



# Morning Star School

O . T . H . E . R . S .  
O P P O R T U N I T Y T O H E L P E D U C A T E R E C E P T I V E  
S T U D E N T S

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

FALL 2012

## SAVE THE DATE:

- **Annual MSS Auction; Sat., Nov. 3 at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$20 p/p**

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## Principal's Perspective

Dear Friends of Morning Star,

The beginning of the 2012-2013 school year has been an exciting time at Morning Star School, with the addition of 9<sup>th</sup> grade and enrollment reaching fifty, twenty-one more students than the beginning of last school year! I want to take this time to thank our parents for their support and their positive thoughts about Morning Star School, our mission, and our educational program. Your support helps all of us to continue to strive for the best for the students we have been blessed to teach. When meeting with prospective parents during the summer we were delighted at how many stated that they were encouraged to visit Morning Star by a family whose child is currently enrolled. This positive image was reflected at our first Family Picnic. We couldn't have asked for a better beginning for this school year. The fellowship, excitement and smiles made all the "hard work" during the summer worthwhile.

While many of you were enjoying summer vacation, we were very busy. Morning Star School was the recipient of

three very generous donations. One was an answer to our prayers, giving us the necessary money to renovate our playground into a sensory



**Susan Conza, MA, Principal**

friendly play area. The cozy cocoon is the new favorite destination for all of the students. Another donation provided Morning Star with the resources to upgrade our Wi-Fi, giving us internet access throughout the school. The final donation was earmarked for tuition assistance and is being used to defer some of the costs of tuition for deserving students. Donations to the Tuition Assistance fund are always appreciated and needed.

Please join supporters of Morning Star School on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for "Heart of Gold". Everyone is invited to

shop the "Harvest Boutique" at Angel Schumaker, a Morning Star School Board Member's, home. You can donate your old, unwanted or broken jewelry, purchase Morning Star School student art work or other handcrafted items, and enjoy delicious refreshments as we raise money for Phase 2 of the playground and tuition assistance. Individuals unable to attend the event are welcome to drop off their items at school and we will have them appraised and send you a receipt for the value of your items. Thank you in advance for your support of this event and if you have any questions please call Mrs. King or Mrs. Conza at 727-544-6036.

It's an exciting time at Morning Star School and everyone is invited to stop by and see the new play area and technology as well as meet the students. Without your love and ongoing support, Morning Star School would not be what it is today!

May God bless each of you and all that you do for Morning Star School.

Prayerfully,  
Sue Conza, Principal

"Morning Star School, a mission of the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, recognizes the unique educational needs of students. The administration, faculty, staff and parents work together to provide an ungraded academic curriculum in which students can achieve their potential academically, socially and spiritually."

# Annual Auction

The annual Morning Star School Auction will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012. The auction is the biggest fundraiser of the year with proceeds benefitting our students through tuition assistance, technology upgrades and resources for the classroom.

This year's event will be held at Sacred Heart Parish Hall from 6:30pm-11:00pm. In addition to the silent auction, there will be a live auction featuring a 2-night, 3-day hotel stay on the beach, tickets to Walt Disney World and other priceless items (student's artwork)!

Tickets for this popular event are priced at \$20 per person and include auction attendance and a delicious dinner. This year's menu features Cuban pulled pork, black beans and rice as well as 1905 salad. Beer and wine will be available for a nominal fee.

If you are interested in sponsoring a table, we have the following packages available:

Gold Star Sponsor (\$500) will receive reserved seating for eight (8) people, three bottles of wine and recognition in the auction program.

Silver Star Sponsor (\$250) will receive reserved seating for six (6) along with two bottles of wine and recognition in the auction program.

Bronze Star Sponsor (\$100) will receive a table for two (2) with one bottle of wine and recognition in the auction program.

Due to the popularity of the auction, we have had to limit the number of tickets sold to 200. Please, don't miss out on this wonderful evening! To purchase your tickets, contact Sue Conza at Morning Star School 727-544-6036.



