



THE RELATIONS

BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – Volume 6, Issue 1 – February, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Over the past five months, I've had many opportunities to witness how the Brebeuf staff, students and parents work together in support of meaningful learning experiences, as well as faith and community development. This newsletter highlights some of the ways this was accomplished in the first half of the 2008 – 2009 academic year.

We continue to develop our Student Success Strategy as outlined by the Ministry of Education and coordinated by the TCDSB. Providing quality learning experiences for all our students is a high priority. The tradition of promoting academic excellence continues here at Brebeuf with additional attention being given to expanding opportunities for student success. Earlier this year, students participated in a survey to help us better understand the Brebeuf student of today. Technology is an important tool and the acquisition of more computers to support student learning is a priority.

Faith development is highly valued here at Brebeuf, with the traditional focus on developing "men for others". In addition to our religion program, school Masses, morning paraliturgies and school retreats, students and staff have been putting their faith into action by organizing and generously contributing to a number of important fund raising events.

Our athletics and arts programmes, as well as our clubs and committees, continue to provide important community building opportunities. In the first semester, Brebeuf fielded teams that included golf, soccer, volleyball, cross country, swimming, hockey, tennis and basketball. In December, Theatre Brebeuf presented the play *You Could Die Laughing* and the Arts department hosted its second annual Arts Fest to showcase dramatic and visual arts presentations and a band concert. The Catholic School Advisory Council, co-chaired by Louise Whitfield, and the Brebeuf Alumni Association also continue to support our school community in a variety of ways. One example of this was the annual Communion Breakfast last October with former Brebeuf chemistry teacher, Father Donald Beaudois S.J. celebrating Mass.

Projections based on the January 2009 registration of our own students and the registration of Grade 8 students demonstrate that Brebeuf continues to be a place where many want their sons to be educated. We thank everyone in the community for their support and look forward to a second semester that will continue to provide valuable and cherished learning experiences for all.

-- Mr. Anthony Azzopardi

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 Relations also be a message of faith and hope and highlight our good works in the spirit of Christ.

M. Da Costa, Editor

OPERATION COVER-UP

The Brebeuf community raised over 3,600 articles of clothing in the recent "Operative Cover-up" drive for the homeless of Covenant House, VICS, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The staff at Covenant House shelter wrote to express their gratitude: "On behalf of the youth and staff at Covenant House, we want to thank the students of Brebeuf College for their generosity during the recent coat drive Operation Cover Up. The coats you shared with your homeless peers are your collective voice telling them that you know they exist. You have given them more than just warm coats for the winter; you have shown them that you care."

Thanks to **Mr. DiMauro**, **Mr. Breglia** and the students for their leadership in this initiative.

RUGBY RESURGENCE

At the All Ontario Rugby 7's tournament in the fall, Brebeuf's rugby teams showed they are among the best in the province! The Juniors came 3rd out of 28 teams and the Bantams came 5th! The Seniors were also very competitive. The teams are coached by **Mr. N. Galatianos**, himself a former Brebeuf rugby player, **Mr. D. Wright**, and **Ms. M. James**.

STAFF CHANGES

Brebeuf College welcomes the following new staff members: **Mr. A. Azzopardi**, Principal; **Mr. D. Breglia**, Religion; **Ms. M. Douglas**, Math/Science; **Ms. Marta-Marta James**, Special Education; **Mr. J. Liscio**, Vice-Principal; **Mr. K. MacDonald**, French; **Ms. K. Prescod**, Drama/Religion/Special Education; **Ms. A. Rodrigues**, Special Education/French; and **Mr. S. Waithe '91**, Student Supervisor.

We also bid farewell to **Mr. A. Cavaiola**, who is spending a year on a teacher exchange in Australia. A special welcome to his replacement, **Ms. Kirsten Beletich**, from St. Francis Xavier's College in Newcastle, New South Wales. Ms. Beletich is teaching drama and we hope that she feels part of the Brebeuf family.

4th ANNUAL CLUB BREBEUF FUNDRAISER

On November 7th, the Atrium was transformed into a night club setting for the purposes of displaying the entertainment talent of students and the raising of funds for the Children's Wish Foundation. More than 350 guests were treated to a variety of acts, ranging from musicians, through comic performers to singers.

It was a night to witness and to enjoy such a talented and enthusiastic group whose sole purpose was to give of themselves, their talent and to a foundation helping others.

