

Avellineews!

The Newsletter of the St. Andrew Avellino Alumni Association



St. Andrew Avellino
Catholic Academy

2020 Issue - Special Edition

VOLUME 20



A Message from Mrs. Hanna *SAACA Principal and* **Michele Ferone, Chair** *SAACA Board of Trustees*

Warm Greetings to all St. Andrew Avellino Alumni and their Families,

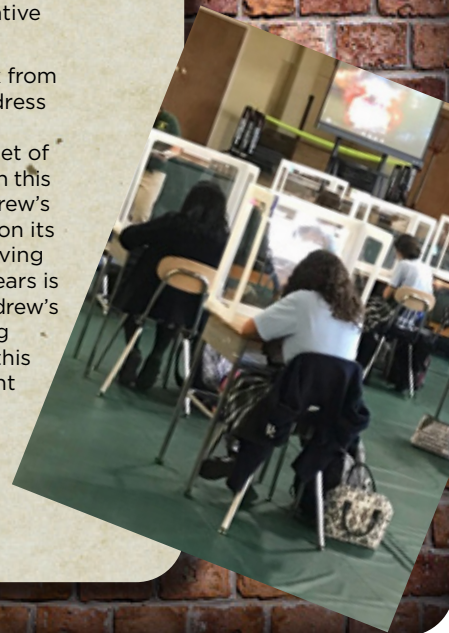
This past year has been an extremely challenging one for all of us. The mission of educating children in a safe, nurturing environment is just one of the many challenges every family faced during this difficult period. In the spring of 2020, St. Andrew's offered a virtual classroom to its students so they could successfully complete the school year and most importantly, graduate students who all moved on to Catholic high schools. When school resumed in September, St. Andrew's made an aggressive decision to conduct in-school learning that included reimaged classrooms, creative scheduling and an abundance of caution.

As you will read in the following pages, buy-in and hard work from educators, students and parents allowed St. Andrew's to address the safety concerns of all, including strict state and diocesan requirements. This has come at a significant cost to the budget of St. Andrew's with over \$100K spent on COVID-19 provisions. In this special newsletter, we are humbly reaching out to the St. Andrew's alumni community for help to get St. Andrew's School back on its feet and to sustain a viable and stable Catholic academy moving forward. The legacy of St. Andrew's School for almost 100 years is something we are all proud of. Everyone has a special St. Andrew's memory. Please enjoy this newsletter and consider providing assistance to St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Academy during this critical time, so that we can continue the tradition of excellent education for our current and future students.

Thank you,

Debra Hanna - Principal

Michele Ferone - Chair, SAACA Board of Trustees



We hope you enjoy reading *Avellineews!*
This newsletter is only as good as our information—we rely on our 3,200+ alumni to keep us informed. **Please use the enclosed envelope to keep us updated and to financially support your alumni association.** Every dollar means so much to us. Thank you!

St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Academy Alumni Association 2019-2020 Board Members

Peter Carrozzo '85, P '19, '21, '24
Erin Carrozzo P '19, '21, '24
Christopher Murphy '83, P '19, '21
Dennis Occhino '82, P '23
Loretta Occhino P '09, '23
Suzanne Ciechalski - Contributing Writer
Lynn Scott P '17, '20 - Photographer

Are you interested in joining the Board of the Alumni Association?
Please email Peter Carrozzo at avellineews@gmail.com

**AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS.
DEBORA HANNA
SAA PRINCIPAL SINCE 2004**

Tell us about the unique challenges you faced in 2020 as an administrator?

The greatest challenge was to figure out a way for our entire school to be taught remotely in one day. Our last day in person was Friday, March 13, 2020. On Monday March 16, we held a professional development seminar and implemented five day a week remote learning which began Tuesday March 17. So much was done in a short period of time. We had to make sure everyone had the correct technology. Fortunately, we had already established 1:1 Chrome Book technology, where every student had their own personalized Chromebook in grades four through eight. Devices were secured for the lower grades with donations and assistance from the Diocese. By the first day of remote learning, every student had the technology he or she needed to continue their education from home. Teachers brainstormed and collaborated to figure out ways to educate our children through technology exclusively. It was difficult to see the students lose out on the social aspects of school. But the safety of our students and staff was assured through these efforts.

What were the challenges in reopening the school at the start of the 2020-2021 academic year?

