



THE RELATIONS

BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – Volume 6, Issue 1 – June, 2008

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Actions speak louder than words and Brebeuf is a community of action. One cannot help but marvel at the imagination, energy, talent, and commitment with which our students and staff have undertaken a variety of causes, initiatives, and projects that enrich the educational experiences of our Catholic community. We have supported charities, raised awareness of social justice issues, and celebrated as a community of faith. Here are but a few highlights:

Early in the year, we celebrated our second annual Communion Breakfast. The Catholic community spirit engendered there in the breaking of bread continues to permeate throughout our school.

In November, Brebeuf hosted its second annual Catholic Student Journalism Conference co-sponsored by Brebeuf College and the Catholic Register. Hundreds of students from TCDSB high schools learned about publishing techniques and were made aware of the importance of the Catholic perspective in an increasingly secular world.

Each year the Social Justice Symposium, conceived and organized by Brebeuf students, provides a forum for students from TCDSB Catholic high schools to focus on issues of social justice. This year's theme, selected by students, was aboriginal rights. The symposium featured native performers and a variety of speakers, most notably the Honourable James Bartleman, who spoke of the needs of Native Canadians and the efforts made to improve their plight.

In the tradition of men and women for others, teachers and students demonstrated their altruism and generosity. While showcasing the musical talents of our students, Club Brebeuf raised \$3,500 in support of the Children's Wish Foundation. Can-Aid, a twenty-year old tradition at Brebeuf, collected and donated 23,000 cans of food to the Good Shepherd Food Bank. New this year was Project Anti-Freeze, an initiative which started out as a one class project, but drew in the enthusiastic involvement of the entire school community. Project Anti-freeze collected and donated 1500 articles of clothing to the Yonge Street Mission. On the environmental front, our Green Team is raising awareness of the need for Christian respect for our environment.

School Spirit found many new expressions this year. Students and staff celebrated the Arts by showcasing their talents at our first Arts Fest. Theatre Brebeuf's production of *Once Upon a Mattress* was nothing short of spectacular, while our musical prodigies, B.C. Jazz brought home several prestigious awards. Our ESP (Empowered Student Partnerships) group hosted Band Fest, an evening that combined musical entertainment with education on a variety of issues facing teens. To assist in all of our celebrations and inspire school spirit, our Student Council introduced our lovable mascot, Bullsworth.

We are immensely proud of the accomplishments of our staff and students. Thanks to all who have given generously of their time and talents in order to serve others. We now look forward to a new school year with great anticipation. May you enjoy a restful summer. – **Mr. N. F. D'Avella**

JAZZ HITS HIGH NOTE

2008 has been an exceptional year for the Brebeuf Jazz programme. In February, both groups participated in the Kiwanis Music Festival. Fear of Romance, the jazz combo, left the adjudicator speechless with their original compositions and excellent musicianship. BC Jazz, the stageband, dominated the category scoring an amazing 90% to take first place. They were awarded the Francis Arrigo scholarship for best in jazz.

Both groups also competed in the regional finals of MusicFest Canada and were given invitations to the all Canadian Finals in Ottawa. The bands were set to travel to Ottawa in May.

Fear of Romance was the first to perform and received glowing reports from all four judges, not only on their talent and musicianship, but their ability to write all original material. For their efforts they received a silver medal.

BC Jazz performed several hours later and amazed the judges with their skilled articulation and jazz interpretations. Much to everyone's delight the band took home a gold medal.

We look forward to next year's jazz season as all band members are returning to Brebeuf.

BREBEUF RELATIONS

Our newsletter takes its name from the Jesuit Relations, letters that St. Jean de Brebeuf S.J. and his Jesuit colleagues sent home from Canada to their superiors in France in the 17th century. May our Brebeuf Relations also be a message of faith and hope and highlight our good works in the spirit of Christ.

JESUITS AT BREBEUF

We were lucky to have **Chris Krall S.J.**, a Jesuit scholastic, visit our school every week to contribute to the Jesuit and Catholic character of the school.

