

Inside this Issue:

- 125th Anniversary – A Celebration
- Adopt-a-Student – Changing Lives



Since 1885, educating students in the rich Catholic tradition of our founders, the Sisters of Notre Dame

2009 Sequoia Awards Winners

Founded by our own Paula Uccelli '56 and a group of community and business leaders, the Sequoia Awards is the largest volunteer recognition program in Redwood City. The goal of the Sequoia Awards is to promote volunteerism and honor those within our community with extraordinary histories of selfless volunteer activism. Each year, high school seniors are selected for their exemplary volunteerism. They are recognized for their uncompensated volunteer efforts, not academic accomplishments.

This year's awards event took place on March 5 and we are very proud to share that the following Mount Carmel Alumni: Ivette Black and Gabriella DeMatteis Class of '05 each received scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each.



Ivette Black '05, receives her scholarship award from representatives of First National Bank and W. L. Butler Construction. Ivette's volunteer efforts include the San Mateo County History Museum, St Vincent DePaul, San Mateo County Humane Society & SPCA. She has led tours at NASA Ames Research Center; but said her greatest joy comes from her Sundays spent with the critically ill children at Ronald McDonald House in Palo Alto, where she organizes games and activities for the patients.



Gabriela Dematteis '05 and Paula Uccelli '56. Gabriela's first volunteer experience was with the Mount Carmel youth Group traveling to Tijuana Mexico to build houses. She enjoyed the experience of knowing how she made such a difference so much that she made this trip two more times. Her passion for horses led her to volunteer at BOK Ranch and the National Center for Equine Facility Therapy helping children with disabilities learn to ride horses. Gaby says "The work that I do also enriches my life, I meet new people and help in the community."

A Legacy of Giving Back to the Community

Since the Sequoia awards began in 1990, 15 Mount Carmel students have been recognized for their commitment to volunteerism—truly active Christians.

Dora Arrendondo '91

Nichole Lacues '96

William Gavin '97

Nicole Shah and Kristen Schlitz '98

Victoria Siekieski and Alicia Diaz '99

John Wise '00

Julie Rice and Patrick Stumbaugh '02

Tyler Anthony, Megan Claire and Nicole Greco '03

Ivette Black and Gabreille Dematteis '05



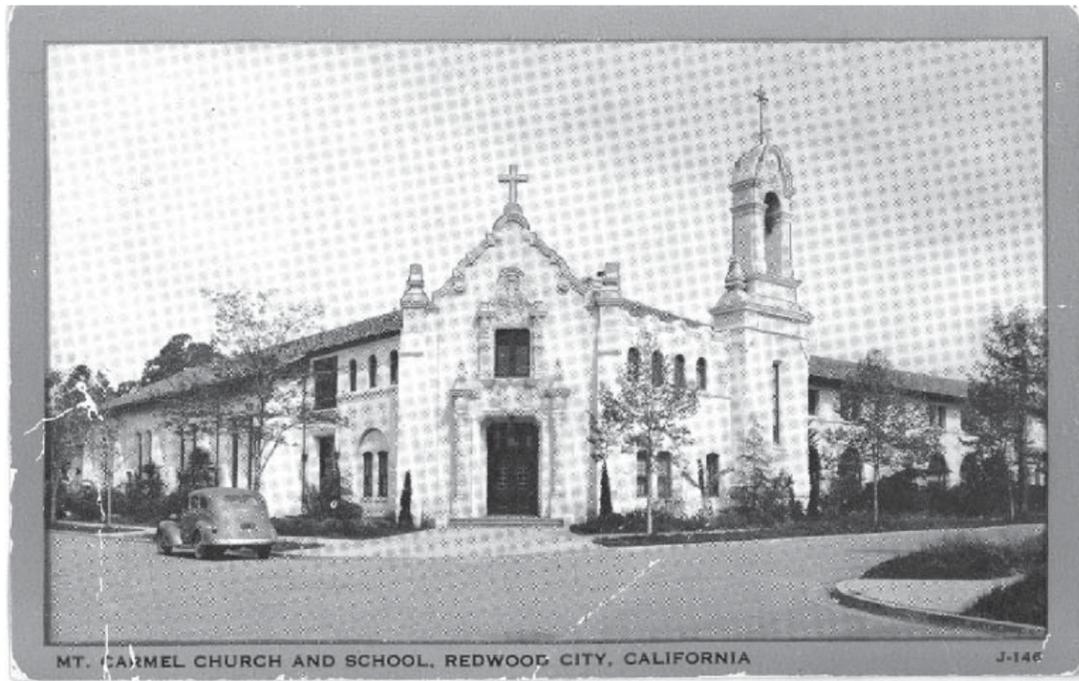
Fr. John Balleza, Nicole Greco '03, Megan Claire '03 and Tyler Anthony '03

