



QUEEN *of* PEACE

HIGH SCHOOL



ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Celebrating the International Day of Peace

Fr. William Vanecko helped the Queen of Peace community continue the tradition of celebrating Mass on the International Day of Peace. Since 1981, the United Nations (UN) International Day of Peace has been celebrated on September 21 as a day to end conflict and promote peace.

Every year the Peace Community, along with others around the world, take part in various activities and events centered on the year's theme. "Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All" was the recognized theme for this year. Following Mass, doves were released in recognition of the International Day of Peace.



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Dear Benefactors,

We strive each day to empower the students who come through our doors to leave as confident, competent and courageous women of Peace. We do so by providing them with opportunities, faith based, academic and extracurricular, to help them find their niche and develop their strengths. These opportunities are made possible through **your** generosity and financial support.

Our competent young women from the Class of 2015 worked vigorously on their academics and secured their futures with a 100% acceptance rate to a college or university. Our PLTW (Project Lead the Way) program is growing and gaining momentum both internally and externally and was expanded this year to include Civil and Architectural Engineering. Based on the rigorous nature of the PLTW course work, students who successfully complete these course are now eligible for college credit.

These same students confidently embraced student life. The performing arts soared with stunning performances by the Peace Theater and Dance Companies. Student government led the charge through philanthropy and Athletics sent many Track and Field athletes and the entire Competitive Dance Team downstate!

Most importantly, our courageous young women brought their faith to the community and led by example. They helped St. James Parish during the holidays, raised funds for bullet proof vests for Chicago Police Officers and gathered items for infants from families unable to meet their basic needs. These young ladies worked tirelessly to support the community by contributing over 8,900 hours of service. They attended Veritas retreats to solidify their personal connection to their faith and participated in our liturgies as Dominican Preachers, Sacristans and Eucharistic Ministers.

Our students will take their Queen of Peace education and Dominican values to bring the light of Peace to the world in all they do today and in the future. We have you to thank for supporting them and for helping to provide these life-changing opportunities. Please accept our deepest gratitude for your generosity.

Peace,

Anne O'Malley '75
President



Dear Friends of Queen of Peace,

As Chairman of the Board, I am writing to let you know how grateful I am for the assistance that you have provided to the young women at Queen of Peace.

As you may know, I have been privileged to serve on the Board since 2012. My commitment to Queen of Peace stems from my appreciation for the single gender environment of the school. I consider myself to be well qualified, since my wife taught in a Dominican girl's school for over 40 years. I was also Chairman of the Board at that school. From my experience there and at Queen of Peace, I know first hand how this type of education prepares young women for lives of consequence.

Please take a few moments to read about the progress at the school and how our students are living their lives. I believe that you will be impressed. The curriculum is prospering, bringing new learning methods to these students both inside and outside the classroom.

These young women are already bringing Dominican values to the way they live. They are also being prepared for careers which will allow them to continue to manifest the Dominican charism as they pursue their dreams.

In addition, I would like to share a note of thanks to the Dominican Council who has served the Queen of Peace community for many years and will now move on in their roles. I am forever grateful for your guidance and service to Peace.

As you read through the report, I hope it will prompt you to mention Queen of Peace to friends who appreciate our mission. May God bless you for your generosity.

Peace be with you,



Edward Evert, Chairman of the Board



Dear Alumnae, Supporters, Friends and Families,

It has been another wonderful year for the young women of Queen of Peace, one filled with memorable experiences. Our students are making strides academically in preparation for college while continuing to explore their extracurricular interests and service opportunities. Your generous support makes this possible!

While the Dominican Sisters may not be as visible in the classrooms as we once were, we continue to be actively engaged in our support and sponsorship of Queen of Peace. For these five years it has been my privilege to serve on the Sinsinawa

Dominican Leadership Council. For decades, the Sinsinawa Dominicans have worked to embrace and respond wisely to the ever changing world of education while holding true to the Dominican values of truth, justice, compassion, partnership and community.

