



# The Good News

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FALL 2016

## FOURTH ANNUAL BENEFACTOR'S BANQUET – A GREAT NIGHT FOR GOOD SHEPHERD!

On the balmy spring evening of Saturday, April 23, 2016, 140 people gathered in the Good Shepherd School Auditorium to show their support for GSS. These 140 people included alumni, family and friends of honorees, parishioners and more, to acknowledge the work of four individuals and one organization whose leadership and generosity has helped to advance the cause of GSS.

Those honored were: **Mrs. Hilda Kennedy**, GSS Secretary and Parishioner, **Ms. Carole Guss Mulligan**, GSS Benefactor and GSC Parishioner, **Mr. John K. Mulvey '55**, GSS Benefactor, **Mrs. Mary Rafferty**, GSS Benefactor and Friends of Good Shepherd School (FoGSS) Board Member, and **Sullivan Engineering**, GSS Benefactor. The GSS community is deeply grateful to these parties for their devotion to the school's mission: to provide the children of Inwood with a quality Catholic education.

The evening's festivities started at 5:00PM with a Mass of Thanksgiving offered in the parish church by our Pastor, Fr. Robert. The Banquet began at 6:15PM with a cocktail hour. Guests were welcomed by Fr. Robert who briefed them about the state of the school. Everyone was delighted to hear about the many positive developments at GSS.

Fr. Robert introduced returning star singer and former GSS student, Mr. Ciaran Sheehan, who has attended all of our Banquets and has starred as the Phantom in over 1,000 productions of *The Phantom of the Opera* on the Broadway and Toronto stages. His selections this year included, "God Bless America," "The Music of the Night," "Danny Boy," and several other very well-received songs.

Our own GSS Players followed Mr. Sheehan's performance and displayed the great progress that has been made in developing the Performing Arts at GSS. Under direction of their moderator and GSS 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Ms. Meghan Ginley, the students presented a revue from their spring musical, *Godspell*.

*(continued on page 7)*



*GSC Pastor, Fr. Robert, and GSS Principal Geraldine Lavery present The Shepherd's Staff Award to Banquet Honoree, John K. Mulvey '55.*



*Banquet Honoree and FoGSS Board Member, Mary Rafferty, and her husband, Michael Rafferty*



*Banquet Honorees, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Sullivan*



*Banquet Honoree Carole Guss Mulligan (second from right) with a group of family and friends.*

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Alumni/Alumnae and Friends,



**H**ow time flies! As I begin my second year as Principal of Good Shepherd School, I cannot help but to notice what an exciting adventure my first year at GSS was and I look forward to the new school year with equal excitement! Helped by a supportive Pastor, Fr. Robert, and our well-experienced Assistant Principal, Mrs. Ronnie Walsh, and a great team of faculty and staff, I have navigated the challenging and exciting course of my first year on Isham Street. It is both humbling and exhilarating to continue to lead a school with a 91 year legacy of academic excellence.

I have had the pleasure to meet many of the school's benefactors over the last twelve months, particularly at our successful and enjoyable Benefactor's Banquet. A day does not pass that I am not cognizant of our benefactor's vital and generous support

which allows us to continue the school's mission begun in 1925: to provide our students with a well-rounded education rooted in developing their faith and academic, athletic, and artistic talents.

In mid-May, we had our spring musical, *Godspell*. The students practiced for weeks under the direction of our 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and Musical Theatre moderator, Ms. Meghan Ginley. It was great to see their weeks of practice produce a heartfelt piece of musical theatre. An Auditorium crowded with family and friends inspired the GSS Players to give a great performance.

In addition to the spring musical, our younger students put on their spring show during the same week to an Auditorium full of family and friends who enjoyed the children's musical abilities.

We are very pleased with the achievements of two of our students – Denzel Avila & Emely Abreu – who participated in the STEP program at Fordham University. In a class of 21 students, Denzel and Emely had the highest scores of the entire program! They received engraved medals and certificates to acknowledge their superior performance in the intensive high school prep program which is designed to introduce them to advanced math and science concepts. We are quite proud!

Additionally, Emely Abreu had her artwork displayed in the Children's Arts Guild's exhibition. The program is designed to serve as a vehicle by which students can express themselves through the arts. We are pleased to have a youngster from GSS recognized for her work by this well-respected body.

Jeremiah Alonso, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, was accepted into the REACH program at Regis HS. It is an outreach program designed to challenge students to study more advanced concepts in preparation for a possible education at Regis. Jeremiah's admission to this highly competitive program is a testament to his hours of studying and the dedication of GSS teachers.

A number of our 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys have been admitted to HAP at Fordham Prep and Xavier HS. The Higher Achievement Program is designed to prepare students for the TACHS exam given in November and to more develop the boys' academic skills as they prepare to go to high school.

