Koinonia Academy Newsletter

May 2009
Volume 1, Issue 5

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Academic Dean J. Robert Filoramo

Jesus is Lord!

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Upcoming Events

- 5/21-25 School Closed
- 6/3 8th Grade Graduation
- 6/5 First Friday
- 6/10 Last Day of School

From the Academic Dean by Dean J. Robert Filoramo

The annual Book-A-Thon was a huge success this year, raising over $8,000 for KA. While this is a productive fund-raiser, it is also a wonderful opportunity to motivate our students to read. In essence, the Book-A-Thon is a "win-win."

Students in the fifth through seventh grades were treated to a visit from Brother Rahl Bunsa, General Superior of the Brotherhood of Hope. Brother Rahl delighted the students as he challenged them to try to stump him in identifying the sources of scripture verses.

Mrs. Kathy Soule's fourth grade class traveled to Trenton for a tour of the State House and the Continental Army Barracks where the students were "enlisted" into the Continental Army. It was a good opportunity to learn more about New Jersey's government and its history.

On June 3 our eighth graders will be graduated. The graduation ceremony will be held in the Weyand Gym from 7 pm to 8 pm with a light reception to follow in the John Paul II Auditorium. All are welcome to attend the graduation.

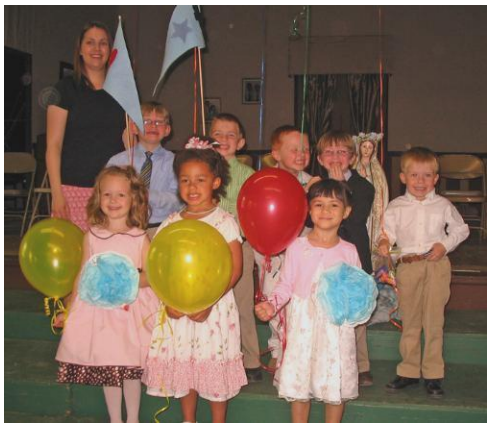
Several days later, our high school students will begin taking their final exams. They will have two exams per day for three days, June 8, 9, 10, with dismissal at noon each day for all students K-11. On June 9, while the 9-11 graders are taking exams, we will have our second annual "Spirit Day" for grades K-7 with games and surprises for everyone.

While this has been one of our more challenging years, the Lord has sustained us, our students have done well, and our academic program has remained solid. Our most recent graduates have been accepted by a number of colleges and several alumni have graduated from college with high honors. To God be the glory!

Our Catholic Life by Dean Edward R. Neri

Holy Mother Church has always instructed Her children in the need for prayer -- individual, personal and corporate prayer. It is through prayer that we come to understand the will of God and its impact in our daily lives. At KA, prayer is the beginning of all that we do. Before any students arrive on campus, the teachers and staff gather together for a brief time of corporate prayer to give the day to the Lord, to pray for His wisdom and for love to flow through them to the students, and to pray for any particular needs that they may have in order to serve the Lord and the students at Koinonia more effectively. Many of these dedicated adults have already had their own time of personal prayer and/or have attended daily Mass.

The students begin their homeroom with prayer, often interceding for the needs of individuals in the school. The first class offered in the morning is Christian Character Formation (religion class) and is often followed by a time of corporate prayer which includes singing and praising the Lord. Every class thereafter begins with prayer (the students in Spanish class even learn to pray some of the prayers of the Church in Spanish). When all is added up at the end of the school day, the students and the staff have spent a significant amount of time in prayer, praying both traditional prayers, often through the recitation of the rosary, and praying charismatically.



Hurray for the Growth Group graduates (and their teacher)! (missing is Brendan Skrzyniarz)

Growth Group Graduation Delights All by Marites Allen

On Wednesday, May 13th at Koinonia Academy, nine children graduated from Growth Group. Highlights of the graduation included the May crowning, the children reciting the Pledge of Allegiance followed by rousing renditions of "God Bless America", and "Be Careful Little Hands What You Do". The graduation ceremony also included a presentation by Mrs. Therese Moccia, the Growth Group facilitator, a witness by Mrs. Joy Touhill, the mother of one of the graduates, and closing remarks by Mrs. Judy Touhill who has overall responsibility for Growth Group. In addition, Mrs. Marites Allen was the MC and Liz Stein accompanied the children on the piano.