As part of our life as sisters, this summer the Council's term will come to an end and a new group will be elected to leadership! In this time of transition, it's a perfect moment to extend heartfelt gratitude to the

other members of the Queen of Peace Corporation for their active interest in and generous commitment to the Peace community:

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Sr. Mary Howard Johnstone, OP

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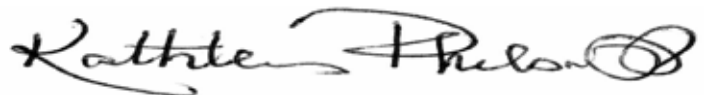
Sr. Kathleen Theis, OP

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We would also like to express our great gratitude to board members Sisters Marilyn Aiello, OP and Joan McGann, OP and to special consultant, Sister Monice Kavanaugh, OP for their unflinching generosity to all things Queen of Peace. We know they will train the new leadership team to love Peace as much as they do!

Thank you for supporting Queen of Peace and with the Sisters, I pray that you will continue to see your generosity as gift to our world as we watch these young women embrace all that Peace has to offer and become competent, confident and courageous women of Peace ready to meet our global community.

Gratefully,



Sr. Kathleen Phelan, OP

General Councillor and Queen of Peace Corporate Chair

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Principal Belkaoui Hits The Ground Running

The 2015-2016 school year began with a new leader at the helm as Mr. Hedi Belkaoui was named Principal. In just a few short months, Mr. Belkaoui has made an immediate impact. Using a data-driven approach, he has been able to identify students with academic challenges and create interventions that increase classroom performance and standardized test scores.

Mr. Belkaoui's introduction of Khan Academy to our students has had an immediate effect. Khan is a platform that allows students to access lectures that are delivered in small segments and then take assessments to demonstrate mastery of a concept. Queen of Peace students have logged over 3,000 hours outside the classroom on this platform. In addition, they have participated in nationwide contests through Khan, such as Learn Storm, where Queen of Peace students at each grade level are performing in the Top 10. The energy around Khan has been so infectious that students even spent their winter break completing a coding assignment on Khan.

In addition, Mr. Belkaoui has helped bridge the gap in technology by encouraging use of the Google Suite and Google Classroom to increase teacher/student communication and collaboration and to prepare students to be functional on the platforms they will be using in college.

Mr. Belkaoui spends countless hours in the classroom working one-on-one with teachers. He provides immediate feedback and also creates professional development around areas of strength and needed improvement.

We are delighted to have Mr. Belkaoui as part of the Peace community and look forward to many exciting years ahead under his leadership.

DONORS

Our mission is to empower young women by providing an ever-changing curriculum that offers continual advancement and leadership opportunities. We challenge our students to develop and deepen their intellectual, emotional and spiritual prowess.

The success of this mission requires more than the devotion of faculty and students - it requires annual philanthropic support - to provide an exceptional, value-based education.

Your support and loyalty to Queen of Peace High School models the Dominican values of Compassion, Partnership and Community.

We are grateful for your generosity, and most importantly for inspiring our students to open their hearts to give.

Thank you for donating to the :

- **Annual Fund** which provides additional funds for operating needs and academic resources and tools.
- **STEAM and Project Lead the Way (PLTW)** programs that enrich our curriculum and provide an opportunity for our students to receive college credits and scholarships.
- **Scholarship Program** which provided financial assistance for 209 students during the 2014- 2015 school year in the amount of \$508,650. Scholarship donations from individuals, foundations and outside scholarships support tuition assistance.
- **Commemorative Program** which sustains the Peace Campus Ministry Program where students learn, live and proclaim the Gospel, through faith formation, prayer and reflection, school liturgies, class retreats and service outreach.
- **Fundraising Efforts** that are crucial to the success of Queen of Peace High School. Thank you to all our generous event sponsors and donors, those who provide in-kind donations or services and our loyal participants who help us generate funds for special needs that are not covered by the operating budget.
- **Future and PRIDE of Queen of Peace**
We are grateful for the tremendous financial support of our parents, alumnae, board members, faculty and staff, foundations, corporations and friends of Queen of Peace High School.



PLTW Courses Prepare Students for Engineering Careers

Krysta Buche aspires to be an engineer and her Queen of Peace education has set the foundation for what will undoubtedly be a successful future. Krysta has embraced the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum from the first day she came to Peace. Her engineering coursework included Introduction to Engineering, Principles of Engineering and Civil Engineering and Architecture.

