

The Spirit of Saint Lawrence

A Mission of St. John XXIII Parish

“Saint Lawrence School - Shaping the Leaders of Tomorrow”

A Newsletter for Alumni, Parents, Parishioners and Friends – Fall /Winter 2023-2024

From the Desk of Frank Arnone, Principal



Another school year has come and gone. As I reflect on my first year, it has been my honor and privilege to lead this joyous and loving community of students and true professionals. I feel my first year was extremely successful. My favorite part was, and always will be, getting to know the students. They are the reason we are in existence, to meet their needs and help them grow to their full potential, with emphasis on the importance of prayer, sacraments and reflection of Catholic tradition in their daily life at school.

We celebrate the fact that we are a faith-based school, and we incorporate the teachings and spirit of Jesus Christ in everything we do. One of my own personal goals is to recognize examples of goodness and faith in our students in what I call “The Prayer Share” and “Rosary Moments”. A story of love and prayer has helped me see that as a Catholic school we are not just teaching the ABCs. We are here to inspire faith in our children and what better way than through prayer. We will build this into all aspects of our days, learning a new prayer each month. These “Rosary Moments” are my way to show how much I cherish our children. When I catch a student in the act of showing Christ’s example in their daily life, I recognize these blessed acts by gifting them with the truest symbol of prayer, a rosary of their very own. These moments have been the highlight of my day-to-day experience at SLS. It’s a joy to watch.

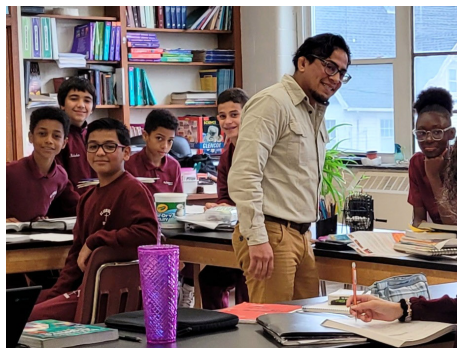
Fundraising is the hallmark of success for any faith-based school. I believe my commitment to this area speaks for itself. Last year alone, our look at foundations, private and government funding through grants brought in over \$300,000 for our school. We have used this money to pay for increased staffing of instructional aides for all primary classrooms. We now have a Social Worker and Counselor on site to help meet the social and emotional needs of our students. We have used these funds to improve our use of technology. By purchasing chrome books for grades 3-8, students can expand appropriate use of internet and applications like Google Classroom. We have new iPads for all students in grade PreK-2. These are used to enhance small groups and individualized teaching. We use applications like Lexia and IXL. With both formative and summative assessments like the NWEA, we can see where students fall in their skills both mathematically and their literacy work. These assessments help teachers pinpoint areas of strength and need, to set learning goals for the year. By focusing on our Annual Appeal and grant writing, we have been successful in keeping our overall tuition down and now have funds to cover many important areas. I am very pleased with the hard work shown, and excited with the many scholarship opportunities, alumni relations and community development we are working on.

Providing a safe environment will always be a priority for us here at SLS. I have helped to develop a partnership with all safety providers- fire rescue and police- to let them know the needs of the school. They have provided us with the best practices to follow, we are a strong and safe community because of it.

My goal for this year is to continue making all these things happen. Each one builds on the other, without each of them, they will not work. One goal that oversees all the others is that I will continue to be there for our children, families and staff. We all need the support of one another to ride the bumpy road of the school year. We are here to celebrate success and deal with difficulty. SLS will continue moving forward. We will be seen as the best kept secret in West Haven. We are a great school.

God Bless You

Frank



Mr. Carpio



Miss. Gregory

New Hires

We are excited to announce several additions to our St. Lawrence Family.

We ask God to bless them in their new roles.

"God, our heavenly Father, great Teacher to us all, walk with me in this new school year."

Mr. Manuel Carpio

7th Grade Math / Science Teacher

Miss Abigail Gregory

5th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Bambi Grestini

Development / Alumni Relations

Mrs. Vanessa Hruszko

Development / Grants

Ms. Cameron Keeley

School Counselor

Ms. Cindy Latham

P. E. Teacher

Mrs. Talia Marinaccio

Social Worker

Mrs. Alexandria Rich

Nurse

Ms. Nicole Simeone

Building Para / Reading Tutor

Summer News

Saint Lawrence School Library is getting an update!

