

May 10, 2021



# DEPAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to the Spartan Sentinel, our bi-weekly electronic newsletter for all things DePaul Catholic.

## Principal's Corner

Mr. Russell Petrocelli

Dear DePaul Catholic High School Community,

Hard to believe that the month of May is upon us and we are into the 9th month of the school year. We have made it this far because of the commitment of our school community to abiding by the health and safety regulations that have been imposed upon us and by looking out for one another. It has not been easy but, together, we look forward to a successful conclusion of the school year.

At this time, we are in the midst of Advanced Placement testing...the tests started on May 3 and will conclude on May 17.

The final day of school for the Class of 2021 will be May 21, 2021 and Senior Final Exams will be held from May 24 to 27. Books not needed for final exams will be returned at this point and students will receive their graduation invitations, announcements, lawn signs, cap and gown, etc. on May 21.

The school and offices are closed on May 28, 2021 for our Bishop's Holiday!

The Senior Prom will be on June 1, 2021 with Graduation practices later that week, and Graduation to be held on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Graduation will be held outside and seniors will receive two tickets for reserved seats (or for admission into the gym should it rain, as there is no rain date). At the current time, outdoor gatherings are limited to 500 people (socially distanced) so others will be admitted to the outdoor ceremony until capacity is reached. The graduation ceremony will start with a prayer service and the presentation of senior awards and scholarships.

With upcoming Memorial Day weekend and prom celebration, we urge you to please keep your guard up and comply with all safety regulations. Graduation is less than a week after prom and it would be unfortunate if not all students and guests would be eligible to attend.

St. Vincent DePaul, Pray for Us!

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### **Attention Current Families...Have you re-enrolled your child for the next school year?**

Hello Everyone,

We are fast approaching the end of the '20-'21 school year. It has been my pleasure to have worked with all of our families during this crazy year to assist you in whatever way needed. We can all be proud of ourselves for getting through the challenges. To our Senior families, congratulations on a job well done. You have provided your child with an invaluable educational experience. Good luck to all of you and we hope you will stay in

touch and continue to be a part of our DePaul family.

To our returning families, please be sure to set up your FACTS Tuition Management payment plan for the 2021-2022 year. You have been receiving emails from FACTS inviting you to create next year's plan.

The \$400 re-enrollment fee for returning students is also due by June 1st along with the re-enrollment forms. I have attached the re-enrollment packet if you should need it. If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me at ext.203 or by email at [aboyounr@dpchs.org](mailto:aboyounr@dpchs.org).

As always I look forward to assisting you during your time at DePaul.

Thank you,

Rita Aboyou  
Tuition Administrator

### Re-Enrollment Packet

## Moving Forward...

Mr. John Merritt '71  
Vice Principal, Student Life

### **A tough few weeks for the parents of high school seniors...**

I was reminding myself that I have been to 45 proms and the same number of high school graduations. Oh Boy!

It is no secret that the next few weeks are very exciting in the life of a high school senior. In the life of the high school seniors' parents, not so much.

The senior is looking forward to the last day of school... the Prom, Graduation, graduation parties, and a summer of some fun and probably work. College is expensive. For high school parents, this time of year brings other thoughts. Thoughts that should be shared with the graduating child.

For the diligent parent, it is a time to worry about a number of things, and to ask questions.

- Where is my child? Are they where they said they would be? Who are they with? Where are they staying? How are they getting there? Are the drivers safe drivers? Where is this house they rented with their friends? Who is staying there? Will my child make some bad decisions? Will they make some good decisions? What advice should I offer my child? What if they lie to me?

These are just a few of the worries that will make a diligent parent bite their fingernails down to their knuckles.

You see, the kids think we don't know anything, that we were never young. They think we don't worry. Well we know what the kids are up to. We know what can go right and what can go horribly or tragically wrong over the next few weeks.

**A suggestion...** Let them know that you are worried, concerned and willing to be flexible only up to a point. If you think your child is heading into trouble, create a detour, any detour, because you are probably right.

Stop worrying that your child will be permanently upset with you. It is better that they be upset, they will get passed upset, especially when they need more money for college.