Setting up the school to reopen and ensure the safety of all students and teachers was our greatest challenge. Dividers were purchased and placed on desks. Classes were divided into “pods” with a maximum of 16 students to maintain social distancing. We hired additional staff to monitor the separate pods. To reduce contact in hallways, all grades remain in their classrooms throughout the day, including lunch (although we get the kids outside when possible to exercise and let off steam.) Since students cannot leave their rooms, I am now the class messenger for each class, in addition to bathroom monitor. With parents no longer allowed in the building, the great help the provide is gone, increasing the duties of our faculty. Our teachers have been amazing in making this year possible.

How important is the financial support from our alumni and how have their donations helped?

This year it is beyond essential. The expenses of reopening the school safely in September were a great financial set back. St. Andrew’s always operates within a tight budget but more so this year than ever. Funds were and continue to be spent for plastic

dividers, social distance markers, signs, electric sanitizers, digital thermometers, hand sanitizers, additional cleaning crews and supplies, and the hiring of additional aids to monitor the separate pods. This was achieved through minimal increase in costs to families and a salary freeze on all teachers. While these extra costs were incurred, fundraising as we knew it ended. Now, fundraising is done by the teachers and staff, who come back at night to create and paint decorations for holiday sales. ***Alumni donations that have come in throughout the year through the envelopes provided in past newsletters have been critical to our survival. I cannot thank our alumni enough for their support.***

How important is in person schooling as opposed to remote learning?

While the online learning was effective last year, I was concerned seeing the negative social effects after three months of remote learning. The isolation took a toll on their enthusiasm and drive for learning. So much of the fun social aspects of school was lost and I felt it was terrible for the mental health of our students. The value of in person education cannot be overstated.

What do you find special about St. Andrews?

What has always made us special is our universal commitment among students, faculty and parents, to provide the best education for our children. This year, that has been manifested by one significant fact...while most of the public schools in the surrounding area have remained closed or allowed only hybrid learning (e.g. two days in, three days out) and even some of the catholic schools have closed for extended periods of time, we have stayed opened. Since September, St. Andrew’s has remained live in person FIVE days a week. That is a testament to the commitment and dedication of our staff, students and families.

YOUR LEGACY INSPIRES THE FUTURE

This Alumni Newsletter is a special edition that honors the legacy of St. Andrew's School by establishing a strong foundation for future generations of St. Andrew's students. This year's issue comes at a time in America when our institutions encountered some of their greatest challenges in decades. Now is the time to help those institutions that are nearest to our hearts and most significant in our formation.

We have never met a former student who did not speak fondly of their time spent at St. Andrew Avellino School. We want you to know that even as things change over the years, St. Andrew's is still considered the benchmark for Catholic-based education. Just recently, the Brooklyn Diocese named St. Andrew's an "Embassy School" in the Diocese because of its highly successful music and art programs. We believe you, the graduates and friends of St. Andrew's, share a deep desire to continue the tradition of excellence that St. Andrew's has earned for over 100 years.

The timing of this "Legacy" initiative is critical to St. Andrew's future. This past year has created many significant challenges for the Academy due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our faculty and staff, working with parents and health officials, have demonstrated incredible resiliency to maintain the high quality education that is the standard at St. Andrew's, but these challenges have placed a significant burden on our school budget. Because of Covid-19 related expenses, a shortfall of over \$100K is anticipated.

These expenses will continue for many months to come and will far exceed all tuition and grant income. They include:

- Constructing new classrooms that utilize space in the cafeteria and gym;

- Plexiglas barriers for individual student desks;
- Additional staff hired to address mandated smaller class size;
- Halls and stairs reconfigured to facilitate safe student movement;
- Professional cleaners that sanitize the school several times daily.

We are reaching out during this unprecedented time to ask your support. Your gift to St. Andrew's will not only supplement lost revenue and keep our students and staff healthy, but will also foster infrastructure improvements and quality educational programs for future generations. An envelope is included in the center of this newsletter for your convenience.

Your generosity and prayers are greatly appreciated. They will guide us through this coming year and will insure that SAACA maintains its high level of excellence.

We wish you and your family well as you consider supporting SAACA.