Mrs. Tina Collura, our library volunteer, and some dedicated helpers have worked hard this past year. They cleaned out old obsolete books, discarded some ripped or dirty books, added about 300 new books to our shelves and worked on getting each library book labeled and organized.

Over the years, the library's computer system has had several updates, but not all the books and /or their information properly transferred to the new system. So, Mrs. Collura, Mrs. Jacki Sebas (our Kindergarten para) plus her granddaughters Lulu and Charlotte, and Mrs. Marge McDonough worked over the summer and labeled and classified about 5500 books. (And they are not done yet.).

Our Middle School section has about 1350 books, many were not yet entered into our system. The intermediate books number about 2500 and the primary books number over 3000. Our school library has about 250 classics, several hundred spine-tinglers, and many, many more fiction and non-fiction books that have yet to be put on our computer system. This allows us to use more computerized lending cards that makes checking books in and out much quicker and more accurate for both students and the librarian.



1980's



2023



A Special Thank You to our Friends, The Knights of Columbus group of St. John XXIII.

St. John XXIII is our parish here in town at both St. Louis Church and St John Vianney. Our school has been gifted a 'Lending Library' from The Knights. This cabinet is in front of our school welcoming anyone to borrow a book. We will be keeping it stocked with a variety for all readers.



The student's returned from summer vacation to a new top coat of fresh mulch on our playground. We would like to extend our *Thanks* to the Parents and UNH Student's who lent their equipment and time in spreading the mulch.

The School Council will be adding a Facilities Committee to develop plans for maintenance and improvements, like we did for the playground. This will help direct us in our work to fundraise and find support for many needed improvements.

Thanks & Recognition

2023 Saint John Neumann Award Honorees for Volunteer Service

46th Annual HOPES Dinner held on Sept 27th was dedicated to the men and women who have given so generously of their time and talent in support of Catholic school education.

This years recipients Patrick & Amanda Leigh and Linda Dallachie & daughter Terryn Bolton were recognized.

We are so grateful for their wonderful work and contributions, they truly are the Spirit of Saint Lawrence. In speaking with them, I asked what inspires them to volunteer.

"As catholic parents we are the most important first teachers and role models. Our vocation is to ensure their physical care, safety and their spiritual formation. Saint Lawrence School offers our children the environment to thrive in all facets of life. By God's grace, we have been able to bring joy to our children's lives and to our larger family Saint Lawrence School. We pray that through our acts of service, we bring love, support and comfort to those who care so much about our little ones." - Patrick & Amanda Leigh

"When I lost my husband four years ago, I planned to volunteer at the VA Oncology. When Covid hit, the program was temporarily stopped. At the same time my daughter and granddaughter moved back home. After much research, she chose to enroll her daughter into Saint Lawrence Catholic school. As a way to be involved Saint Lawrence asks each family to volunteer. During a meeting with Home and School we chose to help with student lunchtime for 2 weeks as the teachers were needed elsewhere. I confess, I was a little nervous, but from the very first day I loved every moment. Principal Arnone said that the teachers ate their lunch with the students daily, unable to get breaks. We were more than happy to just continue volunteering. I feel like Mr. Arnone is doing me a favor, giving me the gift of the Saint Lawrence family, 200 new grandkids to love, and a reason to get out of bed every day." - Linda Dallachie

Linda's daughter Terryn told me her dad went to Saint Mary's growing up. She saw a Saint Lawrence sign one day in her neighborhood. She researched the school and decided to enroll her daughter. She wanted to send her to a school where she would get a great education and good values. Saint Lawrence was the perfect fit. In a way, this was for her dad. *"I love to help people. Working from home allows me to help wherever needed. Mom really likes being at the school, so we go every day to run the lunch shift, so the teachers get a break during the day." - Terryn Bolton*



The Leigh's - Terryn & Linda

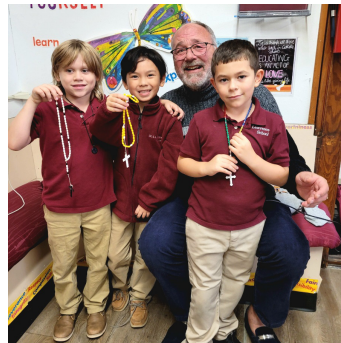
A Peak into Saint Lawrence



1st Day of School



Prayer Share



Rosary Moments



Halloween Parade



Fire Dept Presentation



First Mass



Trick or Trunk



Seasonal Activities in the Classroom



The KofC #14326 Saint John Paul II Scholarship

The Scholarship which provides 2 awards of \$550 each, Is designed to reflect the values of the Knights of Columbus, Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotis.



