



Alumni Newsletter—70th Anniversary Issue

A Letter From Our Principal Mr. Michael Stumpf



Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the Bellarmine-Jefferson High School community of students, teachers and staff, I would like to wish you a warm Holiday Season of love and friendship! Our school is very blessed to have the continued support of alumni and friends to carry on the legacy and rich traditions that make comprise our unique **F.A.M.I.L.Y.®** (Forget about me... I love you).

For those of you that attended the recent **70th All Year Reunion** in celebration of the school's **70th Anniversary**, it was my pleasure to have welcomed you back to our campus! It was an honor to represent the school at this event as Principal and to have heard so many wonderful, fond memories shared by guests. I would like to take this moment to thank our Alumni Director Lori Clerihan and the committee of alumni who volunteered throughout the year to ensure that a great time was had by all.

A Catholic education is an advantage for life, and this is obvious when you look at the many blessed lives lived by our Alumni.

Looking to the future with hope and enthusiasm, we are visualizing new programs and improved facilities as we continue to build upon the work that our founder, Msgr. Keating, started so many years ago. We have a committed faculty and staff serving students and families every day in the classrooms, on the fields, on the court and within the community.

During the 70th Anniversary celebration, we announced the kickoff of our **Ultimate Classroom Project** which will allow us to update technology, install LED lighting and refurbish our classrooms. By providing students with access to high-tech learning environments, our teachers will inspire students to create, innovate and collaborate with one another every day. In addition, our recently launched **Annual Appeal** will allow the school to provide tuition assistance to students with financial need so that a Catholic education remains affordable to all. Funds raised from last year's **Adopt-A-Student Tuition Assistance Program** allowed fifteen (15) students to attend our school who would not otherwise afford a Catholic Education at Bellarmine-Jefferson High School. Many of you have already contributed to one of these campaigns and for that we are very thankful!

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News From The Parent Board



Save the Date!

Bellarmino-Jefferson High School Annual Gala

A Mardi Gras Night at the Races

Saturday, February 7, 2015

6:30 p.m.

\$50.00 per person

\$400.00 per table of 8 (includes a bottle of wine)

Join us for a fun-filled night of food, drinks, music, horse "betting," auction, 50-50 raffle and more.

Check the Alumni Facebook page beginning in January for more information...

Cocktail attire

Continued from page 1

Thanks to the **Shea Foundation** and the support of the **Archdiocese of Los Angeles**, renovations will soon begin to our existing library on campus. The area will be transformed to a more student-friendly, high-tech learning environment with flexible areas to collaborate and have casual conversation. The new, modern **Student Media Center** will become a hub of learning and gathering for our students and guests while showcasing our rich, historical past in Burbank. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2015 so stay tuned for more information on how you may take part in re-opening ceremony!

The future at Bellarmine-Jefferson High School is a bright one! I'd like to thank you for your support throughout the years and encourage you to stay involved in 2015! Upcoming events include our February 7th Annual Gala, **A Mardi Gras Night at the Races**. The theme will include Mardi Gra-style festivities with betting and horse races! May 1st is our Annual **Bellarmino-Jefferson High School & Alumni Golf Tournament**. We invite you to come play, or be a sponsor for this event. You are also welcome to attend just the evening dinner and auction if you are unable to golf during the day. To get even more involved contact the school to learn more about recommending a sponsor, donating a raffle prize or participating on the committee! Both events are open to school families, alumni, friends and the community—it's a great way to reconnect and make new friends while supporting our school!