ITBS exams were held over the course of several days in mid-May for students in grades K, 1 & 2. The students were comprehensively prepared for this series of exams and we are confident about their results.

In June, a number of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders sat for the NYS Regents Exam in Earth Science so that they could earn high school credit while still in grammar school. Our students studied their topics thoroughly in our great Science Lab, which helps to make such a difference in providing our students with a robust Science curriculum.

Our Kindergarteners, first and fourth grade students visited the Bronx Zoo. When they came back to school, they were thrilled to tell us all about the many and different animals they visited there. A trip to any educational and cultural venue always fires their imaginations and gets our students thinking about of the possibilities life holds for them!

Our PreK-3 and UPK students enjoyed a Field Day full of activities and races. Many of our children's parents participated, too! Despite the rain, it was wonderful to see such excitement in our renovated Gymnasium.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders were kept busy having a memorable week of festivities prior to graduation. They went on a field trip to Amish Country to see historic and beautiful Lancaster County and the Pennsylvania Dutch. It's a long way from Inwood! They also attended a Mass at the newly-restored St. Patrick's Cathedral offered by Timothy Cardinal Dolan with other 8<sup>th</sup> graders from across the Archdiocese of New York. For some students it was their first visit to the Cathedral and with the restoration work at St. Patrick's finally completed it was an awe-inspiring experience for all of us. There was also an awards dinner-dance to celebrate their achievements. The students were dressed in their best and enjoyed a lovely evening with their families and classmates. Graduation is a bittersweet occasion, to the say the least.

On a delightfully cool late spring evening, we had a beautiful Commencement Ceremony in the parish church on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition to my remarks, Fr. Robert and Mrs. Walsh addressed the graduates. Mr. Aris Ovalle '89 who serves as our Technology Instructor and as the Treasurer for the Friends of Good Shepherd School delivered an uplifting and humor-filled keynote speech. Several former members of the GSS community attended to congratulate the graduates and convey their best wishes, including: former Principal, Mrs. Agnes G. McNamara and former teachers, Mrs. Julie Haack and Mr. Kevin Campbell.

The year drew to a close with an Honors Assembly which celebrated the many accomplishments of our students. It is our benefactors which made this gathering possible and to them we express our continued gratitude. Scholarship prizes were presented to students in grades four through seven with the highest grades cumulatively and individually in Math and English & Language Arts. These prizes were financed by FoGSS President & Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. John J. Brennan '56 and his wife, Jean, and FoGSS board member, Mr. Richard M. Scarlata '56 and his wife, Elizabeth. Additionally, FoGSS Secretary, Mrs. Janine Meehan Lynch '84 and her mother, Mrs. Margaret Meehan, presented the Damian P. Meehan Memorial Scholarships to meritorious students in memory of the late Damian Meehan '83, who was killed on September 11, 2001.

As we begin a new school year, our enrollment stands close to 300 students which is a strong indication of the support GSS receives from many families who make considerable sacrifices to send their children to a Catholic school where a faith and academics go hand-in-hand.

I thank you, again, for your generous support of GSS and look forward to meeting more of you.

Regards,

*Mrs. Geraldine M. Lavery*  
GSS Principal

## GSS & AMAZON

### *Team Up!*

Did you know you can support Good Shepherd School when you shop online at Amazon.com? Amazon.com has started a program of support for not-for-profit institutions called AmazonSmile wherein Amazon donates 0.5% of a person's purchase. Friends of Good Shepherd School is an institution recognized by Amazon as an eligible organization. To support GSS in this manner, simply log-on to: <http://smile.amazon.com/> You will be asked which institution you wish to support, and simply enter Friends of Good Shepherd School. A confirmation email will follow and with that, you are good to go! Happy shopping and thank you for your continued support.

## *In Memoriam*

**Wilfredo (Willy) Perez** passed away on 10/04/15 at home after a brief but potent illness. He was 62 years old. Born on September 18, 1953 in Habana, Cuba, Willy came to New York City in 1963, where he lived for 10 years. He moved to Miami in 1973 and joined the family business where he worked until September 2015. He was Vice President, General Manager and part owner of Florida Lumber and Gancedo Lumber. His hard work and leadership helped guide both companies grow into the largest independent lumber, hardware, rebar and building material companies in South Florida. He is survived by his wife Lisette, son Eric (Aracelis), daughter Jennifer (Robert), grandchildren, Erin, Eilin, Oliver and Zachary, father Ignacio Sr., stepmother Angelica, mother-in-law Elena, brothers Martin and Ignacio, Jr. (Vivian), and many nephews, nieces and cousins. His gentle character and willingness to help everyone will be missed by all. He will be forever loved and missed.



