CALLING ALL FORMER
SAINT RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL &
SAINT RAPHAEL PRESCHOOL
(EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER)
Students, Parents, and Staff

Save the Date

for our Anniversary Celebration!
Join us on Saturday, August 9, 2014
to celebrate the Preschool’s 35th Anniversary
and the Elementary/Middle School’s 20th Anniversary

WE NEED YOU TO MAKE OUR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS COMPLETE!

For information and to share your alumni news with us, contact Ellen Guarente at eguarente@saintraphael.org or at 919.865.5757.
We look forward to hearing from you soon. Go Guardians!
Dear Guardians,

Six months ago, we published our "Guardian" magazine for the first time ever. The response from this publication has been amazing, which is why I am so excited for the Spring 2014 issue. Each day, I see all the wonderful things our students, teachers, and families experience at Saint Raphael Catholic School. I hope this magazine will give you a sneak peek into our daily lives.

It seems like it was just yesterday our new class of kindergartners was being dropped off for their first day of school. Now, almost an entire school year later, it has been such fun to watch them grow and learn as they prepare for first grade. From our smallest Guardians to our soon to be alumni, our students at Saint Raphael Catholic School show pride and a Catholic spirit that we can be proud of each day. Step-Up Days have introduced us to our new class of Guardians, the Class of 2023. As a teacher this year said to me, “The days seem to be long, but the years go by so fast.”

Our 8th grade class will promote 46 students to high school at the end of this year. It has been such an honor to get to know these young men and women over the past two years. They have been amazing leaders, role models, students, athletes, and citizens who have inspired others with the Catholic spirit that can make anyone associated with the school proud. I wish each of them the very best of luck as they move forward to the next stage of their lives. I hope they will always see Saint Raphael Catholic School as their home, a place where they grew up for so many years, and come back to visit us often. We would love to hear the places they’ll go!

In the 2014-15 school year, the goal I have for Saint Raphael Catholic School is to build upon the momentum we have gained over the past two years and take our school to heights we can only dream. This summer, our long-term strategic plan will be published. I encourage you to visit our website to explore our “Saint Raphael 2020 Vision”, a comprehensive plan our school will take as we prepare for the year 2020. Since 20/20 vision is perfect vision, it seemed only appropriate to have this as our timeline. The plan will address five areas: Academic Excellence, Community Building, Catholic Identity, Enrollment and Growth Stability, and Financial Strength. Each of these are essential components to a successful Catholic school, both short- and long-term. I hope you will read this and think of ways you can help us obtain the perfect vision we have set forth for our school.

The 2013-14 school year has been one with a lot of excitement. Whether it be the high-spirited pep rallies, service projects, school Masses, community building events, visits from bestselling authors, or everyday classes, we have gained over the past two years and take our school to heights we can only dream. This summer, our long-term strategic plan will be published. I encourage you to visit our website to explore our “Saint Raphael 2020 Vision”, a comprehensive plan our school will take as we prepare for the year 2020. Since 20/20 vision is perfect vision, it seemed only appropriate to have this as our timeline. The plan will address five areas: Academic Excellence, Community Building, Catholic Identity, Enrollment and Growth Stability, and Financial Strength. Each of these are essential components to a successful Catholic school, both short- and long-term. I hope you will read this and think of ways you can help us obtain the perfect vision we have set forth for our school.

The 2013-14 school year has been one with a lot of excitement. Whether it be the high-spirited pep rallies, service projects, school Masses, community building events, visits from bestselling authors, or everyday classes, this has been a year that I will treasure for many years to come. As Frank Sinatra once sang, "The Best is Yet to Come", and I believe this song title sums up the future for Saint Raphael Catholic School. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for all of our students, faculty, parents, and community.

God bless,

John Mihalyo, Principal

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Have you ever heard the expression, “Life is a journey, not a destination”? We are all on our own journey through life like Father Hussey. Although his journey at Saint Raphael is coming to an end, his new position as the Provincial of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus is on the horizon.

Father Hussey’s journey to becoming a Jesuit has been long and one that has afforded him extraordinary opportunities. He has traveled abroad, studied and become fluent in a foreign language, taught at prestigious universities, earned a Master’s degree and PhD, and has been in the presence of former Pope Benedict. To be in Rome, at the heart of the Church and in the presence of the final resting place of Saint Ignatius, founder of the Society of Jesus, was a moving and rewarding experience.

Father Hussey also has quite a long list of things to do when he enters the new phase of his journey on June 1...and he has only six years to get it all done. Imagine becoming the spiritual leader of 360 men at five universities, covering the mid-Atlantic region of the United States. Pretty overwhelming. Now imagine combining several more provinces into one province that covers the entire east coast. Suddenly, those six years seem very short!