This time of year is not the time to offer your child carte blanche on what they wish to do. Most parents are **not** doing this. Continue to have boundaries and rules. Continue to remind your children to be safe and to honor your family. You deserve to be honored as a parent.

This is all hard to do, but it is necessary. Please remember your **child is listening** even if they say they are not.

I wish all parents of high school seniors well over the next few weeks.

I hope you get some rest while waiting for junior or juniorette to get home. I hope your chair is comfortable! They hate that you wait up, but they also want you to wait up. Kids!

Be well.

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## **Bishop Names John Merritt - a 'DePaul lifer' - as its next president**

*article & photo from the April 29th edition of The Beacon  
([linked here](#))*

By **MICHAEL WOJCIK**, News Editor

**WAYNE** John Merritt, vice principal of student life of DePaul Catholic High School here, has been “bleeding green” — the school color — for nearly half a century. He is a member of the Class of '71 and has devoted his entire 44-year career to the school, holding just about every position as a teacher and administrator. Last week, Bishop Sweeney appointed Merritt to the top leadership post: president of DePaul, effective July 1.

At DePaul, Merritt has built a storied career, having served in a variety of positions — all for the benefit of its students and fellow faculty and staff. They include history teacher, social studies department chair, public relations director, enrollment director, and recently vice principal of student life, a post he has held since 2017. Merritt has also coached varsity cross-country, track and field, and football, in addition to serving as senior class adviser and moderating every commencement ceremony since 1982.

“I’m so appreciative of my appointment as DePaul’s next president. Now, I’m thinking of what I can learn from all its past presidents in moving the school happily forward,” said Merritt, inspired by two past DePaul administrators: Sister of Charity Patricia Flarity, former principal, and Msgr. James O’Rorke, former director. “My goal is to continue the growth in student enrollment and update the school so our students have the tools for the best education possible in academics, spirituality, athletics, and the fine arts,” he said.

Not even included on Merritt’s impressive resume are the many informal and unofficial tasks that he has willingly assumed over the years to ensure the smooth operation of DePaul. His duties as vice principal today range from managing students and serving on many administrative committees to working closely with the school’s current president, Robert Stickles, and helping develop and implement the vision for DePaul, founded in 1956, he said.

In a joint statement last week, Mary Baier, diocesan school superintendent; Kenneth Marshall, Class of 1983 and chair of the selection board for the new president; and Stickles announced Merritt’s appointment and called his contribution to DePaul “immeasurable.”

“In his new position, John will lead and promote several initiatives to insure DePaul continues as ‘the place to be,’” wrote Baier, Marshall, and Stickles, listing some of his other plans. They include implementing DePaul’s new Academy Program for studies in engineering, medicine, and law; enhancing its physical plant; and recruiting and retaining qualified teachers to join the faculty. “To support these efforts, he’ll be seeking help in ‘time, talent and treasure’ from our many friends, including our thousands of alumni whose time on Alps Road [in Wayne, where DePaul is located] has happily formed the rest of their lives,” they wrote.



Looking back at his career at DePaul, which today educates 432 students, Merritt counted among his proudest accomplishments helping to implement Stand Tall, a substance-abuse prevention program, in which participating students agree to submit to random drug tests. Students, who test positive, are offered counseling and treatment. He told the story of a female student, who was expelled for testing positive multiple times. “Years later, that student wrote us a letter, saying, ‘Thank you for saving my life,’ ” Merritt said.

Merritt is also proud of helping establish DePaul’s Eighth-Grade Academy, an additional junior-high grade level at the school that helps eighth-grade students from public school “test the waters” of and “get acclimated” to the Catholic high school environment.

This initiative took place on the heels of a renaissance in the 2000s at DePaul initiated by Msgr. Geno Sylva, former president of the school and current rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson and diocesan vicar for special projects. Under his leadership, DePaul experienced a major expansion of its curriculum, facilities, extracurricular activities and its “second to none” technology, headed by Sue Parler, technology coordinator and varsity softball coach. Today, the school continues to build on that legacy, Merritt said.

