



ST. RAYMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Teaching goodness, discipline and knowledge for over 150 years"

FALL/WINTER 2015-2016

Pope Francis Visits New York

When Pope Francis made his historic visit to New York City in September, some members of our Elementary School family were in attendance. Our principal, Sr. Patricia Brito, RJM; and teachers Barbara Barbarite (7th Grade) and Marisa Boiano-Mileo (UPK North) attended the Mass at Madison Square Garden. Teachers Lauren Flynn (4th Grade) and Charmaine Adderley (Art) were among the thousands of people lining Central Park as the Holy Father's motorcade drove through. Of having the opportunity to see Pope Francis in person, Sr. Patricia said, "It was a grace-filled moment and one of much excitement."



Photo by Giovanni Boiano



Photo by Grace Lucie

New Faces, New Changes for the New School Year

The 2015-2016 school year began with some new faces and new programs. We welcomed a number of new staff members and opened a fourth 4th Grade to accommodate an increase in the number of fourth grade students over last year. In September, part of the convent was renovated for a self-contained facility for our Pre-K 3-year-olds. In addition to two classrooms, Pre-K 3's new location also has a lunch room, cubbies for the children's belongings, and a common area for reading circles, gym and other activities. Another change in our Pre-K program was the introduction of New York City's Pre-K for All program (formerly known as Universal Pre-K or UPK) for 4-year-olds.

"We happily welcomed new staff members this year and changes to our Pre-K program," said Sr. Patricia Brito, RJM, the school's principal. "What hasn't changed is our position as the largest elementary school in the Archdiocese of New York and our status as a faith-first, academically excellent parish school. Faith comes first, followed by a love of learning. That's consistency you can count on at St. Raymond Elementary School."

Christmas Show Again Sold Out Pre-K Has Winter Wonderland

If you saw our children all dressed up in costumes singing Christmas songs, you would know why *It All Adds Up to Christmas*, the theme of this year's Christmas Show at St. Raymond. From religious and traditional songs to rock 'n roll Christmas hits and new favorites, students in Grades 1 through 8 sang and performed to a sold-out audience of families and friends, staff and supporters on December 15 and 16. In addition to the songs, the upper grades and choir performed the Nativity on both nights.

This year, for the first time, our Pre-K 3-year-olds and Pre-K 4-year-olds had their own musical program, an afternoon performance called *Winter Wonderland*. Our youngest students sang *Winter Wonderland*, *Jingle Bells*, *Rudolph*, *the Red Nosed Reindeer* and other seasonal favorites.

"A lot of time, effort and enthusiasm went into the creation of this year's Christmas Show and the *Winter Wonderland* program," said our principal Sister Patricia. "Our staff and students really did a great job and it showed in the audience's response. It was a joyous ending to 2015 and another example of the great St. Raymond spirit."



Photo by Silvio Pacifico Photography

FIRST QUARTER ROUNDUP

The first quarter of the 2015-2016 school year was very busy. We prayed, we learned, we celebrated and we shared with others.

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Elementary School,

We thank God for all of the blessings in our lives, most especially faith, family and friends. Hopefully, the Advent and Christmas seasons enriched these blessings in your lives. I am happy to report that our church was standing room only for the Christmas Eve Mass. Jesus was truly born into the hearts and homes of our wonderful parishioners!



We continue to remain a parish-based school and are delighted to report an enrollment of nearly 900 students. This year, we opened four Universal Pre-K classes for which our parents pay no tuition. We were able to include religion classes in this NYC-sponsored program; most students remain at the end of the day for religious instruction. Truly a win-win situation for everyone.

Please read our newsletter carefully and, perhaps, bring to mind your own memories of the good old days. For our students, these are the good old days. Your prayers and your support enable us to provide our students a religious education and an academic foundation that never ends. Many thanks to you. We would be pleased to have you tour the school, speak with the students and teachers, and explain what St. Raymond Elementary School meant to you. I know they would be interested in your story.

Blessings to you and to your family as we begin a New Year — the Jubilee Year of Mercy!

Sincerely,

Monsignor John Graham

Pastor

Dear Alumni and Friends of St. Raymond,

Now that the holidays are behind us, let me start by wishing you blessings and peace in the New Year. Happy New Year!



Our school year opened with a solid enrollment of 889 eager and happy children. We still rank as the largest elementary school in the Archdiocese of New York.

