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THE GUARDIAN

VOLUME V, NUMBER I

SAINT RAPHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL • RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

SCIENTIA POTENTIA EST

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Dear Guardian Family and Friends,

Welcome to a new school year filled with endless possibilities and exciting opportunities. After eighteen years in education, I still relish the joy and excitement that each school year presents. This is especially true as I mark my fifth year as principal of Saint Raphael Catholic School.

It has been profoundly rewarding to watch our school grow and strengthen. From increased student enrollment to numerous enhancements within and outside the school, Saint Raphael is a thriving, vibrant, Catholic community.

In this issue of The Guardian, you will learn more about the exciting additions to our staff, including the first SRCS alumna to return as a fifth grade teacher. Discover as well where our recent alumni will be attending high school and where a number of the Class of 2012 athletes have been recruited to play at the collegiate level. Even more impressive, two of our graduates were high school class valedictorians this spring.

Within these pages, you will also read about the success of the 2015-2016 Ignatius Fund, the school’s first philanthropic priority, and the highlights of last year’s popular Vegas-themed gala and the Ryan O’Connell Memorial Golf Tournament.

Surely you will feel tremendous pride realizing the many accomplishments and progress our school has made and is making, for example, the addition of the middle school dean of students and a part-time guidance counselor. As we kickoff the 2016-2017 school year, please join me in making the next nine months dynamic, rewarding, and memorable. I look forward to celebrating this school year and school experience with you.

God bless,
John Mihalyo, Principal

Dear Saint Raphael Family and Friends,

Welcome to a new school year! At the preschool we have been busily preparing for the arrival of many young smiling faces and look forward to watching each child gain new knowledge, develop new skills, and grow in God’s love.

Last spring we celebrated the retirement of long-time Preschool Director Carrie Griffith. For 25 years she tirelessly worked to build the preschool into what it is today. We are excited that she will stay connected to Saint Raphael by extending the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program to kindergartners at SRCS. I am thankful to have Carrie as a mentor and friend, and am honored to take over her responsibilities as the new director. For the last ten years, I have taught 3- and 4-year-olds here at the preschool and feel truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful parish and school community.

If you haven’t visited the preschool in a while, please stop by. There have been a number of changes in recent years. In addition to the 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old programs that have long been in existence, we now have a transitional kindergarten class and an extended day program to help meet the diverse needs of our families. There have also been fantastic facility enhancements, many completed thanks to the Ignatius Fund. Our bathrooms have fresh paint colors and automatic sinks and our hallways are much brighter after the recent installation of colorful tile flooring. The playground equipment added last fall got rave reviews from all students.

Although there have been many changes at the preschool, we promise the one thing that will never change is our dedication to a high quality, faith-filled, early education for children. Thank you for supporting Saint Raphael Preschool!

Many blessings,
Molly DeAngelo, Director
Number of Jesuit-affiliated schools in North Carolina: 1 - Saint Raphael Catholic School

Number of schools in North Carolina to offer the Wealthy Habits Program (financial management course for middle schoolers): 1 - Saint Raphael Catholic School

Number of acres of land on our campus: 20

Number of unique titles in our school library: 9600

Number of artists-in-residence since the school's founding: 12

Number of high school valedictorians from the SRCS Class of 2012: 2

Number of bearded dragons in the science lab: 1 (among other reptiles)

Number of middle school electives offered since program started: 20

Number of interactive Smartboard projectors: 17

Number of iPads for student and teacher use: 67

Number of brand-new Chromebooks: 16

Number of iMacs in our Mac Lab: 33

Number of professionals on staff: 55

Number of PCs: 180

Number of books in the library for students: 11,800

Pottery kiln

Live Morning Broadcast Studio

SRCS student earned perfect score on the National Latin Exam

SRCS student placed first in the state on the Spanish Exam for Bilingual Students

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT
Gala & Auction • November 7, 2015
Net Raised: $32,914
Gala Chairs: Silva Bryant | Ron Burkhart | Melissa Shaheen
The Las Vegas-themed event generated tremendous enthusiasm and support among school parents and parishioners. For the first time, remote online bidding was available for those unable to attend the auction. Proceeds benefit the many programs of the Home & School Association (HSA), The Athletic Boosters Club (ABC), and the school.

