

Alumni Newsletter

October 2024

A Word from President Keough

Dear Saint Agnes School/Arlington Catholic High School Community,

Greetings from One Chestnut Street! I write from my new office directly across the street from Saint Agnes School and down the street from Saint Agnes Church and Arlington Catholic High School. It is truly the "best seat in the house" for watching the many activities in the school each day, virtually unnoticed. Last week, for example, I watched a football roll onto the street from the grassy area where our



elementary students were playing. I listened to the screams of disappointment and then joyous "thank you's" as a truck driver stopped to get the ball and throw it back to the students. He blew his horn and waved as he drove away. Perhaps I am getting old and sentimental, but I love these scenes of everyday life at our school. They take me back to my own youth when life was simple and the world seemed full of wonder and promise. For most of us, elementary and secondary school were filled with positive memories of friendships, learning, and feeling involved in our community. The experiences may not have been perfect, but for the most part, when we think of our school days, we consider them some of the best times of our lives.

Recently, while reviewing records and sending out "thank you" notes, I came across alumni who have been giving annually to Saint Agnes School and Arlington Catholic High School for several years. I noticed some who have actually made donations seventy separate times and others who have been giving annually for over thirty years! This was after only a quick review of the records! It left me asking, "What is it that happens here that would make a person so dedicated to our school?" Clearly, it is something unique that some may not notice, but stays with our students for a lifetime. As a person who spent so many years in the public schools, it is nice to witness this dedication and generosity, and it is an honor to be a small part of preserving this community for the many generations to come. I want to thank the countless members of our community who, through donations, service, or other means, make this school the special place it is today; our students, staff, families, and of course our alumni. It

is your collective efforts that preserve the legacy of Saint Agnes and Arlington Catholic, and we are all blessed to be part of this community.

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying the cooler fall temperatures!

Sincerely,

Andrew

Did you know?

Saint Agnes School is the ONLY Massachusetts school offering an inhouse Russian School of Math (RSM) class? This unique program, developed through a collaborative effort of our



Advancement Office and RSM, allows our students to enroll in a RSM course once a week after school for the full school year to enhance their mathematical skills. The course, held at SAS, further strengthens our students' math study skills as they head into middle school. This exciting opportunity, offered at a significantly reduced cost, is made possible by a generous donation to the school. We are proud to offer this innovative initiative and grateful to the generous donor who lent their support!



Alumni Spotlight: Michelle Famolare Casey '84, P'14'17

A Full Circle Journey: My Role at Saint Agnes School/Arlington Catholic High School

As the Director of Advancement for Saint

Agnes School/Arlington Catholic High School, I feel a profound fulfillment, having come full circle in my relationship with this cherished institution. Once a student and now an employee, I have the unique privilege of contributing to the community that shaped my early life. My fond memories of Arlington Catholic are a testament to the lasting impact of my educational experience.

Reflecting on my time as a student, I remember how much I loved my classes, friends, and the supportive community that AC fostered. I was involved in various clubs, including the Christian Service Club,



where I learned the value of giving back; the Liturgy Planning Club, which deepened my spiritual engagement; and the International Club, which broadened my global perspective. These experiences enriched my high school years and instilled a lifelong appreciation for service and community.

I also recall the influence of some of my favorite teachers, such as Mr. Kuznezov, who ignited my passion for history through his engaging World History classes. Mr. Morrisette's insights into Social Studies challenged me to think critically about the world around me. Their guidance shaped my academic interests and inspired my desire for exploration, exemplified by one of my most cherished memories traveling to Italy and Greece with Sr. Barbara King, which expanded my horizons and solidified my love for travel and exploration.

In my current role, I aim to give back to the community that has given me so much. I am dedicated to fostering connections with alumni, parents, and the broader community to support our mission and ensure that future generations can access the same enriching experiences that shaped my life. I am fortunate to combine my business administration background and Master of Education to enhance the school's mission and secure essential resources. In this capacity, I focus on building relationships that foster a culture of support and engagement.

My career has been dedicated to the intersection of education, technology, and strategic business practices, allowing me to implement innovative solutions that improve learning environments and administrative efficiency. In past roles, I successfully integrated educational technologies and developed programs that empower educators and students alike, demonstrating my commitment to advancing academic excellence.

Arlington Catholic instilled in me the importance of giving back, teaching me that serving others is a fundamental aspect of a meaningful and fulfilling life. This commitment to service has shaped my values and guided my actions, reminding me that contributing to the well-being of others enriches not only their lives but also my own. My advice to current students at Arlington Catholic is to stay true to yourself, work hard, and always find ways to give back. Embrace your individuality and let your passions guide you; your authenticity will serve you well. Dedication and effort are crucial—success rarely comes without hard work, so invest in your studies and extracurricular activities. Remember the value of community; giving back not only enriches the lives of others but also brings fulfillment and purpose to your own. These lessons have shaped my journey, and I hope they also inspire you.

