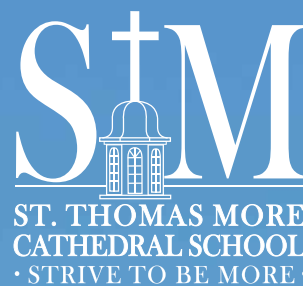
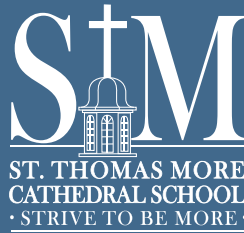


ST. THOMAS MORE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

STRIVE TO BE MORE



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



Dear Friends of St. Thomas More Cathedral School,

St. Thomas More Cathedral School is poised to become the first elementary school in the United States to launch its own cube satellite in partnership with NASA, the National Aeronautical and Space Administration. Over the last 12 months, we have made great strides in turning that goal into a reality. In April 2013, we held our first school-wide Mission Kick-Off meeting, and in June 2013, we actually tested our CubeSat's viability to launch. We have accomplished these tasks in no small part due to your generous donations to STM.

STM will be featured on the national stage for its work on the CubeSat at the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) conference in April 2014. We need your continued support now more than ever so that STM can continue to pursue its goal to be on the cutting edge of STEM-based curriculum and retain its reputation as a leader in the rapidly changing high tech school environment.

STM thrives because of the quality of its teachers and staff whose professional development opportunities are a direct result of your most generous financial support. Last year, donations from the Annual Appeal helped fund a multi-weekend college credit course in advanced software programs open to all faculty members. The results have been outstanding. Classroom teachers now have a wide variety of new tools at their fingertips to help make learning both fresh and innovative for students.

This year, we plan to invest a portion of the Annual Appeal proceeds to enhance STM's Everyday Math curriculum, which was initiated this fall in grades K - 5, with additional resources. Other funds will be designated for upgrades to the school's security system and for tuition assistance.

As always, we thank you for your past generosity, and we look forward to receiving your continued support. Please be assured of our prayers in grateful appreciation for all that you do to help make St. Thomas More Cathedral School an environment that fosters future leaders.

Yours in Christ,

Father Robert J. Rippy
Rector

Eleanor McCormack
Principal

An aerial photograph of a school campus. A large, light-colored building with a central tower is the focal point. It is surrounded by several parking lots filled with cars. The campus is bordered by trees and other buildings in the background.

STM MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to nurture and develop the spiritual, academic, social, and emotional promise of each child in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church, rooted in Gospel values and led by the examples of the Master Teacher, Jesus Christ.

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Service Projects



STM's Hurricane Sandy Relief Effort

STM students raised money for the suffering families of our sister parish, St. Thomas More of Breezy Point, NY. Many of these families lost everything. STM students raised \$811.06 by having a dress down day and that amount was matched by the PTO for a total of \$1622.12 which was sent to Father Sean Curan, Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas More, Breezy Point.

Katie Fuller, who went to Breezy Point to present the funds raised, is also a girl scout in Troop 5744. She and her Troop collected over 100 toys for the students. Father Sean said that the children were overjoyed with the gifts! A special thank you goes out to Marcel DuBois from UPS, who assisted the troop in getting the presents there in time for Christmas.

In addition, Mrs. Coleman's and Ms. Eisele's third graders participated in an Advent Service Project, performing more chores at home to earn money for gift cards. These students raised over \$600.00 in gift cards. All told, STM raised over \$2000.00 in gifts and in-kind donations for its sister parish.

Baby Shower for Jesus

Each year during Advent, STM kindergarteners celebrate the birth of Jesus by hosting a baby shower. The students bring in wrapped gifts for newborn babies. The items are donated to HOPE in Northern Virginia. HOPE is a nonprofit organization that provides pregnancy counseling, education and assistance to women.



Military Veterans Charity Walk

In October, the entire STM student body and faculty, as well as a happy team of parents, siblings and friends, took part in our annual Charity Walk. The event concluded with a full school prayer service. The 2012 walk raised over \$2100.00 to help military veterans.



