



SAINT
COLUMBKILLE
SCHOOL

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Principal's Letter

December 2014,

Dear Friends of St. Columbkille School,

As I write this Oasis article, the staff at St. Columbkille School is in the final editing of their 159 plus pages of the Western Catholic Education Association/Western Association of Schools and Colleges self-study book. This has been an on-going evaluative reflection since our last accreditation visit in 2009. During the next month we will need to assure the visiting team, through collected evidence of student projects and papers, that all documentation is true.



The holy season of Advent, which is the time of preparing anew for Christ's coming, also calls us to look at the historical evidence that children of God truly did the work of faith in keeping Salvation constantly before their eyes for centuries.

Our biblical ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, sacrificed all to please God. Joseph forgave his brothers and brought his family to Egypt. Moses led the People of Israel out of slavery. Ruth was faithful to God and her family, even in difficult times, and Jesse, father of King David, taught him to be faithful and strong. This evidence is recorded for us in the Scriptures.

We too, are called to spend Advent, preparing for Jesus' daily coming to us in the graces of each day. Participate more attentively at Mass, receive the forgiveness of sin through the sacrament of reconciliation, and reach out for human understanding with those whom we have isolated. Personally be kind to the poor among us as we open our hearts to Christ present in all people. Joy will be the evidence that our lives are focused rightly. And our gift from Jesus will be His promise of peace. Our own Pope Francis calls us to work toward peace as we stretch our hearts in love.

May you have renewed hope this Advent Season!

Miss Anna-Maria Rios
Principal

Alumni Brunch

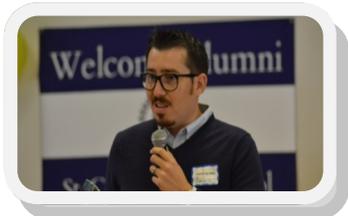
On Sunday, September 21, 2014 we celebrated our Fourth Annual Alumni Mass and Brunch. With over 100 guests present we honored two former Alumni, Christopher Herrera—Class of 1962 and Roger Briceno—Class of 1994.

Christopher Herrera was born and raised in Los Angeles. He comes from Family of nine, six brothers and two sisters that all attended St Columbkille School. Chris graduated from St. Columbkille in 1962 and went onto Mount Carmel High School and graduated in 1966. School activities included Class officer two years, Student Body Treasurer and played four years of Football. He went onto attending two Junior Colleges, and graduated from Cal State Dominguez Hills in 1971 with a degree in Economics. He has been married to Martha Herrera for 45 years, and has three children, Rachel, Brent and Jennifer Herrera, who all attended local Catholic High Schools and all three are college graduates. Chris began his career in the family business, Casa Herrera, starting in 1971. He work in many facets of the company and settled into sales, where he was able to travel to different parts of world, Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East and Turkey. He is now semi-retired and living in Long Beach, CA.



Rachel, Christopher and Martha Herrera

Roger Briceno grew up in South Central Los Angeles and is a proud graduate of St. Columbkille's class of 1994. Roger has spent the last 6 years serving as St. Columbkille's Physical Education Teacher, Coach and Athletic Director. Roger also serves as Program Director of Notre Dame Americorps, a non-profit that works with underserved communities in the most impoverished areas of Los Angeles. What distinguishes Roger from others in his field of expertise is that he treats teaching and non-profit work as a calling and a true passion. Roger has a special interest in serving Inner-city communities and believes the road to success is empowering others through education and civic engagement.



Roger Briceno

Alumni are extremely important in continuing the St. Columbkille tradition - Please join our Alumni Network at <http://www.columbkille.org/support-us/alumni/>

Autumn Festival

Prospective families, current families, community members, teachers and staff all came out for a day of fun and entertainment on Saturday, November 1, 2014. The Autumn Festival is an annual school event and part of a recruitment strategy organized by St. Columbkille School's marketing team.

Families from the parish and local community were invited to enjoy in the day's activities and learn more about the school. Entertainment included food, music provided by a school parent, face painting, arts & crafts, Game Truck, one gigantic slide, jumper and obstacle course. Special Thanks to The Gryphon Circle from Loyola Marymount University who provided several volunteers with set-up and manning the Arts & Crafts booth.



LMU Gryphon Circle Volunteers

Meet Our Newest Staff Members



Meet our Americorps Volunteers for this school year. **Maggie Thompson** is originally from Topeka, Kansas and is a recent biology graduate from Kansas State University. Since moving to California she enjoys exploring the many local coffee shops and everything the Sunshine State has to offer.

Kelly Jorgenson is from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature. She loves going to the beach and hiking. They both moved here to serve a year with Notre Dame Mission Volunteers which is part of a national organization called Americorps. They will be serving for a year in our assigned positions at St Columbkille.



Meet our new School Secretary, **Erika Espinoza** who is familiar with the St. Columbkille community for over 28 years. She comes to us with more than 12 years

of attending and serving Catholic Schools from St. Malachy, Bishop Montgomery, St. Gertrude the Great, and now St. Columbkille. She has over 6 years serving the public as a Nurse, and a CA Public Notary. She is so ecstatic to be part of the St. Columbkille family.

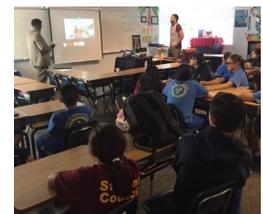
LMU CMAST Program

Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Triangle with St. Columbkille, Ascension and Nativity Schools is now in partnership with **Loyola Marymount University**. LMU has brought its groundbreaking Center for Math and Science Teaching (CMAST) program to our schools. This program will enhance our middle school math and science curriculums by providing professional development workshops which supports our teachers in analyzing their instructional practices. The goal is to strengthen their math and science (STEM) knowledge in order to create a classroom culture where students do mathematics/science. Special thanks to our partners at LMU and **Specialty Family Foundation** for supporting this valuable program.

Digital Media Arts Club

As part of the STEM Triangle St. Columbkille has launched its first Digital Media Arts Club. The Digital Media Arts Club is a project-based program in which students create and showcase digital media, including creating film shorts, animation, music and photo slideshows. The program also teaches the fundamentals of storytelling, such as script-writing and storyboarding, which will help enhance their writing and critical thinking skills.

Under the supervision of Lovelace Media students have learned how to use technology to shoot footage, take pictures, edit movies, create animation using iPads.





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Save the Date

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St. Columbkille Honors LMU

St. Columbkille School will hold its Fifth Annual Awards Dinner on May 16, 2015 to honor a community who has made a significant impact in the lives of our students. This year, we honor *Loyola Marymount University*, a community who has dedicated endless resources to support Catholic education from primary school to graduate school. LMU's entities such as the School of Education, Service Organizations, Center for Catholic Education, and Campus Ministry, to name a few, have supported St. Columbkille in fulfilling its mission. We are pleased that the award bestowed each year honors the memory of Sr. Peg Dolan, RHSM, who was a founding board member at St. Columbkille and was dedicated to seeing the school thrive and succeed. Sr. Peg began and nurtured the partnership between St. Columbkille and Loyola Marymount University which has lasted and grown for over 15 years. Receiving the Sr. Peg Dolan award on behalf of LMU will be President David Burcham whose strong leadership and support of Catholic education has impacted many communities, schools, and children. For more information about this special event or to donate toward our fundraising goal of \$100,000 please visit the school website: www.columbkille.org or contact Karla Briceno at kbriceno@columbkille.org. We hope to see you there!



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!
Fifth Annual Awards Dinner
Saturday, May 16, 2015
Loyola Marymount University – UHall
6:00pm