



# VOICES OF Queen of Peace High School PEACE

Educating and Empowering Women

## Celebrating the Queen of Peace/St. Laurence Band

Nearly 100 alum dusted off their old band instruments, relived some of their greatest high school memories and participated in the Queen of Peace/St. Laurence Alumni Band Concert on March 13 at St. Laurence.

"The reunion concert was a great opportunity to get together and perform again, just like the old days," Cathy Claussen Dewes '91 said. "Playing the flute and performing in band competitions are some of my fondest memories of my high school days; I made a lot of good friends and we remain close to this day."

Band director Patrick "PJ" Henning called the concert, held in honor of St. Laurence's 50th Anniversary, "one of the hardest concerts I've ever had to program."

"In my initial contact with the graduates, I told them each to nominate a song - and they all came back with the hardest pieces we ever taught them through the years," he told the standing-room only crowd. "I had to balance that and wanted to pick something from each decade to play."

The concert featured a special guest performance from St. Laurence graduate Chris Medina, of "American Idol" fame, and 12 selections from the alum band, including "The Echoes Never Fade" - in memory of Henning's father, Leo J. Henning, St. Laurence band director from 1962-2000; "Gaelic Rhapsody" - a

salute to the band's four trips to Ireland; two pieces by Alfred Reed, a favorite of Leo Henning; and a tribute to the "Marching Gold" - which won over 400 awards and was named a State Finalist on 11 occasions - and color guard, directed by Lisa Arito-Pusetera '81.

ing, "None of this up here, including myself, would have happened had it not been for the founder of our band, Leo Henning, who was revered in the halls all 38 years he was at St. Laurence."

During his time at St. Laurence, Leo Henning taught the juniors and seniors, while PJ worked with the freshmen and sophomores.

"It was a partnership that worked out beautifully for 30 years," Henning said. "I know my dad is watching down on us. My only dream would have been not only for him to have been sitting here but to have shared the podium; that would have been a neat thing."

At the epicenter of the concert was the way Henning has inspired his students to love music.

"One of the goals the band program teaches our students is to keep music alive within themselves," Henning said.

"Band was such a big part of my high school life that I would come back for anything that Mr. Hen-

ning or the program asked for," said Lauren Schultz '04, who played band in college and will graduate from Marquette University's School of Dentistry in May. "It really shaped my high school experience."

It is fitting that 16 Queen of Peace/St. Laurence students have become band directors, and many chose the route of music performance, including professional musician Tim Lenihan '91, who played piano selections

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**Nearly 100 alum band members participated in the St. Laurence/Queen of Peace High School Alumni Band Concert on March 13 at St. Laurence. The concert, held in honor of St. Laurence's 50th Anniversary, featured a special guest performance from St. Laurence alum Chris Medina, of "American Idol" fame, and 12 selections from the alum band, which also included current band members and an appearance by the alum color guard. A sequel of this performance will be held at Queen of Peace in March 2012, in celebration of Peace's 50th Anniversary.**

"I was really glad that I got a chance to participate in the concert. Twirling a flag again brought back all kinds of memories," said Ardith Claussen Anderson '93, a four-year member of color guard. "We worked hard but it paid off, as we were named a State Finalist three of my four years. Being a member of the organization helped me develop a strong work ethic that I carry with me today."

Toward the middle of the concert, Henning paid special tribute to his father by say-

# Voices of Peace

A Newsletter for Alumnae and Friends of Peace

April 2011

Voices of Peace is published three times per year. All submissions or comments should be directed to editor Erin Foley at (708) 496-4752 or [foleye@queenofpeacehs.org](mailto:foleye@queenofpeacehs.org).

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Queen of Peace, a Catholic Dominicans of Sinsinawa college preparatory high school, educates and empowers diverse young women in an environment that inspires academic excellence. The Queen of Peace community promotes collaboration, moral and ethical leadership, service, and a passion for justice.

# From the Desk of the President



Dear Alumnae and Friends of Peace,

It is a pleasure to write my first president's message and share news about the progress, events and people that make up Queen of Peace High

School. It's hard to believe that nearly five months have lapsed since I took my post in December. During my early months at Peace, I have spent time learning, observing and listening to many integral groups – our students, faculty, staff, parents, alumnae, board members and others - in order to hear varying perspectives on the positives of Peace, as well as the matters that need our greatest attention.

In identifying a vision for Queen of Peace, our team will work to address three primary objectives: Increasing enrollment, increasing revenue and revitalizing the Queen of Peace brand. By examining and improving historical strategies regarding these areas, as well as creating new opportunities, we believe we will have a greater overall impact for the school.

How will we accomplish these considerable goals? In partnership with principal Mary Kay Nickels, our joint efforts to address the most significant needs for Peace will be to zero in on areas of growth and development and the high potential activities that will bring the greatest return for the school. This will take planning, time and effort from many people, and require new ways of looking at recruitment, enrollment and fundraising efforts.

As these efforts unfold each week, we see so many successes for our students, faculty and staff to feel proud of and celebrate as we move through the academic year.