Signed, Michele Ferone – Chair, Board of Directors

Board Members: Edward Kilduff '64, Donald Pirone '67, Tim Lanning '88, Lorenz Arfsten, Michael Conway, Raul Perez, Lynn Scott

Alumni Team: Kevin White '72, Debra DiLello '67, Tom Ehrhardt '77, Chris Murphy '83

Please visit standrewavellinoca.com to learn more about St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Academy

SCHOOL PROFILE

FOUNDED 1924

OPENED 1925

PRINCIPAL Mrs. Debora Hanna (18th principal)

ENROLLMENT 258

TUITION \$5,600/per year

FACULTY: 20

ACCREDITED Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
New York Association of Independent Schools
National Catholic Education Association



KEY TO GIFTS

General Member.....\$1- \$25	Avellino Benefactor.....\$500-\$999denoted by ****
Avellino Friend.....\$26-\$99denoted by *	Sr. Clementine Society.....\$1,000-\$1,499 ...denoted by ^
Avellino Patron.....\$100-\$249.....denoted by **	Sr. Catherine Sienna Society .\$.1,500-\$2,499 ..denoted by ^^
Avellino Leader.....\$250-\$499.....denoted by ***	Debora Hanna Society.....\$2,500+.....denoted by ^^

ALUMNI CONTRIBUTORS 2020

CLASS OF 1948

Margery Manly*
Ann F. Quinn

CLASS OF 1949

Rev. Msgr. John J. Gibbons**

CLASS OF 1952

Mary Hartel Flood
Dr. James Grimes**
John Maxwell*
Richard Miller*
John Nee*

CLASS OF 1953

Joseph G. Bock**
Thomas F. Johnston*
Mary Miller
Joseph Sassone**
uwdc

CLASS OF 1954

James Brooks**
Kathleen Kreter Koch
Anne Sullivan Fitzgerald**
Monsignor Peter Kain**
Gerard Marasak**
John Mason**
Kay Lennon Robertson*

CLASS OF 1955

Grace Casey Ade
Martha Richter Donaldson*
William Gallagher*
Laura M. Galletti Acri*
Bill Gastel**
Frank Gross*
Brian W. Holmes**
Susan Hopkins Holmes**
Daniel Lyons
Ken Manning**
Nancy Kilgore Nail*
Barbara O'Leary
Mary O'Hare Palazzola**
Robert Stagnitta*

CLASS OF 1956

Luis Abella***
Emil Bacso***
Corinne Kehoe Brewer*
Robert Kilgore**
Mary Cooley Kubler
Patricia McGee**
Jean Beyer Quinn**
Susan Sweeney Sheehy**

CLASS OF 1957

Mary Sullivan Curry*
Maureen Lyons Levine**
William Mansfield**
William Ryan**

CLASS OF 1958

Mary Ann Daly Alling*
Rudy Augustin*
Mary Ann Casey Butler *
Katherine Lyons*
Theresa Skelly*
Veronica McConnell Volkland

CLASS OF 1959

Ed Cunningham**
Francis Duffy*

CLASS OF 1960

Jerry Mack*
Sheila Trotter Rappaport**

CLASS OF 1962

Ken Curtin**
Elizabeth Fox Dunwoody **
Diana Baudo Sarfin*
John Warkentin**

CLASS OF 1963

Joanne Lee*

CLASS OF 1964

Joseph Guglielmo*

CLASS OF 1965

Frederic Sklow*

CLASS OF 1967

Pat Weidner McCloskey*
Kathleen O'Sullivan*
Donald Pirone **

CLASS OF 1968

Henry Sarnataro
Class of 1969
Carl Koenigsmann**
Kathleen McGannon^^^

CLASS OF 1971

Elizabeth Brix**

CLASS OF 1972

James McGurren**
Wanda Prisinzano*

CLASS OF 1973

John J. Murphy**

CLASS OF 1975

Angela Virruso Stephens*

CLASS OF 1976

Mary Reilly Jones**

CLASS OF 1983

Christopher Murphy***

CLASS OF 1989

Michael Canale*

CLASS OF 2004

Matthew Galizia*

CLASS OF 2011

Elisa Castelli

CLASS OF 2013

Paolo Castelli

CLASS OF 2015

Marco Castelli

FRIENDS OF ST. ANDREW AVELLINO

Joan Callahan*
 Joan Fox*
 Betty Santangelo
 Salvatore Santangelo
 John Woodruff**

GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

- Florence Ann Bock Rakowski (Joseph G. Bock '53)
- Brother Paul (Francis) Sassone,CCB (Joseph Sassone '53)
- Sr. Bernadette Sassone, Daughters of Wisdom (Joseph Sassone '53)
- Sr. Cathleen Ryan O.P. (William Ryan '57)

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- Sister Kieran Quinn, OP (Monsignor John Gibbons '49)
- Kathleen Hartel, Class of 1960 (Mary Flood '52)
- Sister Kieran Quinn, OP (John Maxwell '52)
- Frank McKenna and Donald Dacy, both of '53 (Richard Miller '52)
- Ivor Thomas Miller (Mary Miller '53)
- James Fox, Class of 1954 (Joan Fox)
- Leonard Murphy, Class of 1954 (Monsignor Peter Kain '54)
- Helmuth Koch (Kathleen Kreter Koch '54)
- Sarah and Frank Lennon (Kay Lennon Robertson '54)
- Catherine and Cornelius Sullivan (Anne Sullivan Fitzgerald '54)
- Betty Richter Smith (Martha Richter Donaldson '55)
- James O'Connor and Doyt Grasse (Robert Stagnitta '55)
- Alice and John Beyer (Jean Beyer Quinn '56)
- Amelia Carballeira Abella, St. Andrew's graduate and mother of Luis Abella '56
- My parents (Robert Kilgore '56)

- Rev. James E. Sullivan (Mary Lyons Levine '57)
- Gerald and Helen Mansfield (Bill Mansfield '57)
- Edwin W. Ryan, Jr. (William Ryan '57)
- Catherine and John Sullivan (Mary Sullivan Curry '57)
- Anne Skelly Anderson, Class of 1960 (Theresa Skelly '58)
- Peter McConnell, Class of 1957 (Veronica McConnell Volkland '58)
- Carrol and Jerry Mack (Jerry Mack '60)
- Susan B. Fogarty, Class of 1950 (Ken Curtin '62)
- James Fox, Class of 1954 (Elizabeth Fox Dunwoody '62)
- Salvatore and Aurora Baudo (Diana Baudo Sarfin '62)
- Tommy Leigh, killed in action in Vietnam (Joseph Guglielmo '64)
- Abraham Sklow (Frederic Sklow '65)
- Patricia O'Sullivan (Kathleen O'Sullivan '67)
- Honorable H.S. Sarnataro (Henry Sarnataro '68)
- Hank Brix, Class of 1967 and George Brix, Class of 1963 (Elizabeth Brix '71)
- Mary Lou Doersam (Wanda Prinszano '72)
- Michael and Abigail Murphy (John J. Murphy '73)
- Jack and Peg Reilly (Mary Reilly Jones '76)
- Joseph Santangelo (Betty and Salvatore Santangelo)
- Vincent Boyd and Helen Boyd (Kathleen McGannon, Trustee, the Mustard Seed Foundation)

WHERE DO YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS GO?

"Every year, as a result of this newsletter, St. Andrews receives several thousand dollars in donations from generous alumni. Where do your donations go? Besides giving life to the Avellinews, recent donations have helped supplement a few fundraising projects that were interrupted by coronavirus. These donations, while very timely, barely address the shortfall incurred during 2020.

This year, your contributions, which can be made using the attached envelope, are greatly needed for the school's continued financial health. Please include with any donations any memories, photographs or memorabilia you would like to share with fellow alumni. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you all for your generosity!"

ALUMNI THOUGHTS

Anne Sullivan Fitzgerald '54 remembers reciting the poem "The Ballad of the Tempest" over the P.A. system for the whole school. "What a scary but exciting adventure that was!"

Jimmy Fox '54, who passed in November, 2019, had many happy and fond memories of his years at St. Andrew's and particularly his classmates.

Laura Galletti Acri '54 "I remember my mother and I winning the top prize of \$500 for the chance book raffle and me winning \$100 for selling the winning ticket!"

Kathleen Kreter Koch '54 "I'm still in touch with Pat Pierce. I'm a widow now for five years. I have a son in Hawaii, a daughter in Northport, and another in Florida. I love Tennessee and just survived a tornado!"

