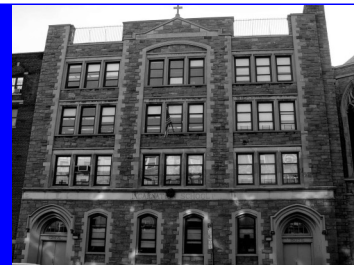


Incarnation Highlights

A newsletter for alumni and friends of INCARNATION SCHOOL
Washington Heights, New York City



Principal's Corner

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Advent wreaths deck our halls and the voices of students singing Christmas carols echo throughout Incarnation School. It's the time of year when our students are excited for vacation, celebrating the birth of Jesus, and finding gifts under the tree.

The administration, faculty, and staff at Incarnation are certainly excited for these same things, but we are also excited about what our students have achieved so far this year and what lies ahead for them in 2012. We hope to see our eighth graders accepted into their high schools of choice, anticipate third grade's First Communion and eighth grade's Confirmation, and eagerly await the graduation and promotion of all our students.

As Christmas approaches I hope that you find yourself surrounded by your loved ones just as we are here at Incarnation.

May God bless you for all you do,
BriAna Pechin
Principal

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Alum Honored Through Donation to Update Technology



Students and computer teacher Franklin Rodriguez gather in the computer lab with Shannon Riley, Ellen Riley, and Michael J. McMorrow.

This summer Incarnation School received a \$10,000 donation from the Riley Family Foundation in honor of alum Michael J. McMorrow, Class of 1956. The school used the money to fund a refurbishment of the computer lab. All 30 of the computers were replaced, as were the keyboards and mice. The visual improvement alone is impressive- there is more space on the student worktables, fewer wires hanging here and there, and a more streamlined look. The hardware improvement, as well, has been a great help allowing computer classes to move more smoothly.

Franklin Rodriguez, Incarnation's computer teacher, says, "I would like to thank the Riley Family Foundation and Mr. McMorrow for the generous donation which helped furnish our computer lab and classrooms with newer desktops and software that will

help Incarnation step into the 21st century."

Students look forward to their weekly computer classes so the improvements have been met with excitement. Students of all ages appreciate the updates to the lab and the time they get to spend working with the computers. James, a seventh grader, says, "I think the computer lab is a place where you can learn more about the computer and you can learn how to type a lot better so that when you get to high school and college you can type up your reports on your laptop instead of writing it out. It's a place you can go to have some peace and quiet to study or do research. If you have a USB you can download information for later." Students also create projects using PowerPoint, work online with WikiSpaces, and learn how to use many of the features and

(Continued on page 2)

Like Mother and Father, Like Daughter and Son

Incarnation School is extremely proud that its current student population includes 19 children of alumni. These students represent the true legacy of the Incarnation family.

Alumni parents cite different reasons for choosing to send their children to Incarnation School. Yvonne Ivonnet, Class of 1991, says, "I chose Incarnation for my children because there I found discipline, safety, and people that genuinely care." Luis Ubiera, Class of 1985, wants his son "to have great memories and be an honest young man." For some parents, it wasn't a matter of deciding. Modesto Enmanuel Jr., Class of 1984, says, "There was no choice. I have always known that my children would attend Incarnation School and Church to acquire an education, where they will learn and mature in a Christian society."

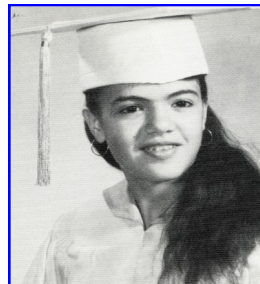
Parents cherish many memories of their time at Incarnation. Jennifer Leonard, Class of 1987, remembers "going to canteens and Halloween roller skating trips." She also enjoyed

dissecting a frog in seventh grade science class. Edward Roman, Class of 1991, recalls, "My favorite memory is playing football and curb-ball in the street." Hazel Veras-Gomez, Class of 1990, remembers her eighth grade trip fondly. "We had such a great time.

