

Concepts & Thought

Mayor Gives Proclamation To Students at Holy Trinity

WESTFIELD — Catholic School's Week was celebrated from January 27 to February 2 at Holy Trinity Interparochial School in Westfield. The event was made official with a proclamation signed by Mayor Gregory McDermott.

At his request, eighth grader Jennifer Mullman read the proclamation aloud to her fellow students and those parents who were present.

The decree included the fact that

Holy Trinity is now in its 86th year of service to the Westfield community by noting, "the school and its students are a source of value, pleasure and pride in the Town of Westfield."

The proclamation also stated that Holy Trinity Interparochial School "is committed not only to the development of academic excellence and principles of citizenship, but to the teaching of religion and life values."



SPECIAL PROCLAMATION...Westfield Mayor Gregory McDermott conferred a proclamation honoring Catholic Schools Week at Holy Trinity Interparochial School in Westfield, as well as the values and academic excellence upheld by the school. Pictured, above, Mayor McDermott poses with Holy Trinity students, ranging from Pre-K through eighth grade.

Kindergarten Registration Set In Westfield Public Schools

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Public School District will be registering children who will become eligible for kindergarten in the 2002-2003 school year.

The school district is also interested in children who have not been in public school but will enter first grade in the fall. Any Westfield child who reaches his/her fifth or sixth birthday on or before Tuesday, October 1, is eligible to register.

Evening registration will be available at the Board Administration Building, 302 Elm Street in the second floor conference room on Wednesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 7 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Appointments should be made for the evening registration by calling (908) 789-4420. Appointments should also be made for individual school registrations. The registration schedule is as follows:

Friday, March 1, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wilson Elementary School, (908) 789-4605.

Monday, March 4, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Franklin Elementary School, (908) 789-4592.

Monday, March 4, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wilson School.

Tuesday, March 5, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wilson School.

Tuesday, March 5, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wilson School.

p.m., Tamaques Elementary School, (908) 789-4580.

Wednesday, March 6, 6 to 8 p.m., Administration Building, (908) 789-4420.

Thursday, March 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jefferson Elementary School, (908) 789-4490.

Thursday, March 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., McKinley Elementary School, (908) 789-4555.

Thursday, March 7, 6 to 8 p.m., Administration Building.

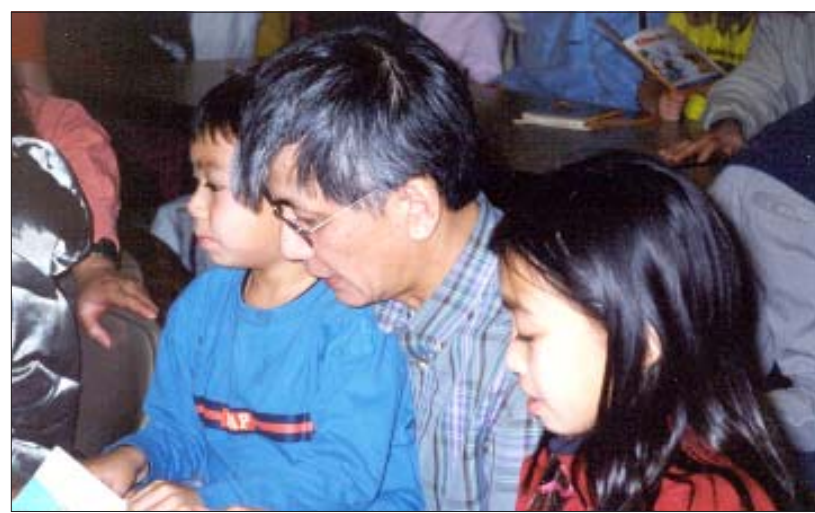
Friday, March 8, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Franklin School.

Friday, March 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jefferson School.

Friday, March 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Washington Elementary School, (908) 789-4600.

The following information is needed at time of registration: Proof of residence (such as a tax or utility bill), child's birth certificate (with raised seal) and proof of immunizations (check with the appropriate school to find out what medical records are necessary).

Any questions about the registration process should be referred to any elementary school. In the event of a delayed opening or school closing due to inclement weather, registration for that day will be rescheduled.



LOVING LITERATURE...The Wong Family delves into a book during McKinley Elementary School's Fourth Annual Reading Night on Tuesday, February 5. "Dad's Reading Night," which began in 1999, now draws mothers and other adults eager to share a love of reading with their children. Coordinated by Holly Baly, the event was the first Parent Teacher Organization function participated in by the school's new principal Earl Tankard. Parents read poetry aloud, and teachers performed the "Reading Rap," which included sing-along lyrics for the audience. Prizes and reading appreciation certificates were awarded, based on books the family brought to read together. Approximately 160 individuals attended.

THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

Winter Olympics 2002: A Gold-Medal Bore

By ADAM TURNER

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

It's that time of year again — it comes only once every four years — the Olympic Winter Games. The most sensational, amazing and absolutely jaw-dropping two weeks of our lives.

