



# St. John Neumann Regional Academy

## The Neumann Shield

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Please join us on the following dates for our Academy Mass at St. Boniface Church at 10 a.m.

- Friday, October 16
- Friday, October 23
- Friday, October 30
- Monday, November 2 (All Souls Day)
- Friday, November 20
- Wednesday, November 25
- Tuesday, December 8 (Immaculate Conception)
- Wednesday, December 23
- Tuesday, January 5
- Friday, January 15
- Friday, January 22
- Friday, January 29
- Friday, February 5
- Wednesday, February 17 (Ash Wednesday)
- Friday, February 26

### The Path to a Higher Education



## A Record Number of New Families *Join Our Academy*



Faith Mihalick, right, in her 2nd grade classroom



Kindergarten friends (L to R): Artie Dammer, Sarina Beiter, Grace Shaible and Mia Patterson.

Over the summer months, a record number of prospective new families requested information about our Academy. The SJNRA Development Office is always eager to fulfill each prospective new family's request, which usually includes meeting with them and showcasing our facilities, faculty and students. In many instances, the meetings resulted in new student registration forms received in our offices.

One such family requesting information was the Mihalick family from Muncy. John & Joanne Mihalick have two school-age children: Faith in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Rachel in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The girls attended public schools exclusively prior to this school year. After a tour of

our campuses and an opportunity to meet with administrators, the Mihalicks registered their two daughters at SJNRA.

When asked why the Mihalicks selected St. John Neumann, Mr. Mihalick said, "For Joanne and I, the reasons became clear after a discussion with SJNRA administrators and a tour of the facilities. We always felt there was always something significant missing at our public school. I think I've discovered what it is. It's what I call the 'Spirit Factor'. It's nothing physical; it's nothing that you can point to and say - "there it is". It's a combination of things. Commitment of both staff and parents, a spirit of togetherness, a real understanding of children's educational, spiritual and developmental needs, coupled with the tradition of a good, solid Christ-centered life, all combine with other factors to generate the Spirit Factor."

Mihalick continued, "Today's secular society inundates our children with unfiltered, unquestioned and fully secular information, attitudes and ideas. The internet, cable access to more than 120 channels, iPods, Instant Messaging, FaceBooks, etc, all make it a time consuming and continually challenging job to raise the next generation of Catholics. The secularization of our society makes the rearing of our children all the more complicated and difficult for parents. We need a partner in our children's educational day. That partner is St. John Neumann Regional Academy."

"From our first meeting and tour with the staff at the Academy, we knew that there was a palpable difference at SJNRA. Flexibility, caring, a deep personal interest in our children's education and their future was clearly evident throughout. After only 4 weeks of school, the results are clearly evident as well. Both our girls are actively engaged in their education and the life experience at school. More importantly, they instantly "got it". There is something that's just different, special, and yes, better, about Catholic education. We are glad we made the SJNRA choice and we look forward to our girls' continued joy and success in this most special Catholic educational environment", said Mihalick.

Also new to the Neumann family this year is the Moran family from Lewisburg. John and Ann Moran have two children, Johnny in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Alie in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The Moran children are not new to Catholic education. But, after researching what the Academy has to offer, they decided to transfer their children to SJNRA.

Mrs. Moran commented, "Catholic education has always been a priority for our family. Both John and I attended Catholic schools exclusively and we wanted that same experience for our children. Living in Lewisburg does not make that an easy wish to fulfill. Although St. John Neumann Regional Academy is nearly thirty miles from our home, we know that the benefits of a faith-filled and academically excellent education far outweigh the travel time necessary to get our children to and from the Academy. We are very happy with our decision to enroll our children at SJNRA and look forward to the years ahead as both Alie and Johnny grow in their faith and academic accomplishments."

After a tour of our SJNRA Sheridan Street Early Childhood Center over the summer, James and Becky Shaible of Williamsport chose the Academy's kindergarten program for their daughter, Grace. "We wanted a place for Grace to enjoy her school, friends, and faith. By choosing SJNRA, we feel that we are instilling a sense of love and respect for Jesus Christ that happens every day, not just on Sundays. We also wanted a school where she would develop values and traditions that would be a part of her throughout her entire life", said Mrs. Shaible.