Development and recruitment highlights from the last several months include:

**President and Principal Reception** - I was delighted by the warm reception, which was supported by the Sisters of the Dominicans of Sinsinawa, the Board of Directors, Peace alumnae, friends, family and the extended Queen of Peace community. A surprise performance by the Chicago Police Department Pipes and Drums topped off the evening!

**Mardi-Gras Non-Event Benefit** - In an effort to take a break from the typical fundraiser, the

Peace community this year invited alumnae, donors, parents and community members to participate in our Non-Event Mazzuchelli Scholarship Benefit - a unique fundraiser with no physical event, in which 100% of each tax-deductible donation benefited our scholarship fund. As an added bonus, each individual who donated \$100 or more was automatically entered into a raffle to win a trip to New Orleans. The reactions and comments were priceless. Folks loved the creativity, a night to stay at home and, most of all, the opportunity to contribute directly to the future of our young Women of Peace.

## Grammar School Leadership Conference

- This event provided an encompassing experience for girls in 5th, 6th and 7th grades to improve their leadership traits and skills, while learning from our Peace Ambassadors. We increased our efforts over last year from 50 students to more than 100 attendees.

**"Mardi Gras Friday"** - One hundred 5th, 6th and 7th grade girls from 22 area grammar schools attended "Mardi Gras Friday" on March 4. The students, dressed in the Mardi Gras colors of purple, gold and green, enjoyed taking part in a myriad of activities, such as improvisation games and contests, jazz dancing, a scavenger hunt, and a hands-on mask-making art project. It was a wonderful evening filled with fun activities. The girls' excitement was contagious.

In closing, I want to share an important reminder about gifts to the 2010-11 Annual Appeal, which will support the school's daily operational expenses. Through your generosity, we are able to fund extra-curricular activities, clubs, the athletic program, facility improvements, annual technology integrations, research materials, and so much more. Your continued support has a direct contribution to the well-rounded quality education our young women receive at Queen of Peace. We are hopeful that you will continue to support Peace during this academic year.

I wish all of you a joyous spring and appreciate all of the support you have offered since my arrival.

Peace to all,

Anne O'Malley '75

# New President, Principal Introduced at Reception

Alumnae, friends and benefactors of Queen of Peace, along with the Dominicans of Sinsinawa and family members of Anne O'Malley '75 and Mary Kay Nickels, gathered at the Union League Club of Chicago on Feb. 16 for a reception, held in honor of Peace's new president and principal.

Throughout the reception, in their conversations with guests, O'Malley and Nickels spoke of what sets Queen of Peace apart – a teaching and learning environment deeply rooted in the Dominican values of Truth, Justice, Compassion, Part-



**Anne O' Malley '75, president, and Mary Kay Nickels, principal.**

nership and Community; its wireless campus equipped with global resources, virtual course offerings and educational software applications; a comprehensive college prep curriculum, including Arts Without Borders; and the Robotics Team, the only all-girls school-sponsored organization in Illinois.

O'Malley began her tenure in December after working for "USA TODAY" in a number of positions - most recently as Director of Advertising Sales - for the past 20 years.

Nickels was appointed principal last June and previously held the positions of president/principal and assistant principal of St. Benedict High School in Chicago.

The pair spoke of their "perfect partnership for success" with O'Malley's knowledge

of the corporate level and Nickels' experience as an educator, former board chair and mother of eight children.

Both leaders are honored to be part of a Peace team that continues to prepare young women for lifelong learning by empowering their intellectual, spiritual, moral and emotional development.

"Our goal is to work in tandem to put Queen of Peace on a path that will ensure we are focused on what matters most: providing a valuable single-gender educational experience to our students, improving our enrollment, enhancing our endowment and fundraising efforts, and advancing the Queen of Peace name and reputation," O'Malley said.

"(Mary Kay) and I look forward to cultivating another generation of scholars, leaders and women who exemplify the Dominican values."

Both agree that the work ahead needs attention like never before.

"Above all, we intend to successfully contribute to the rich history and heritage of Peace, to support the growing diverse community that surrounds us, and engage old and new friends," O'Malley said.

The evening was capped off by a special performance from the Chicago Police Department's Pipes and Drums.

"Mary Kay and I are committed to building a strong position for Peace today and tomorrow," O'Malley said.



**Class of '82 alumnae Laura Ferrio, Karen Lang Reynolds and Jenny Prangle.**



**Janet Welsh '66, O.P., Pat Mulligan DeLeonardis '66, John DeLeonardis and David Brennan.**



**Anne O' Malley '75, president, Jonni Hengerfer and Karen Zrout.**

**Know someone who played a vital role in the Queen of Peace Athletics program as an athlete, coach or supporter?**

**Nominations are now being taken for the 2011 Athletic Hall of Fame**

**Submit a nomination form at [www.queenofpeacehs.org](http://www.queenofpeacehs.org) by Monday, August 1.**

The Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes players, coaches, athletic directors and teams who have made significant contributions to the Peace athletic program. Hall of Fame committee meetings will be held during the summer. Contact athletic director Dar Graf at [grafd@queenofpeacehs.org](mailto:grafd@queenofpeacehs.org) or (708) 496-4736 for dates. The 4th Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction will take place September 30, immediately following the varsity volleyball game against Providence, starting at 6 p.m.



