



The  
**CELTIC**  
**MAGAZINE**

 ST. NICHOLAS  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

7th Edition, 2024

ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
**70**  
THE NEXT SEVENTY  
MOVING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

# Next 70 Years at St. Nicholas



ABOVE: JAN POPOLIZIO, PRINCIPAL AND REV. MATTHEW D. STANLEY, PASTOR.

Dear St. Nicholas Catholic School Community,

Welcome to the 7th edition of *The Celtic* where we showcase the exciting progress of our **Next 70 Years Capital Campaign**.

We now have “cooler” (air-conditioned) classrooms, new learning spaces, a revitalized Mary O’Shea Library, and a beautiful palm quad to gather. All this progress is made possible through a community responding to the challenge to position our school toward a brighter future for the next generations of Celts.

In this issue, beyond all the photos of the new rooms, you will find a charming story about the *Class of 1974*. They returned to St. Nicholas School where the roots of their formation were first planted. Our school is more than a place of *reading, writing, and arithmetic*. We are a Catholic school focused on the

spiritual formation of our children and their families. Together we bring purpose, vitality, and a clarity of mission to the neighborhoods of Los Altos Hills, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, and many more.

Our school theme this year impresses upon our students how we are made in the image and likeness of God. The culture of our school promotes an environment to nurture competent young people who are missioned to encounter a society with kindness, respect, self-discipline, and compassion.

This year we welcome many new families. They bring a diversity of gifts to enrich our Celtic community. Our photos also tell the story of students sharing their talents in athletics, music, drama, community service, and academic achievement.

We look forward to another vibrant year of memorable moments, student growth, and a spirit of fellowship.

Through the generous donations from our school and parish community, we have completed phase 1 & 2 of improving our campus facilities. Our goal is to position our school to better achieve its mission. We need our continued support to build upon the tremendous progress we have achieved together. *St. Nicholas, pray for us.*

With great appreciation,

Jan Popolizio  
Principal

Rev. Matthew D. Stanley  
Pastor

# By the Numbers



# Inspiring Mathematicians With Project-Based Learning

## Surface Area Castle Project

At St. Nicholas, the Jr. High math team created a collaborative and interactive project to inspire the students to better understand surface area and volume. Standards from technology, 7th, 8th, Algebra, and Geometry were all taken into consideration when the teachers developed this Castle mini-unit. The 8th graders worked together to create specific shapes to build a castle as they were tasked to find the surface area and volume of each shape they used. Some of the geometry students applied their trigonometry lessons to find and prove the area formulas for hexagonal and pentagonal pyramids. In the end, all were able to calculate a total surface area and volume along with showcasing their finished product to the school.



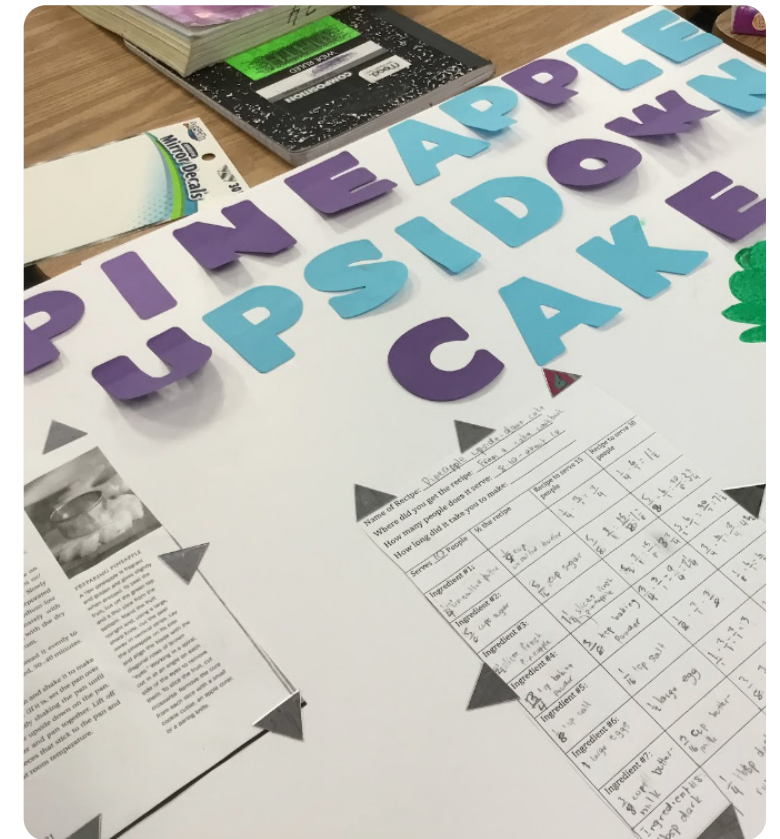
## Starbucks Day In 2nd Grade

Our 2nd grade classroom turned into a Barista Learning Lab. The joys of learning real-life math in a creative learning environment. As parents, faculty, and our pastor came through to purchase a cup of coffee, students scurried about to demonstrate excellent customer service, and to add up all the items purchased. The use of fake money did not affect the seriousness of their work in determining the proper change.