Shaible continued, "The campus motto of "Do onto others as you'd have done to you." has brought a greater meaning to Grace's life even in the first weeks of the school year. With this simple Christian value, she is now thinking about her actions prior to doing them and how the outcomes will affect her friends and family. Grace loves her school, teachers, and new friends. And her mom and dad totally agree with Grace!"

We extend a warm welcome to the 43 new St. John Neumann families who have enrolled their children at our Academy. We know that all of our returning Academy families and parishioners extend this warm welcome to them as well.

Returning parents, Steve and Diane Sholder of Williamsport, have five children, three of whom have graduated from the Academy. Their daughter, Emily, is currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at SJNRA. Without hesitation, the Sholders supported the regionalization of our Catholic schools in Lycoming County, and they know that the last four years have strengthened the Academy in terms of academic excellence, spiritual development and important life experiences.

Regarding the Sholders' three Neumann graduates, Mr. Sholder said, "Although there is no question that their academic background at Neumann has served them very well, what may be more important, in our eyes, is that they have been prepared for life. The emphasis on morality and service fostered in them at Neumann has given our children the foundation to become responsible young adults. Our children have continued, in college and beyond, to build upon the values that we, as parents, have tried to instill in them, and that was reinforced at school as a constant part of their Neumann experience." (Read about the Sholders' son in the AP Scholar story, page 2.)

New and returning families agree that an education at St. John Neumann Regional Academy is much more than the empirical learning found in textbooks. At SJNRA, we build a foundation for life.



## Neumann Graduate Receives... *Prestigious Toyota Scholarship*

St. John Neumann Regional Academy 2009 graduate, James M. Creeley, Jr., has been named a 2009 Toyota Scholar. Creeley was one of only 100 high school seniors throughout the country who was selected for this prestigious award. The applicant pool for these awards exceeded 8,000 of our nation's top high school seniors.

The Toyota Scholars program, now in its 13th year, honors the top 100 students in the U.S. who are proven leaders, both in the classroom and in the communities in which they live and serve. The winners were awarded a combined total of \$1 million in college scholarships recently by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. (TMS). Creeley's scholarship is valued at \$10,000 over four years for study at a four-year college or university starting in the fall of 2009.

Since the Toyota Community Scholars program began in 1997, TMS has awarded over \$14 million in scholarships to 1,300 students across the U.S. The judges who chose the 2009 Toyota Community Scholars class were impressed not only with the intellect of this class but of the service that they returned to their communities.

Creeley is an Eagle Scout, a Diocese of Scranton Selected Scholar, President of the Class of 2009 of St. John Neumann Regional Academy, Founding President of the St. John Neumann LEO Club, Tri-Sport Letter Winner, National Honor Society Inductee, Youth Leadership Lycoming Graduate, Pennsylvania Governor's School for Global Entrepreneurship Graduate at Lehigh University and the Iacocca Institute, Bethlehem, PA, and he was Valedictorian of his class.

The many volunteer projects in which Creeley has participated in, particularly his founding of the LEO Club at St. John Neumann, a partnership between his high school and the Williamsport Lions Club, set him apart from most applicants. As the founding president of the St. John Neumann LEO Club, he and the Neumann LEOs raised many thousands of dollars for charitable causes throughout the community and world. The Toyota Community Scholars judges noted that not only were they impressed that he started a service club at the school, that has goals to eliminate blindness and provide affordable hearing aides for those with hearing deficiencies and to assist others in his community, he has also challenged each and every one of the 48 LEO Club members to build a better society.

Under Creeley's direction in their first two years of service, the St. John Neumann LEO Club initiated fundraising efforts such as Cans for a Cause, in which they raised funds through an aluminum can drive, Pancake Brunches, Softball Tournaments, Valentine Rose Sales and so much more, all with the desire to support their community's needs. They also volunteered their services at the Mater Dolorosa 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in October 2008.