No matter in what capacity Father Hussey works, he always has the Holy Spirit with him. He continues his pastoral care of people, if they are parishioners, co-workers, fellow Jesuits, or students. Father Hussey has always loved to preach and in that sense he is teaching others about Jesus. Along his journey he stays close to the Lord and he wants that for everyone, especially those he’s met along the way. He knows that whatever challenges and stages one is going through in life, he wants them to know God’s sustaining love.

To the students of Saint Raphael, stay close to the Lord as Father Hussey does and be regular in your practice and commitment so you remain open to His love. Your journey will be long and perhaps our paths with Father Hussey will cross again.

Saint Raphael wishes Father Hussey much happiness in his new venture. And we’re glad to know father Proterra will be close by in Baltimore — it’s always good to know a familiar face in unfamiliar territory!
Saint Raphael Catholic School held the 15th Annual Poetry Contest on March 25, 2014, celebrating poems from Shel Silverstein favorites to those written by our own Guardian students. The contest promotes and acquaints students with poetry and is held in the spring each year leading up to National Poetry Month in April. A truly schoolwide event, all students participate as presenters and spectators. In the months prior to the final contest, students from kindergarten through 8th grade select or write and memorize a poem, competing through classroom and grade levels recitation contests until 16 finalists are determined. Finalists compete at a school assembly in front of a panel of external judges to determine first through fourth place winners in four grade level divisions. In addition to the recitation competition, middle school students submit authored poems that are judged on their written merits and awarded place ribbons at the contest.

In addition to award ribbons, the first place finalist names are added to the Father Paul Byron Cup plaque. The Father Byron Cup was incorporated into the Poetry Contest in 2011, the year of his passing. Father Byron was the pastor and founding priest of Saint Raphael Catholic School. He, himself, won the cup for a speaking contest in 1938. The award has since become a symbol of the Saint Raphael Poetry Contest and excellence in poetic recitation, honoring his memory.

The 15th Annual Poetry Contest, held on March 25, marks a milestone in SRCS history. In addition to award ribbons, the first place finalist names are added to the Father Paul Byron Cup plaque. The award has since become a symbol of the Saint Raphael Poetry Contest and excellence in poetic recitation, honoring his memory.

Miss Molly Scanlon, third grade teacher at Saint Raphael, ran in the Nike Women’s Half Marathon on Sunday, April 27, in Washington, DC. In celebration of Miss Scanlon’s first half marathon accomplishment, both third grade classes ran a collective half marathon during PE class on Monday, April 28. Thirteen third graders ran one mile in her honor with the 14th student, recovering from a foot injury, walking the .1 part to make the trek complete. The students had a great time and showed their love and support for Miss Scanlon while being active and supportive of each other.

The Nike Women’s Half Marathon benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society which has been dedicated to curing leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma since 1949.

Congratulations Molly on your first half marathon!
Story time is a generational favorite among our Guardians and preschoolers. Children and their parents and grandparents from Saint Raphael Preschool and neighboring preschools, and other budding readers have delighted in the opportunities to listen to classic stories. Our first-ever Story Time was held in March in honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday. Our very own Cat in the Hat, Mr. Mihalyo, took to the library with more than a dozen eagerly listening preschoolers. The following month we explored the artwork of children’s author and illustrator, Eric Carle. Much to everyone’s excitement, the Very Hungry Caterpillar made an appearance and the preschoolers had a chance to do an art activity based on Carle’s book Little Cloud in the SRCS art studio.

With such an overwhelming response to our Story Time series, we will continue these literary adventures during the summer! Be on the lookout for information on our website and through social media or by contacting Mary Morgan at 919.865.5754 or mmorgan@saintraphael.org.

Phyl Gaukel, preschooler and future SRCS member of the Class of 2023, reads The Very Hungry Caterpillar with her grandmother, Fay Gaukel.

Our very own Cat in the Hat, Mr. Mihalyo, takes a moment after Story Time with a couple of feline friends.

Highlights of a Championship Season
• Defeated Our Lady of Lourdes at home in front of a standing room only crowd
• Dominated OLL in a home playoff game, holding them scoreless after the first quarter
• Defeated Saint Mary Magdalene (a team that would finish 22-3) in the championship game at Cardinal Gibbons High School
• 10-game winning streak after starting 6-3
• Defeated every single team in the conference twice except Saint Mary Magdalene

Individual Efforts
• Ronald Evans had extraordinary efforts in both play-off games, scoring over 20 points in each
• Josh Zawada made two crucial free-throws to seal the championship game
• Ody Oguama averaged four blocks per game in the second half of the season while rarely fouling, anchoring our strong defense

Congratulations, Guardians!

Phyl Gaukel, preschooler and future SRCS member of the Class of 2023, reads The Very Hungry Caterpillar with her grandmother, Fay Gaukel.