Chris visited religion classes, presents material on Ignatian spirituality, and talks about vocations. He has also started a faith group called BULC (Brebeufians Unifying Life and Catholicism) and assisted with the ski team. Chris also studies at Regis College downtown.

Chris was not the only Jesuit involved at Brebeuf this year. **Father W. Rye** (Former Principal), **Father Len Altilia**, and **Father John Sullivan** return often to Brebeuf to say Mass, hear confessions, run retreats, and participate in other events in the life of the school. We hope to continue enhancing our links with the Jesuits and Presentation Brothers.

BROTHER HENRY HONOURED

Our Chaplain, **Brother Henry Spencer** of the Presentation Brothers, was given the "**Man for Others**" Award at Graduation in recognition for his untiring service to the school since 1984. Although officially retired, Brother volunteers his time every day at the school. Among his many roles, he helps plan retreats, leads the daily paraliturgical and prayers, and serves as a constant source of support and inspiration to the staff and students in their Catholic lives. May he be with us for many more years to come!

BREBEUF DEBATE UPDATE

At the last Pro-Con Debate, held at Michael Power, Brebeuf produced its best results in years and showed it remains a debating powerhouse. Our Senior Team of **Jason Cheng, Mitchell Li Cheong Man, Richard Todd, and Mathew Seddon** placed 3rd out of 16 teams. Jason Cheng, the club president, placed first out of 64 debaters!

Our Junior Team of **Sam Presvelos, Adam Craig, David Goldstein, and Dennis Wong** placed first out of seventeen schools with a six-win no-loss record!

BROTHER MAHER FUND FOR AFRICA

The Brebeuf community has donated over \$4500 to the Brother Maher Fund for Africa and all proceeds go to the Presentation Brothers' school in Yendi, Ghana. Brebeufians continue to live out our motto of "Men for Others".

BREBEUF RHODES SCHOLAR!

Wojciec Gryc '04 has been awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University. This puts Wojciec in the company of other former Rhodes scholars such as Bill Clinton, Bob Rae, and Marc Kielburger, also a Brebeuf alumnus.

GIFTED UPDATE

Brebeuf welcomed twenty-one Gifted Grade 9 students this year, bringing our total numbers to fifty-five; the highest number in many years.

We introduced the **Duke of Edinburgh** programme and 34 students have taken up the challenge to learn new skills, become physically active, volunteer 15-20 hours of their time to the community, and undertake an adventurous expedition. All students would benefit from participation in this programme.

Some of the many activities in which students participated were: Toronto Catholic Student Journalism Conference, hosted by Brebeuf; Brebeuf Social Justice Symposium; Canadian Club Luncheons; Perspectives Gifted Conference; Queen's E=MC² Enrichment Week; and Journey of Discovery.

In September we are introducing a **Congregated Gifted Programme**, which will offer students a number of enrichment and leadership opportunities as part of the Grade 9 Religion course.

A.P. AND ENRICHED COURSES

In 2008-09, Brebeuf will be offering the following Pre-AP and AP Enriched courses: English (10,11,12); Mathematics (10,11); and Science (10).

Students who take Pre-AP / AP Enriched courses will: be better prepared to write Advanced Placement examinations in Grade 12; study university-level material before the end of Grade 12; be challenged by high expectations in a class with similarly-motivated peers; spend less time on rote learning and more on theory, class discussions, excursions, and activities; move at a faster pace than regular courses; and begin university courses at an advantage over classmates since some material high school will be review.

Those who are successful in A.P. exams can be granted university credits for work completed in high school. If you have any questions about Enriched courses or AP examinations, please contact Mr. Da Costa.

NEW YORK CITY 2008

This May, thirty students visited New York City under the supervision of **Mr. Cavaiola, Ms. Johnston** and **Ms. Pieroni**.

Our first stop in the city was Harold's Square, the home of Macy's, an eight-story monstrosity of a mall. We visited the Museum of Modern Art, where we found a variety of abstract, simplistic, and just plain crazy art and explored Times Square. That night, we watched Hairspray, the musical, on Broadway.

