

Is it worth it?

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Many of you reading this newsletter are alumni of Pacelli as am I. I am thankful for the education I received within these walls, inside and outside of the classroom. As I listened to the Homecoming speeches of the girls on the court, I was touched by the warm feelings they all had for Pacelli High School. Our students love this school as much as we did. Our Homecoming Queen, Autumn Weinmann, ended her speech, "Everyone thinks the grass is greener somewhere else, but there is no place greener than Pacelli."



Why did our parents sacrifice to send us to a Catholic School? How did they do it? When I was growing up, tuition was \$1000. That was a lot for my mom and dad. They went over to the credit union every year and talked to Harriet about a loan to pay for tuition. Now with the increase in tuition, many students get financial assistance to attend our school and many parents sacrifice to send their children here. Why? Is what my parents sacrificed for still here within these walls?

The answer to that question can be witnessed every day in our schools. Here are some examples:

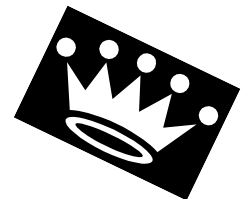
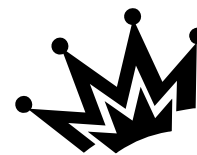
- Our middle school students organized (all by themselves) a coat, hat and mitten drive for United Way.
- Last week, I talked to a grandparent of a student who transferred to a school in South Dakota last year. He says his granddaughter is doing well, but she misses Pacelli every day.
- A student transferred here from Minneapolis last year and her mom stopped me at conferences and said, "I don't know what goes on around here, but my daughter loves school, is studying hard, and is meeting friends."

Mr. Terry Nelsen (Class of 1964), former principal and teacher, recently spoke at our Homecoming Coronation. He stated, "There is something special about Pacelli." I would have to agree, Pacelli has that something special that helps shape, mold and reinforce Christian values in our students. This is that same something special that my parents sacrificed for me to experience, and the same something special our students experience now and in the future.

Is it worth the sacrifice? My answer is a resounding YES!

Sincerely,

Mary P. Holtorf '84
Director, Austin Catholic School



2009 Homecoming Court, L-R: Cody Meyer (King), Gina Vo, Michael Bergstrom, Emily Leif, Michael Lonergan, Stephanie Kasel, Brett Kraemer, Autumn Weinmann (Queen), Brady Stier, Halla Nelson

Pacelli Catholic High/Austin Catholic Elementary

We are heading into a very exciting new year. For the fifth year in a row, we have increased enrollment in the elementary, the middle school, and the high school. Our ACT scores are holding steady at about 26, and that keeps us in the top 20% of all high schools in the United States.



We are now embarking on a Capital Campaign Study for the first time in 30 years. Our plan is to continue to secure our schools for future generations. Our last capital campaign was about 30 years ago and we raised \$1,000,000.00. Today we have about 1.2 million in our endowment. This new campaign is marked to increase the endowment to 3 million dollars. From an endowment of this size, our school will realize about \$150 thousand a year. That will allow our schools to be more financially secure. We are excited about this opportunity because it represents the ability to continue to grow and keep our education affordable. There are many other needs that this will meet also.

There are over 7,000 alumni from our school. When you stop and think of all the good that has come from those people throughout the world, you can only be in awe. This is now a chance for you to give back to the school that helped you get to where you are today. It was our parents and grandparents that helped raise that first \$1,000,000.00. Now we have the same opportunity to help continue their work. Someday it will be our children and our grandchildren that will carry on our work.

Norman G. Blaser (Class of 1964)
Director of Development
Austin Catholic Schools

Gift Giving

Please note that we accept gifts in the form of cash, check, or credit card. Please see the donation form included in this newsletter for more information. You can also find this donation form on our school website at:

<http://www.pacellionline.net>



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our school is changing, growing, and looking forward to offering "old" new opportunities to our students. We are going to bring back our band and orchestra. If you have an instrument that you're not using, please consider donating it to our school.



Important Dates and Information!



For ticket information to either of these events, contact Holli Mayer at (507) 437-8908 or hjmayer@austincatholic.org.



Greetings from SPAM Town! I am the new Co-Director of Development, along with Mr. Norm Blaser. I have been employed at the Austin Catholic Schools for the last four years, primarily as the Discovery Auction Director and SCRIP Program Coordinator. I am excited to take on my new role in the Development Office! Originally from South Dakota, I graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City. My husband, Mark, and I are honored to have three children enrolled in the Austin Catholic Schools. I wish I could meet each of you, as you all play a vital role in the history of this special school. Please feel free to give me a call (507-437-8908), drop me a line (Pacelli H.S., 311 4th St. NW, Austin, MN 55912) or email me (hjmayer@austincatholic.org) to discuss anything or to just get to know me better. I also welcome you to stop by the Development Office in Pacelli any time.

Sincerely,
 Holli Mayer
 Co-Director of Development

Magazines

Support our schools by purchasing or renewing magazine subscriptions on-line at www.qsp.com. All you have to do is follow the instructions on the website. You must register for our school to receive credit (40% of your purchase will go towards our school). The school/organization # is 425064528.