High Roller | Veteran Waste Solutions
House Advantage | Aaron Tropmann, D.D.S. | Tide Dry Cleaners Raleigh
Royal Flush | doctor direct
Full House | Cary Refrigeration | Global Filter Source
High Card | High Rock Partners | Tanas Hair Designs & Day Spa | Thirty-one
In-Kind Sponsors | Clou du Bois | Compass Rose Brewery
Dealer Service Solutions | Empire Eats Restaurants | Kustom Koozies
Party Aces | Saints & Scholars Irish Pub

Ryan O’Connell Memorial Golf Tournament • April 25, 2016
Net Raised: $11,963
Chairs: Cynthia Hanks | Angela Nelson | Jennifer Stephenson
After years of hosting the tournament at area golf courses, the event returned to its roots at North Ridge Country Club. All proceeds from the sold-out event benefit the Ryan O’Connell Memorial Scholarship Fund which provides assistance for family hardships and other unexpected needs.

Guardian Sponsor | Flynn O’Hara Uniforms
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Golf Cart Sponsor | doctor direct
Challenge Hole Sponsor | The Britenson Family | Raleigh Pediatric Associates | Sky Zone Trampoline Park
Lunch Sponsor | Chick Fil-A | Dinner Sponsor | Kamado Grille

In-Kind Sponsors | Creative Screening | Thirty-one by Jennifer Fitzsimmons | Uncorked

Major Scholarship Benefactors | $23,334
African Ancestry Ministry & Evangelization | Anonymous | Diocese of Raleigh God’s Work Our Challenge Jesuit Community of Eastern North Carolina

Miscellaneous Restricted Donations | $3,345
Cisco Foundation | John & Christina Demos | Chris & Tanya Eney | Jim & Xena Miller | SAS Institute
Tide Dry Cleaners | Whitney & Amy Walsh

UPDATE
The O’Connell family
Elvis and Priscilla Presley (Dan and Kelly Burich) rocking the Vegas gala!
For parents of preschool-age children, there are many decisions that are made on a daily basis. Some of those decisions are simple, like what should my child have for breakfast today, but others are more complicated. One such difficult question parents may be faced with is, “Is my child ready for kindergarten?”

In 2009, North Carolina passed a law stating that a child must be five years old by August 31st to be eligible to start kindergarten that year. While initially this seemed like an easy issue for parents who choose to follow these guidelines, for other parents whose child’s birthday falls close to that August 31st date, the decision can be more complicated.

At Saint Raphael Preschool we offer a transitional kindergarten (T-K) class, the Eagles. This class serves as a “bridge between preschool and kindergarten, functioning to allow children time to develop fundamental skills needed for success in school.” Over the years the kindergarten curriculum has become less focused on the development of children’s social skills and more focused on academics. When surveyed, kindergarten teachers ranked highest on the list of desirable characteristics for their incoming students their ability to demonstrate self-help skills (92.5%), confidently handling their bathroom needs, managing their coats and book bag, opening their own lunch, etc. Also very high on the list was that the children are able to separate from their parents without anxiety (71.5%), respect the rights of others by keeping hands to self/keeps to own space (67.9%), and demonstrate self control and positive classroom behavior (64.2%). Kindergarten has a higher ratio of students to teachers than in a preschool setting, so children in kindergarten must display some independence and resilience. Has my child developed self-help skills? Does he have the physical stamina to make it through a full day of school? Can she speak up when she needs assistance? Can he make himself understood? Can he follow simple one- and two-step directions? Are there speech issues that should be addressed prior to kindergarten? Is he ready to handle the academic tasks of kindergarten? Does my child get apprehensive about tackling activities that other children seem to find challenging yet intriguing?

Children don’t all develop at the same rate. Does my child prefer to play either with older children or younger children rather than enjoying the social give-and-take that occurs with peers his own age? Can he share and take turns? Can she express herself in words rather than in tears or angry retaliation? Is my child beginning to be interested in numbers and letters? Does she enjoy quietly looking at books? Does he ask questions about the world and other people? A child’s chronological age and developmental age may not always align with each other.

Q: Are there reasons a parent should not hold a child back from kindergarten?

A: A child should not be held back if he or she has undiagnosed special needs. In this case, offering the child more time to mature will not really address these needs as special education services would. Such services should be sought out as soon as possible.

Q: How does our transitional kindergarten classroom compare to an average kindergarten class?