Celebrating 125 Years of Faith, Community and Academic Excellence

Marking 125 years for any institution is a tremendous achievement. For a Catholic elementary school—phenomenal. We have gathered alumni spanning all decades, parents, and staff to begin the planning. Our goal for the anniversary celebrations are to:

- To deepen our relationships with our alumni and alumni parents
- Increase the visibility of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School within our local community and gain greater support
- Increase awareness and promote the mission of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School among our constituents

We will officially begin our year long celebration of events on January 31, 2010 at our Catholic Schools Week Mass. We are very excited that Archbishop Niederhauer has agreed to join us this day. Events and activities, while yet to be finally determined, will take place all year long. Below is the current proposed timeline—a work in progress.



Front of School—Completed in 1932, the school moved from the corner of Brewster and El Camino (see bottom right). This picture postcard was taken in the late 1930s.

125th Anniversary Timeline

- **Spring 2009 – December 2009** – Identify PR and promotional opportunities; begin promoting internally and externally
- **Fall 2009** – Have Redwood City proclaim 2010 the year of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School
- **December 2009** – OLMC presence in Hometown Holidays Celebration; Mount Carmel School Holiday Home Tour
- **January 2010** – Host Redwood City Chamber of Commerce Mixer; share mission of school, solicit support for programs
- **January 31, 2010** – Rededication of school and Annual Open House with Archbishop Neiderhauer and other celebrants TBA
- **April 2010** – Annual Festival; Anniversary events TBD
- **June 2010** – 125th graduating class
- **July 2010** – OLMC presence in 4th of July parade
- **August 2010** – Reunion Weekend, all years, exact date and activities to be determined
- **October 2010** – Blue and Gold 125th Anniversary Ball and Auction Fundraiser



We have created two committees, Honorary and Steering. Yet to be established are the specific event committees.

Honorary Committee

- Mrs. Paula Uccelli '56, Uccelli Foundation, RWC businesswoman
- Ms. Rita Gleason '59, President, Notre Dame High School
- Mrs. Diane Howard – Parishioner and RWC council member
- Mrs. Alicia Aguirre – Alumni mother and RWC council member
- Bishop Randolph Calvo, Pastor for Mount Carmel Church 1997-2006
- Sr. Barbara Cavanaugh – SND, former Faculty
- Jim Hartnett '64 and RWC council member

Steering Committee

- Fr. John Balleza, Pastor
- Teresa Anthony, Principal
- Michelle Conci, Development Director
- Mrs. Teri Lyon, Chairperson
- Mrs. Nori Jabba
- Mrs. Elaine Quesada '91
- Mrs. Gina Bellatore Furrer '82
- Mrs. Jean Harrison '46
- Mr. Tim Goode '49
- Mr. Jim and Mrs. Dolores Centis '49 and '48
- Mr. Brent and Mrs. Barbara Britschgi '49 and '50
- Mrs. Rose Ferrando '46
- Mrs. Peggy Cifford, former teacher



Original school on Brewster and El Camino.

Adopt-a-Student – Changing Lives

Mount Carmel School is proud to be one of the few elementary schools in the county to offer our own tuition assistance program—Adopt-a-Student. The existence of a tuition assistance program is a parish-wide benefit that allows us to serve the needs of our immediate community, maintain our ethnic and socioeconomic diversity and avoid the threat of declining enrollment.

Success of the program can be measured by the number of families we are able to help, as well as the amount of assistance provided to each family. Success is also measured by our ability to rely less and less on the school's operating budget to fund this vital need.

