

ST. RAYMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Teaching goodness, discipline and knowledge for 150 years"

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

THE CLASS OF 2018 GRADUATES!



Congratulations to the Class of 2018! On Friday evening, June 8, 89 Eighth Grade students graduated from St. Raymond Elementary School. The Graduation Mass was held on Thursday, June 7 at St. Raymond Church. Father Elvin Rivera was the celebrant. The Graduation ceremony took place the following day in the Elementary School's auditorium. This year's Salutatorian was Franchesca DeLaRosa and Valedictorian was Feih Hidalgo. In addition to the awarding of diplomas, awards for scholarship and excellence, as well as for subjects, were given out at Graduation. Here are just a few things about the Class of 2018 that make them special:



- 30 of our graduates have attended St. Raymond Elementary School since either Pre-K or Kindergarten.
- 7 of our graduates have had perfect attendance.
- 15 of our graduates are members of the National Junior Honor Society.
- 6 of our graduates are altar servers.
- 93% of our graduates took the TACHS exam and 100% of those students were accepted into Catholic high schools.
- Our graduates have been awarded more than \$53,600 in scholarships by Catholic high schools.

Best wishes to our graduates as you go on to high school and all the new adventures that await you there. We are so proud of you. Congratulations and thank you to your parents for the sacrifices they made so that you could receive a Catholic education. Please come back and visit. We would love to see you again!



GIRLS' VARSITY WINS NEW YORK CITY CHAMPIONSHIP! BOYS' VARSITY WINS BRONX/MANHATTAN

Kudos to all our teams for another great year of playing well and for their team spirit. Congratulations to the Girls' Varsity who had an undefeated season. They were Bronx/Parish Champions, Bronx/Manhattan Champions and City Champions. Congratulations also to their coach Nanci Edmondson. The Boys' Varsity also had a good season and were Bronx/Manhattan Champions.

Congratulations also to three of our students who each reached a huge milestone in the 2017-2018 season. Paris Clark and Jason Rivera, who graduated in June, and Drew Diaz of 6-202, all reached 1,000 career points each. Drew is the youngest St. Raymond's student to ever reach 1,000 points.

Looking back on last season, our Athletic Director Bridgette Guzman singled out one individual for her contributions. "Fourth grade teacher and coach Christiana Galella is able to gather children of different backgrounds and get them on the same page to learn, to impart wisdom to them and eventually to help them to excel. This is a hard task and some people don't realize the importance of this. Thank you, Ms. Galella, for being an asset to the St. Raymond School community and a great role model for our children."

And thank you, Ms. Guzman, for your hard work and guidance, and to all our coaches for another great year!



Dear Alumni and Friends of the Elementary School,

I am pleased to say that we had another successful year of growing in our Catholic faith here at St. Raymond Elementary School. The presence of priests in the school increased this past year with the Office of Campus Ministry that I instituted last fall.

As a Catholic school, our commitment to developing and sustaining our relationship with Jesus Christ is primary and what we focus on daily. As we have in other years, we started and ended the school year with the celebration of Mass in the auditorium. In between those times, we also worshipped as a family of faith — through daily prayer and at Mass for various holy days and holidays. We prepared our students to receive the sacraments and in May, 49 students received First Communion and 56 made their Confirmation. This past year, our students also benefited from five Penance services instead of two. All that we do is with the intention of moving us closer to Christ Jesus.

Helping people and being of service to them are ways we show the face of Christ to others. By being altar servers; by participating in a dress down day for a cause; by bringing in food for those who don't have enough; by performing community service hours; and in many other ways, our students live out our Catholic faith and follow in the footsteps of Jesus. During Lent, our Kindergarten and First and Second Grade students each took home a cardboard bank to collect loose change from their families and friends. Together, 177 students in the three grades raised \$2,000 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. I am proud of them and of all our students as they show what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Thank you for your support this past semester. We are blessed by your generosity.