**Queen of Peace is now on LinkedIn!**

**We invite you to join our group Queen of Peace High School. The official LinkedIn group for alumnae and friends of Queen of Peace will help you to stay connected, share news and build professional networks. We look forward to connecting with you soon!**



**"Queen of Peace High School Alumnae"**



# All-Class Reunion October 15th, 2011

**Save the date** - Planning is underway for **It's a Peace Thing All-Class Reunion** on Saturday, Oct. 15, at Queen of Peace. By popular request, Peace alumnae have asked to host this event annually in place of single class reunions. At this year's all-class reunion, special recognition will be made to honor our Anniversary Classes from 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 & 2006.

We are also planning a **VIPP** (Very Important Pre-Party) one hour prior to the reunion. This private event is for Peace former and current faculty and staff to reunite. More information will be provided by e-mail, Facebook and snail mail. Guests of this event are invited to attend the All-Class Reunion to visit with former students.

**This is a great opportunity** to reminisce with former classmates and reconnect with past Peace friends from athletic teams and co-curricular clubs - many of whom may have graduated in a different year. Imagine the fun alum sisters, cousins and moms will have celebrating together with their Peace friends. Women of Peace you have been heard.

**Spread the word!** Call your friends, share the news on Facebook, and most importantly, plan to attend. The event will be advertised on our website, Facebook page - *Queen of Peace Alumnae*, LinkedIn group - *Queen of Peace High School*, in the August issue of *Voices of Peace*, church bulletins, newspapers, etc.

We need e-mail addresses to ensure that all alum get a reunion invite. Log onto our website to update your profile information or send e-mails to [stewartp@queenofpeacehs.org](mailto:stewartp@queenofpeacehs.org).

Pictures from last year's reunion



Catherine McCarthy-Heyn '94 (from left), Karen Smith Delestowicz '94, Sharon Claussen Deenihan '94, Ardith Claussen Anderson '93, Catherine Claussen Dewes '91 and Kathleen Tegtmeyer Trapani '94



Karl Riley (from left), Karen Howard Riley '00, Claudia Camarena '00 and Eric Pedraza.



The Brennan sisters celebrating last November - Mary Margaret Brennan '74 (from left), Noreen Pecyna '72, Debra Brennan '84, Sheila O'Connell '75 and Anne Brennan '73

**You're invited to help plan the party!**

The first planning meeting will be held at Queen of Peace High School on Monday, June 13 at 7 p.m.  
Please respond by June 8! E-mail [kmettyc@queenofpeacehs.org](mailto:kmettyc@queenofpeacehs.org) or call (708) 496-4750.



# Do it "FORE" the Girls!

Join Peace alumnae, parents, faculty and friends  
**Friday, August 5**  
and "Chip In" for a tradition worth supporting  
**19th Annual Peace Golf Classic**

## ***Stony Creek Golf Course***

5850 W. 103rd, Oak Lawn

***9 Holes & Cart \$85***

Outing includes:

- Continental Breakfast/Registration 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
- Scramble Shotgun Start - 10 a.m.
- Soft drinks, beer and snacks will be available on the course
- Luncheon, prizes and awards

***Join the fun - Luncheon only \$35***



Every year, our Peace Golf Classic Committee is committed to increasing participation, volunteers, sponsorships and prizes. We are grateful for all of our past and future generous supporters. Our young Women of Peace are thankful they can depend on our extraordinary extended family and friends to help them achieve their ambitions. Proceeds from this outing will support student programs. We need our alumnae, families and friends to "Chip In" to ensure another fun and successful Peace Golf Classic. We look forward to seeing you on the links August 5th!

To learn more about the Golf Outing, sponsorship opportunities or to reserve your space, visit [www.queenofpeacehs.org](http://www.queenofpeacehs.org) - click on *Alumnae & Friends - Golf Classic* - or call (708) 496-4750 for additional information.

# “Idol” Contestant Performs at Band Concert

Walking through the halls of St. Laurence High School, nearly a decade after graduation, Chris Medina felt like he had traveled back in time.

“Being in these halls right now, it’s very nostalgic; it breathes of history and has a nice feeling to it,” said Medina, a 2002 graduate of St. Laurence. “It smells the same way, feels the same way. I walk in and I’m 15-years-old again; it’s just so cool.”

Medina, a contestant on this season’s “American Idol”, returned to his alma mater on March 13 for the Queen of Peace/St. Laurence Alumni Band Concert – at the request of his former band director, Mr. Patrick “PJ” Henning. Medina brought the standing-room only crowd to its feet with his new single “What Are Words” and an upbeat version of Frank Sinatra’s “Come Fly With Me.”

It’s no surprise that Medina’s greatest memories of band are of Henning.

“He’s a memorable kind of person,” Medina said. “He does that thing where he leans forward and the glasses kind of come down to the bridge of his nose, and he looks at you with his eyes over the glasses and says, ‘Shape up kid; let’s go, let’s do this. Thanks for your time; get out of here.’”

“But he’s very sweet, very cool and very professional. The best at what he does.”