However, the best measurement of success is more than a number. It is about changing people's lives. It is because of your gifts that we have been able to help students and families who might otherwise not be able to continue their Catholic education. These students have continued on to Catholic high schools where many have excelled. The number of families we can help has increased by 14.6% because of your generous gifts.

Developing a Sustainable Program

We continue to nurture our relationships with foundations who have supported Catholic Education and are always researching new grant opportunities. Although foundations have been critically impacted by this economy and have less money available, we are still optimistic about our prospects for support.

Father John Balleza, Pastor, Mrs. Anthony, Principal, and the Development office is actively seeking ways to become more visible among Redwood City civic and business leaders to increase awareness of Mount Carmel School and students as large contributors to the RWC community and beyond. It is also important to show our school as a viable alternative to elementary education for Redwood City families. It is our goal that local corporations and businesses will embrace our mission and become meaningfully involved in our vision for the future.

We continue to work and develop the Adopt-A-Student Program towards meeting the following goals:

- Reduce the amount allocated in the general operating budget to fund a portion of the annual tuition assistance need by 5% each year
- Introduce an annual Adopt-a-Student fundraising event in 2010
- Use grants and gifts to fund 100% of the annual need by the year 2015
- Continue to build the Endowment Fund by adding at least \$5,000 annually to principal through the Annual Campaign.

May is Adopt-a-Student Month

In an unsettled and uncertain economy the requests for assistance for the coming school year has tripled. Conversely, donations to the program are down 40% year to date. It is critical that we are able to help our own during this time and so we are asking once again for your help.

We will be asking for donations to this program during the month of May. Fr. John will be sharing stories during Mass, and we will post new stories on the web, weekly announcements and bulletin, so that you may know exactly how your gifts are helping to make a difference in the lives of our students.

We pray that you will consider a gift to Adopt-a-Student and help to change a life.

- Your gift of \$5300.00 will pay for tuition for one student for an entire year.
- Your gift of \$2650.00 will pay for tuition for six months.
- Your gift of \$1325.00 will pay for tuition for three months.
- Your gift of \$530.00 will pay tuition for one month.

Your gift of any amount does make a difference. You can make a donation using the enclosed envelope. All donations are tax deductible.



Grandparents Day 2009

Over 200 grandparents and special friends joined the children on Tuesday, March 17 to share their school and enjoy Mass together.

We are always blessed with great weather, and as our guests arrived, they were greeted with a welcome banner signed by all 294 students. In addition to Mass, the children and grandparents were free to participate in a variety of campus activities together.



Emily Wohrer (Grade 7), Aunt Janis Stagnaro, Jimmy Wohrer (Grade 6), playing Bingo on Grandparents Day.



Grandparents and students enjoyed refreshments after the School Liturgy before starting activities.



Sara Amaya and grandparents, Helene and Paul Amaya.

Upcoming Events

Annual Spring Festival 2009

April 24, 25, and 26

Class of 2005 4-Year Reunion

May 16

Class of 2009 Graduation

June 5

Last Day of School

June 11

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

301 Grand Street

Redwood City, CA 94062

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #470
SANTA ROSA CA

SAVE THE DATE

October 24, 2009

Annual Auction Fundraiser

The Masquerade

InTouch

APRIL 2009

Please keep "In Touch"

In Touch is a newsletter written and published by the Development Office for the alumni, families and friends of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and Parish. We would love to hear more news from our alumni. You may send updates, address changes, marriages, births, etc. We are also pleased to add parents and grandparents to our mailing list. We post a PDF of each issue of the newsletter on the alumni pages of the website www.mountcarmel.org. Please pass it along.

Michelle Conci, Development Director
650-366-8817
development@mountcarmel.org

DESIGN: Cathy Chin Velasco, mother to Malia
– Class of 2015

PRINTING: Innovative Printing Designs,
San Rafael

In Memoriam

We have been notified by friends and family of the passing of the following alumni and friends of Mount Carmel School. We ask that you keep them in your prayers.

Robert Neil Cook – *Class of '65, son of Charles and Elaine Cook (deceased) and brother to Beverly Marie Cook '70*

Dean Clark – *father to Adam '98 and Nick '02*

Alumni News

- Class of 1958 Reunion – April 18, 2009
- Class of 2001 to hold a reunion August 8 – Please contact Kathy Sinfield for more information.