## Fraction Cooking In 5th Grade

The fraction cooking project allowed students to apply their learning of multiplying and dividing with fractions. They were asked to bring in a recipe and then increase or decrease serving sizes to show how the quantity of each ingredient is affected. This hands-on project allowed for great partner work and incorporated applied measurement. Students were asked to make a version of their recipe with their partner which required measuring ingredients. Students worked in pairs to do a calculation page showing their work and then created a poster that illustrated what they made, including pictures of them making the recipe together.



# CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY



# Encountering Impactful Retreats

**Retreats help students** step out of the classroom and into a space where they can encounter their classmates and teachers in a new setting, and be challenged to open their hearts, minds, and souls to how God is working through them.

Retreats can be turning points for certain students to see a classmate in a new way or to experience one's vulnerability and kinship with each other. Students experience ample opportunities to explore their team-building skills.

The administration, pastor, priests, parish staff, and all junior high faculty play a role in planning and executing the retreats. Students feel the connectedness of all the adults helping in their formation as they build a deeper relationship with each other and God.



# Poetry Celebration at St. Nicholas

**Several years back** we decided to take a fresh look at how we were embracing poetry and inspiring young poets. Teachers worked together to explore the many different genres of poetry and determined a plan for instruction and celebration. All students study the basic structure, theme, and cadence of poetry but in older grades more complex structures are explored such as Ode, Elegy, Ballad and Sonnet. Once created, students are asked to share their poems in various ways.

- At morning assembly buddy classes paired up and recited poems before the audience.
- Students published and shared poems for their classmates and parents to enjoy.
- In the springtime, we held a Poetry Celebration day where chosen students recited their original works before the school community.



## Ode to Paper

by Ryder Britz | Grade 6

*Ode to paper, a blank canvas of imagination  
You hold up ideas which go beyond words  
You bind the problems between me and creation  
You hoist up my dreams, free them like birds.*

*Ode to paper, the holder of stories  
Your abundance is loved, so thin, so delicate  
You bring joy to an artist, the font of all categories  
Your mystic aura is so very elegant.*

*Ode to paper, pure and pristine  
You're reminiscent of a fancy white sheet  
You make incredible ideas able to be seen  
A kick start of motivation, when you and I meet.*



*The*  
**NEXT 70**  
**CAPITAL**  
**CAMPAIGN**

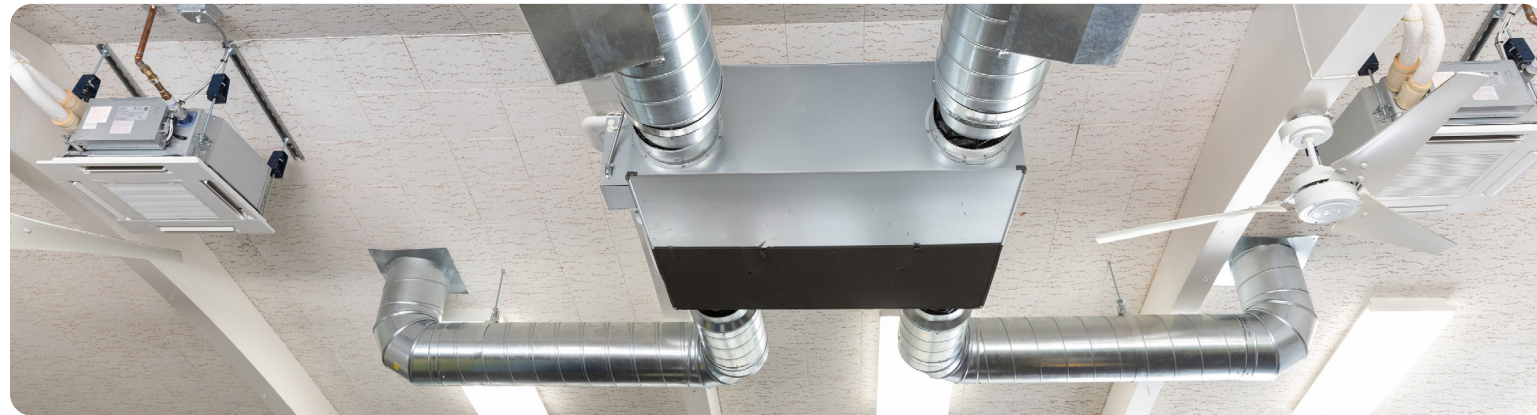
# Phase One & Two Complete!

Making Our Campus Beautiful With The Completion Of The Following Projects | \$2.3 Million Completed and Paid For!