A: The T-K class provides a lower student to teacher ratio so we can teach skills in smaller groups appropriate to each child’s developmental level, thereby tailoring our centers to individual students’ learning needs and providing differentiated class work for each child’s skill set. T-K also offers the type of “play time” that is intentionally designed to build the very physical, social, intellectual and emotional skills. Students in the transitional kindergarten Eagles class experiment with water in science.
rigors of school these days, that gift of an extra year at the preschool was the best gift I could have given my boys. They have both easily adjusted to school, love it, and are doing beautifully. Our family was blessed to have been able to choose this for our children.”

Q: Will my child feel “left behind” if I send them to T-K instead of kindergarten?

A: A child will not know the difference between T-K and kindergarten unless the parent specifically points this out to their child. The children in our class come from many different neighborhoods and go on to many different schools. If anything, a child who chooses T-K will gain confidence and develop the needed skills to become a leader and helper in their kindergarten classroom.

Q. What do previous T-K parents have to say about offering this experience to their children?

A: We have yet to have a parent come back to us to say they regret their decision of offering their children the gift of time. Erica Penny, a former preschool parent, had this to say about the T-K class:

“Both of my children went to transitional kindergarten. They both have July birthdays, and I struggled with the decision of whether or not to send them straight to kindergarten or to wait the year. I have not had a single regret about choosing that extra year. With the pressures of testing and the skills needed for kindergarten. It provides positive social skills practice and the hands-on learning young children require.

In 1990, Carrie Griffith’s family made a big move from Chicago, Illinois to Raleigh, North Carolina with four young children. Her third youngest child was in need of a preschool, and Saint Raphael Early Childhood Center (ECC) is where Carrie sought to enroll him. A year later she was serving as the lead teacher for the Puppies class and beginning a 25-year commitment that changed the course of Saint Raphael Preschool forever.

After nine years of serving as the lead teacher for the two-year-old program, Carrie applied for the position of director. Her assistant, Nancy Scallon-Wood, also moved into an administrative position and the dynamic duo took the reins of the preschool.

During her sixteen years as the director, Carrie made many wonderful changes and added several new programs such as Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Extended Day, Early Arrival, a focus on science, improvements to the facility, and monthly special programs. She also grew the preschool from a program that offered space for 120 children to one that has opportunities for over 180 children today. What amazing growth!

“Most of my career I consider myself lucky to have had Carrie as such a good friend and mentor. She combines her love of educating children with her deep faith in God. She is a blessing to us all,” says Renee Regalia, a current teacher at Saint Raphael Preschool.

Every school morning and afternoon Carrie could be found in the hallway greeting families as they arrived or left for the day. Her ability to learn each child’s name quickly and to remember little facts about them, like their favorite color, the name of their stuffed animal, or where they were headed on vacation, amazed parents and delighted children.

While Carrie is thrilled to spend more time with her four children and five grandchildren, gardening in her yard, and listening to what God is calling her to do during retirement, Saint Raphael is thrilled she has agreed to stay connected to the schools and teach a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd class to kindergartners starting this fall.

Many tears were shed during her final days at the preschool in May but many laughs were heard as well. Teachers, church staff, children, and families celebrated not only her many accomplishments during her years of service but what an amazing person Carrie is and how lucky we all are to know her.