*Reprinted from Miami Herald*

**Good Shepherd School gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a number of gifts made to GSS in memory of Wilfredo Perez '69. Their generosity will allow us to award scholarships to deserving students so they can receive a quality Catholic education. These gifts will allow Willy's memory to live on at GSS.**

# School News

## Step Program Achievements

*Denzel Avila and Emely Abreu made all of us at GSS proud because of their terrific accomplishments at the STEP Program at Fordham University. Keep up the great work!*



## Honors Assembly



*Pictured with GSS Principal Geraldine Lavery and GSS Assistant Principal Ronnie Woisin Walsh '58 with students in grades four through seven who received scholarship prizes. These students had the highest grades cumulatively and individually in Math and English & Language Arts. The prizes were financed by FoGSS President & Chairman of the Board of Directors, John J. Brennan '56 and his wife, Jean, and FoGSS board member, Richard M. Scarlata '56 and his wife, Elizabeth.*



*The Michael Herzig Prize in Science and Robotics was presented to Damien McDevitt in recognition of his excellent performance in Science by GSS Principal, Geraldine Lavery. A businessman and a benefactor of GSS, Mr. Herzig is also a friend of FoGSS Chairman of the Board, John J. Brennan '56.*



*GSS Assistant Principal Ronnie Woisin Walsh '58, GSS Principal Geraldine Lavery, Margaret Meehan, and FoGSS Secretary Janine Meehan Lynch '84, who presented scholarships to meritorious GSS students in memory of her late brother, Damian Meehan '83, who was killed on September 11, 2001.*



*GSS benefactor Dr. Kathleen Faughnan Reding '54 and Dr. Margaret Faughnan Austin '58 with GSS Principal Geraldine Lavery. Coming all the way from Brussels, Dr. Reding finally had a chance to see all of the improvements made at GSS and to meet students, administrators, and teachers.*

# 8th Grade Dance



*Class Valedictorian, Alexa Rodriguez '16, with her mother, GSS Teacher's Aide, Maribel Rodriguez, and her father, Isaac Rodriguez.*

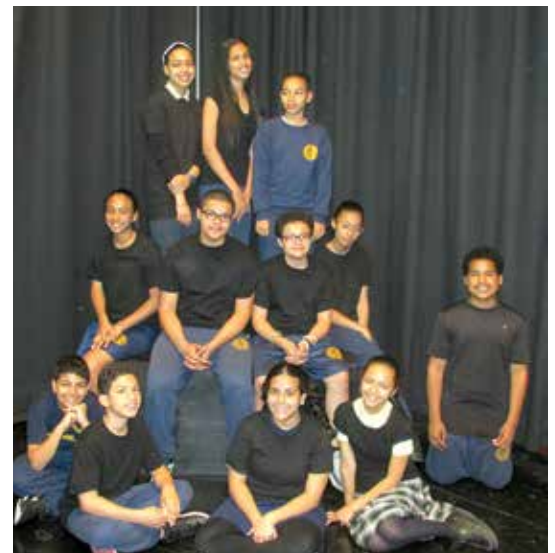


*Omar Santos '16 with his mother, Maggie Santos*



*Junaly Rozon '16 with her father, Julio Rozon*

# Godspell Cast & Crew



*The crew and cast of Godspell. put on a wonderful show and delighted all that came to see them! We are thrilled to have a strong and growing arts program at GSS, thanks to the support of our benefactors and those at GSS who helped to make this musical a reality.*

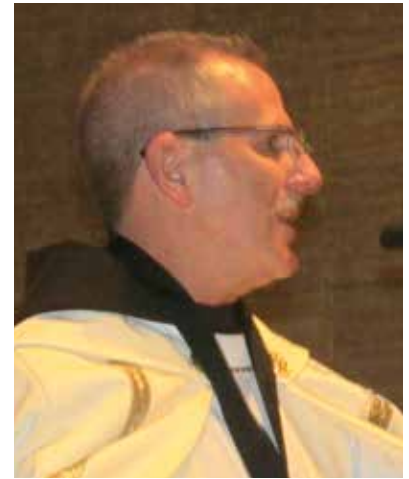
# Graduation 2016



8th grader & soloist Madison Valdez '16 beautifully sang Ave Maria at the 8th grade Graduation Mass



GSS Class of 2016 Valedictorian Alexa Rodriguez spoke to her class and recalled their time together.



GSC Pastor Fr. Robert offered a blessing and heartfelt words of encouragement.



GSS Principal Geraldine Lavery & GSS Assistant Principal Ronnie Woisin Walsh '58



GSS Class of 2016 Salutatorian Dannerys Peralta welcomed her classmates and their families to the evening's program.



FoGSS Treasurer & GSS Technology Instructor, Arismendy Ovalle '89 delivered the keynote address.



After Mass, the graduating class of 2016 took a group picture in Good Shepherd Church. Congratulations!



