

# THE RELATIONS

BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – JUNE, 2015

## PRINCIPAL'S FAREWELL



Once again, Brebeuf has been blessed with another successful school year. The spiritual dimension of our school continues to be vibrant, with retreat experiences available for all students including Kairos and

Salesian retreats and many students taking advantage of service opportunities. A second pilgrimage to Rome was organized during Holy Week. On the academic side, our Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programme in Information and Communication Technology continues to grow and provide rich learning experiences, tech support for a variety of events and upgrading the Brebeuf News Network (BNN). We are pleased to announce two new SHSM being introduced next year, one in Arts and Culture and the second in Health and Wellness. The athletics program at Brebeuf this year has been very strong with TDCAA champions in Rugby, Junior Basketball, Track and Field, TDCAA finalists in Junior Soccer, Non-Contact Hockey, Senior Hockey (fourth at OFSAA).

This year I am retiring after 35 years in education. It has been a privilege to serve as vice-principal 20 years ago and as principal here at Brebeuf over the past seven years. While leaving this community is not an easy thing to do, the fact that I find it hard to say goodbye reflects just how blessed I've been. I sincerely appreciate having had the opportunity to be a part of this great school community. I will miss the friendly, respectful students, the professional, caring staff and the supportive parents. So many have worked so hard to make Brebeuf a strong school, through the academics, the athletics, the arts, and through technology, service and brotherhood. The one thing that truly makes

Brebeuf exceptional is how the Catholic dimension is tightly woven into the fabric of this school. This stems from the deep faith of so many of in the community and the ongoing support provided by the religious communities: the Jesuit Fathers, the Presentation Brothers, the Salesian Sisters, the pastor of Blessed Trinity and the members of the Legion of Christ.

Sincere thanks for a great experience here at Brebeuf and best wishes to all for a bright and blessed future.

Anthony Azzopardi

## NEW PRINCIPAL

Brebeuf welcomes **Mr. John Wujek** as its tenth principal. Mr. Wujek is currently the principal of Monsignor Fraser College. *The Relations* will have a detailed introduction in its fall issue.

## HOCKEY HISTORY



The Sr. Hockey team made Brebeuf history by winning the TDCAA championship and advancing to the OFSAA Provincial Championship. The team placed fourth in Ontario!

## VICS FASTATHON

*The Relations* is the official newsletter of Brebeuf College School. It is named for the letters that St. Jean de Brebeuf and his Jesuit confreres sent home to France in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Its aim is to share much of the good news coming from the school.

Michael Da Costa '92, Editor  
[Michael.dacosta@tcdsb.org](mailto:Michael.dacosta@tcdsb.org)  
Twitter: @brebeufcollege

# MEN FOR OTHERS

## INSIDE RIDE



Brebeuf raised over \$20,000 for this year's Inside Ride in support of children with cancer.

## BROTHER MAHER FUND

Over \$15,000 was raised by Brebeuf this year for the Presentation Brothers' schools in Africa. These funds came from monthly collections, donations, a "Christmas catalogue", and a generous grant from the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association. This generosity helps ensure that young Ghanaians and Nigerians receive a quality education to help lift their families out of poverty.



Over 100 Brebeufians fasted on Holy Thursday and raised over \$3000 to support VICS (Volunteer International Christian Service).

# SCHOOL NEWS

## ROME PILGRIMAGE

Thirty Brebeuf students and teachers made a second annual pilgrimage to Rome this past Easter.



## OVERSEAS TRIPS

Brebeuf is sponsoring three overseas excursions next year:

### Ireland - March Break

Contact: [Sergio.Demiglio@tcdsb.org](mailto:Sergio.Demiglio@tcdsb.org)

### India - March Break

Contact: [Michael.Rogers@tcdsb.org](mailto:Michael.Rogers@tcdsb.org)

### Rome - Easter Pilgrimage

Contact: [Robert.Gregoris@tcdsb.org](mailto:Robert.Gregoris@tcdsb.org)

## ORDER OF BREBEUF



The Order of Brebeuf induction ceremony on May 3.

The Order of St. Jean de Brebeuf, named for our Patron, is the highest honour that can be bestowed on a member of the Brebeuf Community. Recipients are inducted in recognition of achievement that exemplifies the values and ideals for which Brebeuf College School stands, namely: Faith, Discipline, Integrity, Hard work, Humility, Excellence, Success, Pursuit of the Greater Good, Friendship, Community, and for always being Men and Women for Others.