The highpoint of the ceremony was the actual graduation when each child spoke into the microphone saying, "Good morning my name is…and I am a son/daughter of God" after which Mrs. Noreen Conant handed each boy and girl their diploma. Graduating were: Elena Allen, John Conant, Kevin Gallic, Naomi Gallic, Patrick Murray, Stephen Quense, Becky Stein, Brendan Skrzyniarz, and Jonathan Touhill. Special thanks to Mrs. Anna Temple, the children's teacher.

The eighth grade volley ball champs celebrate their thrilling victory.

KA Easter Celebration Brings Joy by Theresa Allen

Great excitement ensued on May 1st as Koinonia Academy had its annual Easter celebration. The day started off with Mass in JP II auditorium said by Father Andy Prachar, pastor of Little Flower. It was followed by prayer time full of Easter praises and Alleluias. More excitement was added as grades K-7 walked around Koinonia Academy on the Easter parade, each grade carrying a banner emulating the Easter Joy.

Afterwards, the main entertainment of the day started as teachers and students gathered in the Weyand gym for the student/staff volleyball tournament. Three teams entered the gym, each with their own fanfares. Two teams consisted of 8th grade students and the third team was a medley of Koinonia faculty and staff. As the first game began, shouts of encouragement rose as the audience watched with anticipation. The 8th grade team came away with the victory of the first game. After another thrilling game with loud cheers the 8th grade won a second victory, making them the victors of the tournament. Applause rained down on the 8th grade as they celebrated.

Thank you to the KPAC committee who put it together and thank you to all who contributed to the celebration's events.

*"The more obvious but unstated **protection of the vision and mission of KA** lies with each of us. We must continue to **accept Jesus as Lord of our lives**, as we grow in holiness, in love with Him and with one another."*

New KA Governance by Brian Murray

Over the last four or five years KA President Dave Touhill has led a process resulting in the new KA governance announced on April 20th. Various committees spent countless hours, writing and debating numerous proposals to get to this point. What are the results? Two years ago the KA Executive Committee was formed (see related article). This was a first step in the process.

The next significant step was the election of new members and new officers to the Board of Trustees. The new members are Lou Cirrotti and John Harmon. Lou and John were then elected Treasurer and Secretary respectively, and Brian Murray was elected President of the corporation. As the remaining officers, Paul Giegerich was re-elected VP and Tom Appert was re-elected Executive VP.

Why did it take so long? The right balance needed to be struck between giving the new structure the freedom and energy it needs to move KA forward while protecting the vision and Catholicity of KA. We concluded that to protect its vision Koinonia Academy should remain an outreach of the People of Hope. The more obvious but unstated protection of the vision and mission of KA lies with each of us. We must continue to accept Jesus as Lord of our lives, as we grow in holiness, in love with Him and with one another.

KPAC News: Finishing Strong by Kate Nordstrom

KPAC is still in full force as we wind down these last few weeks of school. Who is KPAC you might ask? It is all of the families whose children attend KA (and a graduate or two). Thousands of hours of service have been performed, many Shop Rite and Pathmark gift cards have been purchased and dutiful lunch duty has been served. Once again we are looking to end the year strong with our continued service. The end of the year is just as important as the beginning and we continue to need everyone's help.

If you still need service hours, please contact one of the committee members, especially as there is still a lot of work to finish out the year: cleaning, yard work, even getting ready for next year (yes, next year!).

Let's give each other a round of applause for a great job so far, and let's finish the job as strong as we began.

Thanks everyone! Help KA by purchasing gift cards through-out the summer.

Cub Scouts' Great Swamp Hike by Henry Hom

On Saturday, May 16th, Cub Scouts from Pack 3, sponsored by Koinonia Academy, embarked on a three-mile hike through the Great Swamp in Basking Ridge, NJ. Led by Mr. Allen, the contingent of boys, Dads, siblings, and adult leaders embarked on the Red Trail, which started behind the Environmental Education Center in Lord Stirling Park. There were various stops to examine the many trees and plants along the way. At one point, the Scouts reached a platform overlooking the Passaic River just in time to see huge red-shouldered hawk take wing from the platform! It had probably been waiting for its lunch to swim by.