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## With Gratitude

Morning Star School is thankful for the support of the following organizations. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

- K of C Council #2105
- K of C Council #5635
- K of C Council #5737
- K of C Council #7109
- K of C Council #7621
- K of C Council #8612
- K of C Council #9916
- K of C Council #10157
- K of C Council #12196
- K of C Council #14456
- Council of Catholic Women—Espiritu Santo
- George Clark Foundation

## On the Web

Don't forget to "Like" Morning Star School on Facebook! Catch up on all the latest news, photos and meetings happening at our school.

**[facebook.com/pages/Morning-Star-School-Pinellas-Park/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Morning-Star-School-Pinellas-Park/)**

For more detailed information such as the school calendar, to set up appointments or to contact one of our staff, check out our website:

**[www.morningstarschool.org](http://www.morningstarschool.org)**

# Welcome to Morning Star School

We would like to extend a big welcome to **Mrs. Alida King** who is Mrs. Conza's new Administrative Assistant. We are thrilled to have the following teachers join the Morning Star School family: **Mrs. Rebecca Lazar** (Room 5) and **Mrs. Miralys Reffett** (Room 2) as well as **Mrs. Sarah Phelan** (teacher assistant in Mrs. Castaneda's class-Room 4)

## Morning Star Graduates Ten!

On Wednesday, June 6 Morning Star School celebrated the accomplishments of ten outstanding students during their graduation ceremony. Congratulations and best wishes to: Geoffrey, Christine, Tiffany, Kendall, Steven, Clare, Jacob, Angel, Ben and Jenny.

Many of the eighth graders have chosen to continue their education here at Morning

Star School. We are elated to welcome them as incoming freshmen. Some students have been accepted to other area high schools. Ben will enter St. Petersburg Catholic High School where he plans on playing football. Steven will be attending Northeast High School and helping the baseball team. Angel will be attending De LeSalle Academy in Ft. Myers.

If you are interested in learning more about the educational opportunities at Morning Star School, please contact Sue Conza, principal at (727) 544-6036 to schedule an appointment.



## Morning Star Family BBQ



**Thomas, looking out for his little sister, Robin, in the sensory cocoon on our new playground!**

On Friday, August 17, we held our inaugural Morning Star School Family BBQ.

From hamburgers and hot dogs to cotton candy and bounce houses, our families indulged in food, friendship and fun!

Over 120 students, staff and family members enjoyed touring the school, playing on the new playground and jumping in the bounce houses.

We are thankful for the good weather, great chefs and time to make new friends.



**Sara enjoying the slide on our new kid approved playground.**

# Memory Garden

On Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, Morning Star dedicated the newly built Memory Garden with a prayer service and butterfly release.

It was begun in memory of Carolyn Jones, mother of Kendall Haire, who passed away on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 after a long illness. In addition to the beautiful flowering plants, the garden has two benches and a statue of an angel that will serve as a place for reflection and meditation. It is located

outside the backdoor of the school building.

If you would like to purchase an engraved brick, to be placed in the garden area, in memory of a loved one, please contact the school office. The cost is \$50.00 per brick. A brick has been purchased in memory of Evan Lyle, a former student who recently passed away.

You may also honor your loved one with a donation to Morning Star School.

Remember, any amount is acceptable as a donation and we will send an acknowledgement to both the donor and the family of the deceased. Checks may be made out to Morning Star School and sent in the attached envelope. Please include the name of the deceased, name & address to whom the acknowledgement is to be sent and your name and address.

You may also remember O.T.H.E.R.S. of Morning Star in your will as a lasting memorial.



Mrs. Conza and Kendall release butterflies at the Memory Garden dedication.



The memory of a good person is a blessing.  
Proverbs 10:7

## In Memorium

Paul Resop  
Sylvia Lombardi  
Maggi Bevacqua-Geddes  
Margaretta Brown  
Evan Lyle

## In Honor of:

Audrey Resop from St. Petersburg Civitan Club  
Rick Leandri Family from Norman Bungard

## O.T.H.E.R.S. Membership Info

The annual membership dues of O.T.H.E.R.S. is \$25 per year. Annual membership is from January 1 to December 31.