The Order is open to all members of the Brebeuf community, both individuals and groups, past and present, including: Staff, Students, Alumni, Parents, Supporters, Jesuits, Presentation Brothers, and Benefactors. The 2015 Inductees are:

### JOHN PAUL ADAMS '71

Paul is a man of many gifts, but the greatest would be his inherent desire for helping others. He demonstrates this in everything he does – in his music, his caring personality, his eternal optimism and his genuine love of life. He has contributed so much to the Brebeuf community through his teaching, his unwavering support of the arts, his love of music and a sincere enthusiasm for sharing his passions with the communities he serves. As a former student, Student Council President, former staff member and active Alumnus, Paul has never lost sight of what it means to be a “Brebeufian” – he truly exemplifies what it means to be “A Man for Others”

### TED AND JOAN BELTON

Ted and Joan Belton are cornerstones of the Brebeuf foundation. As local community leaders, they gave tirelessly to the growth and prosperity of Brebeuf. The Beltons recognized early the value that a school like

Brebeuf could offer and even before they had children attending the school, they became avid supporters and contributors. Their support and guidance was valued by all – from school Principals and Administrators, to staff, students and parents. The scope of their involvement was immense from fundraising, to charring committees such as The Brebeuf Ladies’ Guild and The Benefactors Society, to bridging the gaps between parents, students and staff. Both lived model, modern, Catholic lives in dedication to God and to their community.

### FATHER ROBERT BRENNAN, S.J.

Father Brennan, a former teacher and chaplain at Brebeuf, is an inspiring, enthusiastic leader who gives tirelessly to the education and development of students in everything he does. He brings a unique ability and passion for helping students to discover God in all things seen and unseen and encourages all to discover their own sense of social justice. He consistently demonstrates an abundance of love, understanding, humour and appreciation of life. He makes you feel important in his presence. He not only is a “Man for Others” but has encouraged so many students to live their own lives as “Men and Women for Others”.

### ROBERT VINCENT CARTY '69

Bob Carty was a journalist, a musician, a strong family man, a dedicated Christian but above all he was without doubt “A Man for Others”. He spent the vast majority of his career ensuring the stories of the less fortunate and those whose rights were being inhibited were told. From an early age he developed a passion for social justice and human rights and fought tirelessly for those who needed help, with a particular focus on Latin America. He had a natural ability to tell “human stories” in unforgettable ways. This was true in both his music and his journalism. Driven by a belief he had a role to play in changing the world, Bob spoke and sang for those whose voices might otherwise have been suppressed.

### KEVIN DUFFY '79

Kevin is a man who has faced adversity and risen above it with courage, discipline, humility and faith. As an active community leader and volunteer, a dedicated family man with a successful career in hand, Kevin suffered a stroke at age 43. Following months in hospital and many more in recovery, Kevin found the strength and courage to not only regain his physical capabilities but more importantly to demonstrate his commitment to helping others and to return to his

community and volunteer activities. He continues as an active supporter for several charity organizations and other support mechanisms for stroke survivors, volunteers for numerous organizations and shares his experiences to help others. He is an inspiration to all.

### **THE BREBEUF LADIES' GUILD**

The Brebeuf Ladies' Guild was among the first and most influential of parent driven organizations affiliated with Brebeuf. "The Ladies" not only organized numerous events to raise much needed funds for school activities but also demonstrated a commitment to a more cohesive school and family community. Their support and guidance and "motherly advice" was tremendously valuable to the school, the students and the Brebeuf Community as a whole. These volunteers were clearly "Women for Others".

### **SPAMALOT**



Students from Theatre Brebeuf performed the hilarious Monty Python comedy *Spamalot*.

### **FAMILY OF THE YEAR**



Congratulations to the Mann family, who were chosen as the Ontario Family of the Year by the Knights of Columbus!

## **STUDENTS OF OTHER FAITHS THRIVE AT CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

By Vincent Mastromatteo

(Printed in the *Catholic Register* on May 1, 2015)

Toronto's Brebeuf College School has a vibrant faith life, and not only for Catholic students. While attending a school of a different faith can be daunting, the experience has proven worthwhile for the school's Catholic and non-Catholic students alike.

Kalana Sembakuttige, a Grade 12 Buddhist student at Brebeuf, began his high school years with apprehension.

"The start of high school was really nerve-wracking, being a non-Catholic and not knowing anyone," admits Sembakuttige. "I thought I was going to be excluded because of my religion, but I was wrong. Everyone has been very welcoming and accepting."

Sembakuttige, an active participant in the school's Catholic chaplaincy, started taking part at the request of a teacher.

"My French teacher needed help with the homeroom rosary, so she asked me. I didn't think much of it, only as a favour for her," he said. "Even though I'm not Catholic, that's what got me interested in the Catholic faith."

Sembakuttige went on to attend Kairos, a religious retreat that gives students time to reflect on their faith lives with each other.