The SJNRA LEO Club has adopted Camp Victory in Millville, Pennsylvania as one of their adopted partners to support. This camp affords children who must live with chronic health problems, physical or emotional challenges or the aftermath of catastrophic illness, an opportunity to be a normal child in a summer camping experience. Camp Victory was planned and built for these children in mind. Creeley understands what "community" is all about and he was able to convey to his peers the importance of community service, the importance of how one person can make a difference and how so much more impact can be made with a group of individuals working together towards a common cause.

"In these tough economic times, it is particularly rewarding to see these students having such a tremendous impact in their communities," said Michael Rouse, TMS vice president of philanthropy and community affairs. "They are stellar examples of service and commitment and remind us all what's really important."

Creeley is currently a freshman at Bucknell University, majoring in Engineering.



*Brock Danneker*



*Gregory Kist*



*Bridget Norris*

## St. John Neumann Students Selected for *YOUTH LEADERSHIP LYCOMING*

Three St. John Neumann students were recently chosen to participate in the 2009-2010 Youth Leadership Lycoming Program. The students are sophomores **Brock Danneker** and **Gregory Kist** and junior **Bridget Norris**.

Youth Leadership Lycoming, sponsored by the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, allows high-school sophomores and juniors an opportunity to experience an educational program similar to the adult Leadership Lycoming program. Classes are tailored to issues facing today's teens, as well as issues facing today's society. The program's objectives are to take a group of diverse students and help them recognize their own leadership potential and their potential impact on the community through volunteer opportunities. Students are encouraged to apply what they learned to promote leadership amongst their peers, thereby fostering other students' leadership potential.

The St. John Neumann students began their training in September, and it will continue throughout the school year.

Mrs. Jennifer Patterson, Guidance Counselor at the Academy, was once again very pleased with the application process and stated how competitive it is for our students.

"The prospective Youth Leadership Lycoming students go through a rigorous application and interview process, which is completely external to the Academy. Only three students are ultimately chosen, but all of them are so well qualified," said Patterson.

SJNRA is grateful to the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce for offering the Youth Leadership Lycoming program to Neumann students. We appreciate the efforts of Mrs. Patterson and the SJNRA high school administration and faculty in supporting this very worthwhile program.

## ST. JOHN NEUMANN STUDENTS EARN... *AP SCHOLAR AWARDS*

Seven students from St. John Neumann Regional Academy have earned AP Scholar Awards by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement (AP) Program Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP exams. About 18% of the 1.7 million students worldwide who took AP exams performed at a sufficiently high level to earn an AP Scholar Award.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP exams.

At St. John Neumann Regional Academy, four 2009 graduates qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP exams with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are: **John Gerritzen**, **Jude Keenan**, **Lauren McGee** and **Daniel Sholder**.



*John Gerritzen*



*Jude Keenan*



*Lauren McGee*



*Daniel Sholder*

Three St. John Neumann 2009 graduates qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. The AP Scholars with Honor are: **James Creeley, Jr.**, **Darren Crisman** and **Joshua Garcia**.



*James Creeley, Jr.*



*Darren Crisman*



*Joshua Garcia*

## New Faces/New Roles at the Academy

The Administration and Governance Board of St. John Neumann Regional Academy is pleased to announce the following changes and additions to the staff of the Academy for the 2009-2010 school year in support of the mission and the three identifying goals of the Academy of 1) strengthened Catholic Identity, 2) pursuit of Academic Excellence and 3) Education of the entire mind and soul for the leaders of the 21<sup>st</sup> century:



**Mrs. Susan Kaiser**, SJNRA System Director, takes on a dual role this year. In addition to the role of System Director, she is also the Early Childhood and Elementary principal. Her presence at the Elementary campus will serve to further strengthen the academic program for our youngest students, fully preparing them for the educational challenges that await them at our junior/senior high school, while also instilling in our young students the importance of serving their church, community and world.



**Mrs. Denise Tobin** has been appointed Principal of the Junior/Senior High School Campus. Tobin most recently received her principal certification and has been employed by the Academy for more than 13 years.

Tobin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, with a minor in Biochemistry, from Richard Stockton State College in New Jersey. She has served the Academy as a science teacher, science department chairperson and dean of students before being named high school principal in July. Tobin also holds a Masters degree in educational administration from the University of Scranton. She brings great leadership skills to the position of principal and years of experience working with the Academy's dedicated faculty. She is a strong advocate of the Academy and Catholic education.