Martha Richter Donaldson '55 "I enjoyed the Avellino Newsletter very much. It brought tears to my eyes as I remembered all the special things about St. Andrew's. I especially enjoyed the picture and article about Sr. Mary Cleopha. I had her in 8th grade and she helped me so much. Mrs. Hedan was a great teacher and so much fun. I remember fondly Msgr. Oechsler who told us stories with a moral ending every Sunday at the children's 9am mass. I loved him. I also remember Father Moore who married us January, 1964. He was a wonderful priest and his niece, Kathy, was in my class. May God bless them all.

Nancy Kilgore Nail '55 remembers Sister Madeleine "a great first grade teacher and principal!"

Jean Beyer Quinn '56 "Raised children in St. Andrew's School and they were as happy as I was."

Robert Kilgore '56 "I'm living in the same town as Larry Cocca who I walked to school with as classmates. We met up at a reunion after losing contact for 50 years."

Bill Mansfield '57 "I remember praying at the St. Anthony of Padua statue."

Robert Stagnitta '55 "Sorry to see the passing of Sr. Cleopha. She was one of my teachers and a real lovely person."

Sheila Trotter Rappaport '60 "An excellent education and great teachers who really cared."

Michael Canale '89 "SAA brings me back to some of my fondest memories."

A special thanks to the Mustard Seed Foundation and Mrs. Kathleen McGannon, Trustee... for a generous donation in the sum of \$5,000.00. Excerpted below is a beautiful letter received with this wonderful donation:

"It is with fond memories that I make this donation in memory of my parents, Vincent and Helen Boyd. My parents raised seven children, all of whom attended St. Andrew Avellino School. I remember so well having 56 students in my class and four classes of each grade.

The new school was under construction when I started first grade with the gentle, kind Sister Jeremiah. Our desks were attached to the floor and to each other. There were ink wells! By second grade, everything was modern and the new school had opened.

The wonderful Sister Madeline, in my mind, was eight feet tall and had a voice that could be heard everywhere and a laugh that was even heartier. When I saw her later as an adult I laughed at how such a tiny person could have loomed so large in my memories.

I loved St. Andrew's so much that I came back in 1977 to teach my old first grade classroom. I only had 36 in my first class. Sister Mary Ann Lawlor and I taught first grade together and she produced a spectacular Christmas pageant each year. Television meteorologist Steven Villanueva was in my first grade class and rarely spoke.

My parents loved the parish and loved the school. We all thrived with the teachers there. We moved on, but the memories remain etched in my heart. I raised six children of my own, taught in a Catholic School in Connecticut when my children were older, and probably used much of what I learned as a student and teacher at St. Andrew's. I know I will stop in to visit the next time I am in Flushing to stroll down memory lane.

LEGACY FUND TO SUPPORT SAACA

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home) _____ (cell) _____ (office) _____

I would like to support SAACA students with a gift in the amount of:

\$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 Other \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Check (enclosed) payable to St. Andrew Avellino Alumni Association

Credit Card:

Visa MasterCard Amex Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date ____/____ Security Code _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

PayPal of Online Contributions at:

I am affiliated with a matching gift company:

My form is enclosed Will be sent

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ui=2&ik=415fd811c2&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1693699096265232336&th=17813a5abd4a0fd0&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_km11qoa00



Scan. Pay. Go.

Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

THANK YOU!

ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

“My 8 years at SAA have left me with great memories, many of which are the reason I am a teacher today. I'll never forget the amazing teachers who taught me so much more than just academics. They were a true inspiration! In addition to an excellent academic education, SAA offered many great opportunities. Some of my favorites were the chorus concerts, singing and dancing to popular Broadway songs and the Beatles, Art shows and Science Fairs and Mother's Club events.”

—Carolyn Pirone Mooney, Class of 2003

“I am a graduate of 1967 and I met not only my two best friends to this day (Don Pirone '67 and Owen Duffy '67) who I met 60 years ago in first grade, but also my wife (Diane Smith '68) at St. Andrew's. We also have continued very close relationships with the Lynch's ('68 & '69) and the Gardner's ('67 & '69) who we met at St. Andrew's. Not only did I get a great Catholic education but I received a life long gift of friendships thanks to the character of families who were attracted to St. Andrew's.”

—Bob Boyle, Class of 1967

“Some of my dearest friends today I met over 55 years ago at St. Andrew Avellino School. We often speak warmly about our time spent there - about our teachers, and the activities we were involved in, especially the annual plays. Such fond memories.”