Scouts also learned some basics of hiking, such as following a map and how to do a caterpillar break, which gives hikers a break while keeping a line of hikers moving at the same time. At the conclusion of the hike, the boys gathered to enjoy a much welcomed treat of cookies, granola bars, and juice!

Cub Scout Pack 3 enjoys a break on the 3-mile Great Swamp hike!

KAEC Moving Forward! by Brian Murray

The KA Executive Committee (KAEC) meets once a month on behalf of the Board of Trustees and is responsible to the Board for the overall direction of the school. The committee was formed two years ago headed up by Tom Appert. Tom has done a phenomenal job establishing the committee and keeping it moving in the right direction. Going forward the Chair of the Board also chairs the KAEC.

Permanent members of this committee include the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board, Headmaster (Tom Appert) and the KA Counsel (Dan O'Mullan). Non-permanent members lead service committees, including KA Advisory (Dr. Joe Clemente), Fund Raising (John Miller), Facilities (Rich Stein), Alumni (Fred Bunsa), Compliance (Carl Moccia), Public Relations (Greg Allen), and Enrollment (Maureen Debrot). Currently two faculty members (Ed Neri, Sonia Masterson) complete the KAEC.

Pray for KA as we keep moving forward in God's plan, into the next 25 years for His school!

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Alumni Corner: Family Picnic on June 13th by Fred Bunsa

Come and continue the celebration of Koinonia's 25th Anniversary year on **Saturday, June 13 at Lewis Morris State Park** where we will be holding a picnic for alumni, their children and all friends of KA. The event will run from 3pm to 7pm. If you did not receive an Evite, or for additional information, please email KAAA@KoinoniaAcademy.org

"…celebrate Koinonia's 25th Anniversary year"

Jesus is Lord!

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KA Advisory Committee by Tim Margiotta

Q: "Koinonia will be clean!" . . . . so how are we going to do that?

A: Well, that was exactly the topic of the last KAAC meeting. Thanks to many hours of preparation by members of the KAAC, detailed plans were proposed and discussed as to how to best keep Koinonia clean in the months and years ahead. The result of is a four-pronged approach to cleaning KA. While the details are still being finalized, the general plan is a coordinated effort on the part of parents, teachers, students, and an outside cleaning service. All four groups will play a specific role in keeping Koinonia exceptionally clean on a consistent basis. Mrs. Helena Rohal, who spent significant time helping develop the new approach, will be spearheading this effort. We are very excited with the current plans and look forward to ironing out the details and getting everyone on board. Please keep this important topic in your prayers!

Adoration and Children by Maureen Debrot

As we await the installation of an Adoration Chapel at Koinonia Academy, there is great expectant faith.

Several years ago, my homeschool circle was very excited by the thought of a weekly children's holy hour. We were very much inspired by Fr. Antoine Thomas, from the Community of St. John's in Illinois, who runs a ministry called "Children of Hope." This ministry is dedicated to leading children into the mystery of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Fr. Antoine has observed that children who attend weekly holy hour have a deeper desire to pray, are more attentive at Mass and have an unshakeable faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. They also become more aware of the various degrees of sin and have a great desire for the sacrament of Confession. Families that accompany their children witness a growing desire for peace and forgiveness within the family.

The zeal I felt about children and adoration has once again been invigorated in my heart with the coming of the True Presence of Jesus on campus. What a beautiful gift.

May / June 2009 Events

May 21st to May 25th – School closed due to Ascension Thursday and Memorial Day weekend

Wednesday, June 3rd - 8th grade graduation

Friday, June 5th – First Friday mass /coffee with Deans/2 pm dismissal for all students

Monday, June 8th - High school exams / Move up day/Noon dismissal for all students

Tuesday, June 9th - High School exams/ Spirit day/ Noon dismissal for all students

Wednesday, June 10th - High School exams/Last day of school/ Noon dismissal for all students