The Giving Tree

This past Advent season, the Student Council helped our community by supporting children served by the Catholic Refugee and Relocation Center. The CRRRC provided the council with a list of very basic needs of the children who recently arrived in the area such as school supplies and warm clothes. Student Council Representatives created gift tags for the needed items. They hung the requests like ornaments on the Giving Tree in the front hallway. Through the generosity of the STM community, all of the requests were filled. In addition, Pre-K students and their 4th grade prayer partners worked together to make additional hats and scarves to go under the Giving Tree. ■



STM students tweet Pope Francis a welcome message.

Building Improvements

During the summer of 2013, construction was completed on four renovation projects. STM now has an educational cottage that houses our library. The former library was transformed back into two classrooms to accommodate an additional second grade class the fall of 2013. Room 4 was expanded by knocking down the wall in between the classroom and the teacher's lounge. The teacher's lunchroom is now incorporated into the classroom to comfortably accommodate 25 students. The teacher's lounge now resides in a portion of the kitchen in the cafeteria.

Over last Easter break, STM installed a vestibule at the front entrance of the school. The vestibule is a small room with an entry door on one wall and an exit door on the opposite wall. The door leading into the school cannot be unlocked unless you are "buzzed in." Over the summer, to complement the enhanced security at the front door, a state of the art security system with monitoring apparatus was purchased and installed. Funds raised from the 2013 Race for Education helped pay for a portion of the new system. ■

STM Mission Possible CubeSat Program

Last year, STM embarked on a mission to incorporate STEM (Science, Technology, Education and Math) initiatives into the curriculum. STEM is an educational initiative that focuses on the coordination of science, technology, engineering, and math in classroom lessons. This effort is led by STM Computer Teacher/Mission Manager, Melissa Pore, STM parent/NASA Mission Manager, Joe Pellegrino, and STM Parent/Spacecraft Manager, Stephen Rozzi. Students will help build, test and launch a CubeSat satellite. The students will then use the data the satellite collects for school research purposes in math and science. STM's goal is to be the first K-8 school in the United States to have a student-built satellite launched into orbit by 2015!

What are CubeSats?

CubeSats are a class of research spacecraft called nanosatellites. The cube-shaped satellites are approximately four inches long, have a volume of about one quart and weigh about 3 pounds.

Over 60 universities and high schools are participating in the CubeSat program, and the educational benefits are tremendous. STM is the first K-8 program to offer this exciting opportunity. Through hands-on work, students will gain experience and develop skills used in the aerospace industry. The CubeSat program has created important educational opportunities for our students—the future leaders of tomorrow.

How did STM get this opportunity?

Our computer teacher, Melissa Pore, participated in the International Space University's STEM satellite workshop which focused on bringing real science



Teacher Training at Goddard Space Center



THE CUBESAT MISSION'S TESTS:

1. Lift the CubeSat to an altitude of approximately 300 feet by weather balloon. Our test exceeded that goal by going over 700 feet.
Mission: ACCOMPLISHED
2. Verify the operability of CubeSat's communications systems. Our ground to ground test with the HAM radio was successful.
Mission: ACCOMPLISHED
3. Test space to ground communication link was not verified. The link from the International Space Station had to be rescheduled.
Mission: RESCHEDULED
4. Test the Onboard Asteroid Detection/Orbital Debris Locator camera. Test was successful.
Mission: ACCOMPLISHED
5. Test Earth Observation camera by taking test images. Our test failed but will be fixed for the next launch.
Mission: FAILED



“This is the kind of venture that inspires kids to make a career out of science.”

Stephen Rozzi, *STM parent and Spacecraft Manager.*

and engineering projects to the classroom. Mrs. Pore met with space scientists, engineers and astronauts who believe that STEM initiatives will inspire students to be tomorrow’s innovators. Mrs. Pore is guiding STM’s STEM effort by volunteering it to be a pilot school for the satellite program and providing students with real life practices.