(Capital Campaign Gifts \$1.51 Million, School Capital Reserves \$0.83 Million)



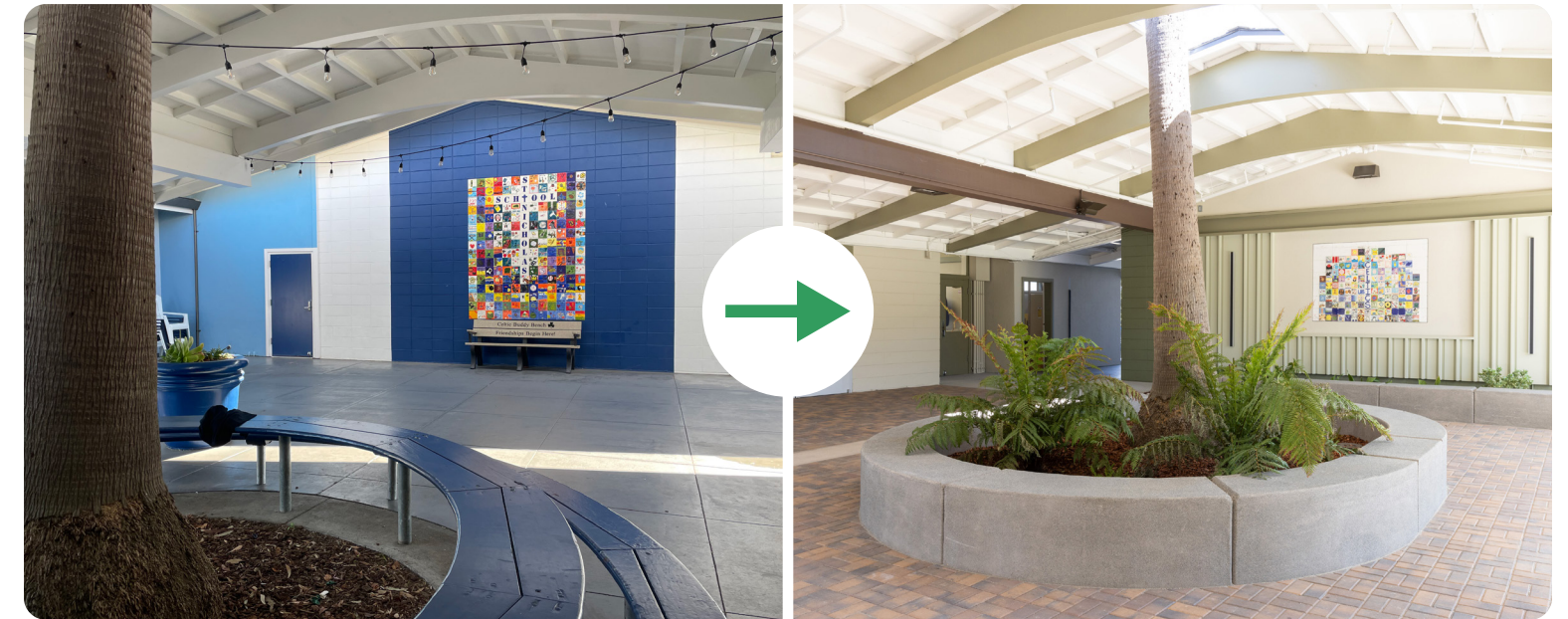
ABOVE: TECH ROOM RENOVATION WITH TWO RESOURCE ROOMS (BEFORE AND AFTER).



ABOVE: AIR CONDITIONING IN ALL CLASSROOMS AND ACROSS CAMPUS.



ABOVE: THE MARY O'SHEA LIBRARY REMODEL (BEFORE AND AFTER).



ABOVE: THE PALM QUAD REMODEL (BEFORE AND AFTER).