Thank you again for sharing your time and talents with Bellarmine-Jefferson High School! We all wish you a blessed Holiday Season filled with love, laughter and friendship with the people you hold dear to your hearts! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Michael Stumpf, Principal
Bellarmine-Jefferson High School



From the Office of the Director of Marketing and Public Relations



By Alison Dirstine

We had a very busy recruiting season here at Bellarmine-Jefferson High School this fall! We hosted hundreds of junior high students from our partner schools at three Guards' Days, special visit events where our guests received behind-the-scenes tours of our live classrooms and got the chance to ask questions and learn more about our school. We also hosted many students for shadow days on our campus this fall, giving them a one-on-one opportunity to follow one

of our current freshmen and see their classes first-hand. We also visited countless partner school campuses for High School Information Nights, allowing us to meet many prospective students and their families, and we have given numerous classroom presentations. Also for the first time this year, we launched an HSPT Workshop Series for 8th graders to help them prepare for the actual test in January. Finally, we held a successful Open House on October 26. Guests took tours of our campus, meet our faculty and staff, and talked with our students about clubs, extra-curricular opportunities and athletics.

Around Bell-Jeff

The 70th Reunion Celebration began on October 16th with the rededication ceremony on Thursday and the All Year Reunion party on October 18th. (See more later) The festivities ended on October 22nd with a Mass celebrated at St. Robert's by His Reverence Archbishop Joes Gomez with Father John Collins, Pastor of St. Robert's and Monsignors Robert Gallagher, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo and Sal Polito., Superintendent of Catholic Schools.



The Annual Alumni Basketball Game was held in Keating Memorial Gym on Saturday, November 22rd. More than 20 Alumni Men Guards came to play and tied with the current Guards 49-49! The star of the night was Miguel Enciso '77 who wowed the crowd when he took off his long basketball shorts and played in his old school short-short basketball pants. Nick Sanderson '77 and Tyler Kealy '02 put on a long range 3 point shooting exhibition. The Alumni Lady Guards came to play and play they did beating the current Lady Guards for the second year 28-21!

- ***A Christmas Party for Special Olympic Athletes*** was held in St. Eleanor Hall on December 6th. Jeanie and Eli Essa and Campus Ministry hosted the event for the very excited athletes.
- ***Kairos Winter 2014*** was held November 18-21, 2014 at ST. Mary's Seminary, very possibly the last time there, the Vincentians who own and operate the retreat house are likely going to be selling it soon. That will be sad news for the recent grads who all made their Kairos retreat there. Some of the grads that helped lead were: Michael Rufus '11, Marilyn Flynn '12, Andrew Paiva '11 and Brianna Hillo '14. Thirty-five students mostly seniors attended the retreat that was very successful. Students learned more about themselves, others and God. Opportunities for spiritual re-awakening, community building, healing and understanding better just how and through God who loves us.



Celebrating 70 Years

History of Bellarmine-Jefferson High School

Bellarmino-Jefferson High School opened in September 1944 and celebrated the first graduation with the class of 1948.

Many years of American history



Msgr. Martin Cody 1950

are built into the architectural design of Bellarmine-Jefferson High School.

The school was named after both St. Robert Bellarmine and Thomas Jefferson by Msgr. Martin Cody Keating when he built the high school. The high school was named after both men to express commonly held ideals that both Bellarmine and Jefferson shared.

The cornerstone of the first wing

was laid in 1945 and an addition was completed in 1950.

The auditorium, completed in 1954, was renamed St. Eleanor Hall in honor of Sister Mary St. Eleanor Flynn, who dedicated over thirty years of service to Bellarmine-Jefferson High School.

The Martin Cody Keating Memorial Gymnasium was completed in 1982. The following year two more classrooms were added to complete the current configuration of the school buildings.

The facade of the main building is modeled after Independence Hall in Philadelphia where the Declaration of Independence was signed. The bricks used on the exterior walls conform in size and color to those used in the original structure of Independence Hall. Inside the front door, the rotunda duplicates the foyer, stairway and balcony of Independence Hall.

Rising high into the sky is a clock tower that can be seen for many blocks. The tower clock facing east is permanently set at 8:00 PM to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The clock facing west is permanently set for 4:00 PM, the hour that the Constitution of the

United States was signed on September 17, 1787.

The exterior of the auditorium (St. Eleanor Hall) is modeled after the Library of the University of Virginia, which was founded and co-designed by Thomas Jefferson in 1785. Thirteen stairs bearing alphabetical letters representing the thirteen original colonies lead to the entrance.

