



# Philadelphia Advisory Council

Spring 2023 Newsletter



**Who we are** *The Philadelphia Advisory Council's Mission is to work with the local leadership to assist and support our Catholic Elementary Schools, develop local strategies, and help sustain and expand Catholic Education in Philadelphia. Our goal is to better understand your individual challenges. We also want to help increase EITC and OSTC participation in Philadelphia.*

## IN THE NEWS

### St. Francis Receives the YASS Grant

*Sister Margaret Rose Adams*

St. Francis de Sales School applied for the YASS Prize and the STOP Awards Initiative. STOP is defined by four core principles—qualities that form the heart of the Foundation's mission—because they have the power to drive educational change for every child. STOP stands for Sustainable, Transformational, Outstanding, and Permissionless.

This Foundation is the brainchild of Janine and Jeff Yass. They wanted to uncover education innovators whose work is expansive and transformational, organizations that deliver for kids. St. Francis de Sales School was one of the 32 quarterfinalists across the nation and received a \$100,000 grant. S. Mary McNulty, Principal, and Sister Jane McFadden, Vice-Principal, were so overjoyed and grateful for the recognition by the Yass Foundation. They are so grateful to Janine & Jeff Yass for their efforts to challenge educators to transform education.



*Pictured above: Sister Jane McFadden, IHM, Vice Principal; Lauren Bradley, Development Director; Sister Mary McNulty, IHM, Principal*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EITC Informational Webinars

Learn how to redirect your state tax dollars to benefit students throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and receive a 90% Tax Credit!

**March 9 at 4:00 pm**

**March 21 at 7:00 pm**

**March 29 at 12:00 pm**

For more information, contact Kevin Kelly at [kkelly@foundationfce.org](mailto:kkelly@foundationfce.org) or 610-793-8597. To sign up for a webinar: scan the QR code to the right, or [click here](#).



### Why Catholic Education

*Catholic Elementary Schools offer a welcoming environment that empowers students to become productive members of society while providing an academic and spiritual foundation rooted in Christ.*

## TEACHER'S CORNER

### IHM Recognizes a Special Retiree

Each Catholic Schools Week, we honor someone in the IHM school community - this year's recipient is a retired teacher:

Since 2019, Immaculate Heart of Mary School has honored someone special in our community who has given their time, their service, their dedication, and their love to the entire IHM community.



This person is someone who works hard and does not ask for anything in return; someone whose efforts make our school a better place.

In 1973, a young woman embarked on a beautiful journey to instill the love of faith and learning into countless students. Over her 48 years, this remarkable teacher has touched the lives of all who entered her classroom.

She retired from teaching 3rd grade here at IHM in 2021, but she still continues to grace us with her presence whether it be subbing, working CARES, Summer camp, or whatever else is asked of her.

Please join us in showing our appreciation for the 2023 Friend of IHM, Mrs. Christine Salley.

### St. Cecelia School Teacher Spotlight

*Mary Cihak, Honors Math Teacher*

#### What is one thing a child has taught you?

My students teach me something every day. Every child is different and has different learning styles. I am always looking for ways to engage and reach every student's learning style. Also I never used a graphing calculator in school. When I started teaching Algebra I started to learn the functions I would need to know how to successfully teach my students. Over the years many of my students have figured out shortcuts or other ways to complete the same task. It just happened last week.



#### What is your proudest accomplishment?

My proudest accomplishment is all the awards my students received in Math Competitions. We are competing against the best in the Philadelphia area and suburbs and we always represent well.

#### How do you spend your summer breaks?

In the summer I spend a lot of time reading, relaxing and going camping with my family.

#### What is your dream vacation?

I have always wanted to go to the Land of Fire and Ice, Iceland. I have seen friend's pictures of their trips and I am in awe of the beauty. I imagine in person it will be more spectacular.

## Where have you taught/worked prior to SCS?

Prior to working at Saint Cecilia I worked at Saint William. I started my teaching career there in first grade and quickly learned that I prefer to be an upper grade teacher. The leadership inspired me to grow every day in my teaching career. It was there I discovered my love of teaching math and how to use hands on manipulatives to introduce new skills.

## What is your educational background?

I graduated from Holy Family College with a Bachelors in Elementary Education. I also participated in the Professional Learning Cohort where I learned the importance of connecting to teachers worldwide. I also completed the Distributed Leadership program offered from the University of Pennsylvania where I learned the importance of protocols and utilizing the skills and strengths of your colleagues to continue to grow.



Congratulations to the St. Jerome Varsity Girls Basketball team! They captured the 2023 CYO Region 1 Champions title.

## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



St. Christopher Kindergartners celebrated 100 Days of School. Students were given 100 cups to make a creation, did stamps and sticker, and even did 100 seconds worth of hops!



Congratulations to Holy Innocents' newest Neumann Scholar, Victor Di Pasquale! Out of over 480 students, Victor was 1 of 50 to earn this prestigious award. As a Neumann Scholar, he will receive a full 4-year scholarship to an Archdiocesan High School of his choice. Victor has also received a full scholarship to Father Judge High School.



St. Katherine of Siena 5th grade students dedicated their time to help clean up the community.



St. Matthew's 3rd graders showed how much they care about others as they helped send off warm items for those in need, and raised over \$200 for the IHM sisters in Camilla Hall.



Pre-K 3 Vocation/Career Day has brought so many professions to IHM: doctors, nurses, teachers, scientists, break dancers, lifeguards, Lego masters, karate teachers, bakers, and paleontologists to name a few!



St. Mary Interparochial School, in partnership with Thomas Jefferson University, was excited to host their first-ever Wellness Day! Students in grades 1-8 participated in a variety of health and wellness modules including a spiritual guided meditation at Old St. Joseph's Church, and time to enjoy the outdoors in the gardens.

### PAC Council Members

**Chair:** Anthony Naccarato **Vice Chair:** Fr. Tom Higgins

Deacon Joe Bernauer, Kate Britt Powell, Anne Carolan, Michael Giangiardano, Mike Gillespie, Kevin Hanley, Linda Marchese, Greg Olenski, Father Michael Oliverer, Lizanne Pando, Maria Spano Kelly, Andrea Tomaino

**Ex Officio Liaisons:** Sister Margaret Rose Adams, I.H.M., OCE; Kevin Kelly, Foundation for Catholic Education

**Want your school's photos featured?**

Send them, along with a short description, to Linda Marchese at [lmarchese@holyinnocentsrc.org](mailto:lmarchese@holyinnocentsrc.org).