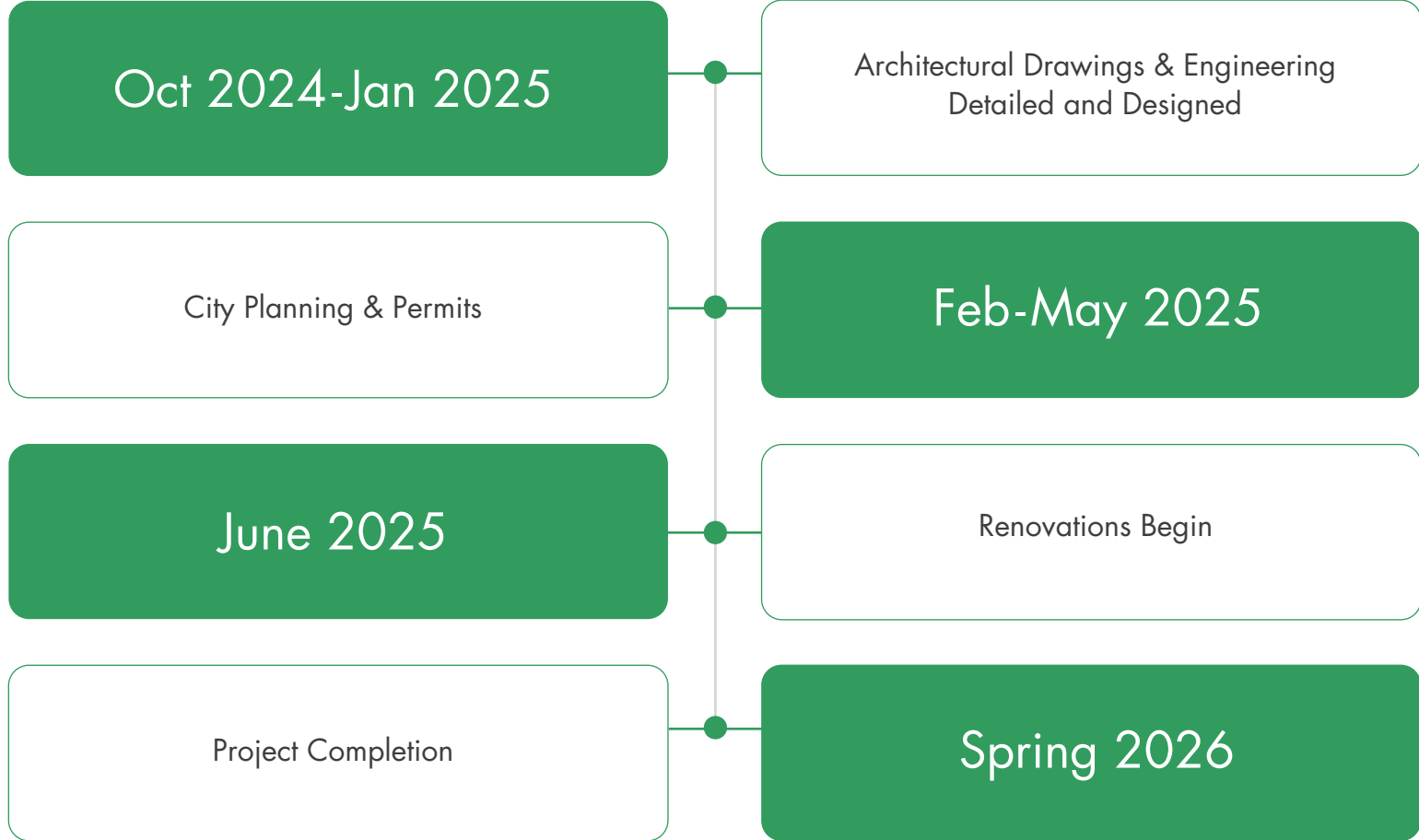
**LAUNCHING**  
*the* **CAPITAL**  
**CAMPAIGN**  
**FOR PHASE**  
**THREE**





# The Next 70 Capital Campaign for Phase Three

\$2.7 Million

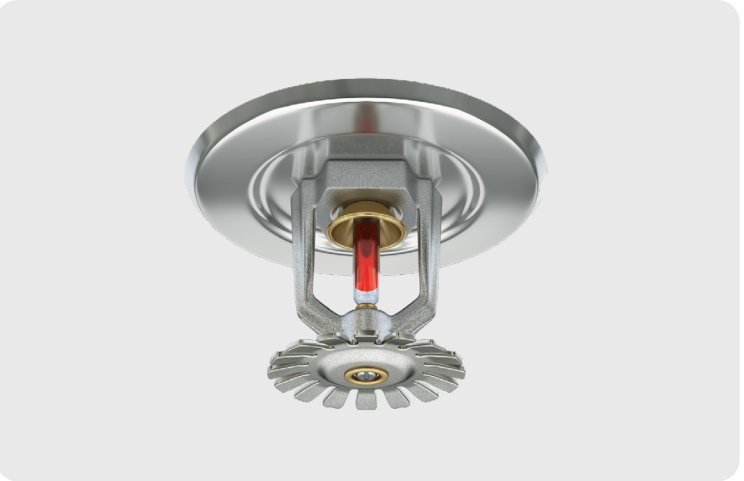


## Phase Three Includes:

Two Student Bathrooms (ADA Compliant), Two Adult Bathrooms, Repaint the School, Fire Sprinklers Throughout the Campus, Renovate the Faculty Room, Add a Conference Room, Relocate and Renovate Two Offices, Relocate and Renovate Front Office, Modernize Frontage of Main Building



ABOVE: TWO STUDENT BATHROOMS (ADA COMPLIANT).