Another proud moment for Merritt was the way DePaul continued to educate its students, during the COVID-19 lockdown — first, exclusively through distance learning at the beginning of the pandemic and later, mostly in-class instruction starting in the fall. In turn, students cooperated, wearing masks and practicing social distancing, he said.

“I love DePaul because it’s a family unit like when I was a student and later when I started working here. Many great people on staff have worked in a quiet way to do many things like helping a student get through math, get a job or get into college. Everyone has used his or her talents to benefit the school and its students — an idea that started with Sister Pat [Flarity],” said Merritt, who noted that DePaul has a diverse population ethnically, racially, and socioeconomically. He also reflected on its Catholic identity. “Here, we can gather for liturgies, talk about God openly, and go to theology class to learn about what being Catholic is all about,” he said.

While a DePaul student, Merritt experienced that “family” atmosphere firsthand, inspired by many teachers and football coaches. He met his wife, Jane, in economics class, where they “hit it off.” They were married in 1975 and have a daughter, Brynn Merritt-Campbell, a graduate of Pope John XXIII Regional Catholic High School in Sparta. Currently, she serves as DePaul’s marketing and enrollment director and head coach of its varsity winter and spring track team. Married, she recently gave birth to the Merritts’ first grandchild, Cooper John, he said.

In 1977, Merritt joined the faculty as a history teacher, after having earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and government at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y., two years before. He earned a master’s degree in educational leadership and administration from William Paterson University in Wayne in 1993. Merritt was named Diocesan Teacher of the Year in 1989 and was inducted into DePaul’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013.

But Merritt said his greatest reward is when graduates flash smiles on commencement night, realizing how far they have come. One graduate this year will be Victoria Lindo, who credits Merritt with helping her find the financial resources to stay in school.

“You are what kept me here. My mom calls you my guardian angel. Also, when I’m stressed out, I come to your office and you calm me down,” Lindo told Merritt, during a recent Beacon interview.

In retrospect, Merritt said, “DePaul changes our students’ lives.

“When they come back, they talk about the teaching as much as the football games. Here, they feel secure, challenged and cared for,” Merritt said.

**Welcome, Future Spartans!**

Mrs. Brynn Merritt Campbell  
Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management

## Did You Miss Our Virtual Open House?

Click the link below to check out our most recent Virtual Open House.

[Virtual Open House](#)

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### Class of 2025 Admissions Process

**While we are still accepting applications for the Class of 2025, items submitted now will be reviewed on a rolling basis if there is room in the incoming class. Please note: The Class of 2025 is nearly filled to capacity and we anticipate starting a waiting list in the coming weeks.**

**Apply Online, Send Your Transcripts, Test Scores, & Teacher Recommendation ASAP!**

[Click Here To Apply](#)

Email is best: [admissions@dpchs.org](mailto:admissions@dpchs.org)

Transcripts from 6th, 7th, and 1st Marking Period of 8th

Test Scores = any State testing completed in Middle School

Teacher Recommendation = Middle School Academic Teacher

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**DePaul Catholic**  
EIGHTH GRADE PREP SCHOOL

*The place to begin*

We are in the process of interviewing our next group of Prep students.

To be considered, please apply here:

[https://depaulcatholic.schooladminonline.com/users/sign\\_in](https://depaulcatholic.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_in)

Be sure to indicate that you are interested in 8th Grade Prep.

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**[Click Here For The Spartan Shop!](#)**

### Alumni & Advancement News

[Joe Lennon, Director of Development](#)

[Coleen Fitzgerald Brophy '79, Director of Special Events & Alumni Relations](#)

**The Kristen Koenig Scholarship Fund**

**Est. in 2010**

Kristen graduated from DePaul in 2002. She had a strong sense of belonging in DePaul Catholic and loved her days here as a student.

The scholarship supports a DePaul Catholic junior who best embodies the life and legacy of Kristen. The scholarship is for two years.

If you would like to make a donation please click on the link below.

Thank you for your continued support!