It’s quite a compliment coming from a former student who recently worked with some of the greatest names in the music industry – “American Idol” judges Randy Jackson, Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez and producer Rodney Jerkins, whose other credits include Lady Gaga and Kelly Clarkson.

When Henning thinks of the former

Percussion Band drummer, he remembers the “big grin Medina always had on his face every day at band practice.”

As Henning said at the concert, Medina’s “story is a beautiful one.”

In January, when viewers tuned in to the second week of Season 10 of “American Idol” and watched the Milwaukee auditions, they were introduced to the 26-year-old Medina, who grew up in Garfield Ridge. Medina wowed the judges with his rendition of The Script’s “Break Even” and inspired America with his enduring love story.

Medina’s fiancée, Juliana Ramos, suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident in 2009, just two months before their planned wedding day. He now lives in Oak Forest and is Juliana’s full-time caregiver, along with her mother.

“Having people recognize who I am has been really awesome, but the most important thing is the absolute generosity that people have out there,” Medina said, referring to the attention from “American Idol.” “Everyone has been so supportive. And the outreach has been wonderful.”

Following the airing of Medina’s “Idol” audition, the music industry’s Rodney Jerkins was inspired to write “What Are Words”.

“(Rodney Jerkins) wrote some really nice lyrics that totally embody the situation, and he even used some of my quotes that I had on the show,” said Medina, referring to the song that is devoted to making and keeping promises, no matter the circumstances. “It’s a heartfelt song and every time I sing it – I think of Juliana, and she knows that I’m singing to her.”



Chris Medina sings his new single “What Are Words” before a standing-room only crowd March 13 at the Queen of Peace/St. Laurence Alumni Band Concert.

“What Are Words” - which debuted at No. 83 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart at the beginning of March - is the first single an “Idol” contestant has released during the course of the show. A percentage of the proceeds from the single – available on iTunes – will benefit the Juliana Recovery Fund through the Laurus Foundation.

“I would like to develop myself as an artist, take care of my family, and I’d like to release an album,” Medina said.

## Celebrating the Queen of Peace/St. Laurence Band

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from “Wicked” at the concert. The crowd witnessed special performances by Chris Medina, who graduated from St. Laurence in 2002 and played drums in the Percussion Band.

The Oak Forest resident performed his new single “What Are Words” and an upbeat rendition of Frank Sinatra’s “Come Fly With Me.”

“This has been such a very special treat; I thank you from the bottom of my heart,” Henning said. “St. Laurence is a great place to be and Queen of Peace is a great place to be. It’s been an honor to stand up here in front of these young ladies and gentlemen and have them perform with me.”



Former band members who participated in the Queen of Peace/St. Laurence Alumni Band Concert on March 13 pose for a group picture with band director PJ Henning. Professional portraits of the event can be purchased through Burns Photography at [www.burnsphoto.net](http://www.burnsphoto.net). Queen of Peace will kick off its 50th Anniversary celebration in August 2011, and the festivities will culminate on Nov. 4, 2012 at Peace’s 50th Anniversary. Throughout the year, we will hold a number of fun events, including a sequel Alumni Band Concert in March 2012.

# Mentor a St. Catherine of Siena Candidate

The St. Catherine of Siena Scholars Program – now in its 10th Anniversary year – provides students the opportunity to extend the pursuit of rigorous academic studies above and beyond the classroom. This voluntary program requires each scholar candidate to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.8, and create an interdisciplinary project that answers a significant question that challenges status quo thinking while keeping social change and justice in mind.

Over the course of three and a half years, each candidate conducts research, develops and implements an action plan, and presents the results of their research and action plan at the annual Catherine Congress in the spring of senior year.

An important component of the program is the guidance that mentors provide to the St. Catherine candidates. The mentors serve as resources and sounding boards while meeting with students at least twice a year.

This partnership is intended to expose the student to an adult professional, who can guide the student's thinking and offer direction toward potential resources and ideas. Mentors are asked to commit to a one-year renewable relationship with the candidate.

Please review the topics and status quo questions below. If you would be interested in serving as a St. Catherine of Siena mentor to a student with one of the topics below, please contact program coordinator Joyce Cruse at [crusej@queenofpeacehs.org](mailto:crusej@queenofpeacehs.org).

## **Bias in the Media**

Is there a bias in the American media regarding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict?

## **Teenage Suicide and Bullying**

Are we as Americans ignoring the signs of suicide in bullied teens?

## **Technology**

What is the academic and social impact of using technology such as laptops in high school?

## **The Pressures of Teenage Drinking**

How can teenagers challenge the prevalence of teen drinking as a main activity of adolescent socializing?

## **Saving the Fine Arts in Public Schools**

Why isn't Art education, or Fine Arts courses, considered as equally important as subjects such as Mathematics and English?

## **Teens in Magazines**

How are magazines negatively affecting teens in society?

## **Animal Depletion Due to Human Error**

To what extent is animal depletion due to human error and what can be done about it?

## **The Decline in Reading Among Teens**

How will the future of reading affect our modern society and how can we ensure that American culture will keep the joy of reading alive?

## **Toddlers in Beauty Pageants**

What are the emotional and physical effects of participating in beauty pageants for toddlers and young girls?