"Kairos was one of the most emotional and spiritual experiences of my life so far," he said. "I have friends at school, but I truly didn't know their stories until I went to Kairos."

It had such an impact, Sembakuttige went back to serve as a leader. Last year, Sembakuttige went on the school's pilgrimage to Rome over Holy Week. To him, the pilgrimage "was more than a trip. It was something that developed me spiritually."

Fellow Brebeuf student Clement Yen also went on the pilgrimage. Yen, an Evangelical Christian, said he cherished his time in Rome.

“It was a calming experience being away from the usual rush for 11 days,” said Yen. “I got to experience what Catholicism is like. The seminarians we stayed with were great people. They seemed to share a real brotherhood.”

Sembakuttige and Yen’s shared interest in Catholicism extends to the classroom. Although some students are not enthusiastic about being required to take religion classes, Yen and Sembakuttige think differently.

“Religion class was a beneficial experience,” said Yen. “After our witness talks, we realized that our peers were dealing with so many different issues at home. We didn’t just learn about religion, we also learned about each other.”

“The class has a lot of discussion on current issues in society, and how Catholicism ties into them,” said Sembakuttige. “It’s really interesting to me, even as a non-Catholic.”

Robert Gregoris, a religion teacher at Brebeuf, strives to make chaplaincy welcoming to all faiths.

“At Brebeuf College we’re particularly blessed with all the different faith components of our community. (Our chaplaincy) is very open and invitational,” he said.

Gregoris, who organizes the Kairos retreats, said that like academics, the chaplaincy work at Brebeuf College is open to students of all faith backgrounds. He’s found that people from non-Catholic backgrounds appear quite receptive to the faith journey.

“The key is being Christ-like,” said Gregoris. “As in His ministry in the Gospel, being open and evangelizing to them. Being open to these experiences lets them learn who Jesus was and how it can impact their daily lives.”

Although an Ontario Superior Court decision allows students at Catholic schools to opt out of religious instruction, Gregoris believes few will do so.

“As an adult in the school community, if we could live out the Gospel values, the opting out wouldn’t be an issue because students would see the value of true happiness, true joy and true love. At our school, that’s our goal that we want to walk in.”

Gregoris also believes that a vibrant faith community can assist all students, including non-Catholics attending

Catholic schools, to resist outside pressures such as the single-minded pursuit of high grades.

“Young people have a lot of pressure with marks, which is more of a secular pressure,” said Gregoris. “But at the same time, allowing Christ in their lives gives them a strong vessel to fight other temptations and distractions.”

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



Students cram the hallways of the old Brebeuf building in 1992.

## MR. MARGOU RETIRES



After teaching at Brebeuf since 1990, Mr. Bill Margou retired at the end of February. He was the head of the social science department and taught law and history. He was a dedicated teacher and coach and is greatly missed!

## CYBER-BULLYING



April Reimer, wife of Toronto Maple Leafs' goalie James Reimer, gave an excellent presentation to the student body on the perils of cyber-bullying.

## ENRICHED COURSES AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Brebeuf offers Enriched courses for students who want a greater challenge than the regular Academic or University courses. These classes might move at a faster pace and/or include work with broader depth and enriching activities. Although some students worry that Enriched courses might mean more work or a lower mark, this is not the case. Most students will have an average of at least 80% to enrol in Enriched courses.

Brebeuf currently offers Enriched courses in English (10,11,12), Mathematics (9,10,11), Science (9,10) Calculus (12), Advanced Functions (12).

Enriched courses help prepare students to write Advanced Placement examinations in Grade 12. These standardized exams are written by students all over the world. Success in them can mean students receive a university credit or advanced standing for work they have done in high school. Students can also use AP exams for elective credits in many cases.

Students can also choose to write AP exams in many other subjects, even if they are not offered at Brebeuf. Students study for these on their own or with the assistance of their teachers. These exams include: Art, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Chinese (Mandarin), Computer Science, English, Environment Science, European History, French, German, Government and Politics, Human Geography, Latin, Music Theory,

Physics, Psychology, Spanish, Statistics, U.S History, World History.

Anyone with questions about Enriched courses or AP exams can contact Mr. Da Costa at [Michael.dacosta@tcdsb.org](mailto:Michael.dacosta@tcdsb.org).

## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



**Fr. Owen Keenan '91 (centre) is a secretary to Pope Francis in Rome!**

# SPORTS

## 2014– 2015 Athletic Milestones of the Year

- \* Junior Basketball - TDCAA Champions
- \* Tennis, Junior Doubles - OFSAA Qualification
- \* Senior Hockey - TDCAA Finalists, OFSAA Final Four
- \* Junior Rugby 7s - TDCAA Finalists Junior
- \* Rugby 15s - TDCAA Champions
- Senior Rugby 7s - TDCAA Champions, Ontario Rugby Union Finalists
- \* Senior Rugby 15s, TDCAA Champions, OFSAA Qualification
- \* Indoor Soccer - TDCAA Final Four
- \* Junior Soccer - TDCAA Finalists
- \* Non Contact Hockey - TDCAA Finalists
- \* Curling, TDCAA Final Four
- \* Swimming, Open Relay - OFSAA Participants
- \* Track & Field - Miguel Palij, 110M, 400 M TDCAA Champion, Brebeuf Record 110M Hurdles, OFSAA Qualifier Track & Field, TDCAA Champion, 3000M, OFSAA Qualifier 1500M, 3000M Track & Field, Noah Ennis, TDCAA Junior Champion Javelin



Students and coaches celebrating Brebeuf Athletics at the annual Athletic Banquet

## Brebeuf College Athletics Most Valuable Players (MVP)

### Badminton

Senior: Yule De La Cerna

Junior: Ethan Luo

Midget: Miguel Dela Cruz

### Baseball

Varsity: Nicholas Cusimano

### Basketball

Freshmen: Aaron Reyes

Junior: Kyle Valentino

Senior: Vincent Wood

### Cross Country

Midget: Andrew Brisbane

Junior: Aiden D'Souza, Stephen Smolej

Senior: Simon Egzaw

### Curling

Nicholas Stavropoulos

### Flag Football

Kevon Jamieson-Hanson

### Golf

Matteo D'Ambrosio

### Hockey

Junior: Daniel Glyn-Williams

Senior: Cameron Wiebe

### Joe Sinopoli Award

Mathew Diliddo

### Varsity Non-Contact Hockey

Luca Ferri

### Rugby 7s

Junior: Jerome Adams

Senior: Erik Ursik

### Rugby 15s

Junior: Miguel De La Cruz

Senior: Michael Wong

### Soccer

Junior: Nicholas Karpouzis/Noah Aaron

Senior: Anthony Galati

### Indoor Soccer

Christian Tshibungu

### Swimming

Midget: Kevin Baghdassarian

Junior: Albert Bae

Senior: Jamie Barletta

### Table Tennis

Junior: Massimo Larocca

Senior: Jason Cheung

### Tennis

Junior: Michael Ross

Senior: George Beri

### Track and field

Midget: Marco Dias

Junior: Noah Ennis

Senior: Miguel Palij

### Ultimate Frisbee

Varsity: Jon Bulaun

### Volleyball

Senior: Mitch Pimenta

Junior: Mike Ross

## 2014-15 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Rookie of the Year: Tyler Cusimano

Junior Athlete of the Year: Bryce Jones George

Senior Athlete of the Year: Miguel Palij

# GRADUATION AWARDS



**The E.J. Barry Renaissance Award**  
Kalana Sembakuttige

**The O'Neil P. Gazeley Scholarship**  
Paul Shibata

**The Lou Puccini Scholarship**  
Miggy Asajar & Neil Junio

**The Brebeuf Benefactors' Award**  
Declan De Gouveia & Miguel Martinez-Torres

**The Michael Brown Memorial Award**  
Dean Mamiit

**The Brother Lawrence Maher F.P.M. Award**  
Andrew Sinka

**The Catholic Student Award**  
Vincent Mastromatteo

**The Governor-General's Medal**  
Julia Ghassemian

**The Joe Will Award**  
David Medeiros

**The Peter Knopfel '81 Memorial Scholarship**  
Vincent Mastromatteo & Kyle Kim

**Man for Others Award**  
Vincent Mastromatteo

**Valedictorian**  
Vincent Mastromatteo

**Father Winston Rye S.J. Award**  
Julian Ghassemian

**Salutatorian**  
Dean Mamiit

**Presentation Brothers' Award**  
Shawn Gacusan

**Father St. Clair Monaghan S.J. Award**  
Matthew Brooks

**Visual Arts Award**  
Ryland Cabradilla

**Theatre Brebeuf Award**  
Christian Fernandez

**Joseph Younder Debating Award**  
Vincent Mastromatteo

**Jim Morris '77 Journalism Award**  
Vincent Mastromatteo

**Michael Tomaszek '82 Music Award**  
David Medeiros

**O.E.C.T.A. Award**  
Clement Yen

**Lieutenant-Governor's Award**  
Gellert Berenyi

**Martin Foy '82 Award**  
Santiago Sweet

**Michael Daoust '67 Mathematics Award**  
Kyle Kim