Krysta has been able to bring these learnings to life by participating in hands-on projects such as building and coding a mini-elevator, preparing the blueprints and then physically working on a Habitat for Humanity home and completing the bridge building project at Loyola University. In her own words Krysta says, "I have learned engineering can be fun, challenging and very rewarding!"

Exposure and access to these types of engineering courses and experiences has helped put Krysta on her career path. Krysta is an Illinois State Scholar and intends to enroll in the mechanical engineering program at the University of Notre Dame. Krysta has also been a caddie for several years at Beverly Country Club and is a recipient of the Chick Evans Scholarship.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

We have made every effort to recognize each of our generous and loyal donors for the 2015 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015). Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions and notify the Development Office at (708) 496-4750.

Donors' giving levels are cumulative totals of donors' gifts during the 2015 Fiscal Year. The Queen of Peace High School Community is grateful to all of YOU.

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Support Leads to Success

For many of our students, a Queen of Peace education would not be a reality without the support of our generous donors. Shardonay Tzul, a junior and one of eight children in her family, dreamed of coming to Peace but knew economically it would be almost impossible. However, Peace was able to provide assistance to Shardonay.

In addition, Shardonay took it upon herself to apply for many outside scholarships including: The Daniel Murphy Scholarship, HFS Scholarship and Horizons for Youth Scholarship. Shardonay humbly received ALL three scholarships.

Shardonay is grateful for all those who help support her education and does not take this opportunity for granted. She challenges herself inside and outside the classroom. She is enrolled in Honors and Advanced Placement courses and finds time to juggle a part-time job with her studies. She has had aspirations since she was a young girl of attending Stanford University and plans to apply next year. Her intended major is computer science with a desire to become a business owner in the future.

Shardonay is intelligent, persistent and resourceful. We know her future is bright and we are proud that she chose Queen of Peace for her academic foundation.

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Alumnae Sisters Appreciate their Peace Foundation

Three sisters from the West Lawn neighborhood shared their gratitude for the solid education they received at Queen of Peace High School. Upon graduation from St. Mary Star of the Sea, Alicia (Chlebek Blakely), Sylvia and Monica Chlebek all attended Queen of Peace.

Reflecting on their high school experience, the three sisters said, "Queen of Peace empowered us as young women, educating and preparing us to grow through service and a commitment to community. The support of faculty and emphasis on teamwork, compassion, leadership and self-confidence has continued to guide and motivate us academically, professionally and personally; for all of this and more we are forever grateful."

One of Alicia Chlebek Blakely's favorite Peace memories was her participation in the Catherine of Siena program where students choose to research a topic over three years and then present their findings to the St. Catherine of Siena Congress. Alicia chose urban sprawl as her topic which led her to her current career as a project manager with Morgante-Wilson Architects, after earning an architectural degree from Illinois Institute of Technology.

"Whenever I look back at the things I've experienced since high school, I see that Queen of Peace prepared me for every opportunity. Queen of Peace gave me a foundation. Without it, I would not have been as prepared for the real world", Blakely said.

Sylvia Chlebek majored in pre-med at the University of Chicago, continued her studies at Washington University in St. Louis and is currently applying to medical schools. She is the chief medical scribe at Rush University Medical Center.

Monica is studying animal sciences at the University of Missouri with aspirations of becoming a veterinarian.



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Theresa Moritz Winters '71



A Courageous Woman of Peace

Our Women of Peace are confident and competent and often find themselves overcoming life's challenges by being courageous. Isabel Lopez, a sophomore and member of the Peace competitive dance team has been a force to reckon with as she musters every ounce of courage she has to fight cancer.

Diagnosed when she was only 14, Isabel began chemotherapy on her 15th birthday. Isabel has spent the better part of a year undergoing treatment.

Isabel does not want her cancer to define her. She loves supporting the dance team by sitting in on their practices. She always has a smile on her face.

All who know Isabel stand in awe of her bravery and determination to beat this disease. Her friends have rallied around her by helping her carry her books or bringing assignments home when she is too sick to come to school they show their support by wearing tee shirts on Pride Days that bear the message "Cancer-no one dances this dance alone."