—Diane (Smith) Boyle, Class of 1968

“I spent 10 years at St. Andrew Avellino, and I am extremely grateful to the school and its faculty for giving me the foundational skills for success, both professionally and personally, and for the lifelong friends I made during my time there. I am proud to be a St. Andrew Avellino alumna.”

—Emily Casey, Class of 2003

PARENT TESTIMONIALS

“Not many parents can say they have 14 plus years of the “St. Andrews experience.” My two oldest daughters are alumnae, and my 2 youngest sons are currently enrolled in fifth and third grades. I cannot fully express how amazing the current state of the pandemic is being handled by the faculty, Nurse Weber, and especially our Principal/Health Ambassador Mrs. Hanna. Not a single day has passed that I ever felt my children may have been in jeopardy or unsafe in any way...St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Academy continues to be a safe haven during these difficult times, and for this peace of mind I am grateful.”

—Darice Guzman Piotrowski

“I am so appreciative of the way St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Academy is addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Praise goes to our Principal Mrs. Hanna, the teachers and staff, for how they have taken such great care to assure our children Leo, second grade, and Olivia, Pre-K are learning in a safe environment. All children have a temperature check prior to entering the school to assure no one is sick. They maintain social distancing in the hallways and classrooms. The premises are disinfected several times a day. Everyone in the building is required to wear a mask and the children have adjusted to this new way of life. As a 1986 graduate of SAA I have very fond memories of my school days and the long lasting friendships I have made. The excellent teaching staff continues and my wife Anna and I are so happy Leo and Olivia are fortunate to attend such a wonderful school.”

—Christopher Viviani, Class of 1986



“We are proud parents of three children who currently attend St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Academy, Jacqueline (5th grade), Juliana (3rd grade), and Thomas (Pre-k)... and in a few years, Jessica (17 months) will follow her older siblings' footsteps. From the first day Jacqueline started Pre-k, we have been completely thrilled with the teachers and staff at

SAA. We already have so many great memories at SAA, from the annual Welcome Back BBQ, Halloween Parade, Father/Daughter Dance, Christmas Concert, Piano Recital, and CYO Championships, I do not think we could have made so many incredible memories anywhere else. We have been blessed to have SAA, Ms. Hanna and the staff of SAA who have done a remarkable job in keeping the school open since September. With the required daily health attestations and strict social distancing protocols, SAA has fared better than most other schools. We are thankful that our kids and all the other students at SAA can continue to receive in person schooling. This pandemic has created an unmeasurable amount of stress, mentally and financially but we pray that day SAA will be back to its normal student life: **SAA has supported its alumni and our community for generations. Now we must support SAA more than ever and get through this difficult time. We cannot allow this pandemic to force the closure of any other catholic school. Please help. God bless you all.**”

—The Capello Family

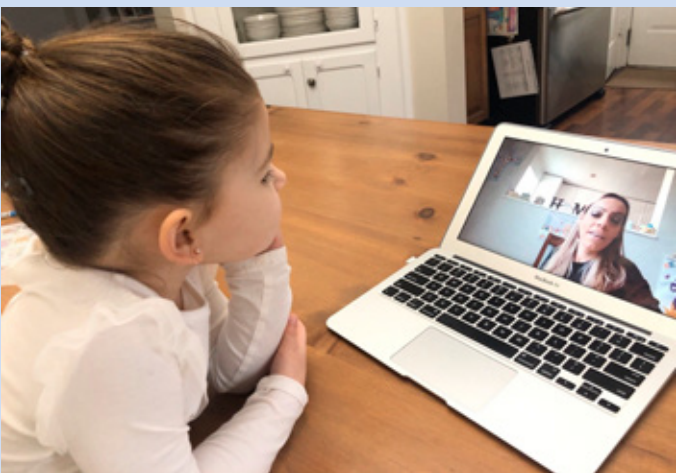
REMOTE LEARNING, SPRING 2020



Students attended the mass of the Feast of the Ascension online, which was broadcasted live from St. Andrew Avellino Church.



Mass looks a little different this year, but the 5th grade is happy to be back in church with their classmates.



Kitchen tables are the classrooms in Spring 2020!



Mrs. Deleso and the first graders took advantage of the beautiful November weather by having their religion lesson in the courtyard.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021... MASKED, SOCIALLY DISTANT BUT HAPPY TO BE TOGETHER



The first grade is ready for a great year of learning!