My only problem is I cannot decide whether or not to cuddle up under a blanket to watch figure skating or whoop and holler for my favorite curler.

As you can tell I'm being a little sarcastic. Before I start rambling I would like to send my sympathy and a sincere apology to all of the fans of the winter games that I may insult.

The first and most basic rule of a major sporting event is that it must leave an impression, or some kind of exciting moment to be etched in your mind. Besides the 1980 United States Hockey Team and Nancy Kerrigan's knee-bashing incident, who can really remember anything ever about the Winter Olympics?

Who won the luge in the 1998 games? How about the curling? Maybe the speed skating? I don't know, along with 99 percent of the world's population, and most likely the majority of the Winter Olympic fans.

Let's talk about the three backbone events of the games, figure skating, skiing, and ice hockey.

Figure skating. Oh, where do I start? First of all, for those of you out there still living out the dream that this is a sport, well, keep dreaming, because nothing that involves judges determining a winner can be called a sport. On top of that, besides an occasional quadruple axel or one the rare Scott Hamilton-style flips, this event offers nothing to get excited over.

Skiing is kind of cool, I guess. But me, an avid sports fan who has one of the largest bases of useless sports information, can't for the life of me remember one gold medal winner in any skiing event, except Picabo Street, but it really wasn't for her efforts on the slopes that left the memory, how can you forget a name like Picabo?

Hockey is the high of the Olympics, both women's and men's. On the men's side it is that magical game in Lake Placid, N.Y. in 1980 that will carry on forever and make me watch every U.S.A. hockey game in hopes of anything close to a reoccurrence of those happenings. Maybe one of the top five sporting moments ever.

As for the women, hockey isn't on the highest level but who doesn't like to watch an event in which the U.S.A. doesn't lose.

So in the three major events you have a one in a thousand chance of anything remotely amusing happening, that doesn't make for a very exciting event now does it.

As for some of the other events, I think I'd rather watch a Lifetime TV movie before I would let those infectious events touch my set. Watching curling is almost as fun as watching a tree.

Speed skating kind of reminds me of watching track, which if you like watching people run in circles then it's for you. But it doesn't even give you the story lines track does, like the epic battles between Michael Johnson and Maurice Green, or the classic Jesse Owens winning in front of Hitler and his Nazi Germany. Bonnie Blair and Dan Jansen were kind of good, but they're gone.

And of the six events not mentioned they combine for a possible two fun moments: Someone falling off the skeleton board, which is basically sledging head first at 90 miles

per hour, or seeing a few nice shotgun shots during the biathlon.

Besides that, watching the curling sweepers clean up the ice while the game is happening, seeing a snowboarder jump a lot (which has already been done and only belongs in ESPN's X Games), seeing any bobsled team except the one from Jamaica, or peeling my eyes on whatever they like to say their attempting to do in cross country skiing provides a total amount of entertainment that is equal to or less than that of the fun gained by running around in circles without clothes in minus-20 degree weather.

So yeah, I don't like the Olympic Winter Games too much. I guess maybe it's just because I'm bitter about not being alive in 1980, or maybe because I don't like snow, but overall I think it's just because they don't do their basic function, entertain me.

But hey, it's only two more years to the Summer Olympics, I can't wait.

Mount St. Mary Academy Reports Honor Rolls

WATCHUNG — Donna Venezia Toryak, Director of Admissions and Public Relations at Mount St. Mary Academy in Watchung, has revealed the names of students from Westfield and Scotch Plains — Fanwood to be placed on the Principal's Honor Roll and Regular Honor Roll for the first trimester of the 2001-2002 academic year.

To qualify for the Principal's Honor Roll, students must earn straight "A's." An overall "B+" average is required for pupils on the Regular Honor Roll.

PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL WESTFIELD

Megan McGowan, senior
Justine McGowan, sophomore
Colette Moryan, sophomore
Emily Dura, freshman

PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL SCOTCH PLAINS

Kathleen Donovan, senior
Renee Souris, senior
Rachel Schwartz, junior
Elizabeth Yanosey, sophomore
Diane Fitzpatrick, freshman

HONOR ROLL WESTFIELD

Katherine Bash, senior
Colleen Geraghty, senior
Margaret Smith, senior
Michele Greco, junior
Lauren Mullman, junior
Gemma O'Toole, junior
Mary Bash, freshman

Lauren Cordes, freshman
Jeana Greco, freshman
Kelly O'Neill, freshman

HONOR ROLL SCOTCH PLAINS

Christine Feary, senior
Paulina Irigaray, senior
Heather Saunders, senior
Cristina Dygi, junior
Victoria Yungaco, junior
Victoria Maffey, sophomore
Christine Marino, sophomore
Hyacinth Dygi, freshman
Mariela Lemus, freshman
Nathalie Rodriguez, freshman