Ronald Evans, Class of 2014, keeps his eyes on the prize!

Our soccer girls cheer each other on.

Congratulations, Guardians!
In addition to all the letters they learn to write, the numbers they learn to count, the science experiments they conduct, the prayers they learn to recite, and the games they play, children at Saint Raphael Preschool also get a wonderful introduction to cultural arts. During the course of a school year, children are exposed to the arts through visiting actors, artists, and performers; participate in weekly creative movement, music, and Spanish classes, and create beautiful works of art and share their own dramatic stories in their classrooms.

Twice a year, Bright Star Touring Theater visits Saint Raphael Preschool and performs plays complete with costumes and props. This year, we had the pleasure of seeing "Professor Parsnip's Lab of Healthy Choices" in the fall and the hilarious "Once Upon a Time" in the spring. Children get to ask the actors questions at the end of each performance to find out what a career in the performing arts entails.

On the other hand, it is not always about bringing the arts in from the outside to us. Sometimes, it is about creating beautiful works of art right here. Ms. Kathryn, the drama and art teacher for the Extended Day program, uses her time with the children to expose them to a number of different techniques and media, including watercolor, clay, oil pastels, and tempera paint. Drama offers the children a chance to read and act out stories, participate in kinetic learning and utilize props, costumes, set pieces, and puppets. "I am continually amazed at what my students create in both art and drama classes! Their creativity and enthusiasm are contagious and it is so rewarding to see the arts appreciated and encouraged at the preschool level," says Ms. Kathryn.

Weekly classes in creative movement, Spanish, and music are loved by so many here. Mrs. Sadler, the creative movement teacher, uses creative props, expressive music, and the children’s imagination to explore fun ways to get moving. Using vocabulary as the building block of learning a new language, Ms. Teresa, our Spanish teacher, works with every class each week. Ms. Teresa strongly believes in the benefits of children learning a second language and "if a second language is introduced to a young child, he/she will learn the language with ease." Along with moving creatively and learning a new language, children get to sing and play instruments every week. A special musical moment for our children was when Mr. Scialdone, husband to Ms. Kathryn, brought in his amazing instruments and shared his talent. Our 4-year-old handbell choir was the only preschool chosen to participate in the performing arts program during Catholic Schools Live this year!

Saint Raphael Preschool encourages the creative spirit of each child by bringing in professional performers several times a year and offering opportunities to experience a variety of art materials, dramatic play, and storytelling right in their own classrooms. We recognize the importance of nurturing this spirit if our preschoolers are to become all God intended them to be.
One of the first lessons children are introduced to when they start the year – as early as their entrance into the 2-year-old classroom – is the value of helping others. But then that focus on helping others extends outside of the classroom and children learn the meaning of, “‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

As the children get settled into the routine of a new school year, preparations begin to celebrate Saint Francis of Assisi’s feast day in October. To honor this special day, the 4-year-olds mixed, rolled-out, and cut-out dog treats for shelter pets. The children enjoyed participating in a very creative and hands-on project and they realized how special it was to be actively involved in providing gifts to shelter animals and for whom Saint Francis modeled care and love.

In addition to working with Coats for the Children and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC in December, our 4’s worked hard to raise money for BirthChoice here in Raleigh. By helping their parents at home, children earned coins that they would bring to class each day and place in a baby bottle. The children were so proud to share how they had cleaned their rooms, picked up their toys, or helped with a younger sibling. The children raised over $70 to donate in honor of Jesus’s birthday!

As January 26th approached and our Preschool began preparations for the 40th anniversary of Catholic Schools Week, our teachers knew they wanted a meaningful service project to be a part of that special week. Our 4-year-olds created beautiful spiritual bouquets (collections of prayers) and packages with homemade treats and art work to send to five seminarians. Each child promised to pray one Our Father and one Hail Mary for each seminarian. The children loved preparing these special packages and, more importantly, the seminarians were so thankful to receive them.

As the children prepared for Lent this year, teachers talked about how it is a season of kindness and almsgiving. As an act of service for others, the 3- and 4-year-olds collected coins they had earned at home and donated the money to Heifer International. They had set a goal of raising $20 dollars to purchase a basket of chicks for a village but the children exceeded that goal by an additional $40! What a wonderful lesson the children learned in giving to others.

So much takes place inside the walls of Saint Raphael Preschool during each school year. Children learn, play, interact with one another, and discover the wonders of God’s world. By providing a religious education program and faith experiences, we strive to nurture the young child’s growth in love and knowledge of Christ. Serving those in need is an important life lesson that begins early for our children.