## **Global Warming and its Impact on the Arctic**

What more can we do for the arctic environment besides the basics?

## **Television Shows and the U.S. Justice System**

How do hit TV shows such as "CSI" affect the criminal justice system in the United States and do they improve the quality of justice in our country?

## **Women and Title IX**

Has Title IX given women equality in high school and college athletic programs?

## **Females in Athletics**

Are female athletes accorded the same benefits, opportunities and acknowledgement as male athletes?

## **Teen Depression**

Teen depression leads to consequences- what can we do about it?

## **Teenage Pregnancy and the Media**

How do television shows and films with high levels of sexual activity influence teenagers and pregnancy rates?

## **The Perception of Beauty Around the World**

Has our perception of beauty become corrupted by the media and how does it compare to other cultures around the world?

## **Stem Cell Research**

Is it beneficial to use government tax dollars for scientific research that may or may not be a success?

## **Media and Teenage Drinking**

How do television shows and movies with teen alcohol use influence the number of teens drinking?

# Alumnae Updates

**Mary Shipanik Bruckner '75** - Graduated Summa Cum Laude from St. Xavier University's Graham School of Management in May 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Over the course of her studies, while working full-time, Mary achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average, earning her the prestigious Wall Street Journal Award - presented to a graduating student with the highest grade point average in the business college. During her junior year, Mary was also inducted into the distinguished honor society, Delta Mu Delta IOTA XI Chapter - the highest national recognition for business students. Mary is also celebrating 35 years of marriage to her high school sweetheart, Walt. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Mary plans to return to school for a master's degree.  
- Submitted by Walt Bruckner

**Anne Calhoun Morgan '78** - Received her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Governor's State University in February, completing her course work in only two and a half years. Anne teaches nursing full-time at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills. Anne and her husband are the proud parents of three children.  
- Submitted by Mary Calhoun Graves '71

**Emily Boyle '10 and Gianna Campione '10** - Recipients of the Aquin Guild Scholarship, which recognizes Catholic students in high school who have attained academic excellence and have been active members of their parish. Emily attends DePaul University; Gianna is a student at Bradley University.  
- Submitted by Lori Campione

# What's New With You?

Have you received a job promotion, new degree, important honor or award; changed employers; married; had children; or changed your address? Share the good news and help us keep our records up-to-date!

**Peace Parents:** If this issue of Voices is addressed to your daughter, and she no longer resides at the address we have on file, please contact the Alumnae Relations Office at (708) 496-4753 or update the info through one of the options below.

E-mail: [stewartp@queenofpeacehs.org](mailto:stewartp@queenofpeacehs.org)  
Mail: Queen of Peace High School  
Attn: Alumnae Relations  
7659 S. Linder Ave. - Burbank, IL 60459  
Visit: [www.queenofpeacehs.org/files/WhatsNewForm.aspx](http://www.queenofpeacehs.org/files/WhatsNewForm.aspx)  
to update your information online.

## Robotics Team Competes at Midwest Regional

On Jan. 8, Queen of Peace's Robotics Team began preparing its fourth robot, DeltaBOT, for the Midwest Regional Robotics Competition – which was held March 24-26 at University of Illinois at Chicago. The work involved in building a robot from scratch is now second nature to this 21-member team comprised of all grade levels, which was recognized at last year's competition with the Judges Award - an honor bestowed by the judging panel to a team for its "unique efforts, performance and dynamics during competition."

Peace's team - RoboPRIDE - once again had only six weeks to design, build and program the robot, this time to play Logo Motion. In this game, two alliances of three teams competed on a 27-by-54 foot field with poles, attempting to earn points by hanging as many triangle, circle and square logo pieces as possible during a two minute and 15-second match.

The higher the teams hung their game pieces on the scoring grid, the more points their alliance received. Bonus points were earned for each robot that could hang and assemble logo pieces to form the FIRST logo (triangle, circle, square, in a horizontal row in that order).

Designing a robot in six weeks is no easy task. Most of all, it is a team effort. Each year, the team loses seniors to graduation and new students of all grade levels – with varying levels of experience - join RoboPRIDE.

"Every year is a brand new game so we start fresh every year," Robotics coach Karen Amador said. "I thought this year's game was the hardest yet. We know more in some ways and we know more of what not to do."

In order to complete all of the necessary steps, Peace's students worked in small groups. Some were responsible for assembling the frame, putting the wheels on the new gear boxes, mechanics or programming the robot.

This year, in what was a big learning year, the team experimented more with tools such as pneumatics, solenoid and sensors.

"I really enjoy Robotics and learning about the different elements and seeing how you begin with nothing basically and turn it into

this complete robot," said senior Lindsey Frederick, a three-year Robotics Team member who plans to major in either mechanical or chemical engineering at Purdue University and enjoys strategizing during the competitions.



Queen of Peace Robotics members Alyson Bourret (left), Kelli Peyronet, Dana Testa and Lindsey Frederick prepare for a match at the Midwest Robotics Regional on March 25.

In addition to the team's primary robot, RoboPRIDE took advantage of a new opportunity to earn extra points by building and designing a FIRST Tech Challenge Mini-Bot. At the end of each match, this Mini-Bot was deployed to race to the top of a pole and attempt to earn additional bonus points.