Movie Night Volunteer



Movie Nights

We Thank them for their generosity.

Past Events



Our Annual Golf Classic brought in \$13,367. Jeff Ukleja, chairman and his outstanding committee did an amazing job that took a tremendous amount of time and effort. We appreciate their hard work.



Attorneys Shari Shore
& Kristen Wolf

We had great sponsors this year, and we ask that you consider showing them your support. Their names can be found on SLSGolfClassic.com created by Vanessa Hruszko.

A Special Thank You to our Diamond Sponsor Wolf & Shore Law Group, located in West Haven.

St. Lawrence School Cornhole fundraiser was held on Sat Sept 30th. A fun-filled day for all, Family games, raffles, food truck and more generated \$1,240. A *Thank You* goes out to Chairperson Anthony Spina and all the hard working volunteers.



Upcoming Events



Welcome all Ladies
To Start the Holiday Season
With a Community Luncheon

Sharing Faith, Ideas, Spirit, and Hope
at
Saint Lawrence School
231 Main Street
West Haven CT 06516

November 12th 2023 1pm

Boxed Lunch - Soup - Desserts
Coffee - Tea - Cold Drinks

Cost \$15.00

For Reservations Please Call 203 933 2518 by Nov 6th

The Spirit of Saint Lawrence is the Spirit of Christmas
Saint Lawrence School is a Mission of Saint John XXIII Parish



Christmas in the Schoolhouse

Sat Dec 2 10:00-4:00

SAINT LAWRENCE SCHOOL 231 MAIN STREET WEST HAVEN, CT 06516
(203)933-2518

Raffles

Grand Basket w/ \$250 Cash Prize
Lottery Wreath
Professionally Decorated Tree
15 + Themed Baskets

Crafts & Vendors
Candy Cane Lane
Santa's Workshop
Mrs Claus's Treasures

Boutique
Chargers Cafe
Cookie Corner
St. Joseph's Marketplace

St. Nicholas Children's Activity Center
Petting Zoo 10-12
Food Trucks, Hot Chocolate

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Look Whats

New This Year

At the Christmas Fair
Alumni Memories Table

Memorabilia

Photos

Athletic Awards

Coming this Spring



The Spirit of Saint Lawrence

Alumni Memories

We thank all our generous alumni for helping make our school the success that it is. We will continue to grow and remain a driving force in the educational future of our students

Inaugural Graduation Class 1924'



Come find your Graduation class picture at our Alumni Memories table on Dec 2nd at the Christmas in the Schoolhouse fair.

2024 May issue Special Thank You Edition

We will be dedicating the May issue to our wonderful Alumni, Friends of St. Lawrence, Donors and Volunteers. While we are upgrading our system if you are interested in adding your memories of your time at SLS or updating your information please email:

Bambi Grestini
bgrestini@stlaw.eduk12.net



We Pray for those we lost and all departed Alumni, Through the mercy of God, rest in peace Amen.

Alumni Quotes

"I will say going to St. Lawrence were the happiest days of my life. I had many friends. My parents and ST. Lawrence, the two moral forces helped me become a decent man. I believe in the teachings of the Catholic Church." - Christopher Fiorillo

Dina Oliverio Thomas likes our new alumni memories page. *"This is just wonderful. Alumni have so many memories of how SLS was in another time."*

Today more than ever, our young people need a place where they can embrace gospel values. The school may have changed from the way you remember it, however one thing has not. We are still committed to offering an environment that fosters our Catholic ethics. With your tax-deductable contribution we hope to continue our mission of offering quality Catholic education to our children. May the good lord bless you abundantly for your generosity.

Anniversaries



75th 1948'



50th 1973'



25th 1998'



10th 2013'



5th 2018'