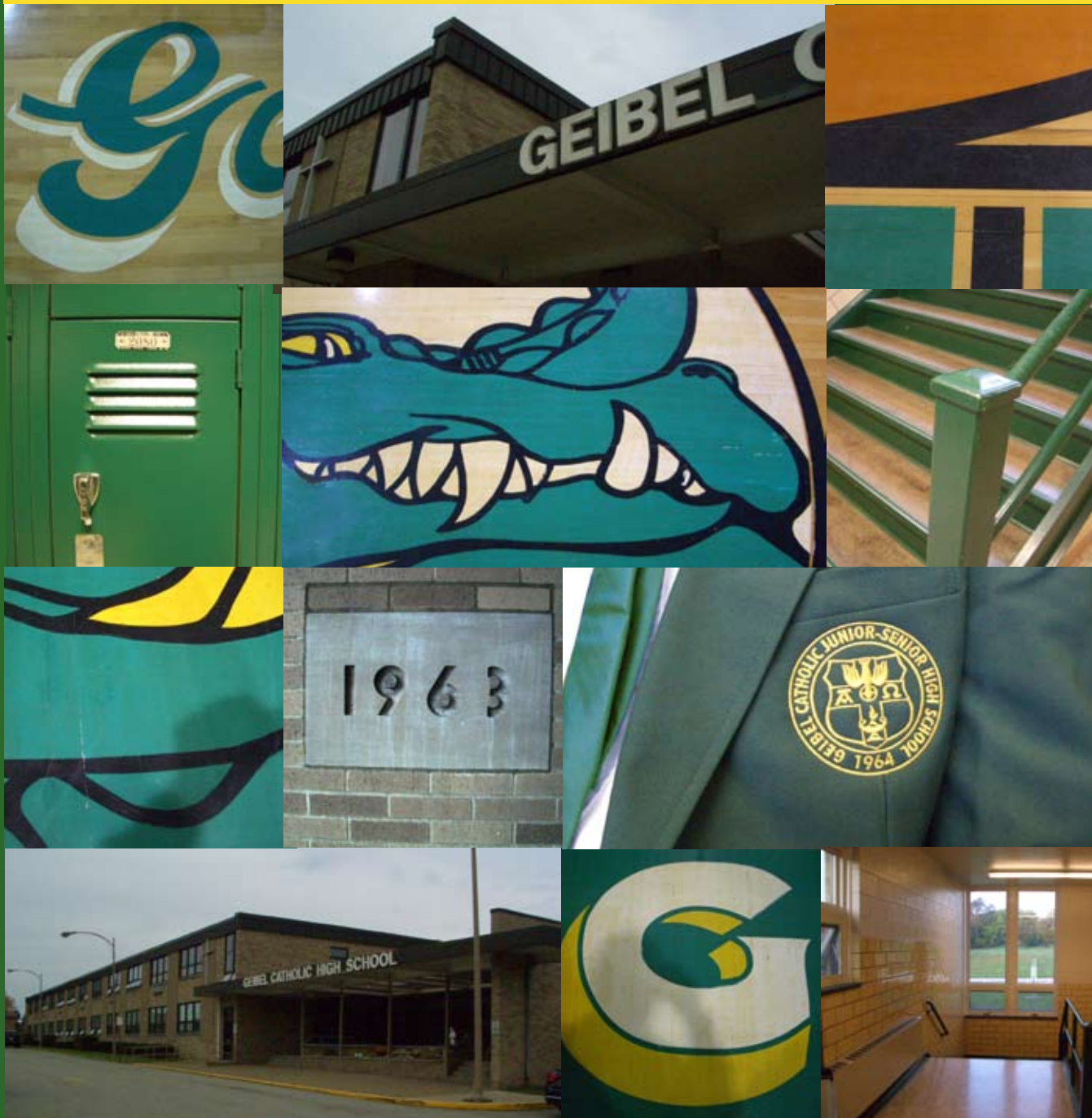


GEIBEL

The Geibel Family Newsletter • Winter 2012



**GEIBEL ... A School of Excellence • A School of Faith • A School of Tradition •
A School of Service • A School of Joy • A School of Character • A School of Spirit
GEIBELCATHOLIC.ORG**

CLASS NOTES

Beth Kissinger Bayer '82 lives in Wood-Ridge, N.J., with her husband, Bill, their son, Will Jacob, 8, and their dog, Ralphie, 6. After working for many years as a newspaper reporter and editor, Beth is now editor of the alumni magazine of Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J. Geibel friends who are visiting northern New Jersey and New York City are always welcome.