HONOR ROLL FANWOOD

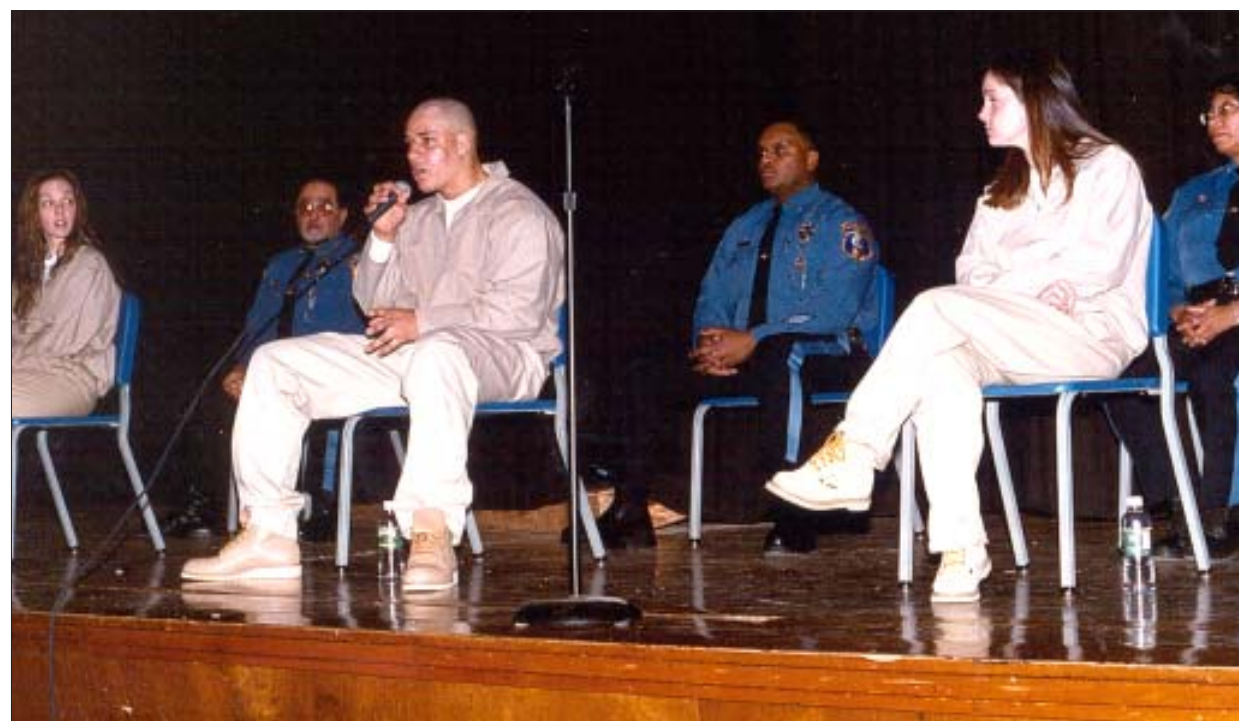
Kate Gousman, junior
Emily Walker, junior
Laura Marino, sophomore
Jessica Rizkalla, sophomore
Katharine Berka, freshman

Brandon Doerr Inducted Into Golden Key Society

WESTFIELD — Brandon Albert Doerr of Westfield has been inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.

Brandon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Doerr of Westfield. He attended Westfield High School.

Majoring in economics, Brandon will graduate in May of 2003.



MAKE GOOD DECISIONS...Emphasizing the importance of making the right choices, three state prison inmates addressed the Westfield High School student body about the fatal mistakes they made in their young lives. With much to anticipate, the two women and one man, all in their 20s, retold how their lives changed when they got behind the wheel of a car after drinking. All three are serving sentences related to their outcomes. The prisoners, accompanied by prison guards, also related accounts of the harshness of prison life and the anonymity it brings to a person. Michael Ritter of the state Department of Corrections, standing, introduced the inmates and noted that of the 28,000 people incarcerated in the state, 80 percent of them have committed crimes related to drugs and alcohol. The program, called Project Pride, was coordinated by Westfield High School health educators and is sponsored by the Department of Corrections and the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

Applications Now Available For deLeuw Scholarships

SCOTCH PLAINS — High school seniors wishing to apply for Adele deLeuw Scholarships should obtain applications now from their school guidance offices. The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. The deadline for application submission is Wednesday, March 13.

Only students from high schools in Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Plainfield, North Plainfield, South Plainfield, Warren and Edison are eligible to apply.

Previous winners already in college are also eligible to apply. They must submit complete official transcripts of college grades with new applications.

This is the seventh year the scholarships have been offered. Last year's winners shared \$50,000 from the Adele deLeuw Scholarship Fund, a fund of the Plainfield Foundation. The awards are made in accordance with the terms of a bequest from Ms. DeLeuw, author of 75 books, journalist and arts activist.

Edward Jackson Earns Dean's List Recognition

SCOTCH PLAINS — Edward Jackson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jackson of Scotch Plains, has been placed on the Dean's List again for the fall 2001 semester at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass.

A graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Edward is a member of Berklee's Class of 2004. He is majoring in music production and engineering.

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