[Click Here to Donate!](#)

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**2020 DE PAUL CATHOLIC  
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES:**

NATALIA (SISTI) CAPPELLO, '06  
FREDERICK (FRED) FAHERTY, '63  
DAVID LENNON, '98  
MICHAEL LUDWIG, '78  
PATRICIA MERINGER, '08  
GLENN PEANO, '97  
LANA RAE PETERSON, '89  
MICHAEL PIERCE, '68  
TRAVIS REINHARDT, '98  
MSGR. GENO SYLVA  
ANNA VELTRI, '07  
THE 1972 STATE CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM

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**2020 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME  
INDUCTION CEREMONY**

**THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021  
6:00PM – 9:00PM**

**\$95 PER PERSON**

COCKTAIL HOUR WITH FOOD STATIONS  
& BUTLER PASSED HORS D'OEUVRES  
COFFEE, TEA & DESSERT

**THE GROVE  
697 POMPTON AVENUE  
CEDAR GROVE, NJ**

PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT BENEFIT  
DEPAUL CATHOLIC SPARTAN ATHLETICS

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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**2021 Golf Classic**  
**Honoring the Atieh Family**  
June 14, 2021  
North Jersey Country Club

Reserve your foursome or purchase your dinner ticket here!

## The Alumni Scholarship Program

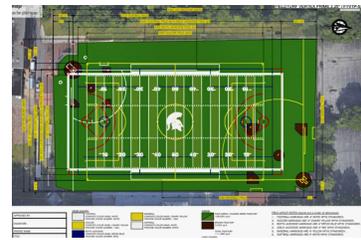
Calling all Alumni! Want to be a part of giving the gift of a Spartan education? The Alumni Scholarship was created in the 2020-2021 school year by DePaul Catholic Alumni. For more information on how to be a part of this scholarship program contact Joe Lennon at

[lennonj@dpchs.org](mailto:lennonj@dpchs.org) / 973-865-8725 or Coleen Brophy at [brophyc@dpchs.org](mailto:brophyc@dpchs.org)/973-865-4787.



Click here to listen to what some of our current sponsors & scholars are saying.

## Annual Fund For The Future



DePaul Catholic would like to thank all alumni who have sent donations to offset the new athletic turf installation, the Annual Fund, The Alumni Scholars Fund and the Sr. Patricia Flarity Fund.

DePaul Catholic's most pressing issue is the need for a **new roof** for the gym and for the west wing. The cost is \$300,000.00. Starting on February 11, 2021 all donations to the Annual Fund will go towards the new roof. Anyone who would like to donate directly to that fund can send their donation to the Development Department in care of Joe Lennon or Coleen Brophy.

When Coach Lennon first started working at DePaul, Monsignor John McHugh said that DePaul's foundation was based on the students & alumni, teachers and parents. That foundation has remained strong for the past 64 years. Thank you in advance for all your help.

Stay Safe and God Bless  
Go Spartans  
Joe Lennon & Coleen Brophy

## Spend Your Summer As A Spartan



### Test Prep at DPCHS

July 12-22, 2021

The Test Prep course focuses on preparing middle school students who intend to sit for a High School entrance exam. Students will navigate through the structure and setup of a variety of entrance exams and practice sample content while receiving valuable test-taking tips. Our goals are to familiarize students with possible formats, help them build confidence in their abilities, and give them a competitive advantage on test day.

Questions: [forsythk@dpcchs.org](mailto:forsythk@dpcchs.org)



SPEND YOUR SUMMER AS A SPARTAN



[www.depaulcatholic.org](http://www.depaulcatholic.org)

Grades 3-9

Enroll Today!

Register Here!

## Spartan Nation



DePaul Catholic Boys Basketball is collecting new and slightly used sneakers that will be donated to Africa and distributed to those who are in most need of foot wear.

Sneakers can be dropped off to the Main Office at DePaul.

Now is the time to clean out your closet and donate those used and unwanted sneakers.

### Signing Day - May 7, 2021

Congratulations to the following student-athletes who will be playing their sport in college next year.

