

# The Spirit

**SPRING 2018** 

#### **NEWSLETTER FOR THE ST. KATHARINE OF SIENA COMMUNITY**



Photo by JP Boles

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

St. Katharine of Siena is proud of our scholarship winners from the Class of 2018!

From left to right, back row: Mr. Tosti, Mary Finley, Samantha Ondik, Lucy Curry, Grant Grube, Hayden Kennedy, Nolan McCormick, Msgr. Brouwers; front row: Katarina Philipp, Amy Werner, Isabel Philipp.

Congratulations to these students on their wonderful accomplishments.

### **EIGHTH GRADE LIVING STATIONS**



The 8th grade finished the 2018 Lenten season in a prayerful, reverent, manner by performing the Living Stations. The Class of 2018, along with families and parishioners, walked with Christ through His passion, death, and resurrection.

"I have prayed the Stations of the Cross during my many years as a priest," said Msgr. Brouwers, thanking the class who performed the honors, "but nothing brings to life more significantly the sacrifice of Christ than witnessing our students reverently and prayerfully re-enacting the Living Stations."

At left, the 8th Grade closes the 2018 Lenten season with the Living Stations.

# **READING OLYMPIANS WIN RIBBONS**

In March, thirty 4th and 5th grade students competed in three teams at the annual Reading Olympics at Upper Darby High School. The event highlights an optional reading enrichment program designed to promote teamwork, self-confidence, and reading for fun. An assigned book list challenges students of all reading abilities and interests. Competitors were asked questions in a quiz-style format about the books they read and earned points for teams. SKS took home Red, White, and Blue ribbons! Congratulations to all of the kids on their great efforts:

#### 4th Grade:

Nora Elliott Lucia Forte Jack Grimley Audrey Manion Zach Peck Tommy Sisian Carson Tierney Sophie Walkenhorst



Emma Canuso Cece Cilluffo Audrey Bergan Grace Logan Molly MacVeigh Eliana deGennaro Molly O'Sullivan Raya Downs Finnegan Kennedy Lila Raiser Ethan Terribile **5th Grade:** Joe Garzio David Peck Justin Hnat Riley Dalton Paddy DiLucia Colten Langley Lauren McCormick Lilly Boles Mackie Denbroeder Jack Gallagher Kathleen Manion

## **CYO BASKETBALL FINISHES STRONG**



Girls Varsity A celebrating a great 2018 season with coaches Jay Curry, Bob Higgins and Howie Searing. Photo by Jake Kelly.

Basketball at SKS had a great season in 2018. Boys and Girls Varsity A squads both finished in the top half of their respective regions. The JV Girls A team made it to the final of the region playoffs and lost a heart breaker. JV Boys A won the regular season crown for the region and went on and won the playoffs as well to end as region champs.

SKS B teams also had very successful seasons. highlighted by our Varsity Boys B team who made the finals of the region playoffs. The JV Girls B shared the championship by playing to an overtime in the finals of that tournament. Our Varsity Girls B team won the region in an exciting final game of the playoffs.

Congratulations to all players, and thanks to all of the coaches and volunteers who devoted time and coaching to these great athletes.

### FORENSICS TEAM GIVES OUTSTANDING EFFORTS

Coach Jeanne Havrilla has proudly guided the 5th through 8th grade girls Forensics Team through an interesting and eventful year. The determined and diligent participants have given outstanding efforts and placed well in competitions, particularly:

- Franny Gallagher, a 6th place in Prose
- Sasha Reeder, a 7th place in Prose

Kathleen Sisian, a 3rd place trophy Forensics events concluding the 2017-2018 school year will take place by invitation at Cardinal O'Hara and LaSalle College High School. Thank you to all of the girls



and parents who encourage them to participate.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: LEARN, SERVE, LEAD, AND SUCCEED



Seventh graders Finn McNamara and Jimmy Miller explore robot kits during Catholic Schools Week. The busy event focused on the themes of loving to learn, the calls to serve and lead capably and with compassion within a range of activities. The themes are meant to demonstrate that although the world is changing rapidly, core values still form the core of Catholic education and character. The week concluded with the annual Minute-To-Win-It contest and faculty-vs-student basketball game.

# **ALUMNI AND FAMILY TRADITION**

Alumni Kevin Connor's experience is not that of a typical SKS alumnus.

He is part of a long family history at the school, beginning with his parents and going back to the Truman Administration. "I was one of seven kids, and we all went to SKS," said Kevin. His father, Bo Connor, was a fixture for many years. Volunteering for nearly 50 years as the athletic director for Region 32, Bo supervised innumerable teams for both boys and girls. "He was from that generation that came back from World War II determined to give back," said Kevin. "We basically lived at SKS. Especially during basketball season, we'd all be there all day Saturday and all day Sunday."

After giving up the athletic director position, Bo then went to work every day in the lunch and bus lines.



Kevin continued to contribute as his own two children and several nieces and nephews also attended SKS, continuing the family streak. "That was really fun," he laughed. "I'd be coaching boys' basketball, and Dad would be thereand we're all standing there in the Bo Connor gym." Kevin retains countless fond memories of his own time at the school, especially the fun he had with his classmates. "It was a small grade class," he said, "so all

### SKS FEATURED IN AOP'S IGNITE MAGAZINE

St. Katharine of Siena School makes a special appearance in IGNITE, the online magazine for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. SKS features prominently about its partnership with The Uncommon Individual Foundation (UIF), and how the school is preparing students for the future.

For the full publication: <u>https://joom.ag/cS5Y</u> For the SKS article: <u>http://joom.ag/cS5Y/p14</u> of us played basketball, football and baseball. I still know and see most of them. We all left and went around everywhere, but we often return to our SKS roots and all the stories still come out."



To this day, Kevin gives time, talent and financial support to SKS and is an active supporter of Catholic education. "It continues to be such an important part of the family," said Kevin, noting that Connor presence in the parish goes back to the 1940s. "For me it's home. I still live a few blocks away, and the vibrancy of the school is the heart of this community.

This school has a special place in my heart and in family history," he said.

He credits his experiences here as a big part of what helped him succeed, establish his own family and eventually start his own business, for which he worked for 37 years. "It provided the foundation for me and my family," he said.

#### SKS PARTNERS WITH AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce our partnership with Amazon to support our programs at SKS!

You can register for their Amazon Smile program at https:// smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1421930 and a portion of your Amazon shopping is donated to SKS. Feel free to forward the link to family, friends and neighbors for an easy way to increase our much-needed fundraising.

The link is also at <u>sksschool.org</u> on our homepage; scroll to the bottom.

#### **ALUMNI!**

Stay in touch with the SKS community!

Contact the Alumni Association through Facebook at sks.alumni@facebook.com or email at <u>sksalumni@sksschool.org</u>. And please send us any recommendations for alumni you'd like to see featured in *The Spirit*!