The event raised \$4,100.00 for Children's Wish, bringing our four year total to \$13,400. Congratulations to all performers

and contributors. Special thanks to **Ms. Lavery** and **Mr. Adams** for the organization.

CAN-AID

Brebeufians continued a twenty-four year Christmas tradition by raising canned food for the homeless at the Good Shepherd Refuge. Over 8,000 cans were raised this year. Thanks to **Mr. Lamb** and **Mr. Rogers** for overseeing this project.

TANZANIA EXPERIENCE

Grade 12 students **Will Cerre** and **Sean Canaran** travelled to Tanzania this past summer to help build a windmill under the auspices of the Precious Blood Fathers. This project provides water and food for a village and is an excellent example of Brebeufians putting their faith into action. Next summer, **Ms. Ms. Loranger** will bring five Brebeuf students to Kenya for a similar experience.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

Brebeuf hosted its fifth annual Social Justice Symposium in December at the University of Toronto. Over 200 students from across the city came to hear from guest speakers and attend workshops on the theme of "Awareness of Unfairness: Connecting with the Developing World".

"The theme arose from planning discussions in our Faith, Peace and Justice group, which is modelled on similar groups at other Presentation schools," according to Michael Da Costa, a teacher and one of the event's moderators. "Our students are aware of the Developing World through the Brother Maher Fund for Africa, a fundraising and education campaign to support the Presentation Brothers' school in Yendi, Ghana."

After Mass, students heard from the day's keynote speaker, **Father James Webb, S.J.**, the Provincial of the Jesuits in English Canada and a former teacher at Brebeuf. Father Webb has just returned to Toronto after twenty years in Jamaica. He had much to say about social justice and how big changes can come about in small steps and with one person at a time.

Students also heard from a Rwandan genocide survivor, watched a documentary on child worker rights in India, and saw a slideshow presentation by a Brebeuf student who helped build a windmill and work in orphanages in Tanzania.

The day ended with students participating in workshops run by social justice groups working in Toronto and the Developing World, giving students concrete ways to get involved and put their faith into action. \$1000 was donated for education in the poor parts of Jamaica and the various charity groups.

"If even a few students become engaged in social justice causes as a result of the Symposium, then I'd call it a success," added Mr. Da Costa.

EDMUND RICE VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Eight Brebeuf students were recognized with the Edmund Rice Volunteer Awards at Awards Night in October. These students gave of their time in serving local charities and their neighbours. Based on a similar programme in the Presentation Brothers' Irish schools, the students volunteered a minimum of twenty hours of service and reflected on their service in light of their faith and the life of Blessed Edmund Rice, founder of the Presentation Brothers.

Some of the projects in which they were involved included: working for the poor in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, helping at a food bank, and working in a soup kitchen. Each student received a certificate from **Brother Henry Spencer F.P.M.**, the school chaplain.

According to **Mr. Da Costa**, "These young men exemplify our school's ethos of forming "men for others" and we hope that many more students become part of the awards programme this year."

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

The Student Council has had a busy semester planning activities to increase spirit and make school fun! Some of the highlights so far this year:

- hundreds of Brebeuf leather jackets and scarves were sold and allow students to show their school pride;
- the Bullworth mascot made a reappearance after a brief holiday and helps raise the roof at after-school games;
- the Hallowe'en Dance was sold out and over 500 students from Brebeuf, Loretto, and St. Joseph's attended;
- planning is coming to fruition for the upcoming Semi-Formal Dance;
- Casual Days have raised thousands of dollars for the Catholics for Faith & Life (C.F.L.) club and the Brother Lawrence Maher Fund for Africa;
- a video games week held during lunches was popular with many students;
- a new full-colour school crest now adorns the Atrium and provides a focal point for school pride.

The Student Council looks forward to planning many more activities in the second term.

A.P. AND ENRICHED COURSES

In 2009-10, Brebeuf will be offering the following Pre-A.P. and A.P. Enriched courses: English (10,11,12); History (10); Mathematics (10,11,12); Religion (10); and Science (10,11).

Students who take Pre-A.P. / A.P. 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 will have been previously studied.

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.

BREBEUF CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

Second Semester began with a Communion Service in the

Chapel at 8:00 a.m. Attendance was optional; however, it was well attended. This service is a daily feature of life at Brebeuf.