Next Steps

STM will kick off the second year of its STEM initiative with a mission briefing and another high altitude test. Over the summer, engineers at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center worked with mission managers to help complete the transceiver portion of our satellite. In November, Mission Managers will lead the next set of tests with a new set of goals and directives for students that are critical to mission success. Mrs. Pore will lead the mission teams and conduct hands-on experiments during computer classes so students can practice the skills necessary for building a satellite.

The students will build and operate five engineering development units. This exercise will allow them to develop the skills required to work on the satellite. The Saint Thomas More (STM) Mission Operations Center (MOC) will become operational in November. The STM MOC will be used to communicate with the CubeSat and will serve as the headquarters for the worldwide operations team. Schools around the world will serve as remote MOCs and will participate in our mission. A long distance communications test of the CubeSat will be performed before the end of the 2013 – 2014 school year. During this test, the CubeSat will

take an image and transmit it to the STM MCC from a high altitude. STM will complete our application for launch and submit it to NASA. Our expected launch date is late 2014 or early 2015.

Funding

An endeavor such as this requires a lot of support. The anticipated cost of the entire project is about \$45,000. STM received its first seed money, a check for \$10,000 from ATK Space Systems. ATK Space Systems is a strong supporter of STEM initiatives in K-12 schools focusing on inspiring young people to pursue careers in science and engineering.

STM would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Matt MacPhail, parents of STM students, Gabriel and Lucas MacPhail, who have generously donated \$10,000 to the CubeSat project. The school community truly appreciates your donation to help us keep reaching for the stars!

STM has also developed relationships with professionals from the Goddard Space Center and a host of professors and engineers who have committed to assisting us in our quest for space knowledge.

If you would like to learn more about the project, or donate your time or resources to our efforts, please contact Melissa Pore at mpore@stmschool.org.

Thank you in advance for supporting the teachers and students at STM and our dream to fly to space. With God, anything is possible. ■

Fundraising Events

STM Auction

On March 2, 2013, we gathered together as a community of parents, teachers, parishioners and friends to celebrate STM's bright future at the Festival del Sole. The festival lights twinkled, the room was bathed in luminous blue light and the bidding was fast and furious for the wide variety of items created and donated for this event.

Our auction chairpersons, Suzanne McCreery and Sandra Beach, cast a wide net to secure the volunteers, donations, and attendees that made this spectacular evening such a tremendous success. For everyone's efforts, STM extends its most grateful thanks. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated supporters whose generosity resulted in \$100,000 of net proceeds.

These proceeds were used to purchase 20 iPads and 30 laptops, touch screens for Kindergarten and software and training for this new technology. ■



stella & dot

Lily Pulitzer

The Lilly Pulitzer Tyson Store at Tysons Galleria hosted a Shop and Share, donating 10% of the days sales back to STM. The event was held on February 17th and raised almost \$600 for the school.



Stella and Dot

A special thanks to the Stella & Dot STM fundraiser hosted by Kassie Stewart, Ashley Klick and Kerry Myers. The event was held on (and around) April 25th and raised \$1,124.00 for our school!!!!!! WOW!



Thank you to our restaurants sponsors

- Silver Diner
- California Pizza Kitchen
- Taqueria Poblano
- Los Tios



Race for Education

On your mark,
get set, go!



Each spring, the children of the St. Thomas More Cathedral School, their teachers and parents take part in the Race for Education. Students are sponsored by family, friends, neighbors and community with tax deductible donations to STM. During the race, students and teachers walk or jog around our P.E. running course as many times as possible in a one-hour period.

Last May, the students were joined on race day by two very special guests—Washington Nationals Mascot Teddy and the always lovable Screech. Sincere thanks to the Nationals for donating the appearance and to Jennifer and Eric Strong for making it possible. A special thanks, too, to organizers Jennifer Kerr, Alison Lynn and Ali Chen and to Brenda Bauer for all of her hard work to keep everyone on track, in motion and safe during the race.

The 2013 Race for Education raised \$30,059. The money was used to enhance the security system at our school.