It is important to keep your dues up to date! This enables you to receive our quarterly newsletter in a timely manner as well as receive notices of upcoming

events and opportunities for you to participate in our programs.

Please use the attached envelope for new membership and renewals.

# The history of O.T.H.E.R.S. (part 2)

In our last issue we featured Sister Dolorita, principal from 1971-1984. It was outlined how she sought the help from the business community to help raise funds for the newly constructed school for children with special learning needs.

Their first task was to form a committee who would brain storm and come up with a name for the support group before they could market and solicit interested members. They came up with O.T.H.E.R.S., "*Opportunity To Help Educate Receptive Students*". Remember, the "R" stands for receptive. These are children who want to learn but need the opportunity to learn at their own pace and learning style.

The business leader who came forward to establish and lead the newly formed organization was **Andrew (Andy) Boisvert**, the owner of Superb Announcements.

Andy was a printer and was well known in the community for his excellent work in the printing world. Andy and his wife Marion ran this successful business. They became the official printer of Morning Star School. Their contributions were in the form of invitations, school letterhead, envelopes, and the quarterly **O.T.H.E.R.S. Newsletter**.

Assisting Andy in establishing the support group was **Rose Tomassi**. Rose was the Regent for **The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court**. She was the leader of this distinguished organization in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties. She and

her husband, John, owned the Italian Restaurant "Giovanni's" on St. Pete Beach.

Connie Mamaro, the school secretary at the time, assisted Andy and Rose. Connie was a creative thinker and is the one who solved the mystery "R" in the name **O.T.H.E.R.S.**

She picked up on Jose Mariscal's comment; the children were "receptive". She not only solved that problem, she found the prayer "**OTHERS**". The prayer did not have an author so O.T.H.E.R.S. adopted it as their official prayer for the newly formed group.

Who would be asked to join O.T.H.E.R.S.? Andy, Rose, Connie, and Sister Dolorita solicited the help of their relatives, business associates, parents, and friends. Any person or group who wanted to help educate special children were invited to become members.

The group began to grow over the first few years. Andy and Rose and their committee were ready to hold their first general meeting. The meeting would be an Appreciation Banquet. In 1976, they held their **First Banquet** at the Ramada Inn on 34<sup>th</sup> Street in St. Petersburg.

The paid members each received an invitation to attend the banquet. The banquet had over 500 members and guests, which included Bishop Charles McLaughlin and other clergy in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Future banquets were held in which 800+ members attended. The membership grew to over 1800 members in the 70's, 80's, and 90's.

Andy moved to Pembroke Pines, FL shortly after his wife Marion passed away to live with his son. Rose continues her work with Catholic Daughters and serves as an advisor to Morning Star School. Connie is active in the community and was named "Woman of the Year for Pinellas Park" in 2011. She continues to sponsor the Modern Woodmen of America Speech Contest for the students of Morning Star School.

Submitted by:  
Mary Lou Giacobbe

*Dare to reach  
your hand into  
the darkness, to  
pull another  
hand into the  
light.*

**Norman B. Rice**



## Morning Star School

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Morning-Star-School-Pinellas-Park/](https://facebook.com/pages/Morning-Star-School-Pinellas-Park/)**

[www.morningstarschool.org](http://www.morningstarschool.org)

# Morning Star School Wish List

1. 8.5" Multi-Colored Play-ground Balls. We would like six (6) at \$30.00 each
2. Boardmaker Plus. We are requesting one at \$399.
3. PECS Starter Kit - \$149
4. 32" Flat Screen TV's - we need six for our classrooms. \$300/each.

# Box Tops for Education

Once again, we will be participating in the Campbell's Labels for Education and My Coke Rewards programs. Don't forget to clip, save and send in the General Mills Box Tops for Education. You may send them to Morning Star School, Attn: Mrs. Alida King.