In the fall of 2008, Peace established the first all-women school-sponsored *For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST)* Robotics Team in Illinois.

During the building process, WiSE Women of Peace - alum involved in Women in Science and Engineering and loyal friends of the community - used their engineering backgrounds to mentor team members. Karen Amador, Robotics coach and Peace engineering teacher, and Jose Gamboa,

assistant coach and Peace math teacher, also were assisted by parent and community volunteers.

Last year, the team advanced to quarter-final rounds as the #6-ranked alliance before being eliminated.

Peace's team - which employs the motto, "The roar of the lion, the hum of the machine" - takes great pride in being the only all-girls school-sponsored Robotics team in Illinois.

"I think the girls are really enthusiastic being on an all-girls team; it's a great selling point for our high school that we have this program," Amador said. "Not many high schools in our area do, although it is growing worldwide."

Senior Mary Kate McKeown says: "Being the only all-girls school sponsored team in Illinois is special because we get to add a little bit of uniqueness, but we also get the adoration of little kids. When they find out we're an all-girls team, they look amazed; it's really cool."

No matter next year's game, the team will continue to add knowledge and do what they do best - problem solve.

"This sport involves more thinking than any other sport," Amador said. "The problem solving is so interesting because 20 girls will come up with a different solution, and we can talk about what is or is not going to work and this leads to great discussion; and hopefully, we pick the best one."

*Alumnae and sponsor contributions of time and money support this Peace program. To learn more, please contact Ms. Barbara Smith, assistant principal, at (708) 496-4755 or smithb@queenofpeacehs.org.*



The 2010-11 Queen of Peace Robotics Team, pictured with coaches and mentors, during the Midwest Regional Competition at UIC Pavilion on March 25.

# The Arts Are Flourishing at Peace

## Students exploring a number of avenues in Fine, Performing Arts

Each school day during D period students from Kathryn Ziembra McNulty's painting class continue their work on a mural outside of the administrative offices.

The students presented four designs to Queen of Peace's administrators, who chose the winning theme – "Yearbooks Through the Ages", in honor of Peace's upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

In the hours after school, in the second-floor stairwell adjacent to the language wing, Art Club students are hard at work completing a mural dedicated to the landscapes of South America, Mexico and France.

The project was the brainchild of senior Mary Kate Murray who had a long-time desire to "contribute something artistic to the language wing."

When the project is completed in June, it will feature a collection of images, including Starry Night Sky, the Louvre, the Arc d'Triumphe, Joan of Arc, a bull, the Andes mountains, Our Lady of Guadalupe and tango dancers, among others.

The murals being painted in the school are only two of the most recent examples of the ways the Arts are flourishing within the halls of Queen of Peace. Whether through song, dance, theatre, the Visual Arts, or the opportunities being experienced because of the Arts Without Borders program, Peace students are thriving in a variety of mediums.

"The Arts are alive and well within the Queen of Peace community; it's wonderful to experience the encouragement and celebration of the Arts from the administration, faculty/staff, students and families alike," said Bridget Kancler, Queen of Peace choral director and director of February's musical,

"Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?"

Queen of Peace students are most fortunate to attend a school that fosters and nurtures artistic endeavors."

As a first-year teacher at the school, Kancler has certainly made her mark. Her Frosh Chorus, Show Choir and Chamber Ensemble students held an Autumn Choral Concert and Winter Performing Arts Show and also made a number of community appearances,

including performances at the Beverly Country Club and Burbank Park District. Most recently, they were featured in the Spring Performing Arts Show "Lights, Camera, Action" on April 8-9.

Their boundless energy and beautiful melodies have resulted in a resurgence of sorts.

"I believe the combination of my enthusiasm and that of the students is what's earned us respect in the community," Kancler said. "I am a performer (19 years with the St. Charles Singers) as well as a teacher, forever evaluating my own personal standards and working to teach the students to

do the same. It's about being mindful of our audiences, our environment and the passion for what we do extending out into the world for people to enjoy."

That passion was never more evident than during the annual musical, "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" – held at Peace from Feb. 25-28. The production, described by Kancler as a "true collaborative effort", received widespread acclaim from all who attended the show.

"I am thrilled with the desire and fire of the students to learn and stretch themselves into new arenas," Kancler said. "It's just the beginning of great things to come."



**Top: Queen of Peace students perform in the musical, "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" in February. Bottom: Painting students in Ms. Kathryn Ziembra McNulty's class continue their work on the "Yearbook" themed mural outside of the new administrative offices.**

## Peace Dean Receives Archdiocese Award

Queen of Peace is proud to announce that the school's Dean of Women, Nancy Halbauer, has been recognized with the Archdiocese of Chicago's 2011 Heart of the School Award in the category of Leadership. Halbauer joined the Queen of Peace faculty in 2000 after working at Catholic schools in California for 20 years and also won the Archdiocese Heart of the School Award for Behind the Scenes in 2006. She is the eighth Peace faculty/staff member to be named as an Archdiocesan Heart of the School winner since 1994.