If you are a local Alumni living in or near Austin, you can support our school by purchasing SCRIP. When you purchase SCRIP, you purchase gift cards/certificates at face value for many local and national merchants (including grocery stores, home centers, restaurants and more). Our school had a profit of over \$30,000 last year from our SCRIP Program! If your children attend the Austin Catholic Schools, you will receive 2% of your sales off your tuition (this adds up quickly!). Contact Holli Mayer at 437-8908 or hjmayer@austincatholic.org for more information.

 ★ Please e-mail or send nominations for
 ★ the Pacelli Hall of Fame and Distin-
 ★ guished Alumni by January 1, along
 ★ with information about the candidate
 ★ and why you wish to nominate them to
 ★ Norm Blaser at
 ★ ngblaser@austincatholic.org
 ★ Pacelli H.S.
 ★ Attn: Development Office
 ★ 311 4th St. NW
 ★ Austin, MN 55912
 ★*****



Caught in the middle

Pacelli Junior High to add sixth grade this fall; name changes to Pacelli Middle School



By [Katie Johnson](#) - Austin Daily Herald
Photo by [Eric Johnson](#)

Sixth-grade teacher Jeannie Bambrick along with eighth-graders Kevin Juenger and Thomas Marx, sixth-grader Valentina Truong-Ferriera and seventh-grader Tiffany Hoelsing pose in the junior high wing at Pacelli. This year the sixth grade has moved to Pacelli with the seventh and eighth grades.

Austin Catholic Schools is evolving to accommodate changes in education with a big addition to its junior high program.

Previously, Pacelli Junior High included seventh and eighth grades, which are located on the second floor. Now, sixth-graders will attend Pacelli instead of Austin Catholic Elementary School. ACS is also changing the name from Pacelli Junior High to Pacelli Middle School.

Director Mary Holtorf said middle school is an integral part of the growing process for young people, and ACS is addressing how sixth-graders are maturing socially and physically faster than before.

“Our sixth-graders used to be in our elementary school, so we decided that at that point they were more like seventh-graders than they were like fifth-graders,” Holtorf explained. “In our changing world they weren’t elementary students anymore.”

Team leader Jeannie Bambrick and other teachers are going to focus on issues dealing with middle schools. ACS sent a team of five teachers to Las Vegas last April for a conference about middle school education.

“During adolescence ... there is almost as much growth as birth to age five,” Holtorf said. “It’s a really neat time of their lives, but it’s very challenging for them. So we thought if we put our focus on helping them ... we felt it would be the best for that age.”

The 18 sixth-graders, 19 seventh-graders and 19 eighth-graders will have lockers on the second floor, and will attend classes there as well. ACS is also now utilizing the third floor for a middle school science lab and classroom.

The third floor has not been used in 25-30 years, Holtorf said.



Former Pacelli students bring care business back home

8/7/2009

By [Karen Colbenson](#)

Post-Bulletin, Austin MN

Jean Johnson, a Twin Cities business woman and Pacelli High School alumna, is bringing it home.

Johnson is the owner and administrator of Regency Home Healthcare, a full-service home health care agency, with offices St. Paul and Duluth.

This week, Johnson realized a dream when she opened a third office in Austin, the city where she grew up and still has friends and family. Her newest office is located in Suite 108 in the Courtyard Apartments building, 310 Second Ave. N.E.

"It was always our goal to get back here," said Jean. "I always knew it would come together, it was just waiting for the right time."

It finally happened this year after one of Jean's Duluth employees, who also is from Austin, mentioned that her mother needed home healthcare services.

"That's when I said, "We're making the move now," said Jean.

The small staff in the Austin office provides a prime example of how Johnson wants all her clients to feel at home and a part of the family. Johnson's sister-in-law, Michele Johnson, will be managing the office, and her niece, Cassie Rollie, a recent graduate of the Riverland Community College nursing program, will work as the RN case manager. Kerry Schneider, another Pacelli alumna, will work as the director of clinical services for the local branch. Schneider has been Johnson's business partner since the first office was opened six years ago.

Jean said she believes home health care is going to become increasingly important.

"Especially with health care reform, people are going to have to find alternative ways to get it," she said. "We're hoping to bring a broader perspective to the home health care scene in Austin. It's going to play a huge role in health care in years to come."

Jean also said she wants people to be aware of their health care options.

"We offer support services so people can stay in their homes," she said. "People don't always need to go to assisted living or nursing homes."



Regency offers short- and long-term services for seniors and the disabled, as well as pediatric care and foot care, housekeeping, meal preparations and skilled nursing services. The services will cover Mower County with potential to grow beyond that in the future.

"We're bringing home health care back home," said Michele.

Regency Home HealthCare owner Jean Goergen Johnson, left, sits with office manager Michele Michels Johnson, right, and RN case manager Cassie Rollie at their new Austin office. Michele Jokinen/Post-Bulletin



In Memoriam...