Evan Thomas - Baseball  
Ja'Shone Sellers - Football  
Greg Klepacki - Lacrosse  
Vincent Sciacca - Wrestling  
Nuccio Lisitano - Football  
Skylar DiFabio - Football  
Michael D'Arco - Lacrosse  
Jordan Sellers - Football  
Jared Goodman - Football  
Matthew Wilderson - Football



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**Happy Birthday, Coach Mac!**



## AROUND THE HALLS

### Notes From The School Counseling Office

On April 27th, over half of the Junior class participated in a School Day SAT. The SAT School Day provides schools, districts, and states a way to offer the SAT to juniors and seniors in school, on a weekday, expanding access to a globally recognized college admission test that's widely accepted at U.S. colleges.

By breaking down barriers to access, SAT School Day can have a profound impact on a community—opening doors to college, scholarships, and financial aid for every student.

When students have the opportunity to test at their own school, they're more likely to take the test. They do not have to worry about locating or getting to the testing site. School day testing does not disrupt weekend plans, jobs or family time. There is also comfort in being able to test in familiar surroundings with people they know.

We will be offering another School Day SAT for the Seniors in the fall of 2021.

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## **Theology Department**

From May 10 - May 31, our DePaul community will be collecting baby supplies that will be shared with women served by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and the House of Discernment (CASA) in Paterson. ANY type of baby item may be donated. Gift cards, baby clothes, diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, baby creams, baby toys and the like are greatly appreciated. There will be a baby crib at the school entrance for donation drop offs. Gift cards should be given to Ms. Bock in room 105. Thank you for your continued support for the community!

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## **World Language Honor Society**

Between May 3rd and 7th, World Language Honor Society collected used reading and sunglasses for children and adults.

The glasses will be donated to the Lions Club.



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## **Fine & Performing Arts Department**



## A Celebration of the Arts

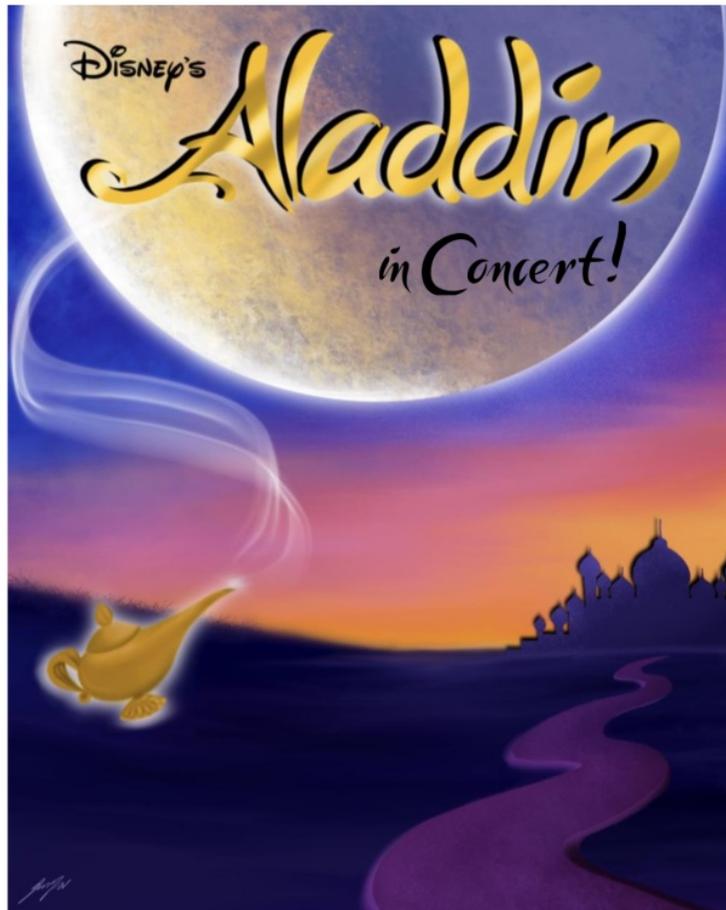
The **Fine and Performing Arts Department** presents a virtual celebration of the art and music created by our students over the past school year.