Filling the position of Chaplain to the Academy is **Rev. Fr. David W. Bechtel**. He is a native son of St. John the Baptist Church, Pottsville, in the Diocese of Allentown. He began his priestly formation by entering St. Pius X Seminary, Dalton, in 1996, at which time he began undergraduate studies at the University of Scranton. Upon earning his bachelor's degree in liberal studies in 2000, he continued his seminary training at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, where he received a Master of Arts degree in theology in 2005. Rev. Fr. Bechtel completed his theological training and preparatory studies for ordination to the priesthood at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and University, Wynnewood, where he received his master of divinity degree in 2007. Father Bechtel serves the Academy as Chaplain and theology instructor at the Junior/Senior High School Campus.



**Mr. Aaron Aukema** has been appointed to the position of Director of Religious Formation for the entire Academy. He also teaches Junior/Senior High School theology. Aukema works closely with Chaplain Rev. Father Bechtel in fulfilling the Academy's Catholic identity to its fullest potential.



**Mr. Kent T. Baldwin** has been appointed as Dean of Students and part-time faculty member at the Junior/Senior High School Campus. Mr. Baldwin has a Masters Degree of Education in Guidance from Bloomsburg

University and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology/Anthropology – Elementary Certification from Lycoming College. He has 30 years teaching experience in public schools and 4 years teaching experience in private schools. He spent 8 years as a wrap-around behavior specialist and 3 years as an outreach counselor at Diakon Family Life Services.



Also new to the Academy this year is **Mrs. Mary Ann Banks**. Banks comes to us from Pennsylvania College of Technology and holds her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Edinboro University of PA. She has been with Pennsylvania College of Technology for the past 7 years teaching Chemistry, Physics and Ecology. Prior to that, she was employed by BLAST Intermediate Unit 17 as a teacher. She joins the Science Department at the Junior/Senior High School Campus and is teaching Physics, Chemistry and Sciences.



We also welcome to the Junior/Senior High School Science Department **Mrs. Kimberly Kist**, who was a part-time adjunct faculty last year, and has added duties this year in the Science Department, as well as teaching Library Science. Mrs. Kist holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree of Secondary Education from Drexel University.



**Ms. Naomi M. Baier** teaches Physical Education and Health at the Junior/Senior High School Campus and the Elementary Campus. She holds her Bachelor of Science Degree in Health and Physical Education from Lock Haven University and has taught at the Muncy School District for the past two years and the year prior at Jersey Shore Middle School. She will work closely with our life fitness partners, the Fitness Factory, as the articulation agreement with the Fitness Factory has been renewed for another 12 months.



**Mrs. Heather Mobilio** has joined our Sheridan Street Campus staff as a PreK-4 teacher. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, with a concentration in Reading, from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She previously taught at elementary schools in Virginia and Emmaus, PA before relocating to the Williamsport area.



**Ms. Beverly Porter** has joined the Elementary Campus in Gifted and Remedial teaching services. Previously, she had been employed with the Jersey Shore Area School District for more than 30 years and with BLAST IU 17 for the past 3 years. She brings a wealth of expertise to assist our gifted students in challenges and opportunities, and to help our teachers with any students needing additional one to one instruction.

*We extend a warm welcome to all new staff members and administrators!*

## St. John Neumann MEDAL OF HONOR



**Mr. Frank Pellegrino, 2009 St. John Neumann Medal of Honor recipient.**

The St. John Neumann Medal of Honor is the Academy's highest and most prestigious award. It is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated unreserved support, concern, and work for Catholic schools in general and St. John Neumann Regional Academy specifically. This year's award was bestowed upon **Mr. Frank Pellegrino** at the SJNRA Baccalaureate Mass on June 4 at Resurrection Church.