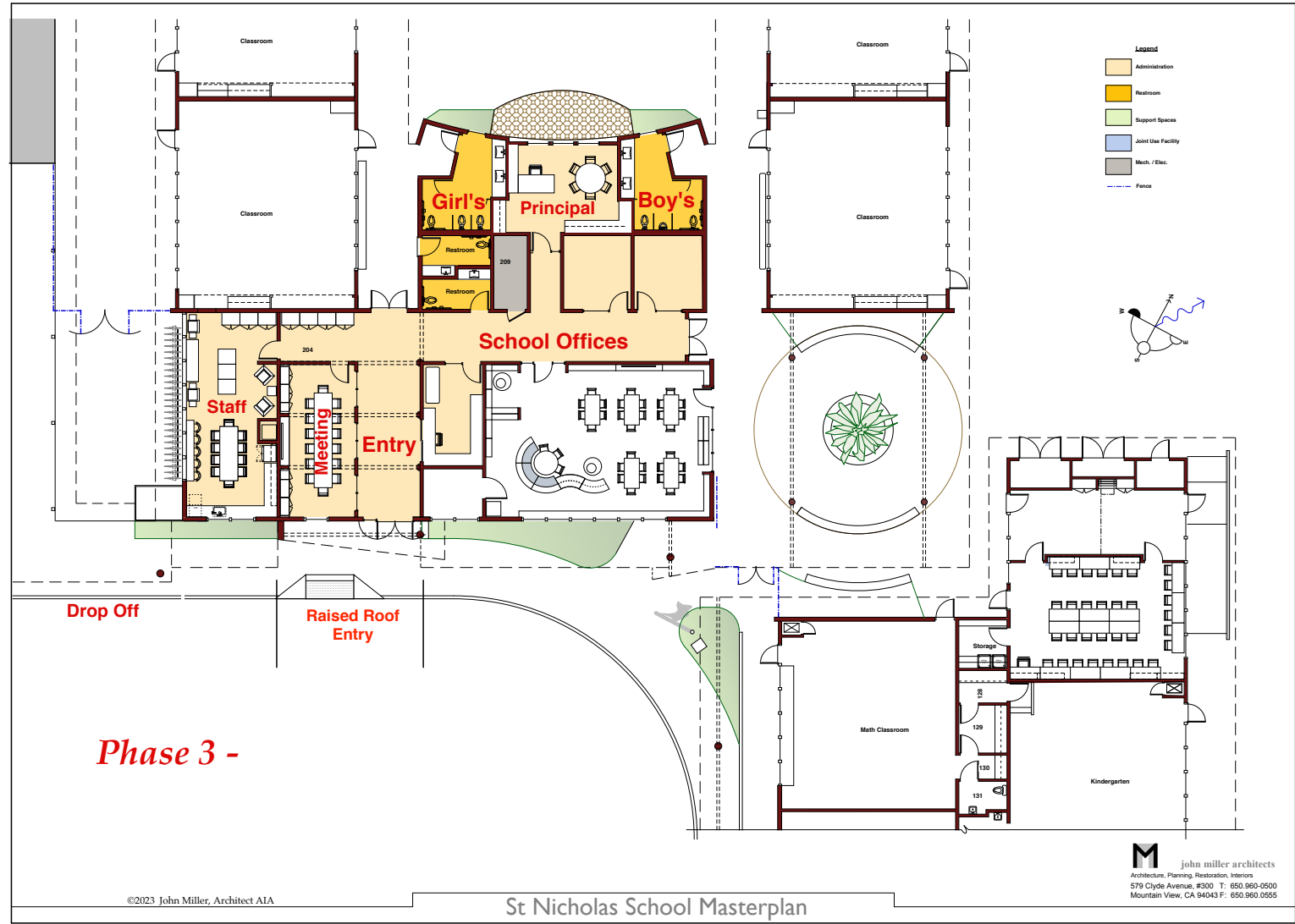
ABOVE: FIRE SPRINKLERS THROUGHOUT THE CAMPUS.



ABOVE: TWO ADULT BATHROOMS (ADA COMPLIANT).



ABOVE: STAFF KITCHEN.



ABOVE: RENOVATE THE FACULTY ROOM; RELOCATE AND RENOVATE TWO OFFICES; RELOCATE AND RENOVATE FRONT OFFICE.



ABOVE: ENTRY HALLWAY.



ABOVE: ADD A CONFERENCE ROOM.



ABOVE: REPAINTING THE SCHOOL; MODERNIZE FRONTAGE OF MAIN BUILDING.

# The Next 70 Capital Campaign Outreach

## Help Us Reach Our Goal!

### *Paving the Way!*

Create a brick for the St. Nicholas palm quad for your family!  
You will be remembered for generations to come!

8 x 8 Brick \$10,000

4 x 8 Brick \$5,000

### *Gifts of \$25,000 +*

Family naming opportunities for room and building naming!  
Call Cheryl Caligaris, Development Director for more information.  
650-941-4056 x3

### *All Gifts are Appreciated and Needed to Reach our Goal!*

Donors giving \$2,500 or more will be honored at a Donor Appreciation Celebration in Winter 2025!



## Other Ways To Give

### Gift Of Stock

**When you decide to give** a gift of appreciated securities directly to St. Nicholas School rather than selling them and donating the proceeds, you could be creating a dual tax advantage for yourself. The full fair market value of the stock is tax deductible in the year you give the gift (stock owned for more than one year). You pay no capital gains tax on your profit no matter how much the securities have increased in value. The value of your stocks for income tax purposes will be set by the value of the stocks on the day that your gift is made. On actively traded securities, the value is the mean or average between the highest and lowest quoted sales price on the day of your gift.