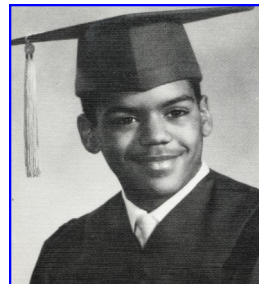
cost. It has taught me that being a winner takes a lot of hard work, practice, dedication, and faith." Jennifer Leonard, whose mother works at Incarnation, says, "I hope my daughter continues to show self-confidence and most of all be a loving member of society."



The Alemar family from left to right: Miguel, Class of 1989, Penelope, age 2, Michael, Class of 2016, and Diana, Class of 1989.



Diana Alemar, née Soto, and Miguel Alemar, both Class of 1989. The couple met at Incarnation School.



An overwhelming majority of all alumni cite the lifelong relationships they formed at school as one of the most important products of their time at Incarnation. Diana Alemar, Class of 1989, says she wants her son "to learn self confidence and make lifelong friends." Ms. Alemar met her husband, Miguel Alemar, Class of 1989, at Incarnation School. Hazel Veras-Gomez wants her son to "make lifelong friends and enjoy his time at school." Modesto Enmanuel Jr. says, "Attending Incarnation was not only going to school. It was making lifelong friends and joining another family, the Incarnation family."

We went to a Dude Ranch," she says. Many alumni parents credit Incarnation with instilling in them loyalty, determination, love of learning, honesty, and strong Catholic values. Jennifer Cabrera says, "Incarnation has taught me to fight for what I believe in, no matter what the

Incarnation School is extremely blessed to be able to count amongst its family the children of so many cherished alumni.

Technology Update, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)
programs available on the computer and internet.

On November 18th Incarnation dedicated the computer lab with gratitude to the Riley Family Foundation in honor of Michael J.

McMorrow and hosted a small reception. Several middle school students used the SMARTBoard to present the advertising projects they created using PowerPoint. Student Council read student quotes describing what the computer lab means to them.

Incarnation School is truly grateful to both Michael J. McMorrow and the Riley Family Foundation for helping to update our computer lab and helping our students to learn in an up-to-date technology environment.

Incarnation is going virtual! If you would like to replace your hard copy newsletter with an e-newsletter please send your e-mail address to: development@incarnationnyc.org.

SMARTBoards, Smart Classrooms

After additional installations last spring, each class at Incarnation School began the new year with a SMARTBoard humming at the front of the room. SMARTBoards are interactive white boards that work in conjunction with a projector and computer. The computer's screen is projected onto the SMARTBoard, which then functions as a touch screen for all programs running on the computer. Teachers can use the boards to browse through web pages, run slideshows of pictures or notes, or work collaboratively with students on projected documents. Using SMARTBoard markers and erasers, teachers can circle, underline, draw, or write freestyle notes on whatever is projected onto the board.

In addition to projecting and manipulating original lessons and materials on the SMARTBoard, teachers can access lessons and materials predesigned for use on the SMARTBoard. Whole lessons on a plethora of topics can be downloaded from websites, as can interactive "extras" that help reinforce concepts- games to test for knowledge in a fun way, manipulatives such as rolling dice or spinners to help visualize

probability, songs to help memorize topics, and more.

"Students are definitely more engaged with the SMARTBoard. Honestly, I can't imagine my day without it anymore. It helps the students teach themselves," says Ms. Dazle, a first grade teacher.

Nicole, a fourth grade student, says, "With the SMARTBoard we can play games for math and religion. You don't have to write with the chalk because it dirties your hand. It's like a magical thing because it feels like you're not writing but then it shows up. Ms. Rizzo for Social Studies always goes to youtube.com to look up Niagra Falls or Victoria Falls. For math we go to a math website and everyone gets a turn with the game for adding and subtracting." Hilary, a fifth grader, says, "The SMARTBoard makes it fun to learn things. We use Bing to look up things for science, like today we looked up why Pluto isn't a planet anymore."

Many new curriculums and learning programs work hand-in-hand with SMARTBoards, making them the wave of the instructional future.



Students take a turn at a SMARTBoard during class.

New Programs



Students learn the basics of piano with the Piano School of New York City.