Navy Seaman **Katrina Coleman '01** was selected as Sailor of the Quarter, second quarter 2011 while assigned to Commander Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic, Virginia Beach, VA. She flawlessly processed 40 personal awards as well as 40 Sailors of the Year and Chief Petty Officer of the Year packages. In addition, she volunteered to take over the annual Aviation Award program encompassing 13 separate awards with a minimum of 17 submissions each year. Katrina also reviewed and updated several command directives ensuring staff and subordinates commands had access to most current procedures and policies at all times.

Sarah Erdely '08, a senior business and marketing major at Juniata College, submitted the winning design of a new logo for the Pennsylvania Collegiate Choral Association. Sarah is employed in the marketing office at Juniata and works in design.

Gemma Koury '08 graduated from Westmoreland County Community College in December 2010 with a major in culinary arts. She is a certified sous-chef. She did her apprenticeship at Seven Springs Resort in Champion, PA and currently works at JCorks restaurant in Greensburg. She is continuing her culinary training in baking and cake decorating at WCCC.



David Mahokey '08, a senior at Point Park University in Pittsburgh and Greg Kerestan, a senior at Seton Hill University in Greensburg wrote

a 20-song score and script for "In Control," a musical that focuses in part on Dave's real-life battle with bone cancer. The idea for the musical originated with a one-man autobiographical piece that Dave prepared in college. The project took the two men nearly two years to complete, and their hopes are that the play will someday make it to Broadway!

Brendan Costantino '09, a student at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, was named to the East All-Star baseball team in the New York Collegiate Baseball League. Costantino was the top hitter for the Sherrill Silver-smiths in New York and the 12-team league. Through 40 games he batted .417 with 22 RBI. He also led the league in stolen bases with a record 63. The league is a summer wood bat development league for professional baseball that gives college players who have not yet signed a professional contract the opportunity to develop their skills at a higher level of play, gain experience with wood bats, and be evaluated by scouts.

Alex Tufano '08, a senior business finance major at Saint Vincent College, studied abroad last summer in Italy.



25 Year Reunion for Class of 1986

The Class of '86 held its 25-year reunion on July 16, 2011 at Seven Springs. *Seated (L-R):* Dr. Gilbert Perez, Lori (Petzel) Garvey, Sonja (Hissom) Braun, Jamie (Springer) Waligura, Georgia Rush, Mike McGrogan and Chris Seese. *Standing (L-R):* Fr. Mike Sikon, Chuck Myers, Larry Sebek, Dr. Bob Jana, John Toth, Mike Herman, Derek Robinson, Dave Hesson, Joe Sages, Rick Hough, and Joe Marcinko.


Beloved Chemistry Teacher Mr. Jack Bluhm Retires



The lights are no longer on in the Chem Lab at 4:00 A.M. Mr. Jack Bluhm, Physics and Chemistry teacher for twelve years at Geibel, retired in June. In a recent note he wrote, "I truly miss the teachers, students, and staff, but I am getting very used to this retirement thing and I love it!"

We were fortunate to have Mr. Bluhm join our Science Department in September of 1999 after retiring from Norwin High School. His love of science, passion for research, devotion to his profession, and his deep faith made him a valuable member of our teaching staff.

When asked how he is spending his free time, Mr. Bluhm wrote, "The best thing about retirement is being able to do many things that I have wanted to do for years, but never had the time. My retirement has allowed me time to study areas of intense interest to me in the spiritual realm. With my heart condition being what it is, my journey through life may be nearing its end, sooner than I would like. I have faith that many unanswered questions, which I have had over the years, in time, will finally be



In Memoriam

We offer our heartfelt prayers and sympathy to the families of these deceased alumni

Joseph P. Murtha, I.C. '49
October 18, 2011

Gerald R. Scarry I.C. '55
November 1, 2011

Michael J. Napoleon Sr. '68
October 25, 2011

Robert L. Bucci, Esq. '72
July 23, 2011

Valerie (Koz) Aiello '74
December 11, 2011

Daniel A. Caringola '81
September 11, 2011

Melanie E. Overly '96
October 7, 2011

answered by my loving, omnipotent friend." We congratulate Mr. Bluhm on his retirement and wish him many years of good health to continue his quest for knowledge.

