

# Hill Chatter

Lebanon Catholic School  
1400 Chestnut Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
717-273-3731  
[www.lebanoncatholicsschool.org](http://www.lebanoncatholicsschool.org)

September 2008

## A Message From The Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of Lebanon Catholic School,

**“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!”** As I was preparing my readings as lector on the Sunday before the beginning of school, I could not help but reflect on how these words from St. Paul to the Romans are so meaningful to us, the Lebanon Catholic community, as we enter into another school year. God has definitely blessed us with a dedicated staff, supportive pastors and parents, and most importantly students who are eager to learn not just their academic skills, but also learn and live the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We welcome to our school community the newest members of our teaching staff: Mr. Matthew Duvall, Mr. Martin Rodriguez, Mrs. Tara Smoker, Mrs. Megan Sanchez, Mrs. Marie Travitz, Mrs. Elizabeth Witmer, and Mrs. Susan Martin. In addition, we are so blessed to have Fr. Michael Rothan as our school chaplain and Mrs. Beth Hartman back as one of our third grade teachers.

I also want to thank all of the parent volunteers and students who gave of their time this summer to give a “face lift” to our building and surrounding property. Our maintenance staff cannot thank you enough for your dedication!

God has definitely blessed us with His riches here at LC!

*Mrs. Michele Ambrosia*

## Diocesan Visit to Lebanon Catholic School

On September 22nd a team of four from the Diocesan Education Department conducted a formal visit to Lebanon Catholic School. Even though the written report is not yet available, members of the team were very impressed with what they witnessed at our school. As Mr. James Gontis, Director of Religious Education, stated, “I am so very impressed by the Catholic identity at Lebanon Catholic and by their dedicated religion staff. What great graces must be coming to this school because of the great emphasis on the sacramental life, Eucharistic adoration, daily praying of the rosary, the strong pro-life emphasis, and the faithful representation of Catholic doctrine.”

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## Upcoming LC Events

October 1—Start of the 2008—2009 Annual Fund Drive

October 15—Steve Smith Jazz Legacy “On The Hill” (see page 5)

October 29 - Kaufman’s Chicken BBQ

For information about any LC event please contact the school office at (717) 273-3731

### Class of 1978 Reunion

The Lebanon Catholic High School Class of 1978 will hold its 35th reunion at 6 p.m. Saturday, October 25, at the Maple Street Café, located on Eighth and Maple Streets, Lebanon, with a dinner and a cash bar.

To order an entrée, select from the menu at [www.maplestreetcafe.com](http://www.maplestreetcafe.com) and include “class of ‘73” when responding. RSVP by the second week of October.

The class is still looking for addresses on the following classmates: Martin Basti, John LaBarbera, Robert Ryan, Kim Houser, Dave Allwein, Tom Winter, Michael Urban, and Deborah Whitman. If anyone has information on those classmates, or if you have not received an invitation, please contact Vicki Stager Mohl at 274-3034.

### 2008-2009 Standardized Testing

The Diocese has announced the dates for ITBS and CogAT testing for the 2008-2009 school year.

- **CogAT** (grades 5 and 8): October 7,8, and 9, 2008
- **ITBS** (grades 3 through 8): October 20 through 24, 2008
- **ITED** (grade 9) October 20,21,24

We ask that you please do not schedule appointments during these dates so that there can be consistency in the testing process.

### 2008-2009 Annual Fund Drive Set To Begin

The ‘08-’09 Annual fund drive is set to begin in October. Initial mailings will be sent to LC alumni, family and friends and we look forward to another successful year due to your generosity.

Participation in the Annual Fund from the LC community is crucial to the success of the Fund. Our contributions to the Annual Fund provides a positive example by demonstrating that our alumni are committed to our school. This encourages local businesses and foundations to follow the lead of our alumni by providing additional contributions to the school.

This year we are hoping to set record highs for the number of contributions received and the total amount contributed. Be a part of this record setting drive. Your participation is greatly needed and greatly appreciated.

If you do not receive an Annual Fund mailing, please contact the school office at (717) 273-3731 so that we may send you the materials immediately. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

## National Merit Honors

Congratulations are extended to *Sara Kern* who has just been recognized as a commended student in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. She is being recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated on the PSAT's. Sara placed in the top 5% of more than 1.5 million students who enter the 2009 competition.

## Summer Poetry Takes Honors

Five middle school youngsters from Lebanon Catholic were honored at a recognition ceremony at the Lebanon Community Library in July as winners of the library's *Ninth Annual Poetry Contest*. All were seventh graders from Miss Gail Vojtko's English writing/ grammar class. There were ten winners in the library's middle school category and five of them were from Lebanon Catholic. Following are the winners with the name of their winning poem.

**Noel Biever – "A Boy!"**

**Philanna Emerick – "Counting Down"**

**Deryn Fink – "Gregory Can't Fly"**

**Holly Marinkov – "Wrong Way Minny"**

**Challen Yanchuk – "Pig Round-Up"**

The winning poems are being published by the library and will be added to the library's collection of local poetry.