STM Students Shine



Arts Night

Arts Night was a tremendous success once again. All enjoyed the beautiful artwork displayed through the hallways of the school - wonderful job Ms. Grimm. Families were then treated to a performance by the STM Youth Choir. One of the songs the choir performed was the song "Cups" by Anna Kendrick. The 8th grade wowed all present with their performance of Shakespeare's play -- A Midsummer Night's Dream.



SeaPerch Project

STM Student, Sophie Paczak, placed in the top ten out of 108 teams from both the middle and high school levels at the United States Naval Academy Regional SeaPerch Competition on April 13, 2013. Sophie and her SeaPerch, Bubble Bob, were asked to compete at the SeaPerch National Challenge in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 18 – 19, 2013. However, she was unable to attend the event.



International Festival

The STM International Festival held in October 2012 was once again a huge success. With games, a moon bounce, the always fun cake-walk, face painting, raffles and, of course, the authentic, delicious food prepared by our own STM parents and students, which made the day was a lot of fun. The International Festival is a wonderful event which showcases STM's diversity while also celebrating our great community. A special thanks to Jose Dimas and Carolyn Majowka for their outstanding leadership in chairing this event. Thank you to everybody who made this year's International Festival such a success!



Miracle at Midnight
K—8 Christmas Play



America Sings Kindergarten Concert



2012 Confirmation



Diocesan Science Fair Winners

Computer Science - 1st Place
Yoseif Berhe, 7th Grade

Society of Military Engineers - Honorable Mention
Yoseif Berhe, 7th Grade

Physics - Honorable Mention
Ally Rozzi, 7th Grade



2012 First Holy Communion



STM Band wins Superior Rating at Busch Gardens Competition!



7th Grade Boys CYO Basketball Champs

Catholic Schools Week Rock the Red Photo



Big or small, every donation makes a difference.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

~ 2013 Annual Appeal & 2013 Race for Education ~

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Miss Gauta's Kindergarten Class
Miss Hickman's Kindergarten Class
Miss Johnson's 5th Grade Class
Miss Magruder's 4th Grade
Miss Mullan's 2nd Grade Class
Mister Days
Katherine Mitchell
Moby Dick House Of Kabob
Molly Maid Of Alexandria/Arlington
Daniel Monahan
Craig & Lorna Moringiello
Keith Morita & Wendy Lee
Mrs. Caskey's 1st Grade Class
Mrs. Coleman's 3rd Grade Class
Mrs. Conrad's Pre-K Class
Mrs. Duranne's 1st Grade Class
Mrs. Emard's 5th Grade Class
Mrs. Landry's Pre-K Class
Mrs. Lee's 2nd Grade Class
Mrs. Meehan's 6th Grade Class
Mrs. Pierce's 7th Grade Class
Mrs. Rapoza's 1st Grade Class
Mrs. Stocker's Kindergarten Class
Mrs. Wilson's 8th Grade Class
Mrs. Winstanley's 4th Grade
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Cathleen Mullen
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Alumni News

Academics/Athletics/Achievements

Congratulations to Bishop Ireton senior **Bryan Phan ('09)** for earning a 2013 National Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar Award by receiving an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of the AP exams. O'Connell senior students **Christopher Kilian ('09)**, **Alison Nguyen ('09)** and **Adriana Vargas ('09)** were AP Scholars with Distinction for receiving an average score of 3.5 on all exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of the AP Exams. Junior **Sydney Boll ('10)** and senior **Jacqueline Bouffard ('09)** were AP Scholars With Honors for receiving an average score of at least 3.25 on all exams and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams and junior **Austin Hall ('10)** and Gonzaga senior **Roman Carlitti ('09)** earned an AP Scholar for receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. Information on AP Scholars at other high schools was not made publicly available.

O'Connell senior **Adriana Vargas ('09)** was recognized by The National Hispanic Recognition Program in Oct. 2012 for being in the top percentile of the highest scoring Hispanic/Latino students taking the PSAT/NMSQT. Adriana was also the 2013 recipient of a \$1,000 "Achieving Your Dream Scholarship" given by Bishop O'Connell High School.