GSS 8th grade teacher Martha Velez congratulated the graduates and their families.

## FOURTH ANNUAL BENEFACTOR'S BANQUET

*(continues from page 1)*

The first presentation of The Shepherd's Staff Award began with Mrs. Hilda Kennedy. The Banquet's Honorary Chairman, Bishop Gerald T. Walsh '55, spoke briefly about the importance of Catholic education. He congratulated the honorees, and thanked everyone in attendance for their support.

Following dinner, the next group of awards were presented to: Ms. Carole Guss Mulligan, Mr. John K. Mulvey '55, and Sullivan Engineering. The thoughtful remarks from all of our honorees illustrate their dedication to the mission of GSS and the importance this mission still holds after 91 years of academic excellence.

The evening would not be complete without dancing and raffles. We congratulate all of our winners and express our gratitude to those whose donations made the raffles possible.

The Banquet raised over \$16,000, which will be used to sustain the school's mission.



*Former GSS teachers, Regina Mannion and Kevin J. Campbell*



*Alen Kolenovic and GSS 7th grade teacher, Meghan Ginley*



*Juan & Dalba Castrillon*



*GSS Office Assistant, Betsy Roman and her husband, Sadot Roman, Grand Knight of the St. Joseph's Council of the Knights of Columbus based at Good Shepherd.*



*Stephen & Elizabeth Fearon*



*Honoree & GSS Secretary, Hilda Kennedy, with son, Bryan, and daughter, Arlene.*



*Stephanie Kennedy '16, daughter of honoree Hilda Kennedy, Victor Carrasco, and Milagros Taveras, mother of Hilda Kennedy.*



*Daniel Mulligan & Andrea Kornbluth, son & daughter-in-law, of honoree Carole Guss Mulligan*



*Faithful supporters of the Banquet since its very beginning: a group of Carmelite sisters from St. Patrick's Home in the Bronx.*



*World-famous singer and former GSS student, Ciaran Sheehan, and Jeanne Conde Gendron '75*



*GSS Assistant Principal Ronnie Woisin Walsh '58, Mary Smith, Catherine Marshall, and FoGSS Secretary, Janine Meehan Lynch '84*



*Banquet Honorary Chairman, Bishop Gerald T. Walsh '55, Sr. Monica Walsh, RSHM '64, and Michael Walsh '57 with Honoree John K. Mulvey '55*



*Left: The FoGSS Board of Directors (l. to r.): GSC Pastor, Fr. Robert, Arismendy Ovalle '89 (Treasurer), Mary Rafferty, Janine Meehan Lynch '84 (Secretary), John J. Brennan '56 (Chairman and Founder), Dr. Peter K. Sweeney '56*

**Good Shepherd School**  
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*You Are Invited...*  
*You Are Invited...*

The Alumni Reception to recognize alumni/ae who are celebrating an anniversary this year, that is, those GSS alumni/ae who graduated in a year ending in a 1 and a 6 scheduled for Saturday, October 15th has been rescheduled for **Saturday, October 21, 2017** and will acknowledge all GSS alumni/ae. The reception will be held at Good Shepherd School and the festivities will last from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. We are looking for GSS memorabilia – photos, yearbooks, souvenirs of events at GSS, etc. – in an effort to build our school archives. We hope to present a display of these artifacts at the 2017 reception. For more information about the reception or to arrange for the donation of GSS memorabilia, please contact GSS Director of Development, Joseph Smith, at: 212-567-5800 or via email at: [josephsmith@gsschoolnyc.org](mailto:josephsmith@gsschoolnyc.org)

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

**W**e have had a good measure of success in tracking down Good Shepherd School alumni/alumnae, but we need your help. The majority of graduates tell us they find out about the great things afoot at GSS through their friends and family members. This is particularly the case with our alumnae, many of whom, being married, have taken the last name of their husband, making it difficult for us to locate them through their maiden names. Based on a thorough search of the parish and school records, we estimate that approximately 12,000 men and women have graduated from GSS since 1945. However, several hundred alumni are deceased and we only have verified contact information for approximately 5,800 of these graduates. Where are the remaining 5,000+ GSS graduates? We need your help in locating them. If you have family members or friends who are graduates, please send their contact information to: Joseph Smith, Director of Development, Good Shepherd School, 620 Isham St., New York, NY 10034 or by email to: [josephsmith@gsschoolnyc.org](mailto:josephsmith@gsschoolnyc.org) so we can keep them updated about events and news from Alma Mater. You are our own best means of spreading the *Good News!*

Also, do you know that you can be added to our e-mail blast list to receive special communications from GSS? To add your e-mail to our list, simply go to <http://fogss.org/> click on "ALUMNI DIRECTORY" and register.  
*We'll take care of the rest!*