WEDDINGS

Rebecca Elder '95 to David Porter, May 21, 2011

Lindsay John '97 and Ryan Macaleer, July 31, 2010

Julie Nickman '97 and Matthew Petrie, July 2, 2011

Michael Gabeletto '03 and Toyia Lewis, May 21, 2011

BIRTHS

A daughter, Greta Whittemore, to Andrew and **Margo (Orlando '95) Littell** on October 27, 2011

A daughter, Eleanor Mary, to Mike and **Laura (Kissinger '95) Keslosky**, July 29, 2011.

Twins, Luke John and Sophie Grace, to Briana and **Jason Bandemer '98**, June 17, 2011

A daughter, Ellie, to Francisco and **Suzanne (Flores '98) Zepeda**, November 10, 2011

Summer 2011 Renovations Turn Geibel Topsy Turvy But All Was Ready For The Start of the School Year!



**“Tonight we are young. So let’s set the world on fire.
We can burn brighter than the sun.”**

Words by the group named Fun



**Geibel Class
of '76 Meets
for Its 35 Year
Reunion**

The Geibel Class of 1976 celebrated its 35-year reunion on July 30, 2011 at Pechin Fire House restaurant. Class President Tom Kaylor welcomed classmates. Fr. Rick Kosisko gave the invocation and led the class in a moment of silence for deceased class members Brad Miller, Rose Mary (Suitor) Prutz, Lisa Revetta, Tim Check, Dave Kozar, and Mary Susan Galiardi.

First row (left to right): Debbie (Shallenberger) Brunner, Cherri Carbonara, Kathy (Rose) Kiliany, Rita (Novak) Martin, Mary Colleen Davin, Jody (Nicolette) Caputo, Mary Beth (Soforic) Meader, Susan (Canada) Cole.

Second row (left to right): Peggy (Yourish) Uminski, Eileen (O’Laughlin) Copic, Susan (Lane) Snowman, Al Kiliany, Tom Rendine, Fr. Rick Kosisko, Mark Brooks, Carla (O’Donnell) Brooks, Nancy (Bailey) Jacoby-anksy, Dennis Martin.

Third row (left to right): Kevin Winters, Regis Quinn, Pat Ash, Bill Finley, Jim Traynor, Joe Oppman, Tom Kaylor, Don Smith.

“Thank you” to the members of the Class of 1976 whose generous monetary donation in honor of deceased classmates will be put towards ongoing renovations of the Geibel chapel.

The 21st Annual Croissant Sale.



Elfgrams delivered by Santa’s helpers.



Christmas Tree raffle for charity.



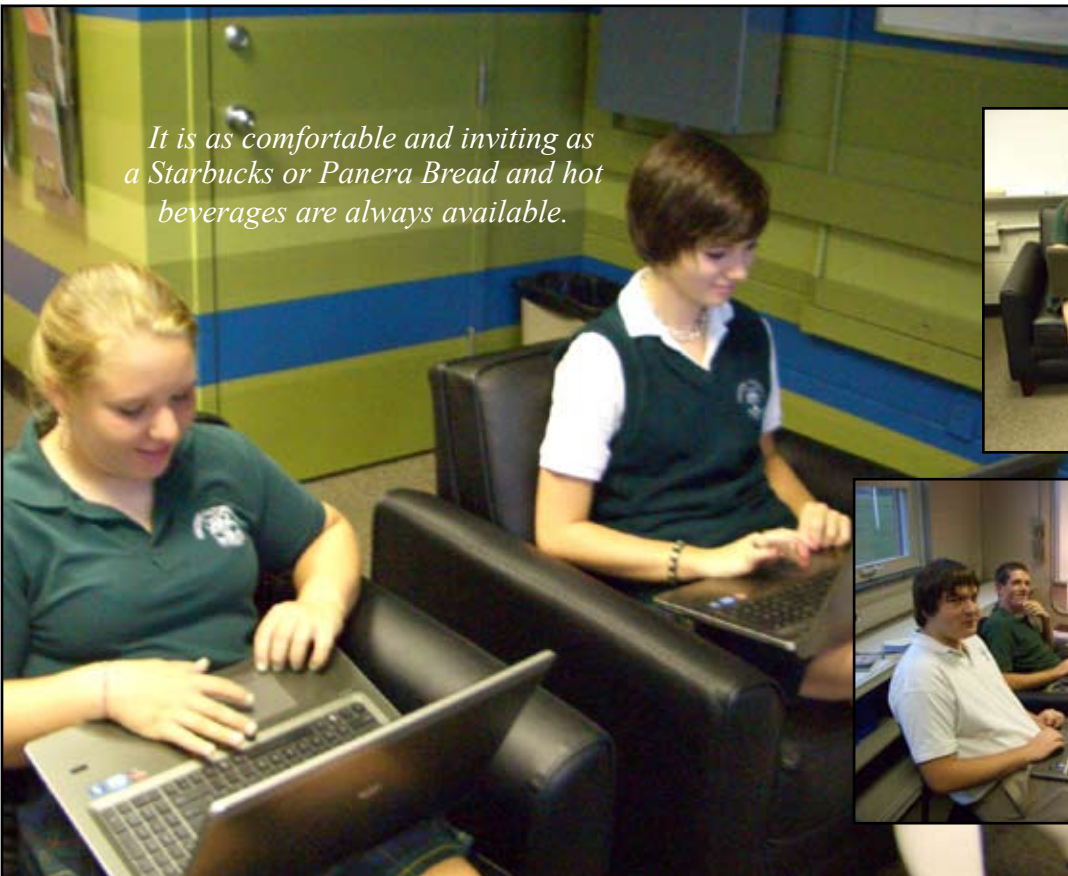
**WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT IT UNLESS YOU TELL US ABOUT IT. SEND US YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS!
MAIL A LETTER (ATTN. NEWSLETTER) OR EMAIL US AT NEWSLETTER@GEIBELCATHOLIC.ORG**