## Arnold Chosen for Fall Baseball Showcases

Sophomore Dustin Arnold has been selected to participate this fall in a series of baseball showcases. The games, held on the weekends through October, are played on the East Coast. Sites ranging from North Carolina to Maryland are used as select players from the region show their talent for prospective college coaches and regional scouts.

## The Challenge earns another First Place from Press Association

It was another First Place for *The Challenge*, LC's student newspaper, as the American Scholastic Press Association awarded two of its 2008 issues 945 points, one of the highest scores the paper ever won. Two other times it had earned 950 points.

First place is given to newspapers which gain between 850 and 1000 points. Alyson Wattai was the Editor-in-Chief. Assistant editors were Rachael Beazley, Suzanne Biever, Kylee Eck and Emily Krause, who wrote a column called "Emily's Music Shuffle." Beazley had a column entitled "Politics of Paying it Forward." Miss Gail Vojtko is the advisor.

The paper was critiqued in the areas of content coverage, page design, general plan, art, advertising, editing and creativity. Page design and creativity received the highest amount of points.

Present LC students who had contributed to those 2 issues were Allie Zerbe, Rose Mascoli, Elizabeth Decker, MacKenzie Leonard, Jessica Stachura, Sara Collura, Aimee Culbert, Keely Schlegel, and Ryan Morrison.

TAKE A PEEK AT YOUR CHILD IN  
SCHOOL

BY WAY OF THE

**PHOTO GALLERY**

ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

[www.lebanoncatholicschool.org](http://www.lebanoncatholicschool.org)

Click on the Photo Gallery on the homepage

Click on the photo you desire and wait for them to load.

Then sit back and enjoy the show.

## **New Contributors To the Neumann Scholarship**

Through the generosity of two Lebanon County Businesses, Lebanon Catholic has added two new contributors to the Bishop Neumann Scholarship. Tim McShane, of Tim McShane Allstate Insurance, and Jonestown Bank and Trust have joined with Lebanon Catholic to provide scholarships for current LC students.

The Bishop Neumann Scholarship is a program that works through the Pennsylvania Earned Income Tax Credit Program. Any business in the state is able to receive a tax credit for their donation to the scholarship fund. The credit can range from 70% of the donation to a full 100% of the donation depending on the contribution. This was a program that was formerly available to those businesses filing corporate income tax returns, but for the 2008-2009 school year the state has decided to allow sole proprietors and those filing personal income tax returns to participate as well as long as the contribution is coming from the business.

The Neumann Scholarship provides thousands of dollars in scholarships each year for LC students. For information regarding possible participation in this program, please contact Ryan O'Donnell at 273-3731. Applications for families who wish to receive funds from the scholarship program will be made available in spring of 2009.

A sincere thank you to Tim McShane and Anne Decker for their hard work and generosity while getting their businesses involved with LC.

## **Steve Smith of Journey To Perform at LC**

On Wednesday, October 15, 2008 "Jazz on the Hill" returns as jazz superstars, *Steve Smith's Jazz Legacy* will take the stage at Lebanon Catholic School at 7:30 p.m. in a special one-night only benefit concert presented by the Knights of Columbus and the Lebanon Valley Council of the Arts to support the Lebanon Catholic School Scholarship Fund.

*Steve Smith's Jazz Legacy* has developed a unique "small big band" sound and is carrying on the tradition of many of the great drummer-led bands (Art Blakely, Buddy Rich, Elvin Jones, Tony Williams, Philly Joe Jones and others); communicating with music lovers of all generations, striving for excellence and playing non-compromising, burning, straight-ahead jazz. Six highly-acclaimed jazz musicians will be featured and include: alto saxophonist, *Andy Fusco* (buddy Rich/Mel Lewis); tenor and soprano saxophonist, *Walt Weiskopf* (Toshiko Akioishi Jazz Orchestra/Steely Dan); pianist, *Mark Soskin* (Sonny Rollins); bassist, *Baron Brown* (Billy Cobham/Jean Luc Ponty); and drummer/bandleader *Steve Smith* (Journey/Steps Ahead).

Tickets are currently on sale in the Lebanon Catholic School main office or by calling 717-273-3731. Prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. For more information call 717-273-3731 or log on to [www.lebanoncatholicschool.org](http://www.lebanoncatholicschool.org).

## **Enrollment Committee**

Wednesday October 8 at 6:30 p.m. will be the first meeting of the Enrollment Committee.

The Enrollment Committee is being established to help to assure the future success of Lebanon Catholic School. Ideas and strategies in the areas of marketing, recruitment, and retention will be presented and strategic plans will be developed and implemented.

We ask that anyone who is interested in participating and contributing to the committee please attend this first meeting. The initial session will be used to brainstorm and bring out positive ideas.

For further information please contact Ryan O'Donnell at 273-3731.

## **Paperless Communications on the Way**

In an attempt to improve communication and cut down on paper consumption, Lebanon Catholic will begin opening up optional paperless communications.