Mr. Frank Pellegrino is an outstanding business leader and benevolent member of our community, who has devoted an enormous amount of his time and energy to our Catholic schools. His support of our Catholic schools over the past 25 years, and most notably in the last 4 years since the consolidation of our local Catholic schools, has resulted in a stronger, more cohesive Catholic school system. In that span of time, his name has become virtually synonymous with Catholic education in Lycoming County. His dedicated work, much of it behind the scenes, to effect change and growth, has been the stabilizing force at the Academy in an ever-changing Catholic school environment.

Pellegrino is the founding co-chairperson and president of BLOCS of Lycoming County, a community-based organization of business men and women who lend their support to Catholic education. He is president of the Board of Directors of the Beatrice M. Eck Educational Endowment Fund, and he is president of the St. John Neumann Governance Board.

Pellegrino leads by example with integrity, compassion and fairness. His governing style is one that portrays confidence, strength and true conviction, always with the goal in plain sight: to ensure that the Academy continues to offer the very best academic and spiritual education possible, and to guarantee that anyone who desires a Catholic education receives one.

*The entire St. John Neumann family extends their sincere thanks and congratulations to Mr. Frank Pellegrino!*



was added to the school building in 2007.

As the Class of 2009 broadens their horizons at colleges, universities, trade schools, the military and the work force, we extend our deep appreciation to them for the special gift and wish them the very best of luck and God's blessings in all of their endeavors.

## SJNRA Class of 2009 Donates Gift

The St. John Neumann Class of 2009 made a significant contribution to their Alma Mater over the summer. They donated a new sign to the High School Campus building. The new sign is an enhancement to the digital sign that



## Greetings from the... NEUMANN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR

A grand salute to all the Neumann Knights around the world! In June, at the beautiful Community Arts Center, 37 St. John Neumann seniors graduated and have now joined your ranks. This group earned over \$3 million in scholarships and will be attending colleges and universities around the world. A few of them will be proudly serving their country in the Armed Forces.

Never underestimate your role as an alumnus in their success. Through your prayers and financial support, these students have received an education second to none. Over the last few years, our consolidated system has completely transfigured Catholic Education in our county.

The five St. John Neumann campus settings are completely wired and have the latest in technological improvements. More than 450 students pass through our campus doors daily, and the numbers are growing and strengthening. Interest in our Academy in the past few years has increased dramatically, as more and more parents are considering a Catholic education for their children.

St. John Neumann offers as many as or more Advanced Placement classes than our counterpart schools. Our students' faith is enriched daily in every classroom by our dedicated staff. St. John Neumann students donate thousands of hours of their time in their church, school and community to causes that are important to them. These are just a few aspects of the Neumann education.

Enrollment is strong this year with more than 60 preschoolers attending our Academy. These young children are the future of the Academy and of the church. We are also very pleased to welcome many new families who have chosen to make the switch to our Catholic school. In almost every classroom at the Academy, new faces can be found. We are grateful that parents continue to see the inherent value of a Catholic education for their children.

And none of this would have been possible without your help. The Alumni's fingerprints are all over St. John Neumann Regional Academy, from the cornerstone and bricks to the spirit and atmosphere. Whether you were a graduate of St. Mary's, St. Joe's, Bishop Neumann, St. Boniface, Immaculate Conception, or St. Ann's, your spirit is alive and well at the Academy! There is a long and unbroken line of Catholic graduates in Lycoming County from 1876 to 2009, proudly celebrating more than 133 years of Catholic Education.

We realize that these difficult economic times affect our parents' ability to provide a Catholic Education to their children. In many cases, families sacrifice financially to send their children to St. John Neumann Regional Academy. The need for financial assistance is at its greatest level. We have dispersed more than \$500,000 in aid already this year and more is surely required. If you have a desire to help in this area, your support would be greatly appreciated. If you choose to send in a gift earmarked for financial aid, simply send it to my attention at the high school campus. If you would rather direct your donation to support technology or the arts, please note it and it will be used according to your wishes.

I hope that all of you had a great summer, and that you had time to spend it with family and friends to enjoy this beautiful world that God has given to us. The fall season is now upon us and, with it, thoughts of all the plentiful gifts that we are thankful for.