40 year Reunion for the Class of 1971



The Class of 1971 held its fortieth reunion at Bud Murphy's in August. Attending were (*front*) Joanne Orlando Lizza, Kathy Traynor Oros, Rebecca Hohol, Susan Kruckvich, Kathy Johnson Albright. (*Row 2*) Lynn Cordaro Bainbridge, Father Anthony Ditto, Dennis Rendine, Darlene Shandorf D'Amato, Jane Honisek Petrun, Brenda Pittsment Kooser. (*Row 3*) Bernice Zele-nak Waller, JoAnn DeBlasio Petanovich, Bob Carpinelli, Alan Pieczynski, Darryl Lohr, Joyce Andrews Wojciechowski, Marie Rozantz Leroy, Mark Kostelnik, Guy Rose. (*Back*) Tom McGuinness, Bob Gallo, Dave Koval, Frank Smithula, Putt Zawislan, Bill Owens, Dan Petrowski, Everett Ellicott, Jim Cieslak and Paul Chip Cunningham.

Beautiful New Media Center is Created During Summer Renovations



It is as comfortable and inviting as a Starbucks or Panera Bread and hot beverages are always available.

MediaLab Offers Wi-Fi, 55-inch Smart TV, Laptop Computers, A Coffee Center and More!



Andrea Heinbaugh, a 2006 Geibel graduate, majored in interior design at LaRoche College. She designed and executed the creation of the new media center.



From the Principal's Desk...

The New Geibel Reality

Our Educational Philosophy

As Jesus fell while carrying the cross, his believers picked him up. In a fashion, that is what great Catholic high schools do for students. Lift them.

It is my desire that students feel lifted here at Geibel – lifted by their teachers, the administration, the general staff, and their classmates. We do not humiliate students or mock them in any way. We lift them. A part of that process is presenting engaging lessons and creating a sensational educational and religious environment. A part of that process is praying with them and serving as mentors and role models for them. A part of that process is respecting them, appreciating them, providing them with extraordinary extra-curricular experiences, and creating a culture of giving and service in our school.

This is our ministry, to bring all of our students closer to the Lord as we all remember that Jesus Christ is the invisible but ever-present teacher in our school. Together we teach them to honor their mothers and fathers, grandparents, and their Heavenly Father every day. Together we teach them to expect the best from us as we expect the best from them. Together we help them fulfill their dreams and enable them to enter the colleges and universities of their choice.

We believe that all knowledge originates and flows from God. Therefore, the Geibel educational environment is Gospel-centered and value-based, reflecting the teachings of the Catholic Church. Our environment is forged by a partnership among parents, students, educators, the Office of Catholic Schools, and area communities.

Our Vision, Goals, and Mission

Our vision is to develop our students as the whole person, to prepare them for college and university environments and to an eventual return to service to the Catholic Church with a religious vocation or as lay parishioners devoted to faith, family and community.

Our goals are:

- To present the teachings of the Catholic Church in areas of Sacred Scripture, religious doctrine, ethics, and morality
- To nurture faith in God, hope in the risen Christ, and love of God and neighbor
- To provide and deliver excellent academic programming to prepare our students for post-secondary studies.
- To develop critical and analytical thinking skills.
- To encourage the creative potential of each student.
- To promote self-worth, interpersonal skills, and emotional well-being

The mission of Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School is to aid our Bishop and the priests and religious women of the Diocese of Greensburg in the spread of the Christian Gospel to the young people of the Fay-West community.