Details on the inside west wall of St. Eleanor Hall repeat the floor plan of Independence Hall.

There is a ceiling high alcove similar to the spot where Thomas Jefferson sat to sign the Declaration of Independence. On the other side of the auditorium, leading to the courtyard, is a painting of Sister Mary St. Eleanor and likeness' of St. Robert Bellarmine, Thomas Jefferson and the Seal of the United States of America.

For seventy years, Bellarmine-Jefferson High School has been dedicated to meeting the spiritual, moral, ethical and educational needs of the students.





Rededication



Michael Stumpf, Mayor David Gordon, faculty and representatives cutting the ribbon.

The 70th Anniversary celebrations kicked off on October 16th at the rededication and ribbon cutting of the school.

City of Burbank Mayor David Gordon, representatives from the offices of U.S.

House of Representatives Adam Schiff, California Legislature Mike Gatto and Councilman Michael Antonovich along with several members of Burbank Business Partners and City representatives attend a reception hosted by Bell-Jeff High School for the official rededication and ribbon cutting.

Each presented the school with certificates recognizing our 70th anniversary and commitment to quality education.

After a champagne toast, the

faculty and guests assembled in front of the school for pictures and to cut the red ribbon. The Mayor congratulated Michael Stumpf and the faculty for the continued commitment to the City of Burbank.

Msgr. Sabato Pilato, Superintendent of Department of Catholic Schools honor the school with a certificate of recognition to mark our 70th year of continuing Catholic education.

After 70 years Leo Lopez Receives His Diploma

Leo Lopez, Class of '48 returned for the 70th All Year Reunion and received the surprise of his life.

Leo, the second oldest in a family of nine brothers and sisters, entered Bell-Jeff his freshman year where he excelled in athletics, lettering in baseball and basketball. Because of his athletic abilities he was chosen to represent the school at the annual CYO dance his junior year.

To lessen the financial burden at home, Leo decided to join the US Army at the end of 11th grade and was unable to graduate from high school. When his classmate Angie Brown Dickenson heard Leo was leaving school she gave him her picture and wrote "To Leo with love, Angie." Leo treasured this picture and carried it in his wallet when he left for the service. He was stationed in Korea when his wallet was stolen and his picture of Angie was gone forever. Leo's children said he always

talked about how much he treasured the picture and how much he had cared about it. He went on to finish his tour of duty in Korea and later was stationed in Japan.

When Leo told his children about his high school life he always said, "Bell-Jeff gave him the skills to succeed in life" and he regretted not getting his diploma and of course losing his picture of Angie.

When his son, David found out about the reunion he contacted the school and asked if there was any chance Leo could receive an honorary diploma for Bell-Jeff.

When we heard the story, we knew what we had to do: present Leo with an honorary diploma and see if we could replace his picture of Angie.

The night of the reunion we reached out to Angie who said she would be honored to sign a new picture and present it to Leo when he got his diploma. After dinner we asked Leo to

come forward where Michael Stumpf, the Principal presented Leo with his honorary diploma and Angie gave him a new autographed picture.

Leo's son David said his dad couldn't stop talking about how thrilled he was to finally get his diploma and to see Angie again.

All of us were thrilled to be able to see Leo receive his diploma after nearly 70 years and of course replace his treasured picture of Angie.

"Bell-Jeff gave me the skills to succeed in life"

Leo Lopez



From left: Michael Stumpf, Leo Lopez and Angie Dickenson



The Reunion!



To celebrate the 70th anniversary of Bellarmine-Jefferson High School an all year reunion was held on October 18th, 2014. The planning for the event started in the in the spring with committee members, John Castill '72, Tim and Melody Doyle, '70, Patricia O'Donnell-Rough '72, Angela Krisvoy '52, John De Simio '70, Bernie Dourisboure '59, Denice Osowski '72, Jane Whittet Tiffany '52, Camille Napolitano '03, Alison Dristine, Marketing Director, Renee Rodriguez, Development Director and Lori Middlebrook Clerihan '72.