In keeping with the mind of the Church for Lent, Mass will be celebrated by **Father Len Altilia S.J.** in our atrium on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. Lent is an important time for developing Christian values and personal spiritual growth. Two special services will be held in the gym on Holy Thursday when the "washing of the feet" will take place.

Our Lenten Day of Reconciliation Celebration will take place on Tuesday, March 3rd. A number of priests have been invited to be confessors and many avail of this opportunity.

During the second semester retreats are held for Grades 10, 11, and 12. Our retreat for Grade 11 is tied in to the Grade 11 program "Exploring World Religions." The students are bussed to various houses of worship on Bayview Avenue i.e. Har Zion Synagogue, the Mosque and the Buddhist Temple. At each location a speaker outlines the beliefs, traditions and customs of his/her religions. Students have opportunities to ask questions and get some answers. Students in Grade 10 go to the Jesuit Retreat Centre, Manresa, in Pickering and the Grade 12 students attend their retreat at Our Lady Queen of Apostles in Mississauga.

A Mass is always celebrated in our Chapel on the First Friday of each month. **Father Winston Rye, S.J.** is our usual celebrant. A closing Mass for the present school year will be celebrated in our gym on Friday June 5th, 2009. The Brebeuf community is most grateful to the Jesuit Fathers for their continued service and ministry to the life of the school.

The Virtue of the Month of February is Love. In January, it was the practice of the Virtue of Courage. During the month of January the Virtue of Courage was talked and prayed over as part of Morning Prayer.

Each Tuesday afternoon some students go to Gibson House on Steeles Avenue East where they play "Bingo" with the elderly people. The staff at the home are grateful to the students who give time to help and be with the elderly. Brother Henry and I extend our best wishes to all students and staff for a successful and safe semester at Brebeuf College.

ACADEMIC AWARDS NIGHT

Brebeuf's motto is *Studio Gradum Faciant*, meaning "To Succeed Through Study". On October 8, the school held its annual Academic Awards Night to recognize those students who bear positive witness to this motto. Students on the Honour Roll, who achieved an overall average of 80% or greater with no marks below 60%, received pins and certificates. Also recognized were those who had the highest mark in each course. Special awards were given to students with the highest average in each Grade:

- Gr. 9 Father Robert Meagher S.J. Award
Shaun Rana
- Gr. 10 Father Clement Crusoe S.J. Award
Christopher Dydula
- Gr. 11 Father Kenneth Casey S.J. Award
Steven Yee
- Gr. 12 Father Winston Rye S.J. Award
James Rassos

Zygmund Delos Reyes of Grade 10 won the Dr. Bob Lato Award for Most Improvement in His Studies. The Ned Harrington Award for Most Outstanding Grade 9 Student recognizes academics, leadership, and participation and was awarded to **David Goldstein**.

The school was also pleased to award Brebeuf Renaissance Distinctions to students with participation in clubs, athletics, service, and high academic achievement. (See www.brebeuf-alumni.org/awards for more information)

ALUMNI NOTES

Mark Kielburger '94 was named to the Order of Canada for his work in promoting social justice through organizations he helped to found, including "Me to We" & "Free the Children".

Joseph Boyden '85 won the Giller Prize for his novel, *Through Black Spruce*.

Bill Hutchison '75, news anchor for CTV 11 o'clock news, and **Frank MacGrath '82**, President of Golf Tournaments Inc., won the TCDSB Alumni Awards for their career successes and support of their alma mater and communities. **Fr. Winston Rye, S.J.**, former principal, received the board's Award of Merit for his decades of outstanding commitment to Catholic education and other Jesuit schools.

Jaroslav Hawrelwicz '91, a lawyer, recently climbed to the top of Mount Everest! He brought a Brebeuf crest with him to mark the importance his education here played in his life.

COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Over 130 students, staff, alumni joined their families at Brebeuf on October 19th to participate in an important annual tradition: the Communion Breakfast.

Mass was celebrated by **Father Don Beaudois S.J.**, a Jesuit priest and former science teacher at Brebeuf (1966-1983). Father was also recognized for his 50th year as a Jesuit and was presented with a Brebeuf varsity jacket on behalf of the Brebeuf community by **Mr. Rado Krevs**.