In meeting our mission we will sustain and advance our academic standards in a demanding yet Christ-centered learning environment. Through our co-educational college preparatory curriculum and our programs in the visual and performing arts, athletics, and student activities, we seek accomplishment and excellence.

There are 1206 Catholic high schools in the United States. With our sustained commitment to excellence, it is our goal to be recognized as one of the top 50 high schools in the nation. To accomplish this, we must eliminate mediocrity, for it is unacceptable in such a special place as Geibel. To reach this goal, our Catholic identity must permeate everything we do and say.

Ours is not a school for wimps; it is a school for winners. Geibel students are the future leaders of our nation, our communities, and our Church. It is our privilege to be their school of choice. It is their privilege to be a student here.

Pride of Place – Look of a Winner

Now that the renovation of the Geibel Catholic building is nearly complete, Geibel students experience the advantages of mobile technology and smart TV in the new Media Center. Our cafeteria resembles a small café where our students relax and enjoy lunch and conversation together. A student lounge is located at the entrance of the building where students meet and greet visitors to the school during their study hall period. The climate and feel of our building is warm, friendly, and gentle. This is truly a Christian environment with pride of place and the look of a winner. Our chapel is currently undergoing a complete renovation and will further enhance the spirituality of our school community.

Continual Improvement – a Sustained Commitment to Excellence

The best schools in America are ones that are never satisfied. We expose and share our curriculum with college deans and teaching professors via our FACES (Formation through Advanced Catholic Education and Scholarship) program. We have adapted our curriculum to the needs of the 21st century. Through this program, Geibel has become a college campus. Articulation agreements with Seton Hill University, Saint Vincent College, Mount Aloysius College and La Roche College have made it possible for our students to complete up to one year of college study during their Junior and Senior years at Geibel. In fact, we have a senior this year who will do exactly that – complete one year of college via our FACES program.

We are committed to staff development by having our teachers instructed in research-driven “Educational Best Practices in Instructional Delivery.” This data is presented by proven educational consultants. We demand a sustained commitment to excellence by everyone. Instruction is monitored and guided by the principal.

The New Geibel Reality Requires Substantial Fund-Raising

The new Geibel reality would not be possible without the generosity of our benefactors. Our per-student tuition is \$8100, reduced to \$6400 to active members of a Catholic parish. With substantial financial aid the majority of families pay \$5800.

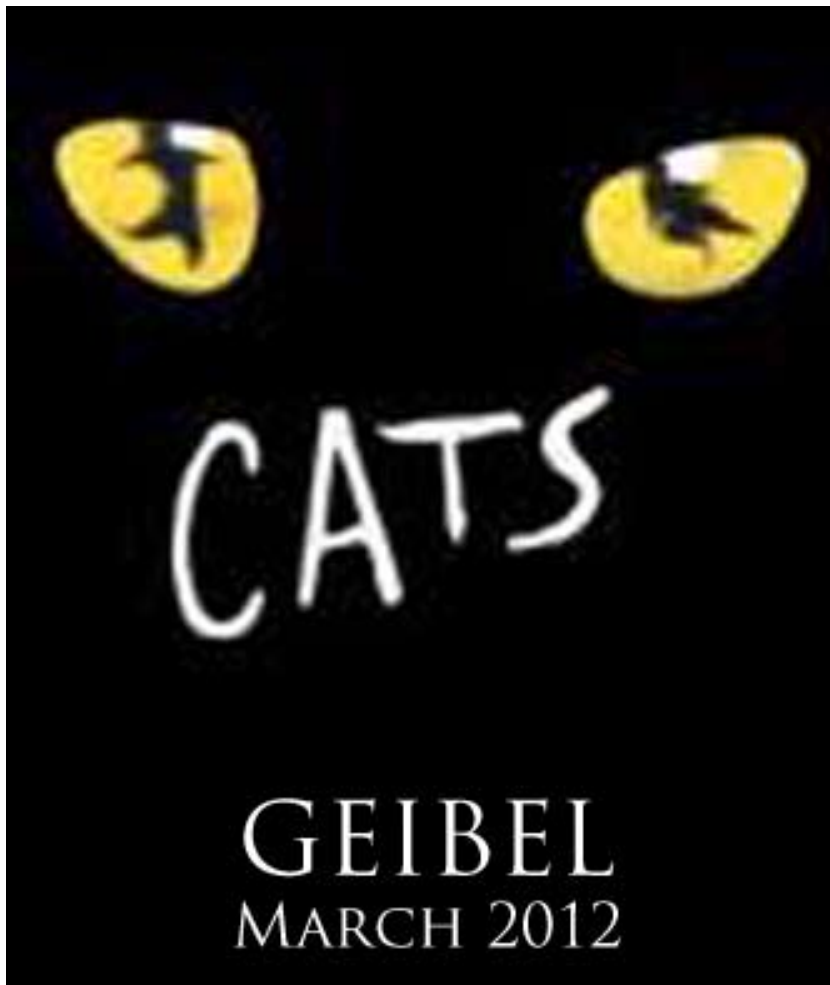
However, the actual cost of educating a Geibel student is \$11,200 per school year. This gap cannot be made up by increasing tuition, as tuition costs are approaching a ceiling tied to the economic conditions of our time and place. The area of giving at Geibel that is far below the standard for Catholic high schools is the annual fund. Here at Geibel we refer to it as our Annual Giving Campaign. To those of you who have contributed to this campaign, we are deeply appreciative for all that you have done. To those of you who have yet to contribute, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation this year. We want you all to be aware of the advancements that are taking place at Geibel only because of the financial gifts of our generous benefactors and their concern for Catholic secondary education.