Goodbyes are always difficult; this one was a bit easier knowing an incredible new director would take her place on August 1. Molly DeAngelo is a very familiar face to Saint Raphael families, as she has taught “threes” and “fours” at the preschool for the last ten years. She knows she has big shoes to fill but Molly is excited about the new challenge and the opportunity to continue growing a wonderful program for families in our community.
SRCS Class of 2016
Sofia Ayala International Student
Alex Ayerbe Raleigh Charter HS
Sophia Bufano Cardinal Gibbons HS
Jane Burkhart Cardinal Gibbons HS
Katelyn Butters Cardinal Gibbons HS
Michael Caldwell Cardinal Gibbons HS
Joshua Carter Cardinal Gibbons HS
Amanda Chacon Cardinal Gibbons HS
Jesse Chase Wake Forest HS
Jacob Clement Saint Thomas More Academy
Rafi Dahdal Cardinal Gibbons HS
Noelle Daley Cardinal Gibbons HS
Giovanna Dias Cardinal Gibbons HS
Jimmy Do Cardinal Gibbons HS
Ashley Domhrycz Millbrook HS
Nolan Dorsey Millbrook HS
Nur Drury Longleaf School of the Arts
Aaron Frazier Sanderson HS
Ruthie Freedman Saint Thomas More Academy
Gracie Freedman Saint Thomas More Academy
Kevin Gallagher Cardinal Gibbons HS
Samuel Gasper Leesville HS
Valerie Gasper Saint Thomas More Academy
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Caroline Hallow Broughton HS
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Lucas Hozza Cardinal Gibbons HS
Columb Knight Cardinal Gibbons HS
Erich Kronschnabel Cardinal Gibbons HS
Klarissa Kronschnabel Cardinal Gibbons HS
Emma Kruger Cardinal Gibbons HS
Emily Magdefrau Cardinal Gibbons HS
Jenna Marks Cardinal Gibbons HS
Ynesia Martinez Cardinal Gibbons HS
Natalie Martino-Stansbury Cardinal Gibbons HS
Chase McDonald Cardinal Gibbons HS
Arianna Mejia-Horton Rolesville HS
Nicole Muffler Cardinal Gibbons HS
Christian Najim Saint Thomas More Academy
Luke Nelson Millbrook HS
Henry Newcome Cardinal Gibbons HS
Jake Pendry Cardinal Gibbons HS
Jeffrey Perry Cardinal Gibbons HS
Michael Pham Broughton HS
Jack Powers Cardinal Gibbons HS
Thomas Rivera Cardinal Gibbons HS
Kayeleigh Roche Sanderson HS
Steven Rozansky Cardinal Gibbons HS
Kelly Schuette Millbrook HS
Preston Sinclair Cardinal Gibbons HS
Marco Tan Saint Thomas More Academy
Joseph Tonn Saint Thomas More Academy
Gabriel Troch Millbrook HS
Zaynah Ward Cardinal Gibbons HS
Aidan Whitlock Cardinal Gibbons HS
Kelsey Woods Millbrook HS
Henry Yusko Cardinal Gibbons HS

SRCS ‘12
Cardinal Gibbons ’16
Kevin Barry, Diana Calle, Alexander Denisowski, Cristina Duchesne, Bailey Goodrich, Alanna Haughey, Colin Hozza, Madelynn Iannucci, Megan Lenzmeier, Melanie Lopes, Leah Mills, Amanda Monroe, Emily Maser, Sarah Nacouzi, Scott O’Korn, Sasha Rakowski-Champion, Erica Schumann, Abigail Simmons, Megan Trickett, Samantha Tubolino, Douglas Ware, Jack Yusko, Miguel Zambrano

SRCS ‘12
Saint Thomas More Academy ’16
Travis Freedman
Robert Lane
Will McCullers
Katherine Russo
Rosemary Rozario
Dominique Zerna

Guardian Valedictorians
Erica Schumann, Valedictorian
Cardinal Gibbons High School
Danielle Stokes, Valedictorian
Rolesville High School

Guardians Earn Athletic Scholarships
Meghan Gasper | Leesville HS ’16
Truman State University | Volleyball
Sarah Nacouzi | Cardinal Gibbons HS ’16
University of South Carolina, Volleyball
Jack Yusko | Cardinal Gibbons HS ’16
Campbell University, Baseball
Samantha Tubolino | Cardinal Gibbons HS ’16
Queens University | Soccer

To submit alumni news, please contact Advancement and Alumni Officer Ellen Guarente at eguarente@saintraphael.org or call 919.865.5757.
### Monica Trickett

**Where did you grow-up?**
I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio with my cousins and I’m very close with them. We go back and visit for the holidays and over the summers.

**Where did you go to school?**
I attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte as a student athlete.

**What was your major and what degree(s) did you earn?**
I majored in elementary education and minored in psychology. I earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education.

**How long have you lived in Raleigh?**
I have lived in Raleigh for nine years. My family moved here when I was thirteen years old. I attended Saint Raphael’s for eighth grade.

**Tell us about your family.**
I am very close with both my immediate family and my extended family. My mother and father grew up in Ohio and their siblings and my cousins still reside there. My mom played volleyball and my dad played football at small Ohio schools; they met after school through mutual friends. I am the first of four kids. My brother, Ryan, is twenty years old and he is going into his third year at Georgia Tech, studying to be an engineer. My sister, Megan, is nineteen and just graduated from Cardinal Gibbons. She is preparing to start her first year at Appalachian State University and plans to major in nutrition. My brother, Adam, is sixteen and will begin his third year at Cardinal Gibbons High School. Adam’s goal is to play soccer in college. Finally, we have a dog named Mia. She was our Christmas present when I was in fifth grade.