Bishop O'Connell students **Jackie Bouffard ('09)**, **Kayla Paolillo ('12)**, and **Luis Brito ('09)** participated in the National Festival Chorus at The Kennedy Center in May 2013. Senior Jackie Bouffard was also the 2013 winner of the James A. Bland Music Scholarship by the Vienna Lions Club by competing against other area public and home schooled vocalists.

Gonzaga senior **Roman Carlitti ('09)** was a member of The Gonzaga Chamber Choir and "The Eye Street Irish" which competed in the Heritage Music Festival which was a part of the 2013 Presidential Inauguration activities. The Gonzaga singers took home several awards. The "Eye Street Irish" won a First Place Gold.

Gonzaga sophomore **Reno Carlitti ('11)** performed in the dance ensemble of the Gonzaga production of the musical 42nd Street. He is the prop manager for the 2013 fall production of Noises Off. Reno is a member of the National Honor Society.

O'Connell senior **Nicholas Patrizio ('09)** was recognized by the Washington, DC National Football Foundation for academic achievement, contributions to the community and football abilities. Nicholas was also a First Team Defense member of The Sun Gazette's "All Arlington High School Grid Team."

Gonzaga senior **Luke Malanchuk ('09)** was named Player of the Year for golf in The Washington Post's 2013 Spring All-Met honors. Luke, a repeat All-Met Player went 9-0 in match play for a second straight unbeaten campaign, helping his team win its fourth consecutive WCAC team title. At the Metros Competition, Luke took second place and his team placed in the runners-up finish.

O'Connell juniors **Michael Burrill and Austin Hall ('10)** officially became Eagle Scouts in April 2013. Michael was a member of the O'Connell "uKnighthed" team which won first place in the metro regional competition for Destination Imagination. Austin Hall served as a US Senate Page and graduated from Page School with honors in two subjects. **Patrick Hughes-Creahan ('09)** of BSATroop 109 attained Eagle rank in 2013.

George Mason U. senior **Danny Meehan ('06)** has interned for 4 years for the Washington Redskins while majoring in Sports Management. William and Mary U. senior, **Justine Whelan ('06)**, worked this summer on an archaeological dig for W&M at St. Nicholas Abbey in Barbados. Washington & Lee U. senior **Joseph Morgan ('06)** has spent three semesters abroad in Greece, Wales and Italy to study the Classics. **Sarah Morgan ('07)** U of Louisville-Kent School of Social Work, spent her summer working as a constituent issues manager for a metro councilman. Dean's List earned for **Anthony Olivette ('08)**, a sophomore at NVCC.

College graduates from the **STM '05** class include: **Kyrsti Ashmall**, (Marymount U. Loyola); **Courtney Carroll**, (Marymount U. School of Nursing) now working at The Washington Hospital Center; **Sophia Farulla** (cum laude, W & M) interning at Mount Vernon Archeology Department and applying to doctorate programs; **Nick Gonzalez**, (JMU BBA in Finance) now a junior equity trader at FBR Capital; **Andy Hickman**, (W&M); **Shelby Hoefling**, (VA Tech, BS in Human Dev.) preparing/applying for Masters programs; **Talar Kachechian**, (2012 UMD) recently accepted into med school at Edwards VCOM; **David Kilian**, (Brown U.) now working as a DSE for Microsoft Corp. in Seattle, WA; **Rachel King**, (Highpoint U.) now studying for her Masters of Education at HPU; **Paulina Kostouros**, (2012 Mary Wash. U.) now studying for her Masters of Journalism at GTN U; **Rafael Lomba** (Marymount U. IT with Media/Web Design minor); **Jenny Nguyen** (UVA) now studying at the UMD School of Dentistry, **Sarah Paige** (Radford U) studying for a Masters in Education; and **Jasmine Southworth** (Longwood U. Criminal Justice). **Andrew Piemonte** and **Chris Straubs** (JMU College of Business) and **Jeff Carroll** (ODU) Bachelors in Education, will graduate in Dec. 2013.