First graders take turns reading the class story to one another.



Mrs. Deleon and Mrs. Beloten volunteering their time after school to make Christmas decorations, making sure that the fun traditions continue for our students!

GRADUATION IN QUARANTINE: THE CLASS OF 2020

As most of you reading the Avellinews! know, 2020 was a year like no other in memory; perhaps that was felt most by our graduates. The Avellinews! interviewed Anna Cramer, parent of Julia Cramer, Class of 2020, to discuss their experience.

What was the thought process once the school closed in March with respect to graduation?

“At the outset we were hopeful that the school would only close for a few weeks or a month and this would not impact graduation. As time went on, we realized that might not be the case. Although the church reopened at limited capacity, it was open only for worship. The eighth graders and their parents soon realized that graduation could not take place in the traditional sense. That meant no eighth grade dance, no awards ceremony, no class trip and no walk down the aisle in cap and gown. Of course, the students and their families were disappointed.

What was done in the alternative to in person graduation?

“Fortunately we have Mrs. Hanna as our principal. She was committed to making the 2020 graduation special. There were activities the entire week of graduation. A car parade was held around the school... parents and kids decorated their cars with signs, balloons, paint, streamers. The kids shouted and cheered and had a fantastic time. Father Holcomb, Mrs. Hanna, the entire faculty and the school board members held signs and cheered as the cars continuously lapped around 158th and 157th Street. It was a celebration the graduates and their families will never forget. The fun of the parade was followed by a graduation celebration for the students with Mrs. Hanna on Zoom giving her traditional roast, a virtual award ceremony, and the salutatorian speech. Of course, Father Holcomb conducted the traditional graduation mass on Zoom.

How was the actual graduation conducted?

“The graduation had all of the usual moments...with students, in caps and gowns, and families watching from home; we enjoyed the traditional singing of America, the Beautiful, the playing of Pomp and Circumstance, an opening prayer by Father Holcomb, presentation of the diplomas by Mrs. Hanna, videos of each graduate with his or her information (high schools, honors, awards, etc..) a commencement

speech from Joseph Dorsa, class of 1985, and the valedictory speech. During the ceremony, the tassels were moved from right to the left side and each graduate stood together as a class (symbolically from their homes) proudly holding their diplomas. St. Andrew's history was made, as we saw our first class graduate virtually and during a global pandemic. It was a beautiful week, in the end, and Mrs. Hanna outdid herself."



AVELLINEWS 2021 UPDATE!

If you are looking for your usual Avellinews! stories and memories, fear not! The Avellinews! 2021 Edition is currently in production and will be arriving in your mail boxes this summer.

ALUMNI...

We are looking for YOUR memories! Please tell us about your favorite teachers, friends, classes and recollections....these are the stories that give life to the Avellinews! Please share them with us and your fellow alumni!



Update your contact information:

For a chance to win a \$200 Amazon gift card, please email us with your updated contact information at **Avellinews@gmail.com** by May 15, 2021.

Any questions or comments?

Email **Avellinews@gmail.com**

Or Write us at:

St. Andrew Avellino School
 Alumni Association
 35-50 158th8 Street
 Flushing, NY 11358

About the AvellineWS!

We rely on our alumni to keep us informed. Please take a minute to update us with your contact information and the happenings in your life.

We respectfully and gratefully encourage you to use the enclosed envelope to support your alumni association financially.

Thank you all for your generosity!

Any questions or comments?

Email Peter Carrozzo at:

avellineWS@gmail.com

Or Write us at:

St. Andrew Avellino School Alumni Association

35-50 158th Street, Flushing, NY 11358

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE ALUMNI, STUDENTS, AND FRIENDS WHO CONTRIBUTE THEIR MEMORIES. OUR NEWSLETTER WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME NOW TO CONTRIBUTE MATERIAL TO OUR 2021 ISSUE. WE CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP!



Follow “The St. Andrew Avellino Alumni Association on Facebook!

Follow The St. Andrew Avellino Alumni Association on Facebook!:

Follow us on Facebook so the SAA Alumni Association can stay in contact with alumni in between each issue of the AvellineWS!

If you have not already done so, please follow and like us and invite friends to do the same. There, you will find so many interesting conversations, memories and pictures. Don't miss out!

Help us reach our goal of 2000 members.