You are one of those gifts, and I extend to you my sincere thanks and appreciation for your spirit, kindness, support and prayers as we work to continue to strengthen Catholic education in our area.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Beiter Bahr  
Bishop Neumann Class of 1981  
Neumann Alumni Association Director

## Fitness Factory Agreement Extended for a Second Year

Arrangements have been finalized so that St. John Neumann students and athletes are once again able to use the Fitness Factory training facility, 350 Hughes Street. This is an added benefit not only for our athletes, but also for all St. John Neumann students who wish to improve their general health and physical well-being.

The arrangement makes it possible for SJNRA students to use the Fitness Factory facility for a twelve-month period from September 2009 through August 2010.

There is no cost for our students and athletes to use the Fitness Factory facility. In order to use the facility, students and athletes must obtain an authorization letter from Mr. Lupacchino, SJNRA Athletic Director. If an individual is 16 years or older, they can work out on their own. If they are under 16, then they must be accompanied by an adult.

We are very grateful to the Fitness Factory for partnering with St. John Neumann Regional Academy so that our students may enjoy another year of fitness and good health!



## St. John Neumann Odyssey of the Mind Team Victorious at World Finals



SJNRA team at State Capitol with Representative Mirabito

An Odyssey of the Mind team from St. John Neumann Regional Academy in Williamsport represented their school and the state of Pennsylvania in the 30th annual Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa in May. In a remarkable victory, the team placed second in the world. More than 750 teams from around the world competed at the annual event.



SJNRA team at City Hall with Mayor Campana, Mr. Aukema and Msgr. VanLoon.

The team consisted of students Adam Bahr, Katie Bahr, Doug Hasko, John Mattiace, JoAnne Murphy, Emily Sheleman and Phillip Trometter, and coaches Kathy Bahr, Keith Bauer and Jeff Trometter.

The St. John Neumann team solved the "Earth Trek" problem, which required them to design and build a small vehicle which would change each time it visited four environments. The team worked throughout the school year to perfect their solution to the "Earth Trek" problem. Before qualifying for the World Finals, the team placed first at the regional level in March, and first at the state level in April.

Upon the team's return to Williamsport, the St. John Neumann Odyssey of the Mind caravan was greeted by a police escort that led them to the Williamsport City Hall, where they were honored by Williamsport Mayor Gabriel J. Campana. Mayor Campana declared June 2 as "St. John Neumann Regional Academy Odyssey of the Mind Day". Monsignor Neil Van Loon, Episcopal Vicar of the western region of the Diocese of Scranton, offered his congratulations and said a prayer of thanks.

The team was also recognized by State Representative Rick Mirabito (D-83rd District) on June 12. Representative Mirabito offered his congratulations to the team and gave each team member a certificate in recognition of their second place finish at World Finals. On June 30, the team traveled to the state capitol in Harrisburg where they were recognized and honored by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

According to St. John Neumann Odyssey of the Mind Coach and Coordinator Kathy Bahr, "St. John Neumann Regional Academy proudly continues to offer our students an exceptional outlet for their creative thinking skills through the Odyssey of the Mind program. Year after year, the St. John Neumann OotM teams dominate at the regional tournament. We go on to excel at the state level, reaching World Finals seven of the last eight years with one or more SJNRA teams. The success that we have enjoyed is testament to our students' intelligence, creativity and hard work."

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Kids apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

## St. John Neumann LEOs Complete "Green" Service Project

In August, members of the St. John Neumann LEO Club, an extension of the Williamsport Lions Club, completed a service project at the St. John Neumann Regional Academy Sheridan Street Campus.



The SJNRA Sheridan Street Campus houses the Academy's preschoolers and kindergartners, and the campus features a large playground area for the children. At the end of the school year, mulch at the playground was minimal and in need of replacement and the area was overgrown with weeds. The LEOs were contacted to offer their support with the project.



LEO Club president, Adam Bahr, a senior at St. John Neumann, researched various kinds of mulch and found that rubber mulch would be most beneficial for this project. Rubber mulch is a unique rubber granule product recycled from 100% scrap tires. Rubber mulch is safe, economical, long-lasting and eco-friendly. It is sanitized and environmentally colored for a true "green" and safe playing field should children fall from the equipment.