Incarnation is pleased to welcome the Piano School of New York City as the newest addition to our after school activities. The program is open to students in third through eighth grades. Students work with a professional piano instructor in groups of four to six. The teacher comes to Incarnation, making the program very convenient for families. Josue, a fourth grade student, says, "I really like learning to play piano. Mr. Roach is nice and knows a lot. We're learning to play songs and about how to read music." The first ten week session will culminate in an Open Class to show parents what their children have been learning. The Piano School of New York City will host a program-wide recital in the spring.

Incarnation is also excited to welcome back Sports Explorers with New York Cares for the 2011-2012 school year. The school hosted this sports program for second graders during the 2009-2010 year and after a year hiatus was able to secure a new team leader. Parents are excited that younger students will have a chance to participate in an after school activity. One parent says, "It will be nice to have something for the smaller students. Many of the programs are for third grade and up, so this is good. My son is very happy."

Continued Capital Improvements

This summer saw continued capital improvements at Incarnation School. Updates include several security improvements such as a self-closing, automatically locking gate at the main entrance stairs, an electric buzzer that allows office staff to unlock the gate, and new security cameras throughout the school.

Incarnation also continued the process of replacing windows throughout the school. A grant from The Partnership for Inner-City Education paid for 14 of the windows and alumni contributions paid for two more. Yaribel, a third grader, remembers that last year in second grade, "I was in Ms. Kwon's class and every time we went to put up one of the windows we couldn't put it



Students in gym class love the new water fountain. "It has the coldest water in the school!"

up so my teacher had to go ask Ms. Vallejo [in the room next door]." Jose, a fourth grader, recalls that one time last year, "It was raining inside the class- all our tests and papers got wet. We had to take our tests again." The new windows keep Incarnation drier in the rain, warmer in the winter, and cooler in the summer.

Over the summer Incarnation also installed a water fountain in the gym and a sink in the Pre-Kindergarten room. Both additions help to keep children safer and under constant supervision. Students playing in gym no longer have to travel up a flight of stairs to stay hydrated and Pre-K students can now wash their hands in the room rather than the bathroom.

A Taste of Art History at Incarnation

Incarnation middle school students eagerly await Thursday mornings when Amandine LeSaffre, School Patron, stops by to teach art history lessons. Ms. LeSaffre, a native of France, has an extensive background in art history, including experience leading tours at the Louvre and Musee d'Orsay. It's no wonder that Ms. LeSaffre is able to engage Incarnation students during her 45 minute lessons.

Ms. LeSaffre begins by introducing the day's theme and moves right into a slideshow featuring ten to fifteen pieces of art. She leads the class in an exploration of each piece- discussing the time period and artist, asking students what they see in the piece, and determining how the day's theme is expressed. Students are eager participants, excited to turn what they see into an interpretation of the artwork. "I can see that she's very passionate about art and I appreciate that she takes the time to teach us about the art culture," says Emily, an eighth grader.

During the last ten to fifteen minutes of each class students create an art project that demonstrates the day's theme. "The projects help us to reinvent the artist's point of view, but in our own way. It helps us understand what the piece means to us," says Chris, an eighth grader. It is impressive to see how some of the

students are able to interpret and use the theme in their own artwork.

Last year, Ms. LeSaffre taught five lessons with each fifth through eighth grade class, leading the students through an overview of art through the ages. She covered cave art, Greek and Roman art, the Renaissance, sculpture, and modern art. Students drew cave paintings using charcoal, designed their own mosaics, drew self portraits, modeled sculptures with clay, and created a modern, abstract piece. Ms. LeSaffre has started the 2011-2012 school year with two classes investigating the symbolism in a large collection of pieces ranging from Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus* to Salvador Dali's *The Persistence of Memory* and a third class looking at religious themes in paintings.



Ms. LeSaffre and Incarnation students on art history day.

Ms. LeSaffre and Incarnation's art teacher, Natalie Wood, are hoping to take the eighth grade on a trip to the Museum of Modern Art this winter.

Alumni Corner: Jeffrey Quezada

Incarnation remains truly thankful for our dedicated alumni. In this edition of the Alumni Corner we visit with Jeffrey Quezada, Class of 1999. Last winter Quezada spearheaded the first annual Dream Scholarship Fundraiser which raised over \$3,500.00 for need based tuition.