On behalf of Geibel students, past, present and future – thank you. God Bless you and your families during this holy season and throughout the New Year,

Yours in Catholic Faith,

Don Favero

Principal, Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A TRULY MEMORABLE GEIBEL EVENT. MR. NICK BELL, THE PIED PIPER OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT, IS TACKLING A SPRING MUSICAL MORE IMPOSSIBLE THAN LAST YEAR'S BLOCKBUSTER, *PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*. IN MARCH, THE GEIBEL PLAYERS WILL PRESENT THE BROADWAY PHENOMENON *CATS*. THIS IS A SHOW NOT TO BE MISSED. MR. BELL'S REPUTATION AS MAESTRO EXTRAORDINAIRE IS LEGENDARY AND HIS PERFORMANCES ARE SELLOUTS.

GET YOUR TICKETS AND ENJOY THE SHOW!



Stay in Touch.

Your Alumni Association wants to know where you are and what you are doing. Please use this form to update us about yourself so we may add your information to the upcoming issue of the Geibel Alumni Newsletter, or just email your updates, births, weddings and news to **newsletter@GeibelCatholic.org**.

Name (include maiden name) _____

Class Year _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____ Position _____

Is your Spouse a Geibel Alum? yes no Class Year _____

News for the Class Notes section of the next newsletter (attach separate sheet if needed).

- I would like to receive the Geibel Alumni Newsletter electronically. Please send me an e-mail reminder when the latest issue is available on the Geibel Catholic website.

Print and mail to:
 Development Office
 Geibel Catholic High School
 611 East Crawford Avenue
 Connellsville, PA 15425



The Bridge Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,
came at the evening, cold and gray,
to a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
through which was flowing a sullen tide,
the old man crossed in the twilight dim –
that sullen stream had no fears for him;
but he turned, when he reached
the other side,
and built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,
“You are wasting strength in building here,
Your journey will end with the ending day;
you never again must pass this way.
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
why build you the bridge at the eventide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head.
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,
“There followeth after me today
a youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
to that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
good friend, I am building the bridge for him.”

Will Allen Dromgoole

REMEMBER

the place that gave you a start in life?

share the opportunity

MANY GRADUATES SAY THAT GEIBEL – WITH ITS DISTINGUISHED FACULTY, EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS AND TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE – TRANSFORMED THEM INTO WHO THEY ARE TODAY. WHY NOT CONSIDER GIVING SOMETHING BACK TO YOUR LIFE-CHANGING ALMA MATER? PRINT OUT THIS FORM AND SEND IT WITH YOUR GIFT. YOU CAN ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE YOUR FILE FOR OUR DATABASE.

SUPPORT THE 2011-2012 ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM!

Take advantage of this opportunity to help make great things happen at Geibel! Please consider matching or increasing the amount of your last gift. Simply print out the form below and send it with your gift.

You can also take this opportunity to update your file for our data base.

Thank you for your continued support.

Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School 611 E. Crawford Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425

Name(s) _____ Class of _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Alumnus Parent of Alumnus Parent of Current Student Friend of Geibel

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ Payment Method: Visa MasterCard Check
(payable to Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School)

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Employer (for Matching Gifts): _____

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