[www.dsj.org/ways-to-give/stock-transfers](http://www.dsj.org/ways-to-give/stock-transfers)

## Double Your Impact, Employee Match Programs

Many corporations match employee donations to St. Nicholas School.

To find out more please contact:

**Diana Szelong**  
650-941-4056 x2 | [dianaszelong@stnicholaslah.com](mailto:dianaszelong@stnicholaslah.com)

You can also inquire if your company participates in this program by going to: [www.doublethedonation.com/stnick](http://www.doublethedonation.com/stnick)

## Every Gift Matters, Every Gift Counts!

Tax ID #94-2734503

Please Send Checks to:

**Development Department**  
St. Nicholas Catholic School  
12816 El Monte Road  
Los Altos Hills, CA  
94022-4607

Pay by Credit Card:

[stnicholaslah.com/ways-to-give](http://stnicholaslah.com/ways-to-give)

For All Questions:

**Cheryl Caligaris**  
650-941-4056 x3  
[ccaligaris@stnicholaslah.com](mailto:ccaligaris@stnicholaslah.com)

Planned Gifts:

St. Nicholas School encourages and appreciates future gifts made through one's estate. Wills, charitable remainder trusts and life insurance policies offer the opportunity for leaving a legacy to benefit future **ST. NICHOLAS SCHOOL.**



# The Next 70 Capital Campaign Appreciation

Aditya Agarwal & Shriya Gupta  
 Adrian Agogino & Elizabeth Nunez  
 Rafael Aldana & Elena Angoloti  
 Grant & Katherine Allen  
 Analog Devices Foundation  
 Anonymous  
 Andrew & Brooke Atherton  
 Hassane Azar & Nariman Elias  
 Mary Ann Balkenhol  
 Bruce Barsi & Suzanne De La Cruz  
 Josh & Cate Bennett  
 Eric Berger & Yemeserach Getahun  
 David & JuliAnn Bider  
 Louis & Heather Brandy  
 Chris & Jennifer Bridgman  
 Marion & Helen Brown  
 Shawn & Mary Bujalski  
 Ken Burke & Vanessa Maunder  
 William & Donna Burke  
 Joseph Byun & Kimberly Kim  
 Richard & Cheryl Caligaris  
 Campi Properties  
 BJ Cassin  
 Jon & Kelly Cassin  
 Lawrence J. Castelli  
 Alex & Elaine Chalfin  
 Fook Ning Chan & Emily Chui  
 Andy Chow & Fiona So  
 John & Kimberly Clendenin  
 David & Nicole Colclough

Thomas Corrigan  
 Andrew & Vanessa Czisch  
 Samuel & Evelyn Dawn  
 Ari & Julie Delay  
 R. David Dicioccio & Jamie Vogel  
 Patricia A. Dixon  
 Ellen Donnelly  
 Mary J. Dorie  
 Xiao Tao Duan & Fang He  
 Matias & Jennifer Duarte  
 Robert & Michelle Dykes  
 Stephen & Julie Eckstrom  
 Henry & Jane Evans  
 Erik & Audrey Foraker  
 Jim & Elizabeth Frazier  
 Brian & Regina Galitz  
 Richard & Mary Gallivan  
 Robert & Hannah Geiger  
 Varun Gopalakrishna & Nirmala Kovvali  
 Lawrence & Judy Guslani  
 Louis Halamek  
 Dan & Olivia Haley  
 Betty Ho  
 Thomas & Judith Hogan  
 Darren & Angela Horvath  
 Obie Howe  
 Dan & Janet Hutcheson  
 Brian Johnsrud & Noelle Gonsalves  
 David & Catherine Juran

Mark & Sandra Kane  
 Omid Khalili & Claudia Padula  
 Christopher Kim & Andrea Cu  
 Raymond Klinke Jr.  
 Richard & Rita Knudtsen  
 Norbert & Mary Kordsmeier  
 Barbara Kostelec  
 Billy Kwong & Charlotte Chan  
 Larry & Katherine Lang  
 Michael & Ramela Laptalo  
 Chenyuan Lee & Yichun Hsieh  
 Huang Lee & Serina Wang  
 Adam & Ella Levin  
 Shanahan & Lisa Lim  
 Andrew & Joy Lin  
 Joan Loney  
 Jose Loreto & Mariela Liu  
 Joanne Losito  
 Lyons Family Trust  
 Josh Manion & Julie Oberweis  
 Joseph Mankoski & Helen Bae  
 The Honorable Socrates Peter & Patricia Manoukian  
 Dejan Markovic  
 David Mauro & Jenny Johnsson  
 John & Elizabeth McKenna  
 Allan McLeod  
 Matthew Mendizabal  
 Nicholas & JoAnne Moore  
 Jinghui Mu & Charlene Hu