Faithfully in Christ,

Father James Cruz
Pastor



Dear Alumni and Friends of St. Raymond's,

My first year as Interim Principal flew by. It was a year of change and a year of rewards. I am grateful for the support I received this year from Father Cruz and from our staff, who made the transition to principal go smoothly.

The second half of our school year was as busy as the first half. In addition to classes and exams, our students expanded their education through events outside the classroom. Our band and cheerleaders participated in two St. Patrick's Day parades. Grades 1 through 3 won awards at the Bronx-wide Science Fair. Pre-K through 2nd Grade raised \$2,000 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital as a Lenten service project. Our students enjoyed field trips to The New York Botanical Garden, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Alley Pond and Green Meadows Farm. Some of our early childhood classes enjoyed in-school field trips as well.

The highlight of any year is always the reception and celebration of the sacraments. On May 5, with our pastor Father James Cruz as principal celebrant, 49 students received First Communion. Later that month, Bishop John J. Jenik visited St. Raymond to officiate at Confirmation for 56 of our older students. (See photos on pages 3 and 4 for these and other events.) The Catholic faith is the center of all we do at St. Raymond Elementary School. Our Faith Formation program remains strong and I am happy to report that 97% of our students passed the Archdiocesan Religion Exam. We are proud of our students and their commitment to the Catholic faith.

In June, we awarded the first 10 Middle School Scholarships to students with the highest averages in the 6th and 7th Grades. Each student received a \$1,000 merit scholarship and a \$50 Amazon gift card. The Middle School Scholarship Program was created and endowed anonymously by one of our alumni. St. Raymond Elementary School continues to provide a stellar education, build character and strengthen our students' faith, as it did when our benefactor was a student here. As in the past, our dedicated teachers and staff are committed to providing our students the best Catholic education and school experience possible.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Eugene Scanlon
Interim Principal



St. Raymond Elementary School Newsletter

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KEEP IN TOUCH

Want to keep current with the latest happenings at St. Raymond Elementary School?



Email alumni@straymondelementary.org and we'll add you to our email list.



Visit our website at www.straymondelementary.org for updates, and for current and archived issues of our school newsletter.



Like us on Facebook: **St. Raymond Elementary School, Bronx**

OUR SPRING HAPPENINGS



McLean Avenue Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade

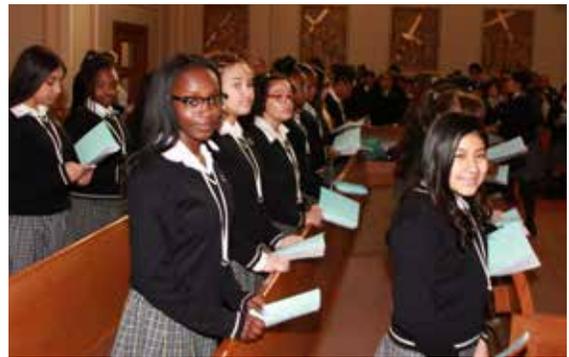


Photo by Chad Williams

Ring Day



Greenburgh Nature Center Visits UPK



Photo by Christine Capalbo

Lent Fundraiser for St. Jude's



Spirit Day



Photo by Christine Capalbo

1st Grade NYBG Field Trip



**Spelling Bee Winner
Aleshanee Santos-Rios**



Bronx-wide Science Fair Winners



Photo by Geri Baron

Metropolitan Museum Field Trip

OUR SPRING HAPPENINGS *continued*



Photo by TitleVideo.com

First Communion



Moving Up Ceremonies for Pre-K3 and Kindergarten



May Crowning



Grade 5 Alley Pond Queens Field Trip

Photo by Amanda Desalvo



Middle School Scholarship Winners



Kindergarten West Green Meadows Field Trip

Photo by Jillian Collins



Honors Assembly Coccia Award Winners



Confirmation

Photo by TitleVideo.com



Ice Cream Treat