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Faith in Action

Throughout the year, students participate in many initiatives that exemplify the Dominican values of community, partnership, truth, justice and compassion.

Community: Students traveled to Nazareth Farm, a Catholic community in West Virginia, to engage in a week-long service based retreat. The students focused on community, simplicity and prayer.

Partnership: For over 37 years, Queen of Peace students have worked with the people of St. James Parish in Chicago to provide food and gifts for their families during the holiday season.

Truth: Knowledge is power and an understanding of our differences helps foster peace. We embrace the importance of expanding the minds of our young women around religions outside of Catholicism. The students in our World Religions class travel to several religious sites, including a Buddhist Temple, Hindu Temple, Orthodox Church and Islamic Mosque to talk to religious leaders and share the truths and traditions of their respective faiths, communities and worship services.

Justice: We show support for our First Responders who work to bring peace to our streets and communities each day. In support of these law enforcement professionals, Queen of Peace supported the "Get Behind the Vest" campaign and donated over \$3,000 toward the purchase of new bullet proof vests for Chicago police officers.

Compassion: Students wear a white ribbon on their uniform lanyard every single day as a reminder to pray for peace in our world and be the light of peace and compassion to those around them.

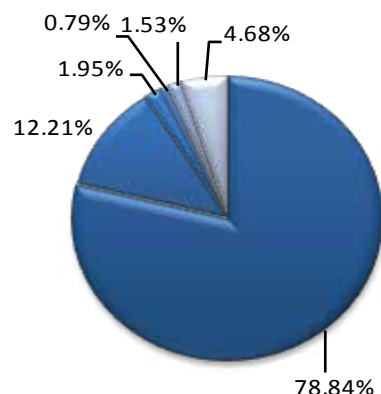
HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

IN KIND GIFTS continued

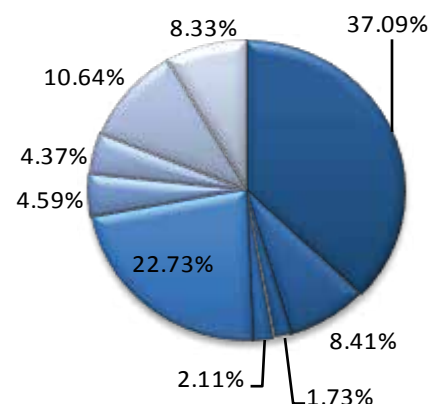
Schindel Family
Schoolbelles Uniform Co.
Jim and Carol Schuster
SciTech Hands on Museum
Simply Sweet Creations, Adriana Aranda '00
Bernie Sims
St. Laurence High School
Richard Starmann
Stony Creek Golf Course
Ted Schultz
The Second City
Tom Killoran Photography
Topnotch Silkscreening
Denise Vida
Walmart
Walgreens
Weber's Bakery
Zigfield Troy Golf Range

FISCAL 2015 FINANCIALS

Revenue		
Tuition and Fees	\$ 3,266,416	78.84%
Contributions and Fundraising	505,790	12.21%
Auxiliary Activities	80,630	1.95%
Investment Income	32,637	0.79%
Other Sources	63,357	1.53%
Reserves	194,013	4.68%
Total	\$ 4,142,843	100.00%



Expenses		
Instructional	\$ 1,536,671	37.09%
Activities and Athletics	348,448	8.41%
Auxiliary Activities	71,781	1.73%
Student Aid	87,554	2.11%
General Administration	941,528	22.73%
Advancement and Development	189,976	4.59%
Recruiting	180,870	4.37%
Plant Operations	440,950	10.64%
Depreciation	345,065	8.33%
Total	\$ 4,142,843	100.00%



Unrealized Gain/(Loss) in Investments \$48,615

Total Capital Expense paid out of reserve \$ 318,715

Includes technology upgrades

Contributions and Fundraising Income

Annual Appeal - Operational	\$ 26,108	5.16%
Scholarships and Grants	295,571	58.44%
Other Designated Gifts	141,484	27.97%
Parent Organizations	40,627	8.03%
Commemorative Program	2,000	0.40%
Grand Total of Contributions and Fundraising	\$ 505,790	100.00%