Ashish Nagre & Bindya Janani  
 Richard & Tricia O'Brien  
 Oscar & Monica Ochoa  
 O'Connor Family Trust  
 Jason & Elizabeth O'Grady  
 Daryl & Molly Oshatz  
 David & Eileen Pachkofsky  
 Robert & Liz Parham  
 Joe & Vicki Perna  
 Steve & Jan Popolizio  
 Richard Powers  
 Roger & Cathy Quinlan  
 Mike & Lynn Radakovich  
 Ravizza Family Foundation  
 John Paul Reid  
 Daniel Rhinehart & Laura Herrera  
 Jeff & Kellie Riccoboni  
 Gerald Richard & Josephine Leo  
 John III & Jennifer Rickard  
 George & Salma Richmond  
 Arthur & Mary Ann Roberts  
 Richard & Susan Roche  
 Leonardo Rodriguez  
 Manuel Roman & Blanca Espa  
 Juan Miguel Romero  
 Walter Thomas Rossi  
 Negar Sadrzadeh  
 Alain & Barbara Samaha  
 Marianne & John Saucedo  
 Scalise Family Trust

## 2023-2024 | Thank You For Giving!

Lynne Farris Schafer  
 Roger & Shirley Schafer  
 Donald Scifres  
 Eric & Karen Scifres  
 Greg Seldon & Lauren Riccoboni  
 Fernando & Margarida Serpa  
 Marc & Lisa Sidel  
 Nishant Singh  
 Steven & Elaine Sloan  
 David & Lenelle Smith  
 Patrick & Anne Marie Starr  
 Albert & Marilyn Stratz  
 Mario Tarigo  
 Brian & Janet Thompson  
 Donald & Aihua Tran  
 Christy Vaughn  
 Srinivasan Venkatachary & Janani Narayanan  
 Greg Vosganian & Amie Rooney  
 David Vance Wagner & Eva Wu  
 Wakerly Family Foundation

Justin & Paige Wang  
 Qiyang Wang & Ella Li  
 Tracy Weiss  
 Arlene White  
 Theodore & Addie Wong  
 John & Joanne Wrenn  
 Xing Xia & Ada Yan  
 Rex Yang & Eun Jeong Shin  
 Warren Yang & Jung Yoon  
 Dennis Young & Maria Crowder  
 The Class of 2024

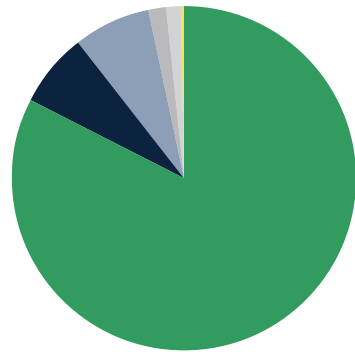


“  
 St. Nicholas has met each of my children  
 where they were at, finding ways to challenge them  
 while stoking their work ethic and curiosity.”

– Julie Oberweis, Current and Alumni Parent

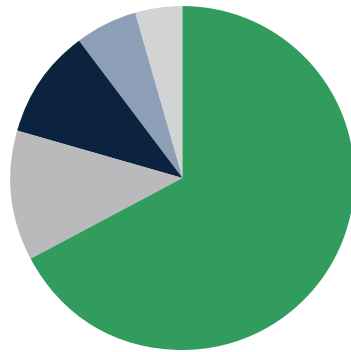
# Financials

2023-24 St. Nicholas School Operating Income \$4,822,004



- Tuition & Fees \$3,988,238
- Endowment Fund \$77,000
- Investment Income, Extended Care, Other \$348,591
- Auction, Scholarships, Walkathon \$334,220
- Parish Subsidy \$65,000
- St. Nicholas / St. William 2nd Collection & Online Giving \$8,955

2023-24 St. Nicholas School Operating Expenses \$4,822,004



- Salaries & Benefits \$3,249,260
- Capital Reserve \$586,635
- Instruction \$279,130
- Facilities & Depreciation \$501,793
- Administration \$205,186



A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints.



– Pope Benedict XVI



# And the Impact Award Goes to: Ron Pellegrini

The Impact Award is given to a person(s) for their extraordinary contribution to the advancement of the mission at St. Nicholas School.

Ron Pellegrini has undeniably changed our school for generations to come. He has a deep love of community. He understands the power of togetherness. He helped to create what is known as SPINGO, a delicious spaghetti meal he helped cook, with a fun and competitive bingo experience that brings families together for a magical night.

Ron also is deeply involved in Lunch Bunch at the parish. He called the school to ask about having our students help serve lunch. Since this inception, our students flock at the chance to serve and sit next to our parishioners and hear their stories.

