba School

... A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

**TO:** PARENTS AND GUARDIANS  
**FROM:** SR. KATHLEEN MARIE, CR  
**SUBJECT:** WEEKLY HAPPENINGS  
**DATE:** APRIL 24-28, 2017



*Jesus, I Trust in You  
Make our Hearts like Yours!*

## Special Thank you for Anniversary Gala

What a glorious 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of St. Denis-St. Columba School this past weekend beginning with our Gala at Dutchess Manor and concluding with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Columba! It was truly a celebration of not just the dedication of a school building, but of the ministry of Catholic Education that has endured at SDSC for over 50 years! It was a celebration of the PEOPLE who played a significant role in growing this ministry and of the IMPACT that SDSC has had - and continues to have - upon the lives of so many people even today. This past weekend was one of GRATITUDE for the history, the memories, the challenges, the successes, the friendships, and the many graces and blessings that are ours today! What a perfect opportunity to celebrate and to praise our gracious God who continues to bless and sanctify our ministry of Catholic Education.

Words cannot even begin to express my gratitude to our Anniversary Committee - *Robert Krebs, Heather Sulca, Maryann Menuau, Bonnie Wiegard, Brendan O'Brien, Lauren Schifini, Christina Bleakley, Janet Graves, and Judy Borrell* – and all those who assisted in anyway with soliciting, preparing gift baskets and the reception, decorating, ticket sales, mailings, etc. - for making our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration such a beautiful, enjoyable, and memorable occasion for all! I pray that God will bless each of you abundantly for your love, support, service, and dedication to SDSC! You are the BEST!

## May Crowning on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

May is just around the corner. Our May Crowning will take place next Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:15 a.m. During the month of May we also encourage our students to bring in flowers to honor our Blessed Mother. These flowers will be placed by the Marian shrine in the school's center hallway. The schedule is:

<i>May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Grade K, 1, 8</i>	<i>May 8<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Grades 2, 7</i>
<i>May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Grades 3, 5</i>	<i>May 22<sup>nd</sup> – May 26<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Grades 4, 6</i>

## Summer Uniforms

**In the next few weeks the official Summer Uniform will go into effect.** Because the school boilers have been turned off in the building for the season, please be sure your children have a sweater with them for those chilly days. As we anticipate the summer uniform, please be sure your child has the green shorts with a belt, the white school polo shirt, white socks that reach the ankle, and supportive shoes (sneakers on gym days). Remember that ***all school polo shirts are to be neatly tucked (not folded under) into their shorts/pants at all times. White socks are to be to the ankle.*** Please be sure to label your children's uniforms.

## SURVEY on Children with Special Needs - PLEASE COMPLETE

The Office of the Superintendent of Schools is exploring how to best serve families of children with special needs. Currently, our schools serve students with mild to moderate learning disabilities. However, there is a strong interest and desire to learn what other types of programs we should be considering. If you have or know of a child that has special needs, please take a few minutes to complete an online questionnaire found [If you have or know of a child that has special needs, please take a few minutes to complete an online questionnaire found at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADNY-Special](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADNY-Special) in English and <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/ADNY-Especial> in Spanish.

## Third Marking Period Report Cards

**The Parent Component of Cornerstone will open on Monday afternoon, April 24<sup>th</sup> so that you can view your children's Third Quarter report cards.** Remember that all tuition payments, including April, After School Program and any other school fees must be up to date before you will have access to your children's report cards.

### **Upcoming NYS Math Tests**

As it is stated in our school handbook, our students “take part in the Archdiocesan testing program, which includes the Archdiocesan Religion test, Annual Standardized Tests, and New York State Education Department assessments. These tests measure academic growth over a period of time.” Our Archdiocesan Catholic Schools have always aligned our curriculum with *national standards* and not just the recent transition to *Common Core*.

***On Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> to Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> our students in Grades 3-8 will be taking the NYS MATH Test. The tests will take place between 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in the morning.*** These assessments provide us with valuable information to help us to continue to meet the learning needs of our students. *Please be sure that your children are in school on time on these days.* PLEASE NOTE that the Archdiocese and SDSC **will not** be honoring an OPT OUT option for these tests this year. Included below are some important points about test-taking:

- Test-taking helps build mental stamina in children, preparing them for higher education.
- Data gleaned from state exams helps teachers create individualized instruction and provide support in specific areas as needed.
- State exam scores do not determine promotion or retention.
- Elementary-level state exams prepare students for future "standardized testing" such as the high school TACHS exam, SATs, ACTs, driver's licenses, GREs, Bar exams and more.
- To ensure exams contain relevant and constructive content, teachers have vetted and edited this year's questions.
- Performance and personal data is carefully protected by the school and state, and is not shared with outside vendors or organizations.

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NIGHT AT THE RENEGADES**

Think spring! Think baseball! We have 100 tickets available at the church office for Catholic Schools Night at the Renegades. The Gades will take on the Staten Island Yankees at 7:00 p.m. on June 22, 2017. Ticket Cost - \$11.00 includes free Renegades Cap. Renegades will make a \$3.00 donation to our school for each ticket sold. \$5.00 Special for Altar Servers and Children's Choir Members INCLUDING A FREE \$8.00 FOOD VOUCHER. This is our PARISH THANK YOU to our young people! Purchase your tickets now! Only 40 Food Vouchers available – first come, first served. No bus this year. See you at the game!!!

### **Yearbooks-On Sale Now!**

Many months of hard work have gone into creating this year's Yearbook highlighting school wide events, classroom specific activities, our students receiving Sacraments of Penance, Confirmation, First Communion, and much more. All grades are represented and every attempt was made to include every student! You can order your copy of the Yearbook at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) and use yearbook code 7352017. See attached flyer for more details!

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**To Everything there is a Season and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven**

***Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.***

#### **A TIME TO HEAL**

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Anne Culkin (*mother of Cathy Martin and great grandmother of Michael O'Hearn*), Geri DiNoti (*parishioner*), Janice Prostack (*sister of Sr. Kathleen*), Kelsey Berger (*cousin of Winogradoff children*), Loretta DelliCarpini, Louis Pissani, Claudia Lyons and her daughter, Chelsea Grace (*Spanish teacher*) and the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit at this time

#### **A TIME TO DIE**

Paulo Ampil (*Kyle Silverio's grandfather*) and Sean Grogan (*Alumni 2012*)



# Our 2016-2017 **YEARBOOKS** on Sale Now!

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name/Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

# of \_\_\_\_\_ Yearbooks ordered at \$46.00 / book

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: **St. Denis-St. Columba School**  
Return this form with your yearbook payment to the main office  
**Kindness of Mrs. DeVito or Mrs. Silverio**

OR

Order online at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com)

Use yearbook ID code 7352017

Deadline: May 5, 2017

***First come, First served!***

\*\*\*Please be aware that we did our best to represent ALL students in this yearbook. Enjoy!\*\*\*