The mulch was palletized and shipped from a remanufacturer in North Carolina. While awaiting its arrival, Bahr contacted SJNRA LEO Club members Sean Bierly, Devin Bierly and Conor Norris for assistance with the playground project.

After laying down a weed barrier fabric, donated by Susquehanna Supply, and affixing it to the playground area with landscape fasteners, donated by Helminiak's Greenhouse & Landscaping, the LEOs spread 12,000 pounds of the rubber mulch on the playground. The project took two days to complete.

Bahr said, "I'd like to thank the LEOs who helped with the Sheridan Street Campus playground project. I'm also very grateful to Mr. Tim Crotty at Susquehanna Supply and Dan and Dave Helminiak at Helminiak's Greenhouse & Landscaping for their assistance with this important project for our young St. John Neumann students. The St. John Neumann LEO Club was proud and happy to undertake this project and we know that the St. John Neumann students will enjoy their refurbished playground."

Under the direction of Mrs. Mary McFadden, SJNRA Chief Financial Officer and LEO Club Advisor, the Neumann LEOs will embark on the following projects this year: assisting the Williamsport Lions with their Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at the St. John Neumann Franklin Street Campus cafeteria, Cans for a Cause, in which aluminum cans will be collected during the holiday season, a Summer Softball Tournament, and the beautification and maintenance of two Via Bella Roundabouts. Bahr noted that other projects will be taken on as needed to assist the less fortunate in our community and around the world.

## LAPTOP IMMERSION PROGRAM

### Launched at SJNRA's Franklin Street Campus

Rapid technological advances in the last decade have sparked educational practitioners' interest in utilizing laptops as an instructional tool to improve student learning. There is substantial evidence that using technology as an instructional tool enhances student learning and educational outcomes.

Elementary Principal and System Director, Susan Kaiser, stresses the importance of the use of the "SMART Systems" in many of the classrooms. She noted, "We are very excited about the addition of our new laptop program. Past research suggests that compared to their non-laptop counterparts, students in classrooms that have access to laptops spend more time involved in collaborative work, participate in more project-based instruction, produce writing of higher quality and greater length, gain increased access to information, improve research analysis skills, and spend more time doing homework on computers."



Research has also shown that these students can direct their own learning, report a greater reliance on active learning strategies, readily engage in problem solving and critical thinking, and consistently show deeper and more flexible uses of technology than students without access to individual laptops.

Computer use at the Academy for the elementary students is nothing new. The computer integration at the Franklin Street Campus goes back to our first computer lab instituted almost 17 years ago. Under a grant from Jersey Shore State Bank and then President Ted Reich, and Frank Pellegrino of PRIMUS Technologies, a lab was established with the most technologically advanced computers of that time. Today, these would be archaic. The turnover for new technology and software in this lab was about every 3 years. But today, it's about availability; it's about ease of use and accessibility. All of the studies show that all test scores will improve substantially and there is a significant difference on learning with laptop accessibility.

Our goal is for this program to get stronger and stronger every year so that one day even our Pre-K and Junior Kindergarten students have access to laptops.



## SJNRA Early Childhood Centers Educate our Smallest Treasures



At SJNRA's three Early Childhood Center sites, we offer many of the area's youngsters an exceptional faith-filled beginning to their education.

Our Eastern Lycoming Preschool Center, housed in the new Resurrection Church in Muncy, accommodates children ages 6 weeks old through 5 years. This center celebrates its first anniversary in its new, state-of-the-art building in November.

According to Miss Danielle McFadden, director of the SJNRA Eastern Lycoming Preschool Center, the center is flourishing. "We're pleased to offer a Catholic daycare and preschool option to parents in the eastern portion of Lycoming County. In addition to offering full day infant and toddler care, our preschoolers enjoy all the benefits of a Catholic academic program," said McFadden. According to McFadden, many field trips are planned for this school year for the preschoolers. Among them are visits to Reptiland, the Little League Museum, the Hiawatha Riverboat and the movie theatre.

The St. John Neumann Preschool Center on Jaxks Hollow Road proudly continues the tradition of Catholic education in the Bastress valley with a preschool program for children, ages 3 and 4. The program is offered three mornings a week.

