



ST. RAYMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Teaching goodness, discipline and knowledge for over 150 years"

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

PRESENTING THE CLASS OF 2014!

On Friday evening, June 13, 109 eighth-grade students graduated from St. Raymond Elementary School. Our pastor, Monsignor Graham, was the celebrant. The graduation ceremony took place at St. Raymond Church following Mass. This year's Salutatorian was Kaitlin Rosado and Valedictorian was Jeniah Villanueva. In addition to the awarding of diplomas, awards for scholarship and excellence, as well as for subjects, were given out at the graduation ceremony. **Here are just a few things about the Class of 2014 that make them special:**

- 27 of our graduates have attended St. Raymond Elementary School since either Pre-K or Kindergarten.
- 18 of our graduates have had perfect attendance.
- 16 of our graduates are members of the Junior Honor Society.
- 96% of our graduates took the TACHS exam and 100% of those were accepted into Catholic high schools.
- **Our graduating class was awarded more than \$75,000 in scholarships.**

We are so proud of them.



Congratulations and best wishes for a bright future to the Class of 2014!

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 19, 2014

VIP RECEPTION

DECEMBER 15 & 16, 2014

CHRISTMAS SHOW

MARCH 15, 2015

ST. PATRICK/ST. JOSEPH
CELEBRATION

MARCH 22, 2015

PARISH ART SHOW

BOYS' AND GIRLS' VARSITY TEAMS SCORE!

Congratulations and kudos to St. Raymond Elementary School's Boys' and Girls' CYO Junior Varsity basketball teams! Under the leadership of Bridgette Guzman, St. Raymond's Director of Athletics, both teams ended the 2013-2014 season as winners. The boys' team, known as the Tyros,

who were undefeated all season (24-0), won the school championship in the CYO playoffs, the CYO Bronx Division title and the CYO Bronx-Manhattan Division title. The girls' team, known as the Debs, were Bronx County Finalists and ended the season in second place (12-4).

Ms. Guzman said, "Head coach Alex Rosa, and assistant coaches Krystina McDonald and Jordan Solis worked hard with our teams to get them to the championships. And our students worked and played hard. I'm very proud of all of them." Well done, teams!



Dear Alumni and Friends of St. Raymond Elementary School,

As we come to the end of another school year, we are blessed to reflect upon so many wonderful achievements and events connected with our elementary school. We have remained a parish-based school and so we are able to maintain a certain amount of independence and parish identity.

We enhanced our music, art and Italian programs during this past year. Our students were especially generous in our food collections for Thanksgiving and for the Catholic Charities Collection for the food pantries of New York City. Once again, I am proud to say that 94% of our students passed the Archdiocesan Religion Exam. Our celebrations of First Penance, Holy Communion and Confirmation were beautiful days for our children and their proud parents. The Church continues to grow here in the Bronx.

As you probably know, the Cardinal is asking all the parishes to meet to discuss future configurations of parishes and schools. Our committee has met several times and we have emphasized to the Cardinal that our mission of Catholic education is very much ALIVE AND WELL. Our enrollment numbers speak for themselves, as well as our increased Sunday attendance at the Masses. We continue to be the MOTHER CHURCH OF THE BRONX.

Hopefully, you can visit our school and recently renovated church and experience for yourself the wonderful work and positive spirit that characterize St. Raymond's. Some of you were blessed when you were here as students; those blessings continue to be showered upon our students now. You will be pleased and impressed — it will be worth the trip to the Bronx! Enjoy the summer months as we pray for no more snow!

Thank you for your interest, your prayers and your generous donations.

Sincerely,
Monsignor John Graham
Pastor



Dear Alumni and Friends of St. Raymond's,

The school year is over and summer is upon us. September 2013, when we opened with record enrollment, seems like a long time ago. This was a very busy year for us. We were blessed with a school full of children eager to learn, and faculty and staff who helped make that happen.

In the second half of the school year, we had many things to be grateful for, despite the challenges of a very long and very snowy winter! In early February, famed chef Lidia Bastianich visited St. Raymond for an assembly with our students. She was impressed by our Italian program, which is strong and continues to grow.

As you saw on the cover, our Boys' and Girls' Varsity teams have made us proud. And they're not our only winners. We won two awards at the Bronx-wide Catholic Schools Science Fair in March.

The Parish Art Show, which we hosted here at the elementary school, had a large turnout and our annual Spring Show was sold out once again.

Our academic program remains strong and as always, teaching the Catholic faith and instructing students in the sacraments remains our number one priority at St. Raymond Elementary School. In May, 70 of our younger students made First Communion, while 62 of our older ones made their Confirmation. Ninety-four percent of our students passed the Archdiocesan Religion Exam and we celebrated with a school-wide Ice Cream Social. We congratulate our students as they deepen their commitment to our Catholic faith.

After a very full year, we are all ready for a well-deserved rest. Thank you for your support. We wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,
Patricia Brito, RJM
Principal



KEEP IN TOUCH

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



Join our email list and receive our monthly *E-News*. Email alumni@straymondelementary.org and we'll add you to our list.



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



Visit our website at www.straymondelementary.org for updates, and for current and archived issues of *E-News*.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

We'd like to hear from you!
**Please let us know what's
going on with your lives.**

Email alumni@straymondelementary.org to update us on your education, career, family, travels, etc. You may be gone but you're not forgotten. We're always interested in what you're doing!

St. Raymond Elementary School Newsletter

Editor: Elaine Nole, *Advancement Director*

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We've Been Busy!



Our littlest angels performing in the **Christmas Show.**



(Left) 8th Grade students and staff on the church steps after the **Ring Day Mass.**

(Right) 8th Grade boys holding their rings in church during **Ring Day Mass.**



Elementary students' artwork on display at the **Parish Art Show.**



(Left) Alyssa Aleman of Kindergarten East won 5th place for her experiment, Magnetic Dancing Dolls at the **Bronx Catholic Schools Science Fair.**

(Right) Kailey Blowe and Ashley Stevenson of Class 5-207 won 3rd place for their experiment, Soda Surprise.



Children with their Easter baskets at the **Easter Egg-Stravaganza.**



(Top) First Grade sang Bruno Mars' Just the Way You Are as a special song for their moms at the **Spring Show.**



(Left) Third Graders portrayed The Beatles' first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show.



*Our students made their **First Communion** on May 3.*



*At the **May Crowning**, one of our First Communion students crowns the Blessed Mother with help from Sister Patricia.*



*Archbishop Charles Palmer-Buckle with students after their **Confirmation**.*



*Pre-K and Kindergarten had their **Moving Up** ceremonies in early June.*

Want to share your sunshine with our students? **Donate to the Rooftop Play Area!**

LEVELS OF GIVING

Play Area Partners	\$25,000 Naming Opportunity
Friends of the Play Area	\$10,000 Naming Opportunity
Children's Helpers.....	\$5,000
Playmates	\$2,500
Play Area Supporters	\$1,000
Builders Club	\$250



All gifts will be recognized on a Giving Tree prominently placed on the Rooftop Play Area. Play Area Partners and Friends of the Play Area will also receive name recognition on a piece of playground equipment.

Make checks payable to St. Raymond Elementary School. Donations can be made online through our credit card vendor. **Go to www.NYCharities.org/app/straymondelementary.**

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

My gift is in honor of/in memory of (circle one)