We now utilize some space at the Metropolitan Avenue convent, where we house our Pre-K program for three-year-olds. The space is child friendly. Some students actually cry when it's time to go home. The children are amazing! We also received approval for four UPK classes for our four-year-olds. This program is City funded and is free for parents. This surely helps parents in the early years of childhood education.

Some of our activities during the past four months include Back to School nights for all grades; 98% of our parents attended; Mass of the Holy Spirit to officially open the school year; Family Faith Formation; the VIP Reception; clubs and extended day academic programs; story Character Day for middle grades; Halloween activities; Thanksgiving food drive and turkey collections. And yes, our sports program — six teams in all with an outstanding record of wins to date; Report Cards for the first quarter, conferences and our Christmas Show!

As the saying goes, "The City never sleeps." Well, St. Raymond Elementary School is 24/7. You can find children, programs, faculty and staff involved in many activities beyond the classroom.

Come see for yourself! Drop by in the near future.

Gratefully,

Sr. Patricia Brito, RJM

Principal

Honoring the Bronx at the VIP Reception

Once again, our annual VIP Reception was a resounding success. This year, we honored the Bronx with four honorees who were Bronx born and raised: Joan Beck, a former St. Raymond Elementary School staff member; Laura Puiatti, an alumna who is also an alumna of Saint Raymond Academy and a staff member there; and two members of the local media, Laura Guerriero, Publisher of the Bronx Times Reporter; and Theresa-Ann Holihan, Assignment Manager, News 12 The Bronx/Brooklyn.

"Our Bronx-born honorees exemplify the best of the Bronx — hard-working people who care about their community, about education and about our school," says Principal Sister Patricia Brito, RJM.

For more details and photos, see the E-News VIP Reception special edition posted on our Facebook page, St. Raymond Elementary School, Bronx.

From left to right: Sr. Patricia Brito; honorees Laura Puiatti, Class of 1968 and Saint Raymond Academy Alumna, Teacher and Band Director; Theresa-Ann Holihan, Assignment Manager, News 12 The Bronx/Brooklyn; Joan Beck, Retired Staff Member; Monsignor Graham; and Laura Guerriero, Publisher of the Bronx Times Reporter.



Photo by Chad Willems, Dante School Pictures

St. Raymond Elementary School Newsletter

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Mass of the Holy Spirit



Pope Francis



Scholastic Book Fair



Saints' Display



Halloween Pep Rally

Photo by Geri Baron



Character Day



Halloween After-School Activities



ST. RAYMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND



St. Raymond Elementary School offers our students a solid Catholic education — a strong academic program immersed in the Catholic faith and a broad array of extracurricular activities, in a safe, supportive and loving environment. We provide excellent value for a reasonable tuition. Sadly, many families are unable to send their children here because they can't afford the tuition. Others send them, only to have to leave when they can no longer keep up with the payments. We do provide scholarships for some students on an as needed basis but they aren't sufficient to keep up with the demand. To address the need for tuition assistance, we have formed the St. Raymond Elementary School Financial Assistance Fund. Through your generosity, you can give our current students the opportunity to remain in our school and incoming students the chance to join our school community.

For our alumni, here is a chance to give back to the school that gave you so much. Consider making a donation on your own or joining with your classmates to give a one-year scholarship in honor of your graduation year.

Catholic education lasts forever. Won't you help provide our students with a lifelong gift?

LEVELS OF GIVING

Catholic Educator	\$3,600* (one year's tuition)
Catholic Leader	\$1,800 (half-year's tuition)
Catholic Supporter	\$900 (quarter-year's tuition)
Catholic Booster	\$360 (one month's tuition)

**All tuition figures are for the parishioner rate for Kindergarten through Grade 8.*

Pre-K 3 and non-parishioner rates are higher. Individuals seeking financial assistance will be required to complete a financial assistance form.

To make a contribution, mail a check to St. Raymond Elementary School, Attn: Advancement Office, 2380 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462. Please put "Financial Assistance Fund" in the memo line.

Donations can be made online through our credit card vendor. Go to www.NYCharities.org/app/straymondelementary/faf.
If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Nole in the Advancement Office, 718-597-3232 x2232.

FIRST QUARTER ROUNDUP *continued*

Thanksgiving Mass
with Food Drive
Donations and Pilgrims



Winter Wonderland



Christmas Show

KEEP IN TOUCH

Want to keep current on the latest happenings at St. Raymond Elementary School?



Join our email list and receive our *E-News*.
Email alumni@straymondelementary.org and we'll add you to our list.



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