Carrie Griffith, Director
Saint Raphael Preschool
With a little over a month to go, the first annual Ignatius Fund has gained impressive support from parents, grandparents, friends, local businesses, and Fortune 500 companies. Even more remarkable, the schools’ combined annual fund was initiated the week before Christmas vacation. As is common practice for an annual fund, they are generally launched at the beginning of a school year.

So what’s the reason for its success? Simple. YOU. At press time, the Ignatius Fund has raised close to $40,000. Our goal is $50,000 and we’re confident we’ll reach the mark before our books close on June 30, 2014. To recap, your support of the Ignatius Fund has helped:

• furnish curriculum resources, specialized teacher positions, and cultural arts programs;
• supply upgrades and additions for technology and academic enrichment across all grade levels and specialty programs;
• facilitate maintenance and enhancement of the school and grounds; and
• provide a tax-deductible way to promote the benefits that Catholic education offers to children, families, and society.

Looking ahead, our goal is to establish an endowment and increase corporate matching gifts and planned giving. Such measures will ensure the financial stability and success for our school in years to come.

To learn more about the Ignatius Fund or others way to support Saint Raphael Catholic School, please contact Ellen Guarente, Advancement Officer, at 919.865.5757 or eguarente@saintraphael.org.

Saint Raphael students have the biggest hearts. They are poised, energetic, positive, outgoing, and most of all, generous. Not only do they give of themselves with their peers here at home but also with the community and around the world. The Saint Raphael Guardian pride spans numerous time zones, several continents, and here in the Triangle. Jump Rope for Heart, the school-wide fundraising event for the American Heart Association raised a new record of almost $14,000 in monetary donations. Also, with the unquestionable generosity of school families, our own Student Council President Jacob Miles spear-headed the collection of 528 pairs of shoes to be donated to children in Africa. From the tiniest of shoes from first-time walkers to fashionable adult shoes, the people of Gambia will be thrilled with their impending delivery from Saint Raphael Catholic School families.

Saint Baldrick’s and Saint Raphael have something in common. Two of our students, Ellie Russin, Class of 2017, and Luke Nelson from the Class of 2016, raised well over $1000 and shaved their heads during the annual Saint Baldrick’s campaign to fund the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers.

While Ellie and Luke grow their hair back, they are ever-present reminders of the generosity of our Guardians.

Thank you to all who contributed to these worthy campaigns. Your generosity and selflessness will always be remembered.

528 pairs of shoes were donated by Guardian families.
**SAINT RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**SAINT RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL** went above and beyond all expectations this year for the American Heart Association during their Jump Rope For Heart event. Our goal this year was to raise $6500.00. In total, we raised $13,782.70 — that’s more than double our goal! We had 196 students participate in collecting donations. All money raised stays here in North Carolina and supports cardiovascular research and education in our community.

**Avid golfer and first Honorary Captain of the Ryan O’Connell Memorial Golf Tournament, Broc Weaver** talks about what he’s been up to since his days at SRCS.

Broc graduated from SRCS in 2005, went onto Wakefield High School and ultimately to East Carolina University where he graduated on May 10 with a degree in finance.

Golf has been a passion of Broc’s since he was 4 or 5 years old. He played on the SRCS team in middle school, the Wakefield High school golf team, and served as president of the ECU Club Golf Team.

Broc has been named the first Honorary Captain of the Ryan O’Connell Memorial Golf Tournament. He tells us that when his mom told him the news, he felt very honored to be considered. He is looking forward to representing the SRCS Class of 2005 in remembrance of their fellow classmate and friend.

We wish Broc all the best in his future endeavors and we especially thank him for honoring Ryan’s memory in this year’s golf tournament.

**Although Debbie Hamrick, first grade teacher at Saint Raphael, is not a school alumna, her sons were members of the class of 2004 and 2007. Debbie is, however, the longest-serving teacher here at SRCS!**

What brought you to Raleigh?
My father was transferred to Raleigh in the ’70s and it was important to my parents that we live near a Catholic church. It also helped that Saint Raphael was in an area where new subdivisions were being built.

So you attended Saint Raphael before the new church was built?
Yes, I was actually married in what is now known as Raphael Hall.

When did you become involved with the Saint Raphael community?
Immediately! I enrolled my then 4-year-old son in the ECC for preschool. When my younger son started preschool, I returned to the classroom but this time to teach the three year-olds at the ECC.

After my second son entered kindergarten at SRCS, I accepted the first grade teaching position just across the hall in the grade school.

You have the distinction of working at SRCS the longest. How many years have you been here?
I’ve been a first grade teacher for 15 years.

What SRCS milestones stand out for you?
When we moved to the new school building! I helped the principal pick out the tiles, paint colors, carpet, you name it.

Debbie became immediately involved in the Saint Raphael community. She grew-up in the parish, was married here, educated her sons here, and continues her teaching career at Saint Raphael Catholic School.