Following Mass, all were treated to a wonderful buffet breakfast prepared by our school's catering team (Pina Foods). It was a chance for families to celebrate their faith together and meet staff and their families. We hope to see many new faces at the 2009 breakfast. Thanks to Ms. Martin and Mr. Da Costa for organizing.

CANADIAN CLUB LUNCHEON

Students from Brebeuf's Gifted & Enrichment programme attended a prestigious Canadian Club luncheon at the Royal York on January 5th. The topic was the economic and political outlook for 2009, and speakers included: John Ivison (National Post), Diane Francis (Financial Post), Terence Corcoran (FP), Sean O'Shea (Global News), and Warren Jestin (VP, Scotiabank).

TOP STUDENT

James Rassos '08 had a graduating average of 98.33%, giving him the highest grades among North York's Catholic high schools. James, who also won the Governor-General's Medal and the Father Rye S.J. Award at Graduation, is now studying engineering at McMaster University.

WINTER ACTIVITY DAY

On February 20, students and staff will participate in the annual Winter Activity Day, which affords all a chance to be involved in a variety of outdoor and indoor activities. This day helps foster school spirit. It is not just a day off

school; all students must sign up for an activity . Students have a choice of: skiing, hockey, skating, indoor rock-climbing, Royal Ontario Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, basketball, table tennis, movies, Playdium, Hockey Hall of Fame, aikido, and volunteering at the Good Shepherd Refuge.

D.E.C.A. SUCCESS

D.E.C.A., an international business competition for students, has resurrected itself at Brebeuf with roaring success. Twenty-nine students participated in the regional tournament under their coach, **Ms. Lavery** and twenty-two made it to the provincials! Six students were in the top ten in their competitions out of hundreds of competitors: **Graham Forster, Hodge Lai, Jeffrey Wong, Steven Tadros, Christian Lin,** and **Brandon Chin**. We wish all good luck in the upcoming provincial tournament.

JOURNALISM CONFERENCE

On November 27, the Brebeuf Gifted Programme hosted the third annual Catholic Student Journalism Conference in partnership with the *Catholic Register* newspaper. Professional journalists from the *Register*, *Ottawa Citizen*, and CBC ran workshops to share their skills and expertise with over 130 students from across the city in such areas as effective writing, layout, photography, the editor’s role, and video-journalism.

SKI CLUB HITS THE SLOPES

Over fifty students staff have joined the school’s Ski & Snowboarding Club, which travels to Horseshoe Valley six times over the winter. As Ms. Walsh, the club founder and organizer observes, “It’s a great way to stay active, learn new skills, and beat the winter blues!” The club has become an important part of Brebeuf’s sports programme.

GRADE 9 ORIENTATION

250 Grade 9 students were welcomed into the Brebeuf community in September at the annual Orientation Camp at Muskoka Woods. Senior students and staff, led by **Mr. J. MacDonald** and **Ms. T. Walsh**, hosted a variety of team-building, athletic, leadership and faith activities to make the newest Brebeufians feel part of our school and learn its traditions and spirit.

INTRAMURALS RETURN

Brebeuf introduced an exciting lunchtime Intramural Programme for Grade 9 students this term. **Ms. T. Walsh’s** Gr. 12 physical education leadership class ran various sports competitions for the Grade 9 classes, including: soccer, dodgeball, European handball, and basketball. This provided the younger boys with an opportunity to be active and to get to know their peers and student leaders in a fun atmosphere.

April 9	Holy Thursday Mass & Team One Feat
April 10	Good Friday (no classes)
April 12	Easter Sunday
April 13	Easter Monday (no classes)
April 21	C.S.A.C. Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
April 24	P.A. Day (no classes)
May 5	Feast of Edmund Rice Mass (7:00 p.m.)
May 14	Spring Music Concert
May 18	Victoria Day (no classes)
May 26	C.S.A.C. Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
May 28	Blood Donor Clinic & Athletic Banquet
June 5	Closing Mass & Graduation Formal
June 17-24	Final Examinations
June 23	Graduation Mass, Breakfast & Rehearsal
June 24	Graduation Exercises

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

February 20	Winter Activity Day & Semi-Formal
February 24	C.S.A.C. Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
February 25	Ash Wednesday Mass
February 26	Deadline for 2009-10 Registration
March 16-20	March Break (no classes)
March 26	Course Registration Deadline
April 2	E.Q.A.O. Gr. 10 Literacy Test