We are committed to featuring SAS/ACHS alumni and their lives after graduation in future editions of our alumni newsletter. Do you know of fellow alumni living the mission of SAS/ACHS in their professional or personal lives who would be open to being interviewed by Sister Barbara McHugh and featured in a future alumni publication? Please email Sister Barbara directly at <u>sbarbara@achs.net</u> to nominate an alum or yourself!

Class of 1969 - 55th Reunion

The Class of 1969 celebrated their 55th Reunion at the Stone Ridge Clubhouse in Westford. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon where about 25 graduates and some significant others got the chance to catch up since our 50th Reunion. The day began at 1:00 with appetizers and a wonderful lunch of salad, baked pasta and meatballs. There was already talk about their 60th Reunion!



Class of 1994 - 30th Reunion

The Class of 1994 celebrated their 30th Reunion at Menotomy Grill & Tavern in Arlington. The evening was filled with laughter and nostalgia as classmates enjoyed delicious food and engaging conversations, reminding everyone of the lasting friendships and shared experiences that continue to shape their lives.



Campus Happenings

All Souls Remembrance

As November is the month to remember All Souls, if you have a family member or friend who has died during the past year and would like their name to be read at the school Mass, kindly email Sister Barbara at <u>sbarbara@achs.net</u> by October 29.

Cancer Awareness Day

On October 10, the SAS/AC community came together in a vibrant display of pink for Cancer Awareness Day! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and donated. All proceeds benefitted the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.



We're Hiring!

Alumni and Parent Engagement Manager

We are seeking a dynamic and passionate <u>Alumni and Parent</u> <u>Engagement Manager</u> to strengthen our connections with our alumni and parent community. In this role, you will develop and implement innovative strategies to enhance engagement, foster relationships, and promote a sense of belonging. We want to hear from you if you are enthusiastic about building meaningful connections and driving initiatives that support our mission! Join us in creating lasting relationships that inspire and empower our community. Please submit your resume to Michelle Famolare Casey <u>@mcasey@achs.net</u>

<u>Click here</u> for the full job description!

Upcoming Reunions

<u>Class of 1979 - 45th Reunion</u> Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024 **Location**: Knights of Columbus, 15 Winslow St, Arlington, MA 02474 **Time**: 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM **Contact**: Patty Mazure at pmmazure@gmail.com

Class of 1984 - 40th Reunion

Date: Saturday, November 9, 2024 Location: Donut Villa, 319 Broadway, Arlington, MA 02474 Time: 6:30 PM Cost: \$50 Contact: Tricia DeBenedetto at <u>TDeben@gmail.com</u> More Information:

- Check the AC 84 Facebook page for updates!- link to Venmo is there
- Discount Rates at AC Hotel Cambridge- mention AC 84 Reunion
- Brunch on Sunday, November 10 TBA

Class of 1989 - 35th Reunion

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2024 Location: The Ford Tavern, 61 Locust St, Medford, MA 02155 Time: 7:30 PM Contact: Deb Markwarth at 781-264-1367

4's and 9's...It's Your Reunion Year!

Reunions are held every 5 years so if your graduation year ends in '4 or '9 your reunion year is 2024!

<u>CLICK HERE</u> to view a message from our Alumni Relations Ambassador, Sister Barbara McHugh about planning for your upcoming reunion.

Class Agents

We need Class Agents for the following classes: 1965, 1966, 1968, 1973, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2012, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Click below if you are interested!

Become a Class Agent

Class Notes and In Memoriam

Submit your class note for the next edition of Fidelitas!

This is a great chance to let your fellow alumni know what is happening in your life. Whether you've just hit a major life milestone, recently traveled somewhere new, or began a new business venture, we want to hear about it!

Click below to submit a class note today!

Submit a Class Note

In Memoriam

If you are aware of a graduate of Saint Agnes School or Arlington Catholic High School who has passed away, we would be most grateful if you would kindly email Sister Barbara McHugh at <u>sbarbara@achs.net</u>.

Join us for Open House!







VISIT • APPLY • JOIN OUR FAMILY! SERVING INFANTS TO GRADE 12 • WWW.ACHSSAS.ORG WHERE EVERY CHILD IS KNOWN, LOVED AND CHALLENGED To grow, lead, and succeed in mind, body and spirit

FALL OPEN HOUSES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 2024 6:00-8:00 PM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2024 10:00 AM-NOON



Update Contact Information

Visit Our Website



Saint Agnes School/Arlington Catholic High School | 16 Medford St | Arlington, MA 02474 US

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