Ron's strategic mind is always working. His vision to grow enrollment led to the efforts to establish our TK program in 2016. Not only providing resources but also his skills to construct the room and its creative features. We now can't imagine our school without these little creatures. He also has commandeered many facilities projects such as the reimagining of the frontage of the school with beautiful stonework and a new sign, our new student bathrooms, Mary's Grotto, landscaping around campus, and the soccer field. Ron knows every inch of the school and campus. A few summers ago, he patiently examined electricity usage with the hopes of confirming his suspicion that we could add air conditioning without blowing circuits. He was right. **This summer after 70 years our school has air conditioning!**

Ron invites and energizes others, he is an "influencer". He rallied and mobilized fathers across the school to join the Dad's Club, creating new connections and supplying labor on many projects around the school. He is also the first one to invite the new school families to his home so that they feel welcome and connected.

Ron ensures those who need support are never alone. Through his generosity and his time, he changes the lives of all those he helps. Whether it be mowing lawns for elder parishioners, or being an Angel Donor, he makes a lasting impact. Ron's deep faith is at the root of all of his work. His servant leadership inspires many. He and his wife, Niamh have now passed down the love of serving to their children, Christina and Joseph.



# CELEBRATING ST. NICHOLAS



# Alumni News

## Where Are They Now?



**Linda Shaw**

**Class** 1969

**High School** Saint Francis 1973

**College** San Jose City College & Tacoma Community College (Washington)

**When Linda started St. Nicholas School**, she was in the 1st grade. Linda's older sister who started in the 3rd grade was the first graduating class, however, the class of 1969 was the first graduating class that went through all eight grades!

Linda had a few jobs right out of high school. Then after attending college she started a career. She worked in outside sales for eight years then transitioned to Training Director of Sales for a few national companies throughout her career. Linda retired last year but has not slowed down. She volunteers at the Humane Society, YMCA, and is President of her Condo Association in between traveling.



**Daniel Quinn**

**Class** 1983

**High School** Saint Francis 1987

**College** Santa Clara University 1991

**Graduate Program** San Francisco State University, MA 1997

**Dan is currently in his 32nd** year as an educator at Saint Francis High School. His decision to go into teaching was made in part by the fact he had so many influential teachers in his own education, beginning with the Mercy sisters at St. Nicholas. Dan teaches English, coaches football, and also works in the Campus Ministry office in Holy Cross Formation. Dan finds purpose in his life's work as a teacher at Saint Francis, where his two sons, as well as nine nieces and nephews have graduated.



**Lauren Riccoboni Seldon**

**Class** 2000

**High School** St. Francis 2004

**College** Santa Clara University 2008

**Lauren has worked at Google** for 15 years in People Operations. She danced professionally for the San Francisco 49ers Gold Rush Team for 4 years and still enjoys dancing and teaching dance. Lauren's two sons, Cameron (3rd) and Carson (K), both attend St. Nicholas School. Spending time with them is Lauren's greatest joy. Lauren volunteers at the school and oversees our Celtic Uniform Collection. Lauren's cousin, Jeff Riccoboni's sons, Robert (3rd) and Ryan (K), also attend St. Nicholas School. Fun fact, Jeff and Lauren's fathers are identical twin brothers!



**Jimmy Frazier**

**Class** 2008

**High School** St. Francis 2012

**College** Cal Poly University 2016

**Jimmy currently lives and works** in Austin, TX. Jimmy moved to Texas to work for Endeavor Real Estate Group on their project management team back in 2021. He currently works for a company called CAP TX Construction, which is the inhouse construction team for Endeavors MF group in Austin. The company completes projects ranging from garden style communities all the way up to luxury class-A high rises across the United States.



# Alumni News

## Class Of 2020 Is Off To College!

UC Irvine  
 Foothill College  
 Boston College  
 Brown University  
 Indiana University  
 Gonzaga University  
 University of Oregon  
 University of Arizona  
 West Point Academy  
 Northeastern University  
 University of Rochester  
 University of San Diego  
 University of Washington  
 University of Southern California  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 SAIC - School of the Art  
 Institute of Chicago

## Class Of 1974

The Class of 1974 enjoyed their 50th Reunion at St. Nicholas School. The tour of the school was heartwarming; hearing fond memories, sharing stories and reliving the past. The class especially enjoyed going down into the forest!

St. Nicholas is honored to tour any Class Reunion, please contact development at [development@stnicholaslah.com](mailto:development@stnicholaslah.com) for more information!



## Cheers To The Class Of 2024 High School Placement!



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## St. Nicholas Catholic School

12816 El Monte Road • Los Altos Hills, CA 94022  
(650) 941-4056 • F (650) 917-9872 • [stnicholaslah.com](http://stnicholaslah.com)

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If you would like to be added or removed from our mailing list please email your mailing information to Diana Szelong at [dianaszelong@stnicholaslah.com](mailto:dianaszelong@stnicholaslah.com). Thank you.

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# SAVE the DATE

*January 22-26*

Kevin Kannangeiser  
Basketball Tournament

*January 29*

Grandparents Day

*February 8*

Father Daughter Dance

*March 1*

Mardi Gras Dinner Dance

*March 22*

Mother Son Night

*April 12 & 13*

Spring Musical

*May 2*

Class of 2021 Alumni Event