Class of 1947	Joseph Stenger	March 2009
Class of 1957	Dr. Gerald Miller	March 2009
Class of 1965	June Wiese Nierengarten	October 2009
Class of 1967	Allen Frank	April 2009
Class of 1972	Tim Heimsness	August 2009

Alumni Notes...

Phyllis Rech Freund (Class of 1953)

Phyllis is a retired Surgical Technician for the Austin, MN Hospital. She lives in Austin and has five children, Jean, Lori, Dale, Renee, and Peggy.

Mike Zender (Class of 1957)

Mike received his BS from St. John's University and his PhD from Vanderbilt University. Mike was a professor of Physics at California State University in Fresno. He is married and has two children, Mark and Sarah.

Judy Lacy Maybach (Class of 1962)

Judy has a BSN from the College of Saint Catherine, Saint Paul, MN. She is an RN-Home Health Case Manager in Red Wing, MN. Judy has eight children, Matthew, Joseph, Jacob, Benjamin, Jessica, Mercedes, Frances, and Hannah.

Thomas Ployhart (Class of 1962)

Tom received his BS from the University of Minnesota. He is the retired Area Manager of the Asian Pacific Company. Tom lives in Stillwater, MN and has three children, Christopher, Eric, and Angela.

Kurt Regenscheid (Class of 1964)

Kurt is a Wastewater Equipment Operator for Austin Utilities in Austin, MN. He has one child, Molly.

Mary Sheedy Kurcinka (Class of 1971)

Mary has a BS from Iowa State University and an MS from the University of Minnesota. She is an educator and writer. Mary lives in Eagan, MN and has two children, Joshua and Kristina.

Mark Rockers (Class of 1972)

Mark is a graduate of Detroit Lakes Vocational School and is the Sign Designer for Fairmont Glass & Design. Mark has five children, Beth, Brian, Katie, Mathew, and Marianna.

Steve Sobczak (Class of 1980)

Steve received a BS from Winona State University and is now the Claims Supervisor for Harleysville Insurance in Edina, MN. Steve is married and has two children, Kelly and Ashley.

Charity Maloney Wyant (Class of 1982)

Charity has her BA from William Penn University. She is the manager of Guideone Insurance Company in West Des Moines, IA. She is married and has two children, Kristin and Bradley.

Matthew Wolesky (Class of 1994)

Matt has a BA from Creighton University and JD from Notre Dame University. He is a prosecuting attorney in Platte County Missouri. Matt is married to Heather.

Breanna Seira Gonzalez (Class of 1998)

Breanna received her AA degree from Riverland Community College in Austin, MN, her BA from Minnesota State University Mankato, and her Doctorate from Northwestern University. She is a chiropractor in Prior Lake, MN. She is married to James and has two children, Hunter and Lyra.

Alumni Notes (cont'd)...

Patrick Sheehan (Class of 2005)

Pat graduated Magna Cum Laude from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, with a double major in Accounting and Entrepreneurial Management. He spent one summer in Uganda, Africa doing a study in “Sustainable Development in a Third World Country.” Pat is now employed in Minneapolis with the office of Grant Thornton, LLP-CPA. On Oct. 28, he is sitting for the CPA test.

Laura Christensen (Class of 2005)

Laura graduated Summa Cum Laude from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, with a double major in Fitness Management and Business Administration. She is currently working as a fitness instructor and personal trainer at the Wartburg/Waverly Sports and Wellness Center.

Chris Bergstrom (Class of 2005) and Josh Gunderson (Class of 2006)

Chris and Josh were members of the men's track team this past school year at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. Bergstrom was a senior last year, and Gunderson is a senior this Fall. The St. John's men's track and field team recently was named one of the 2009 U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Men's Division III All-Academic Track and Field teams. The Johnnies combined for a 3.20 team GPA. A total of 51 Division III men's track and field programs were recognized. Colorado College recorded the highest overall team GPA with a 3.49. The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and the University Athletic Association landed the highest number of member schools on the list, with six schools from each conference attaining All-Academic recognition. The Johnnies finished second at the 2009 MIAC Outdoor Championships in May and led the MIAC in both the NCAA Division III Coaches' Power Rankings (ninth) and NCAA Division III Al Carius Men's Program of the Year Award Standings (11th).

Kellen Blaser (Class of 2006)

Kellen is a member of the football team at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. Blaser is a 6-foot-2 starting running back in his senior season this fall. The Saint John's football team was ranked No. 4 in the American Football Coaches' Association (AFCA) Top 25 poll as of Oct. 26, 2009.

Alumni—Please send news about yourself and your families for the newsletter. E-mail or send your information to ngblaser@austincatholic.org OR Pacelli H.S., Attn: Development Office, 311 4th St. NW, Austin, MN 55912



Important Dates

- Jan. 31 - Feb. 6, 2010—Catholic Schools Week
- February 6, 2010—Winter Gala
- April 24, 2010—18th Annual Discovery Auction
- June 3, 2010—Pacelli Commencement
- June 18, 2010—Pacelli Golf Day and Hall of Fame/Distinguished Alumni Banquet