Communications will be sent home each week via email instead of communication folders. Families may choose not to participate and continue to receive their hard copies of the communications.

A form requesting your email address and approval to participate in the program will be sent in communication folders in the coming weeks.

## **Donations Lead to Renovations**

Through the generous donation of Mrs. Mary Yanney, Hayes and Kathy Clark, and the Lebanon Federal Credit Union, renovations are set to begin this fall at LC.

The school chapel, located on the second floor will be receiving beautiful new carpet. Plans are also in the works to have new carpet placed in the school library.

In addition to the monetary contribution from the Yanney family, Mrs. Yanney will also be contributing a library of business and history books to help to expand these areas of our library. The Mina Yanney Business Collection will be added in the coming months and updated yearly through the continued commitment of the Yanney Family.

These projects have developed through the passion of the donors involved. These individuals have found areas close to their heart that they feel are critical to the faith based education that we strongly believe in here at LC. Their dedication to providing a warm, welcoming learning environment has led to these donations and in turn these wonderful renovations.

Additional donations are needed in order to complete the renovation of the library. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this project please contact Ryan O'Donnell at 273-3731.

The Yanney Family  
Hayes and Kathy Clark  
Lebanon Federal Credit Union

Thank you for your support!

## Letter from the Assistant Principal

Dear Parents,

I welcome you back for a terrific 2008-2009 school year! As we begin the new year, let us be partners in helping your child develop the best possible attendance habits and attitudes. Developing these responsible habits will allow your child to grow into a successful adult in higher education and in the workplace. Periodically, we will be sending information regarding academics and activities by way of our Lebanon Catholic Website, the Hill Chatter and through communications given to your youngest child every Thursday. Referring to the Lebanon Catholic school calendar will also keep you informed daily throughout the year. Changes to the calendar are given at the beginning of each month. Every 4 weeks you are given an official notice of your child's academic progress. However, you are more than welcomed to contact any teacher through email by linking through Lebanon Catholic's website. This is a great way to communicate with the faculty. We are a consolidated school and as such grades 6-12 are under a nine week marking period or four quarters for the year. Grades 6-12 are referred to on the calendar as "**Secondary**". All issues pertaining to the **secondary level** are to be address to Mrs. Rose Kury, Assistant Principal and Secondary Director.

Handbooks were distributed at Back to School Night held on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008. All those who did not get an opportunity to attend this event, handbooks were distributed to those students during homeroom the first week of school. Please read the parent/student handbook thoroughly, sign and return the form inside that back cover immediately, and keep your handbook at home. This form is a binding part of your agreement to have a student enrolled at Lebanon Catholic School. Its completion is **mandatory** in order for any student to attend classes. The handbook will be important for parents as it notes the philosophy, policies, and procedures of the school. It is very important that parents and students be well informed.

All students have done a wonderful job following the dress code requirements for this year!! Thank you for a smooth transition.

I look forward to communicating with you regularly, and may God Bless you and your family throughout the year!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rose Kury

Assistant Principal

Secondary Director of Studies

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Wisdom through Mary.

## ***Mission Statement***

Lebanon Catholic School is a ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg serving diverse families of the Lebanon area. We provide a co-educational, spiritual learning environment for students grades K4-12. Students are encouraged to become life-long disciples and learners through emphasis on prayer, worship, service and academic discipline. By sharing the mission of the Church to guide, form and teach as Jesus did, we prepare our students to fulfill their roles in the Church and society.

### **THANK YOU!**

A big thank you from the LC community to those individuals who help to operate the walk in Bingo on Quentin Road. Your hard work and contribution to LC is greatly appreciated!

### **THANK YOU!**

To all those who volunteered this summer to help to clean and paint our school. You did a wonderful job and the school looks all the better for it!

## **Parents, use the school website!**

[www.lebanoncatholicschool.org](http://www.lebanoncatholicschool.org).

- ✦ Communicate with an individual teacher about your child. Clicking on the teacher's link and emailing him or her with your questions or concerns can save time in today's hurried world.
- ✦ Find out what is going on in your child's classes by clicking on the teachers' websites.
- ✦ Read the school newspaper "The Challenge" on line, (Sometimes your child's photo or words are in the paper and it is discovered they do not tell you.)
- ✦ Keep up with happenings at Lebanon Catholic through the Photo Gallery on the home page. It changes monthly sometimes bi-weekly.
- ✦ Check schedules.
- ✦ Find copies of all kinds of forms your child forgot to bring home.
- ✦ Read the handbooks on line.
- ✦ Check out what is going on at LC in the way of events, concerts, sports outings, Masses, etc.
- ✦ See what the alumni are writing on the alumni link.

# Lebanon Catholic Alumni

Use this form to share your news with the Lebanon Catholic community. Thank you.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Updated news (births, marriages, career, deaths, successes):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit to:

Ryan O'Donnell, Development Director  
Lebanon Catholic School  
1400 Chestnut Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Telephone: (717) 273-3137 Fax: (717) 274-5167