

Annual Report 2019 - Day School

From Liz Ryan

It's the middle of the school year for those of us in the Day School biz...So my Annual Report starts in the middle of the 2018-2019 year and goes to the end of that school year and then begins all over again with the start of the 2019-2020 school year and ends in the middle! You think that's confusing?! Try working out the budget!!

The second half of the 2018-2019 school year saw an enrollment of 20 four year olds and 14 three year olds with the return of the three wonderful teachers from the previous year, Mrs. Yates, Mrs. Voet and Mrs. Koziara. When Mrs. Orne (the three year old class aide) had to leave because of health problems, we were blessed to hire Mrs. Susan Mandell to be the aide in that class! The children (and teachers and I) were quickly charmed by her smile and willingness to help before she was even asked!

It's always amazing to me when we come back from Christmas Break in January how quickly the year seems to gather momentum and send us hurtling to "Graduation!" We try to start gently, with themes that include winter and bears and penguins... we spend a week with our favorite stuffed animal friends helping us readjust to school and schedules. But then, there was Valentines' Day and our Kindness Week, which culminated in our big outreach event the Trike-a-thon, that raised \$3000.00 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital! Every child raised funds by getting pledges and then they pedaled their little hearts out! They liked the idea that they were helping other kids who were sick, get the care that would make them better! While they were at it, they (and their parents) learned bicycle safety tips and car seat safety from some of Delray Beach's finest! We can always count on the Police to guide us, in safety instruction and in traffic! And we needed them to direct traffic at the Trike-A-Thon! In March, we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, a visit from Dr. Marcie a pediatric dentist (who it turned out knew many of our students!), and Spring Break! Then Easter was upon us and the next thing you know, it was May and we delighted the families with our Spring Frolic and Art Show! That was followed by a new and extremely successful and fun week...International Week! Parents and their child shared their country of origin or heritage with the rest of the school with short,

creative and sometimes yummy presentations! We enjoyed learning about Columbia, Ireland, Mexico, Italy, Russia and Romania! And the world got a little bigger as we found out about places we had never seen! And to make sure the reason we hadn't seen them was lack of travel and not vision trouble, we were blessed to have Dr. Nathalie Bataille screen all the children for vision problems. (We all passed!) And then suddenly, "Graduation" was upon us!

20 of our 4 year olds, now turned 5, received their diplomas and they were off to Kindergarten!

Summer is much quieter in the Day School, it's usually just Mrs. Ryan and administrative projects. The children vacation with their families and the teachers get some well-deserved rest and relaxation. This year saw an inventory of all the books in the Day School Library! A big project to be sure! All 1500 books were organized into categories and then listed in a searchable spreadsheet...now when a teacher is looking for a book about a squirrel, who complains, and always wants his own way...she can say "look in the section "All About Me", sub-section "Behavior" and the title is "You Get What You Get" by Julie Glassman!"

It's also a time when classrooms are repaired, repainted, and refurbished thanks to the efforts of Roscoe Campbell, many a handyman and volunteer! Our classrooms got some tender loving care during the summer which included some cosmetic improvements and storage solutions (cabinetry that matched rather than oddly mis-matched doors, cubbies that received doors enabling the teachers to use unused space for storage, and new shelves built for a class that had had an old bookshelf mounted to a wall that was the wrong size for the space.) Mr. Yates added a tree-shaped bookcase to Mrs. Yates' class and now her class can read under the "old weeping willow".

And then in July, the new school year takes shape... all the class lists and directories are created, the student files and forms are organized and prepared for final signatures at Open House. Postcards are sent out to excited little ones (who never get their own mail) and they are reminded to come see their classroom and meet their new teachers.

In August, the year started with a bang! New crayons and paint and playdough were delightful treasures to be played with daily and new relationships formed as the children bonded with one another and their teachers. Their speech and language were screened by Dr. Lois

Capuzzi to be sure they could communicate clearly and they had an assessment of their knowledge to allow their teachers to tailor curriculum to the class. (One never knows how far they've come unless they know where they started!) The routine began to feel comfortable and dependable. We said pledge the flag, and the Lord's Prayer, we sang "This is the Day" and we learned to listen to Bible Stories from Fr. Paul and Rev. Kathleen, and Fr. David, and we found out what it means to be Kind and live like Jesus. We had fun with Dr. Paul Cienniwa in music each week, learning new songs and new vocabulary. In October we celebrated the Day School with the Church on Day School Sunday, joining with alumni and congregation to lift up the ministry that takes place in our Children's Village every day. The children sang beautifully and several generations of Day School enjoyed the past memories and present little ones we've been blessed with. We had monthly visits from a scientist from High Touch, High Tech and enjoyed our enrichment classes. Other special events happened as well, Fire Safety Month included a visit from the Delray Beach Fire Department and a chance to spray the big firehose! We enjoyed Pumpkin carving and had a Halloween parade, and learned about the First Thanksgiving so we could perform our songs during our first program of the year with gusto! In the blink of an eye, it was Christmas and we were telling the greatest story ever told... our version "Come to Bethlehem" was complete with a Star, Joseph, Mary, Angels, Shepherds, Sheep, an Innkeeper, Three Kings, a mad (well, slightly disgruntled) cow, and a wandering donkey!

Our fundraising was accomplished in several different ways this year. We sold Savearound Coupon books, lovely brass Christmas ornaments with the Day School Shield design on them and were blessed by donations from alumni and congregation members! The money collected was designated for the Rolene Gent Memorial Fund (for Scholarships) and the Patti Daniell Legacy Fund which keeps our classrooms in good shape!

I want to say thank you to our fabulous staff Mrs. Yates, Mrs. Voet and Mrs. Koziara (and Mrs. Mandell who did not return this fall because of a lower census in the three year old class.) These women put their hearts and souls into their work, caring for, thinking of, and teaching each individual child with love and dedication. They worry when the children are ill, they rejoice when the children learn a new concept, they laugh when the children tell the worst jokes imaginable, and their hearts swell when little hands give them a crayon drawing and they are told "I love you!" And I'm also thankful for the wonderful Day School Board: Sherry

Fleming and Jen Kilpatrick (Co-Chairs), Tippi Breakwell, Jenn Castano, Joanne Grubman, Erin Keller, Kacey Keogh, Tania Shelley, Michelle Warden, Phil Wotton and Fr. Paul Kane. (And the myriad talents of Caren Kilpatrick!) I am so grateful for the gifts they bring to St. Paul's Day School and for the way make sure it stays as special as we know it to be!

I would be remiss if I didn't add that this amazing school would be nothing but a building without the joyful children who fill it daily and I thank the families for trusting us with their darling little ones! At the beginning of each school year there tend to be a couple of children who cry because this is the first time away from their parents. But as I say to Fr. Paul when he asks how we're doing with the tears on the end of the first week... "only two in tears, and I'm sure they were fine by the time they got to work!" It's hard to leave your precious moppet, and sometimes even more painful when they are so excited to go to school that they forget to wave goodbye. But as I explain, that's a good thing! They love school, and they trust you to come back! It's a win/win! Our families become St. Paul's Day School families for life. And we're happy to have them!

Lastly, I would like to thank the congregation for continued and most appreciated support. This school is a ministry that continues because you encourage, stand by us and pray for us. I ask your continued prayer that we might follow the path this Day School has followed for 56 plus years; loving, nurturing and educating children in the name of Christ and St. Paul's forever!

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Liz Ryan,

Director