The next day, our first stop was The Museum of the Moving Image, where we found many props and merchandise from classic movies. We then moved on to Fifth Avenue, a street full of expensive shops. Next was vintage shopping and dinner in Little Italy.

The last day proved to be eventful, as we toured the Metropolitan Art Museum, visited the site of the former World Trade Center and Chinatown, and capped off the evening with a great performance at a local comedy club. We also visited Rockefeller Centre, the Empire State building and took the ferry to see the Statue of Liberty. (By Luc Rinaldi)

EUROPE TRIP 2008

Thirty Brebeuf students participated in the 2008 March Break Trip to London, Paris and Rome. Highlights included visits to Big Ben and Westminster Abbey in London before taking the Eurostar train to Paris, visiting the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Louvre, and the most popular stores. The last four days of the trip were spent in Italy, touring Florence, Rome, Pisa, Sorrento, a boat excursion to Capri, and attending a Papal Mass on Palm Sunday in the Vatican.

In March 2009, we will travel to Athens, Sicily and Rome. Contact Mr. De Miglio at sergio.demiglio@tcdsb.org.

VICS FAST-A-THON

About 100 Brebeufians, staff and students included, participated in the annual 12 hour VICS-fast-a-thon, which occurs every Holy Thursday. Headed by **Mrs. Pieroni**, the fasters donned red caps and diligently resisted the temptation to eat in hopes of reminding idle Brebeufians of the underprivileged children in third world nations who are in much need our help.

Father Bob Colburn C.S.S.P. renewed the faith and determination of the "red caps" as they attended a one hour

presentation introducing VICS. Fasters participated in a wide variety of activities and were entertained by Brebeuf musicians, the comical antics of our drama students and the karaoke serenades of Ms. Pieorni, Ms. Boetto and Ms. Johnston. In all, several thousands of dollars were raised.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

On March 3rd, a group of talented students participated in the Ontario Destination Imagination competition. We built a robot suit out of cardboard, a fishing rod out of socks, and improvised how a 15th century pharaoh would have hunted for food. Supervised by **Ms. Rasciauskas**, two groups of students from our school took up this challenge. They were: **Alex Geronimo, Ryan Pinto, Mitchell Sutton, Mitchell Li Cheong Man, Richard Todd, Jason Cheng, Jeremy Han, Michael Yu, Michael Ghazal, Michael Hui, David Paul Song, James Rassos, Philip Luu and Jonathan Kwong**. One team qualified for the World Championships; all had a ridiculously good time.

ROBOTICS TEAM SCOOPS 2nd PLACE

On Saturday March 29, Brebeuf's very own robotics team travelled to Francis Libermann H.S. for an exciting robotics' competition. Supervised by **Mr. Marozzo** and led by **Robert Cusimano**, the team consisted of **Matthew Loong, Matthew Au Yeung, David Yoon, Brian Battaglia, Adrian William and Braden Lau**. The team spent six months carefully designing and constructing the robot that had to navigate an obstacle course consisting of gulleys, barriers, bridges and rivers. Unfortunately, Brebeuf did not advance to the championship, but the team ended up with the outstanding result of second place!

FOUR-PEAT FOR THE AQUABULLS

On February 13, the Aqua-Bulls successfully maintained their Overall Boys' Swimming Title for the fourth straight year. Aqua-Bulls accomplished the impossible by winning in the Midget (Grade 9), Junior (Grade 10) and our first ever Senior (Grades 11-12) Title and the Overall Boys' titles. Brebeuf has now captured 11 TDCAA Titles in the past four years, a feat unprecedented in any high school sport.

The Midget Boys' Medley Relay Team consisting of **Owen Gillette, Marshall Taffe, Victor Pang and Christian Mussachia**. **James Hagen**, in the DD/ME class, in his first ever meet captured gold in the 50m backstroke.

2008 SPORTS VICTORIES

TDCAA Swimming Overall Boys
 TDCAA Midget Boys Swimming
 TDCAA Junior Boys Swimming
 TDCAA Senior Boys Swimming
 TDCAA Curling
 TDCAA Badminton
 TDCAA Table Tennis

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

For the first time in many years, Brebeuf hosted a Blood Donor Clinic. Over 75 students and staff gave generously of their blood, exceeding the expectations of Canadian Blood Services Volunteers. Thanks to Mr. DiMauro for spearheading and organizing this new venture and to Armando of Pina Foods for providing refreshments.