During her tenure at Peace, Halbauer has served as a Physical Education and Science teacher and worked to revamp the PE curriculum, focusing on lifetime fitness and helping students find an activity that they would like to participate in their whole lives, such as yoga or Tai Chi.

In her role as Dean of Women, which she assumed in 2003, Halbauer has diligently become the students' confidante, advocate and role model, as well as a liaison between parents, students and teachers.

"My educational experiences have given me more joy and happiness than I could have ever imagined," said Halbauer, who has an M.A. in Education from Stanford University and J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law. "There are so many reasons, but mostly because of the Dominican values that I have seen in action every day of my educational life: Truth, Justice, Compassion, Partnership and Community. There has always been a call to 'teach as Jesus did' and an implied ministry to translate faith into action."

Even though Halbauer has been a dean for many years, she knows that every student and situation is different.

"Our young women of Peace truly do become empowered," Halbauer said. "If I have anything to do with it, I am grateful. I try to help the young women in my charge, in my capacity as their dean, grow from young girls to young women with voices of their own."

A leader by example, Halbauer is always looking to place a name with a face, gain insight into her students and their lives, undertake new challenges and jobs, and live out the Dominican values.

"I really think the quote, 'I know mine and they know me' was written with deans in mind," she said.



**Nancy Halbauer**

## Commemorative Card Program

Our Commemorative Card Program encourages Peace supporters to honor family members and friends while giving a gift to Queen of Peace High School. Commemorative cards may be used for a variety of occasions - *birthdays, anniversaries, get well wishes, congratulations, graduations, retirements or memorials.*

To obtain cards, please e-mail [stewartp@queenofpeacehs.org](mailto:stewartp@queenofpeacehs.org) or call (708) 496-4753. Once you receive your commemorative card(s), you determine the amount of your gift to Peace.

The person you have honored will be remembered at our all-school liturgies, listed in our Annual Report and kept in the prayers of the Peace Community. Your donation will help support quality programs for our young Women of Peace.

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## Educational Giving Guide

**Turn your everyday purchases into funding for Peace programs with this handy guide.**

**GoodSearch.com:** Set your home page to GoodSearch.com and Peace will receive a donation for every hit and for online purchases. Simply choose "Peace" as the benefactor.

**Target:** Use your "REDcard" and Peace will receive a percentage of your purchases.

**Office Depot:** Use the school ID #70030452 and Peace will receive 5% in merchandise cards.

**Dominick's, VISA Platinum, Office Max, Eddie Bauer, Macy's online, Pep Boys:** Visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to register. Enter the Group ID - #50001423.

**For complete information about these and other programs, visit [queenofpeacehs.org/files/gifttopeace.org](http://queenofpeacehs.org/files/gifttopeace.org).**

## Juniors, Seniors Travel to France

Sixteen Queen of Peace High School French III and IV students spent their spring break learning and expanding their life experiences during a trip to Paris.

French students left Chicago on March 18 to spend eight days in France, touring museums, visiting with their host families and improving their French speaking skills.

"The students experienced French culture at a very personal level as all students were paired with French host families, who lived 30 minutes outside of Paris," French instructor Jura Jancys said. "It was a wonderful opportunity for them to experience French culture and its history and art first-hand."

The students visited Paris each day by Metro with a guide and witnessed the Louvre, the Musee d'Orsay, the Champs Elysees, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Paris Opera, the Eiffel Tower, a boat ride on the Seine River, and numerous other historical and educational places of interest.

The group also traveled to Versailles and the Loire Valley, as well as the Chateau of Chenonceau and the Cathedral of Chartres.

"I loved the trip, especially because I was able to be independent and practice my French with a family," senior Megan Rizzo said. "Our tour guide was amazing."



Top: Queen of Peace juniors Ruby Alvarez (from left), Isabella Sosnowski, Gina Miglieri and Lily Carmody visit the Royal Palais Gardens in Paris during their spring break trip to France from March 18-25. Bottom: The students, who stayed with host families, visit the Musee d'Orsay.



## Seniors Present Four-Year Portfolios

For Queen of Peace seniors, the nearing of the end of high school is signaled by one culminating event - Senior Portfolio Presentations. Throughout the past four years, Peace seniors worked with their teachers to create a multi-disciplinary collection of their best and most meaningful work in each subject. Each senior presented her portfolio April 11 to frosh, sophomores and juniors to showcase her work, chart her progress and reflect on her own learning.

"I've learned so many new things," said Michelle Maturlak, who will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the fall. "I'm definitely ready to just take on the world; I'm so excited. I'll always have a piece of Peace in my heart."

In her presentation, senior Vanessa Almaguer spoke about Veritas, which gave her

a better understanding of her beliefs and a chance to see herself in a different perspective, and Student Council, which taught her to take pride in her work, be an independent thinker and display creativity because of

planning dances, assemblies, Spirit Week and St. James.

"My portfolio has taught me to be a woman of Peace because of everything that Queen of Peace has offered me," Almaguer said. "When I came to Peace four years ago I wanted to get the years

over with, but now as I'm graduating, I ask myself, 'Where have these years gone?' It has been a privilege

to be a student here. As I move on to college, I will take the morals that Queen of Peace has taught me."