Jeff Carroll ('05) was one of four Old Dominion University students selected to discuss education policy with gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe in September 2013.

Katie Meehan ('04) graduated cum laude from James Madison U. (JMU) in 2012 and is now working as a proposal editor at Kearney & Co. **Kara Makara Fuller ('99)** earned her PhD in Educational Psychology from U Michigan.

Stephen Chanderbahn ('99) earned his PhD in Philosophy from St. Louis U. **Joseph Onyebuchi ('01)** working for the Volunteers of America Chesapeake, was selected into the Leadership Arlington Young Professionals Program.

Mike Garcia ('68) and **Jason Palumbo (STM'84)** were inducted into the O'Connell Athletic Hall of Fame in April 2013.

Social

STM Class of 1964 is holding a reunion in April, 2014.

Sisters **Mary Kate and Sally Newell** are new teachers at STM. They attended STM during their Kindergarten and 1st grade years.

Lenny (Iddings) Lianne ('62) has written a new book, *The ABCs of Memory: Poems* by Lenny Lianne. She also writes a blog titled, *Passport to Poetry*. This is Lenny's fourth publication of poetry.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW PARENTS Kristen and **Robert Shane Angus ('93)** on the birth of Hatti Ann in October 2012; Mark and **Kristin Crawford Seifert ('99)** on the birth of Evan in March 2013; Victor Gutierrez and **Kelsey Paul ('02)** on the birth of Keaton Michael Esau in March 2013; Kevin Latzie Rene Peltz and **Alta Ogden Peltz ('91)** on the birth of Jackson Latzie Ogden Peltz in April 2013; Stephen and **Becky (Shrader) Tobin ('93)** on the birth of Gavin Michael in August 2013. Gavin's twin sisters Savanna and Mackenzie are three years old; and Aaron Maxim and **Reygil Rafols ('03)** on the birth of their daughter Kaylen in August 2013.

WEDDINGS

Katie Hickman ('01) was wed to Brian Wood on June 14, 2013. Katie taught Kindergarten at STM during the 2012/2013 school year.

Joe Hickman ('97) was wed to Breanna Molitor on August 3, 2013.

Carmen Alvarado ('02) and Michael Menchaca wed in a civil ceremony July 23, 2013. Their church wedding will be November 23, 2013.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Randolph "Randy" Lokke ('65) on December 25, 2012.

John Joseph Malvar ('09) died from injuries in a skateboarding accident on June 4, 2013. **George Malvar**, John's father and a member of the STM staff, died on July 13, 2013.

Sister Marie Angelica McGovern, IHM died on January 19, 2013. ■



PHILOSOPHY OF LEARNING

We believe learning is fostered in a safe, faith-filled nurturing environment.

We believe learning is a cooperative experience involving self-motivation, peer assistance, teacher direction, and parent support.

We believe learning occurs most successfully in an atmosphere of acceptance and mutual respect that allows the student to question, to experiment, and to take risks while maintaining positive self-esteem.

We believe students have unique learning styles, talents, and abilities and each deserves the right to excel. We believe all students need skilled, caring, and fair teachers who establish clear and reasonable expectations that challenge each student to reach his or her own potential.

We believe in celebrating the diversity of our school and community, training all students to understand and appreciate the wider world of today while preparing them to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

We believe learning is a life-long endeavor bringing us closer to knowing God and understanding His world.

Adopted by the faculty June 2009



In Loving Memory of George Malvar

George worked at St. Thomas More Cathedral School as the lunchtime and playground supervisor since 2005 and enjoyed watching the students grow up.

"George greeted everyone with his big beautiful smile and a 'how are you doing?' He always found time to talk with students and truly cared about each of them. He exemplified Christian values as a humble and joyful soul. He will be missed by all."

--Principal Eleanor McCormack



" Education is not the piling on of learning, information, data, facts, skills, or abilities - that's training or instruction - but is rather making visible what is hidden as a seed."

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