Spring *Update* 2008

News from THEARC (6th, 7th, 8th grades) and THEVIEW (4th & 5th grades)

8th Grade Students Celebrate Their News of High School Acceptances

"Be all you are and be it well" - St Francis de Sales

Jennifer Campbell visits Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School where she was just accepted.

Our thirteen 8th grade students have begun to celebrate one another's news of where they will be attending high school next year. Some of these hard working students will be attending top high schools such as: Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, Archbishop Carroll High School, Sandy Spring Friends School, Thurgood Marshall Public Charter High School, and Washington Math, Science and Technology Public Charter High School. Kim Hopwood, our Director of Graduate Support, has worked tirelessly with each student and her family. WMSG's graduation will be held on June 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at THEARC.

WMSG's Director Participates in White House Conference

In April, Sister Mary Bourdon joined with the President and his staff, Members of Congress, Dept. of Education officials, School Superintendents, and others to participate in the *White House Summit on Inner-City Children and Faith-Based Schools* to discuss how faith-based schools are, as President Bush remarked, "providing a good, solid academic foundation for children." WMSG's Director was happy to meet and confer with other leaders who are involved in inner-city education, and looks forward to continuing this fruitful discussion on the diminishing number of schools that serve inner-city students, and how we all can be more effective in providing students with the tools they need to succeed.

Tamara Darvish (middle)

Susan Gustafson (right)

WMSG Leadership Series off to a Great Start … And WMSG Expands its Development Office

With the assistance of Colette Breen, who recently joined WMSG's Development Office, two inspiring women who are leaders in Washington's business community have visited the school and spoken to students. Both Tamara Darvish, V.P. of DARCARS Automotive Group, and Susan Gustafson, President of the Ratner Companies, have joined a growing number of women who wish to inspire our students to be leaders in the community.

WMSG is happy to have Colette join our staff in helping to promote more and more positive connections to our school.

4th grade students enjoy their new library Space at THEVIEW Campus.

Testing Results Are In!

We are happy to report that gains for 4th and 5th grade students at THEVIEW Campus were notable, with the typical 4th grade student gaining 2 ½ years over a 7 month period. Gains in spelling were highly significant, and in comprehension, the typical 5th grade student gained a full year over the assessment period. "We are happy with the positive results, said Sr. Mary Bourdon, RJM, Director, "but remain committed to continuing to work hard in assisting our students in preparation for the 6th grade – and ultimately - high school."

Sr. Mary joins with Fr. William Norvel, Pastor, teacher Cynthia Battle, and THEVIEW Campus Administrator Charlene Hursey in accepting the award.

WMSG Receives Recognition from Local Groups

During its annual Stewardship Awards Dinner Dance, WMSG proudly received the *Distinguished Service Award* from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, located in Anacostia. WMSG was honored as an organization that has "compassionately, generously, and consistently given of their resources for the good of the people in this area."

In addition, in April, representatives of the Gonzaga High School Mothers' Club visited WMSG, delivering over $7,500 which was raised on behalf of WMSG at their recent mother/son breakfast.

Thanks to these and other groups who help support our mission!

Members of Gonzaga's Mothers' Club present a check to Sr. Mary and students.

Preparing for the Future

In late April, women representing fields such as: law, medicine, social work, ministry, and communications, spent the morning with 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who each and every day are busy planning their futures. A panel led a lively discussion of the criteria that is needed to succeed in these and other successful fields. The adults urged students to listen to good people who surround them, as they may see the different gifts and talents that one day will assist in making good choices for a successful future.

Career Day's main message – Never Give Up! Lawyer Kimberly Rice deGross, a 1983 graduate of Regina High School (center) was among those participating.

WMSG – proud to be selected as "one of the best small charities in the DC area." (2007-2008 Catalogue)

Your support makes all this possible – thank you!

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