



# Saint Stephen School

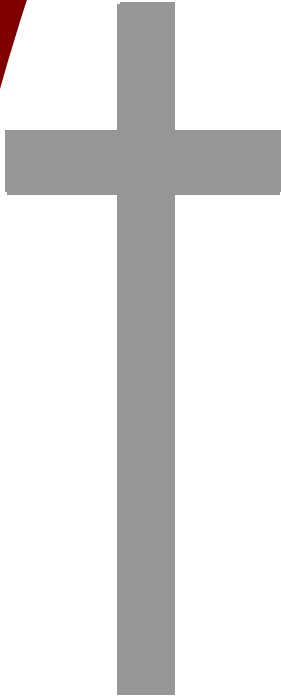
# SPOTLIGHT

[www.saintstephenschool.net](http://www.saintstephenschool.net)

Spring 2009

## Saint Stephen School Mission Statement

*Saint Stephen School is a Roman Catholic elementary school in Hamden, Connecticut. We promote an environment of inclusion, which values the diverse backgrounds of all our students within a close-knit nurturing community rooted in faith. We are dedicated to the ideal of teaching as Jesus by nourishing the God-given talents of our students through the pursuit of academic excellence, creative expression, and full appreciation for high school. We instill in them and awareness and appreciation of Christ's presence within their lives through daily prayer, family liturgies, prayer services and a full religious curriculum.*



*Faith*  
❖  
*Focus*  
❖  
*Future*

## Spotlight On Supporters

St. Stephen School honored three school parents and two sets of grandparents this past fall at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Hopes Dinner. The honorees were: Athletic Director Dave Signore and Mrs. Debbie Signore; Mrs. Signore's parents, Mr. Valentino DiGioia and Mrs. Carmel "Millie" DiGioia. They are the parents and grandparents of seventh-grade student Bianca Joy Signore. For several years, the Signores organized the Dinner Dance fundraiser for the school, and the DiGioias spent their lunch hours almost every afternoon as yard duty volunteers.

Also honored were Ms. Dawn Davidson, a past treasurer of the Home School Association, and her parents, Mr. Marshall Davidson and Mrs. Dawn Davidson. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson serve at the Phon-A-Thon and on the Advancement Committee. The Davidsons are the mom and grandparents of Ian Marshall Davidson in Grade Six. The dinner is one small way the school, and the Archdiocese of Hartford, can say "thank you" to our Volunteers of the Year.

## Annual Fund Drive Kickoff & Now Underway



Longtime school parents Janet and Richard Funaro were the guests of honor at the Annual Fund Mass and Brunch in November. Our Dedicated Supporters of the Year have both been involved with the school for more than a decade, in many roles including Mr. Funaro as a school board member and chaperone for Student Council events. Mrs. Funaro has worked in the school office, with the hot lunch program and now as the school librarian. Their daughter Nicole will graduate from St. Stephen School in June and son Ricky is a sophomore at Xavier High School in Middletown. We thank them for the gift of all their time and talent!

Saint Stephen School is now accepting donations for the 2008 – 2009 Annual Fund. With your help, we were able to raise about \$13,000 last year. This year, your Annual Fund donations will be used mainly for computer and technology-related purchases. Thank you to all Phon-A-Thon volunteers, and especially to all who contributed during these difficult economic times. *Pictured left to right: Mr. Bob Cannon, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Funaro, and Mr. Tony Anderson*

## Young Talent Recognized



Three St. Stephen fifth-graders were award winners in the Hamden Elks Lodge annual essay contest. Jayquan Heyward's entry won first place. Tavis Daluz-Cates was awarded second place and John Santiago, third place. Their essays on "What Freedom Means to Me" will go to a regional competition, and to the state and national contest if selected. All three will receive award certificates at the Annual Youth Awards banquet May 5<sup>th</sup>.



Zachary Pearce was the first place winner for Grade 6 in the Knights of Columbus Connecticut Catholic Schools Spelling Bee Regional Competition. Zachary will now continue on to the State Championship. *Pictured left to right: , Fifth graders, Jayquan Heyward, Tavis Daluz-Cates, John Santiago and sixth grader, Zachary Pearce*

## Reaccreditation

The Commission on Independent Schools has voted to grant St. Stephen School continued accreditation, for a ten-year period ending in 2018. In granting this designation, the New England Association of Schools commended pastor Rev. Robert Heffernan for his presence, support and ministry; and principal Mrs. Maria Testa for her dedication and leadership. The reaccreditation comes after a year-long process of evaluation involving the school administration, teachers and staff as well as many volunteers who took part in a self-study of the school. Accreditation indicates that a school meets standards of educational quality, and shows a commitment to improvement.

## Faculty Changes

You'll notice some familiar faces in different places at St. Stephen School this year. When Mrs. Rosalie Bromfield retired from teaching fourth grade last year, Mrs. Kim DelVecchio moved upstairs to take over that class. Mrs. DelVecchio has started a classroom bank to teach the students about money management, as well as several other creative projects. Her daughter Adriana comes to school with mom and attends our Pre-K. Daughter Kyla is also a St. Stephen Pre-K "alumnus."

This year we welcomed Mrs. Kim Lewis back to St. Stephen School as our first-grade teacher. Mrs. Lewis was the first grade aide last year and we are happy to have her back! She is the mom of Gabbie Oliva, Grade 6, as well as Madison Lewis, who is almost a year old.

Mrs. Julie Ledford is assisting Mrs. Lewis as the aide in first grade, and she is also the gym teacher for our Pre-K class. Many of our children also know Mrs. Ledford as the Coordinator of Religious Education for St. Stephen Parish. Her daughters Madison and Mackenzie are in fourth grade and Pre-K at St. Stephen School.