Early on it was decided the reunion should be held at Bell-Jeff in St Eleanor Hall so plans began to ready the Hall and school for the big event. St. Eleanor Hall can seat 300 people, with that in mind invitations were sent to all of the alumni. Within one month the reunion was sold out and the final touches began.

Tim Doyle '70 and Bernie Dourisboure '59 went through 70 years of memorabilia and set up a "memory lane" in the library while St. Eleanor Hall and school were readied to greet the 300 returning alumni.

As guests arrive they were greeted by Alison and parent volunteers to receive their gift bag provided by Warner Bros. studio and Burbank Business Partners before stepping in front of the 70th Anniversary banner to be photographed by Life Touch Photography. Tables were scattered around the parking lot and the bars were set up under tents to get the evening started.

The evening included dinner with a choice of chicken, fish or a vegetarian entrée and a pear tart dessert. Piano music was played in the background while people dined and table hopped to visit with old friends.

After dinner Michael Stumpf, the

Principal, greeted the alumni and invited Leo Lopez to come up to receive his diploma and introduced Miguel Enciso '77, who was the MC for the evening. Miguel began talking about what the school meant to him before kicking off the yearlong campaign for "Ultimate Classroom Project". Once business was completed the Lounge-o-Rama began to play hits from the 40's through the 2000's.

Alumni took the time to visit the library and browse through the years of pictures and yearbooks before returning to St. Eleanor Hall to dance the night away. Everyone seemed to have a great time and are already asking when the next all year reunion will be held!

We are now working on the "Ultimate Classroom Project", the Annual Bell-Jeff High School and Alumni Golf Tournament on May 1, 2015 and getting ready to host the next year families at



The Doyle Family



Enjoying dinner



Miguel Enciso '77



Angie Brown Dickenson '49 and Leo Lopez '48



Alumni dance the night away!



Jane Whittet Tiffany '52 and Mike Flynn '52



A stroll down memory lane in the library



John '72 and Linda Castillo

For more pictures of the reunion go to Bell-Jeff Alumni Group page.



Bellarmino-Jefferson
High School & Alumni Association Presents
The 2015
Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, May 1, 2015
De Bell Golf Course
1500 Walnut Avenue
Burbank, CA 91501

Early Bird Registration

Before April 1st 2015

\$165

After April 1st

\$175

Watch for the registration form on line by January 19, 2015

Dinner and Awards Reception at

The Canyon Grill
De Bell Golf Course

For More Information

Contact Melody Doyle

818-972-1400



Devotion**Liberty**Service

OPEN HOUSE

As a Bell-Jeff alum, you can help us spread the word about our school and pass on our upcoming event information and deadlines to family, friends and colleagues. All of our applications—including those for incoming 9th graders as well as transfer students—can be downloaded from the Admissions section of our website at www.bell-jeff.net. The following are admissions events and deadlines for incoming 9th graders:

Open House

Sunday, January 11, 2015, from 2-4 p.m.

High School Placement Tests

Saturday, January 24, 2015, and
Saturday, January 31, 2015, from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Application Deadline

Friday, January 30, 2015

Transcripts and Principal Evaluation Deadline

Thursday, February 5, 2015

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (818) 972-1408 or send me an e-mail at adirstine@bell-jeff.net.

*Happy Holidays and God bless,
Alison Dirstine*



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Bellarmino-Jefferson High School
465 E. Olive Ave
Burbank, CA 91501
Return Service Requested

When you change email or mailing addresses, please let us know.
That way, we can make sure you receive invitations to regional events
that we hold. We want to include you, so don't forget about us when
your information changes!

Contact us at lcclerihan@bell-jeff.net
or (818)333-7288

What's Going On With You?

Share with us to stay connected to your Bell-Jeff community

Email: lcclerihan@bell-jeff.net

Phone: (818)333-7288

Visit: www.bell-jeff.net

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At

Bell-Jeff Alumni



Alumni Newsletter—Winter 2014 Edition