If one theme was consistent throughout all of the presentations, it was to love learning, commit to hard work and stretch limits by doing new things.



The Class of 2011 including Brielle Munizzi (from left), Catherine Perez, Michelle Maturlak, Bobbi Benegas, Jessi Mainczyk and Vanessa Almaguer presented their four-year portfolios on April 11.

# "It's a Peace Thing" - A Great Success

"It's a Peace Thing" - our all-community celebration and all-class reunion - on Nov. 20, 2010 was a fantastic success. More than 250 alumnae and their families, parents, current and former faculty members, and friends attended this event at Bourbon Street, which featured MC and DJ Steve Seper, Good 2 Go Band, a number of exciting raffles, and most importantly, a whole lot of Peace Pride. A full album of "It's a Peace Thing" pictures is available on our Facebook page - *Queen of Peace High School Alumnae*.

Thank you to everyone who attended this event, which raised \$12,000 for Peace programs. Queen of Peace is especially grateful to the following individuals and organizations -

**T-Shirt sponsors:** Rocky's, Jean M. Roche, Krull Window Company, Inc., Clifford Law Offices, Queen of Peace Board of Directors, A.K.S.L. Shiners, St. Bede Athletic Association, Peace Parent Association, The Team Warehouse, The Ramsden Family, Class of 2002, The O'Neill Family, Elgin Beverage

Company, The Rourke-Daley Family, Class of 1982, The Lang Family, Cranley Scholastics, Inc., Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Peerless Network, Sweet Dreams Haunted House, Kiki's Bistro, Southside Divas, and Fettes, Love & Sieben.

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Blue Man Group Chicago, Class of '82, Chuck Pine of Chuck's Southern Comforts Café, Dr. Katie McCarthy '94, Burbank Sports, Anne O'Neill Malone '73, Balmoral Park, the Chicago Wolves, and Peace Moms of St. Gerald's Parish (Marilyn Ball, Cathy Murray, Ivanka Paraga, Louise

Tonozzi-Frederick, Maria Mullen, Peggy Murray and Roseann Spoto).

**"It's a Peace Thing" Committee:** Donna Ramsden Barnicle '82, Nikki Kelly Brunke '95, Mary Rita Crowe '90, Erin Foley '03, Mary Costello Geoghegan '75, Cindy Kmetty, Anne O'Neill Malone '73, KC Ziemba McNulty '02, Cathy Grahovec Murray '73, Carol Lenza Petersen '72, Mary Beth Dougherty Rotkovich '74 and Laura Storino '96.

**Cash Donations:** Rosemary Leonard, Virginia Rugai, Matt O'Shea, Kevin Kiekhafer and Louise Tonozzi-Frederick.

We look forward to the upcoming "It's a Peace Thing" All-Class Reunion to be held at Queen of Peace on Saturday, Oct. 15.



## Class of '11 Celebrates 1:1 Milestone



When the Class of 2011, including Aubrie Rizzo (from left), Dorothy Murzydlo, Taylor Malloy, Lisa Higgins, Luz Barajas and Brittany Wozniak accept their diplomas this May at graduation, this accomplishment will mark a major milestone in Queen of Peace history. The Class of '11 is the first level to complete a four-year cycle of the 1:1 laptop program.

"I learned so much using our laptops and really excel in technology; I know I am extremely prepared for my future," Higgins said.

Queen of Peace's technology is seamlessly integrated throughout the curriculum, allowing students and faculty the ability to expand horizons and discover the latest innovations. As a fully integrated laptop school, students experience mobile computing and ubiquitous technology in their daily academic lives.

Using appropriate digital tools, Peace students develop critical thinking skills to conduct research and manage projects, becoming digital citizens in the global community.

## Join Queen of Peace for the Beverly Breast Cancer Walk - May 8

Join the Queen of Peace High School team - **Peace Pink Pride** - for the 12th Annual Beverly Breast Cancer Walk on Mother's Day, May 8.

The 3-mile walk begins at 8 a.m. at Ridge Park (96th and Longwood Drive) and continues through the historic Beverly Hills/Morgan Park neighborhoods; 10,000 people are expected to support the fight against breast cancer.

To register or download a pledge form, visit: [www.beverlybreastcancerwalk.org](http://www.beverlybreastcancerwalk.org). This community-wide event has raised nearly \$2 million for the Little Company of Mary Comprehensive Breast Health Center and Integrative Therapy programs.

Pre-registration cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 18 and under. Walk day registration is \$35 for adults and \$20 for children 18 and under.

### ***We want to hear from you!***

**Do you know someone who should be featured in the Voices of Peace alum profile?**

**If so, contact Erin Foley, PR Coordinator, at [foleye@queenofpeacehs.org](mailto:foleye@queenofpeacehs.org).**

**Let us know about the many outstanding accomplishments of our Women of Peace.**

# Peace Pride

Choose from a wide selection of Peace apparel, including many designs, styles and colors.

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# Summer Camps at Peace



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Camps begin June 6  
Grades 3-12

Visit our website or call (708) 458-7600 to learn more about camp dates and details or to download a brochure.

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

*"It's a Peace Thing" All-School Reunion*  
Saturday, Oct. 15 • See pg. 4 for more details.



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