## Increased Incentive

Many of our new families learn about St. Stephen School through our current students and their families. As an added incentive, any family that refers a new student to us will get a **\$200** credit toward the referring family's tuition bill! Please continue to tell friends and family members about our wonderful school – You are our best advertising.

Benefactor Circle, \$1,000 & up

Mr. & Mrs. Newell Andrews  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert O'Keefe

Patron Circle, \$500-\$999

Reverend Robert Heffernan  
Mr. & Mrs. George Paradis

Wildcat Club, \$250-\$499

Reverend David Baranowski  
Mr. Brian J. Burland  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Cimmino  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kuchar  
Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Page  
Ms. Jennifer Rignoli  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher (Amber)  
Schmitz  
Mrs. Mary Schmitz, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Zeffiro  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Piontek

Century Circle, \$100-\$249

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Ms. Rosalie Bromfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert, Jr. Cannon  
Mr. & Mrs. John Carusone  
Mr. Raymond Cestar  
Mrs. Elizabeth Chen  
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Mr. & Mrs. Carmine Crisci  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Curtis  
Mrs. Josephine DiLungo  
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Early, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Gordon  
Ms. Arline Greco  
Ms. Sheila Hansen  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Ledford  
Ms. Ruth McCorkle  
Sister Marion Paul Lillis &  
Sister Janice McFarland  
Mrs. Marie Parcella  
Mr. & Mrs. David Pollio  
Mrs. Barbara Presnick  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Przybylowski  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Quintin  
Mr. & Mrs. John Spilka  
Mr. & Mrs. James Stetson  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Stong  
Ms. Marie Strickland  
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent (Maria) Testa  
Mr. & Mrs. Dominador Tiongco  
Mrs. Sharon Wrzosek  
Mr. & Mrs. William Burland  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Neubig  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Marshall Davidson  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lewis  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur & Gail Bellucci  
Mrs. Jane Cannon  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Dillon  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Grossi

Maroon & Grey Club, \$50-\$99

Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo Aliwalas  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Anderson  
Ms. Jenae C. Avallone  
Ms. Rocio Barahona  
Ms. Joan R. Beauchamp  
Mr. & Mrs. Donato Biceglia  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Bilodeau  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bucknall  
Ms. Carol Cangiano  
Ms. Ellen Delaney  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen DeLeo  
Mr. Angelo DiSalvatore  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Fornal  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Gambardella  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Jeanne Gar-  
diner  
Mrs. Margaret Geenty  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell George  
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Ms. Helen Havens  
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Mr. Charles, Jr. Longobardi  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Macaluso  
Mrs. Elise McCarthy-Pella  
Mr. William McKeon  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mendillo  
Mr. & Mrs. Brent Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Nevin  
Mrs. Josephine Oliverio  
Mrs. Rose Marie Parisi  
Mr. & Mrs. Pasquale Rignoli  
Ms. Lisa A. Sanna  
Ms. Joan Shea  
Mr. & Mrs. David Simko  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Testa  
Ms. Cristina Testa  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Treanor  
Mr. & Mrs. Cornell Villabona  
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Vitello  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael E. Zagata  
Mrs. Mary Zagata  
Ms. Daniela Porto LaDore

Friends Circle, Up to \$49

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Mrs. Angela Dormer  
Mrs. Theresa Festa  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Grasso  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Harrison  
Ms. Lea Mazzarella  
Mrs. Jeanne McDermott  
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Ms. Marie Buonocore  
Mrs. Walter D. Card, Jr.  
Mr. Jamie Chabinec  
Mrs. Doris Civitello  
Ms. Marion V. Davis  
Pat, Karen & Stephen DeLucia  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Depaola  
Mr. Joseph E. DePaola, Esq.  
Mrs. Marion Dick  
Mr. John Doyle  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Horn  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kanoff  
Mrs. Donna Kos  
Mr. & Mrs. John Lang  
Ms Kathryn M. Larson  
Mr. & Mrs. James Mangini  
Mr. & Mrs. John Mastroiano  
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Mr. & Mrs. John Simpson  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Sullivan  
Ms. Lorraine Thompson  
Miss Kailey Wheeler  
Mr. Kevin Wheeler  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Wheeler  
Ms. Marian Zayas  
Ms. Mary Porto  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald DeVecchio  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Shatas

## Shred Day

Our next Shred Day will be Earth Day, Saturday **April 25th**. A mobile shredder van will be at St. Stephen School parking lot, to help you dispose of unwanted documents and other personal information. The fee is \$10.00 for 30 pounds, and all profits go to the school.

## Saint Stephen School

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Hamden, Connecticut 06517

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Web: [saintstephenschool.net](http://saintstephenschool.net)

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### ***A Solid Foundation***

*Our Kindergarten teacher for over thirty years, Mrs. Marion Calamita, continues to provide and nurture our next generation of leaders.*

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## Saint Stephen Students in the Community



Our students continue to donate their time and talent to the community in many ways. So far this school year:

- All classes collected non-perishable goods for the "KC-101 Stuff-A-Bus" food drive.
- Our Student Council and Advanced Band visited and entertained residents at the Veterans Hospital in West Haven.
- The Gianelli youth group traveled to the St. Regis Health Center in New Haven, to visit residents there.
- Through Dress-Down Days, St. Stephen students raised several hundred dollars for the Animal Haven shelter in North Haven; for hurricane victims in the American southwest; and to help the Veterans Hospital purchase a specially-equipped van to transport patients.