Sit back, relax and enjoy some incredible works of art completed by the students in our AP Art Studio, Honors Portfolio and Portfolio classes. Then watch an encore presentation of our production of **Aladdin: In Concert!**

Celebration Of The Arts

# PLAYBILL®

The Fine & Performing Arts Department  
DePaul Catholic High School  
Wayne, NJ



## Aladdin Playbill

## Recording of Aladdin

SFC Desi Maik (DP Staff) with Captain Roy Coats together with the 89th NY Ret. Army Band were taping a recording session of the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America for the NY Yankees opening Memorial Day Game using Zoom.



## DePaul Catholic Parents' Association WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Our next PA Executive Board meeting is **Tuesday, April 27th at 7 pm** in the DP Information Commons Room! All are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!



**From The TRICKY TRAY  
COMMITTEE**

**Mother Earth's Garden Party  
WALK-THROUGH Tricky Tray**

Saturday, May 22, 2021

**DePaul Catholic High School**

Attendees can choose from **3  
time slots**

12pm - 1:30pm 1:30pm - 3:00pm 3:00pm  
- 4:30pm  
(these slots are first come first serve)

**Entrance Fee - \$20** Ticket packages  
start at - \$35  
Entrance Fee includes: admission,  
1 sheet of small prize tickets and 1 small  
door prize

**6 pm** - Tickets for Small, Medium &  
Large prizes will be pulled,  
recorded to a spreadsheet and uploaded  
to [www.depaulcatholic.org](http://www.depaulcatholic.org)

**8 pm** - Video of Calendar Raffle, Grand  
and Super Grand Prizes, Prize Wheels,  
Super 50/50 and 50/50 pulls will be  
uploaded to [www.depaulcatholic.org](http://www.depaulcatholic.org)

Winners can pick up prizes from 8:30 pm  
- 10 pm on May 22, 2021  
or from 12 pm - 2 pm on May 23, 2021

**All sales will be done online.**

Social distancing guidelines and executive  
orders will be in place at all times.

A mask **MUST** be worn at the event.

**Purchase your Entrance and Prize  
Tickets Here!**

**Purchase Your 50/50 Tickets  
Here!**

**DONATIONS!!!:** Please send in your  
donations! Make sure to include your  
name and retail value of the items so we

know whom to credit for the donation and what level to place it. The success of this event is dependent upon our entire Spartan Family. Thank you in advance for your support & a special thanks to the families that have already sent in their donations!



**Walk Through Tricky Tray**

The DePaul Parents' Association cordially invites you to the 63rd Annual Tricky Tray

**“Mother Earth’s Garden Party”**  
**Saturday, May 22, 2021**

DePaul Catholic High School  
1512 Alps Road, Wayne, NJ 07470

**Please send in donations!**

**DONATION WISH LIST**  
Cash Donations, Electronics (IPads/Apple Watches), Gift Cards, Small Appliances, Televisions, Fitbits, Designer Handbags  
Donated Services: landscaping, salon, accountant, plumber, electrician, etc.

Consider contributing a larger item with another family so we have more prize options at the event. Make sure to include your name and retail value on the items so we know whom to credit for the donation and what level to place it. The success of this event is dependent upon our entire Spartan Family. Thank you in advance for your support & a special thanks to the families that have already sent in their donations!

We will be following social distancing guidelines and executive orders in place at time of event. A mask **MUST** be worn at the event. All sales will be done online.

Prize Wheels  
Super 50/50  
5 Prizes Levels  
Wine Pull

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**Tricky Tray Prep!  
Committee Members Working Hard!**





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## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Advisor-** Sr. Jeanne Agans **President-** Allison Beshada **Secretary-** Mina Farrell, Leslie Minutti

**Treasurer-** Kim Wilderson **Tricky Tray-** Donna DiPiano, Maryann Marren, Debbie Lozito

**Hospitality-** Deb Murray, Julie Sullivan **Ambassadors-** Andie Pegel

**Calendar Raffle-** Cindy Winkler

**Snack Stand-** Bob Niemiec, Allison Beshada **Public Relations-** Brenda Salamon

**Stop & Shop-** Rosalind Tomeio

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## The Sister Jeanne Academic Scholarship Fund



[Donate Here!](#)

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STAY CONNECTED