Mrs. Jakki Packer is the director of the SJNRA Bastress Preschool program. She commented, "There has been nothing but excitement amongst parents in the valley for our preschool program at the Bastress campus. Parents are thrilled that they have the opportunity to give their youngsters a Catholic academic foundation."



The St. John Neumann Early Childhood Center on Sheridan Street houses students in grades preschool, junior kindergarten and kindergarten. Because of overwhelming demand for our preschool program, a new room was recently opened for 4 year olds. According to Mrs. Beth Ecker, Head Teacher at the Sheridan Street Campus, "The family-oriented, friendly atmosphere at our Early Childhood Centers continues to attract new students to our classrooms. We are proud to offer a social, academic and faith-based foundation to each child's education."

For more information on our preschool program, please contact Mrs. Ecker at 323-0500.



**Saint John Neumann Regional Academy**

901 Penn Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
www.sjnra.org

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## St. John Neumann Fundraising Committee Announces UPCOMING EVENTS

The St. John Neumann Annual **Basket Bonanza** has always been a big hit in the area! This year will be no different. Our Basket Bonanza features a Chinese-style auction of 100 baskets, uniquely filled by our Academy's parents and friends. Included in the 100 baskets are MEGA baskets, each with a value of \$150 or more. Some of the Mega Baskets include a 4-person golf outing, Philadelphia Flyers package, Penn State Nittany Lions football package, a Purity Candy basket and an American Girl doll basket.

This year's event will be held at the SJNRA Franklin Street Campus gym and cafeteria on **Friday, October 16**. Doors open at 5 pm. The drawings start at 7:15 pm. Get a sneak peek at our great baskets on our Preview Nights - Wednesday and Thursday, October 14 and 15 from 6-8 pm. Bring out the whole family for a night of fellowship and fast-paced fun, all in support of Catholic education!

Log on to our website, [www.sjnra.org](http://www.sjnra.org), and download the *Basket Bonanza* booklet, which contains descriptions of all the baskets that will be raffled off on October 16. Please call SJNRA Development Director Kathy Bahr, 323-9953, ext. 205 if you need additional assistance or have any questions about the *Basket Bonanza*.

Join us at our monthly **Bingo** fundraiser at our Franklin Street Campus gym and cafeteria on the following dates:

- **Thursday, November 5**
- **Thursday, December 3**
- **Thursday, January 7**

Doors open at 5 pm. Early games start at 6:30 pm. Delicious food! Friendly workers! Great cash prizes! Hope to see you there!

Our Academy is once again participating in the Giant A+ Rewards program. We earn money every time you use your Giant Bonus card. Please consider designating SJNRA to receive you're A+ School Rewards. Our school ID number is 00573. You can sign up at any Giant store, on-line at [www.GiantAplus.com](http://www.GiantAplus.com) or by calling Kathy Bahr at 323-9953, ext. 205.

The Academy is sponsoring a **Terri Lynn Nut Sale** throughout the month of October, and a **Gertrude Hawk Christmas Candy Sale** during the month of November. If you would like a catalog and order form for either or both of these sales, please contact Kathy Bahr at 323-9953, ext. 205. All proceeds benefit our students.

*Thank you for your continued support of our fundraisers!*

## SJNRA Celebrates the 2009-2010 School Year

### St. John Neumann Regional Academy Locations and Contact Personnel

Junior/Senior High School Campus and Administrative Offices .....	323-9953
901 Penn Street	
Susan Kaiser, System Director/Elementary Principal .....	Ext. 216
Denise Tobin, Junior/Senior High School Principal .....	Ext. 203
Mary McFadden, Chief Financial Officer .....	Ext. 210
Kathy Bahr, Director of Development & Alumni Affairs .....	Ext. 205
Reverend David Bechtel, Chaplain .....	Ext. 218
<b>Early Childhood and Elementary Campuses</b>	
6101 Jacks Hollow Road, Bastress .....	745-3320
75 Musser Lane, Muncy .....	546-5272
1650 Sheridan Street .....	323-0500
710 Franklin Street .....	326-3738

**For more information, please visit our website at... [www.sjnra.org](http://www.sjnra.org)**