Jeffrey Quezada, '99

Like many of the current students at Incarnation, Quezada grew up in Washington Heights and comes from a Dominican family. He describes his parents as “loving and encouraging parents who came to this country with the underlying principle that hard work pays off.”

After graduating from Incarnation School, Quezada attended St. Agnes Boys High School in Manhattan, along with about 12 other Incarnation alumni. Quezada then attended New York University, graduating with a BS in Economics.

After graduating from NYU, Quezada worked as a mortgage banker in New York City. Despite the ups and downs the industry has experienced in recent years, Quezada was able to realize his passion. “I discovered that I enjoy advising clients on making smart

decisions and now I am looking to pursue a career in strategy consulting. My goal is to help businesses achieve higher levels of success...take that knowledge and apply it to my own future entrepreneurship endeavors.” Currently, Quezada lives in Ithaca, NY where he is pursuing his MBA at Johnson at Cornell University.

because only we know how much the other has at stake. We surprise each other at midnight with birthday cakes and fly to the other side of the country to be dates at weddings.”

The Incarnation lessons that Quezada will take with him forever are the notion of giving back and the value of paying it forward. When the process of applying to graduate school last year became “beyond overwhelming,” rather than becoming upset about being overworked, Quezada knew he should feel proud to be considered for an MBA program. He traced his success back to Incarnation School, created the Dream Scholarship, and with the help of his friends organized a fundraiser that raised enough money to sponsor a student for an entire academic year.

Quezada’s goal is to “place responsibility on [a student] so that they too will have to pay it forward.”

This year’s Dream Scholarship fundraiser will take place on Thursday, January 5th, 2012 at Copia (307 East 53rd Street) at 6pm. Quezada hopes to raise enough money to sponsor two students.

Dream Scholarship Fundraiser RSVP	
Suggested Donation: \$10	To RSVP or ask any questions about the event, please email Drinks4aDream@yahoo.com
Thursday, January 5, 2012	
Copia (307 E. 53rd St.)	

Quezada counts many Incarnation alumni among his present-day closest friends. He says, “People usually don’t believe me when I tell them my closest friends are those I met in first grade. We have the same upbringing and are each other’s support system

In Other Alumni News...

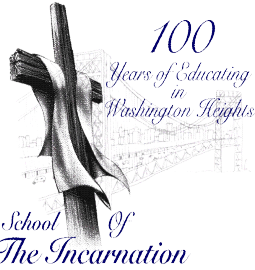
There’s nothing like September in Ireland for an Incarnation reunion!

The Roig/Brennan family traveled to Ireland this September and was reunited with two Incarnation grads. The Darcy sisters, Theresa and Mary, who currently live in Ireland, met their future husbands there on a 1973 holiday.

After 50 years the classmates felt as if nothing had changed!



Bottom, from left to right: Theresa Darcy Burke, '66, Mary Darcy Hennessy, '60, Virginia Roig Brennan, '60, Kathleen Brennan Schorz, '61
Top, from left to right: Peter Brennan, '57, Jack Roig, '56.



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Our Wish List

- Consider these projects for your donations:
- Sponsor-A-Student:** 1 Month: \$345 (15 donated- Thank You!)
Half Year: \$1,725 (4 donated- Thank You!)
Full Year: \$3,450 (1 donated- Thank You!)
- Auditorium Chairs (need 300):** \$25.99/each (2 donated- Thank You!)
- Windows:** \$800/each (16 donated- Thank You!)
- Religion Program:** \$20/student
- Water Fountain for the Gym:** \$2,500 (donated by alum - thank you!)

Alumni and Friends, for your convenience, Incarnation is now accepting credit card donations! To donate, simply complete the form below and return to Incarnation School's Development Office at 570 West 175th St, New York, New York 10033.

Name of Donor as it appears on the card: _____

Billing Address, Street: _____

Billing Address, City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____ Email Address: _____

Credit Card Information

Type: VISA Mastercard Discover American Express

Credit Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Donation Amount: \$25 \$75 \$150 Other: _____ (One-time Donation or Recurring Monthly)

With my signature below, I authorize Incarnation School to process this donation on my behalf. I understand that my billing statement will show a charge from Incarnation School.

Donor Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____