**How long have you been teaching?**
This will be my first year of teaching!

**What influences made you want to become a teacher?**
My childhood and my athletic experiences influenced me to be a teacher. All through my elementary school years, my siblings and I played school and I was always the teacher. I kept all my workbooks from school and used them in my “play school” classroom at home. In addition, as I got older and started playing soccer at a high level, I consistently found myself stepping up as a leader on my teams. I enjoy being in charge and helping others learn. Through my college years, I worked at several soccer camps in which I taught young girls the fundamentals of the game. I really found a passion for teaching and decided to pursue this passion in the classroom.

**What grade are you going to be teaching this year?**
I will be teaching fifth grade this year.

**What grade levels have you taught in the past?**
I did my student teaching in kindergarten.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**
In my free time I enjoy reading, running, watching movies, having game nights with my family, hanging in my ENO hammock, going to the beach, and visiting extended family.

**What was the last book you read?**
The last book I read was *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah.

### Carly Rifenburg

**Where did you grow-up?**
Northern Virginia

**Where did you go to school?**
Radford University in Virginia

**What was your major and what degree(s) did you earn?**
I majored in elementary education with minors in social science and English. I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in elementary education.

**How long have you lived in Raleigh?**
We have lived here for just over one year.

**Tell us about your family.**
My husband works in the fitness industry and we always find ways to stay active with our three kids. Chase, almost six, will be attending Saint Raphael this year. Emmy is three years old and loves everything princess-related. Nate is two and is an avid puddle jumper and loves to get messy.

**How long have you been teaching?**
I have been teaching for the past eleven years.

**What influences made you want to become a teacher?**
My love for reading started at a young age and volunteering at a local elementary school when I was in high school sealed the deal. I was later hired as a first-year teacher at that same elementary school!

**What grade are you going to be teaching this year?**
I will be teaching fifth grade.

**What grade levels have you taught in the past?**
I have taught second, third, and fifth grades.

**What was the last book you read?**
*Make it Happen* by Lara Casey
Thank you for responding with the generosity of your time, talent and treasure. Last year was a remarkable year because of the overwhelming support our schools received.

You can be assured that when you contribute to Saint Raphael Catholic School and Preschool, your investment is guaranteed to produce an exponentially positive return over a lifetime of every student who walks our halls.

IGNATIUS FUND
Goal: $75,000 | Raised: $75,317

Donations to the Ignatius Fund are unrestricted and are allocated where the need is the greatest. The following purchases and programs were made possible with your contributions:

**Preschool**
- new flooring throughout the hallways
- photo printer
- painted bathrooms
- early phonics instruction and science resources

**K-8 School**
- enhanced Spanish curriculum for grades 3-5
- 1 laminator
- 2 tables for the middle school science lab
- carpeting for the library, guidance and dean of student offices, and upstairs commons
- classroom projectors for grade 4, the art room, hallways, library, and offices
- purchased 14 iPads for K-5 & 15 computers for grades 6-8

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank the following parents, grandparents, alumni parents and alumni, teachers and staff, friends, and corporations and foundations for their generous support:

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- Mary Morga
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- Succas & Jason Peters
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- **Wells Fargo**

**GRADE CAPTAINS**

- **Kindergarten**
  - Christina Taurence
  - Carol & Stephen Iacovelli
  - Amy Walsh
  - Lisa McGuire
  - Tanya Eney
  - Kelle McDonald

- **First Grade**
  - Kristin & Terry Barrett

- **Second Grade**
  - John Demos & Christina Demos

- **Third Grade**
  - John Demos & Christina Demos

- **Fourth Grade**
  - John Demos & Christina Demos

- **Fifth Grade**
  - John Demos & Christina Demos

- **Sixth Grade**
  - John Demos & Christina Demos

- **Seventh Grade**
  - John Demos & Christina Demos

- **Eighth Grade**
  - John Demos & Christina Demos

**PRESCHOOL CHAIR**
- Mindy Radziewicz

**GRADE CAPTAINS**

- **Twos**
  - Alicia Suter

- **Threes**
  - Kara Gerko

- **Fours**
  - Joanna Harrington

For a detailed report on the school’s finances, please contact Business Manager Sherry Hiltbrunner at 919.865.5732 or hiltbrunners@saintraphael.org.

“*The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is today.”*