BREBEUFIAN DRAFTED TO O.H.L.

Congratulations to **Tim Cambell**, a grade 11 student who was drafted to the Guelph Storm in the Ontario Hockey League. We look forward to seeing Tim in the N.H.L. in the near future!

STAFF CHANGES

After teaching at Brebeuf since 1985, **Mr. Jacques Carron**, head of the French Department, is retiring. **Mrs. Francesca Franceschetti** has taught religion and French at Brebeuf since 1995 and will be taking a teaching position at Dante Alighieri. **Mr. D'Avella** has been appointed Principal of Michael Power / St. Joseph H.S. **Ms. Pope** is going to Msgr. Johnson.

We thank all for their many years of dedicated service and wish them well! Bonne chance!

GRADUATION AWARDS

The Catholic Student Award
 Peter Krevs

**The Father J. Winston Rye
 S.J. Award**
 James Rassos

**The Governor-General's
 Medal**
 James Rassos

**The E.J. Barry Renaissance
 Award:**
 Jonathan Kwong

**The Presentation Brothers'
 Award**
 Michael Sukhu

**The O'Neil P. Gazeley
 Scholarship**
 Brian Vethanayagam

**The Brebeuf Benefactors'
 Award**
 Alex Zappone

**The Michael Brown Memorial
 Award**
 Anthony Ciccarella

**The Brother Lawrence Maher
 F.P.M. Award**
 Peter Krevs

The Lieutenant-Governor's
 Simon Liu

Devin Dzelme

The Joe Will
 Kyle Diaz & Zachary Boyden

**The Jim Peterson
 Parliamentary Award**
 Ryan Taffe

The Visual Arts
 Kyle Diaz

The Joe Younder Award
 Jason Cheng

The O.E.C.T.A. Award
 David Yoon
 Ju Hyun Park

The Bob Shannon '69 Bursary

**Peter Knopfel '81 Memorial
Scholarship**

Evan Rassos

**The Father St. Clair Monaghan
S.J. Award**

Jason Cheng

**The U of T National Book
Award**

James Rassos

**The Jim Morris '77 Journalism
Award**

Khaalid Gonzales

The Theatre Brebeuf Award

William Mackenzie

OYAP Award of Excellence

Giuseppe Alicandro & Will Toth

**Michael Tomaszek '82 Music
Award**

Devin Dzelme

The Salutatorian Scroll

Michael Carlascio

The Valedictorian

Jonathan Kwong

*A complete description of all awards
can be found at
www.brebeuf-alumni.org/awards*

2008 ATHLETIC AWARDS

Senior Athlete of the Year

Beau Mondesir

Junior Athlete of the Year

Owen Gillette

Soccer

JR: Daniel Seddon
SR: Moshee Kelyana

Badminton

Midget: Dooly Sim
JR: Anthony Ho
SR: Darren Ho

Baseball

Mitchell Sutton

Basketball

JR: Jordan Hill
SR: Larry Chua

Cross Country

Midget: Evan Wojna
JR: Rahul De Golden
SR: Beau Mondesir

Curling

Kevin Hawkshaw

Hockey

JR: Matthew Lepore
SR: Joseph Monticchio
Joe Sinopoli Award: Anthony Villella

Rugby 15's

JR: Alex Romita
SR: Arjun DaCosta

Rugby 7's

Bantam: Michail Mickael
JR: Sam Presvelos
SR: Andrew Cassar

Swimming

Midget: Owen Gillett
JR: George Malouf
SR: Zack Boyden

Table Tennis

JR: Calvin Tsang
SR: Matthew Loong

Tennis

JR: Sebastian Zapata
SR: Anthony Gredicak

Volleyball

JR: Luc Rinaldi
SR: Michael Hui

Track & Field

Midget: Miguel Santos
JR: Nicolas Smith
SR: Beau Mondesir