

Resurrection Catholic School

Volume 1, Issue 3.
Winter 2010



 A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School
A Ministry of the Church of the Resurrection



A New Tradition!

The National Catholic Educational Association provides Catholic elementary schools the opportunity to recognize distinguished Catholic school graduates. To be eligible a graduate must have graduated at least ten years prior to receiving the award. In addition, the recipient of this prestigious honor must demonstrate achievements "that reflect the characteristics of his or her education received in a Catholic elementary school."

It has been 10 years since our first graduates walked down the aisle of our church to receive their RCS diplomas. That first class (1999) of thirty-five young men and women set the bar high with their strong faith, commitment to service and academic excellence. What a perfect group from which to begin a new tradition-the recognition of an outstanding Resurrection Catholic School graduate.

Miss Morgan Miller, our school resource teacher, is the 2010 recipient of the NCEA Distinguished Graduate Award. Miss Miller is a graduate of Santa Fe Catholic High School and the University of South Florida. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in special education and is in her second year of teaching at Resurrection Catholic School.

While a student at Santa Fe Catholic High School Miss Miller began volunteering with an interfaith organization called Faith and Light. This group provided spiritual outreach to adults who are developmentally challenged. She assisted with Bible study, arts and crafts and providing food for the members. Morgan was also actively involved in the Church of the Resurrection Youth Group. Upon graduation she was recognized for her service and leadership when she was awarded the Outstanding Youth Award by the Diocese of Orlando.

While in college Miller continued to serve the community. As a staff member she participated in a summer program coordinated by Lakeland Explorations V Museum and Central Florida Autism. This partnership provided a summer experience for children with autism and typical children. Miller modeled tolerance and compassion while assisting the campers.

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Who was Dick Prince? by Barb Fuchs, Athletic Director

You may have passed the Resurrection Catholic School by way of the Polk Parkway recently and have seen a new scoreboard on the PE field. You may have seen in bold letter "In Memory of Dick Prince." Did you wonder, "Who is Dick Prince?"

Dick Prince was a long time parishioner of Resurrection Catholic Church – since moving to Lakeland in 1984. He moved from Largo to Lakeland with Swift, Inc. to be closer to George Jenkins and his Publix account. Dick was a fun-loving man. He always had a story, a joke or a limerick to tell.

Dick loved his family more than anything and he also loved kids. He enjoyed seeing them active, playing baseball or kicking a ball around. Grandpa Dick, as he was known to almost everyone, was like a father to Coach Barbara Fuchs, Resurrection's Athletic Director. For years Dick and his wife helped Coach Fuchs at the Resurrection Athletic Booster Club booth at Mardi Gras. When he passed away in April of 2009, the Prince family made a donation in his name to the Resurrection Catholic School Athletic Department. Coach Fuchs, with the blessing of Fr. Matt, erected a new scoreboard for the school's flag football and PE programs in loving memory of Dick Prince. Next time you pass by the scoreboard, think of a joke for Dick, he'll love it.





FOCUS ON SPRING!

- ⇒ Mar. 16: NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION
- ⇒ Mar. 17: FIRST RECONCILIATION
- ⇒ Mar. 18: PREK DONUTS FOR DAD BREAKFAST
- ⇒ Mar. 22-26: SCIENCE DISCOVERY WEEK
- ⇒ Apr. 13: GREEK FESTIVAL & GRADE 8 RETREAT
- ⇒ Apr. 22: FINE ARTS DAY



A New Tradition, continued.

As Resurrection Catholic School's resource teacher Miss Miller provides services to students who need a little something extra in order to be successful. Her gentle way, wonderful sense of humor and love of children allows her "to teach as Jesus did". In her short time at RCS she has strengthened the school's Breakfast Club program and revised the resource program. "Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or in the same way (George Evans)" is under Miller's email signature and sums up her philosophy of Catholic education. Her desire "to return home" led her to begin her professional career in our parish school.

Miss Miller was honored at the 9 a.m. Mass on the closing day of Catholic Schools Week by Father Matthew Mello, Principal Nancy Genzel and Assistant Principal Kenn Hitchcock and the school's students and faculty. Miss Miller's family was in attendance at the ceremony when she received a certificate, pin and bouquet of roses honoring her recognition as a distinguished graduate.

Dear Families and Friends of Resurrection Catholic School,

With the inaugural presentation of the NCEA Distinguished Graduate Award (see article) during Catholic Schools Week, it seems a perfect time to focus on another aspect of our mission statement, "...prepares them to serve others".

Helping and caring for others permeates the entire school community. Providing our students the opportunity to give back and assist those in need is such an important component of a Catholic education that without it we could not call ourselves a Catholic school.

School clubs, the Home School Association, and our athletic Booster Club all include service to the community as essential to their mission. During Advent and Lent the students enthusiastically embrace service projects with the Diocese of Orlando. Recent projects include a long-sleeve shirt drive for farm workers, funding a student breakfast program for one year, the collection of school supplies for children in the Dominican Republic and the gathering of basic toiletries for the poor of Central Florida. Local and global organizations have also benefited from the generosity of our school families. The Pregnancy Help Center's "change for life" project has benefited from our donation, as have the victims of natural disasters, i.e. Katrina, Haiti, and the tsunami.

During Catholic Schools Week Resurrection Catholic School held a service day with the specific objective of serving others in the Lakeland community. 700 non-perishable food items were collected by our preschoolers during a bike-a-thon. Proceeds were donated to the parish pantry and the Madonia Center. Other projects included making fleece blankets for the Pregnancy Help Center, collecting pet food for the SPCA, delivering toiletries and "goodie bags" to Talbot House, donating jackets to Head Start children, weeding around the community center, making cards and drawings for patients in hospitals and nursing homes and cleaning up winter debris at the homes of senior citizens.

All of the above are visible signs of God's love in our community. But it is the small selfless acts that demonstrate the effectiveness of a Catholic education in developing "people of the Good News". The examples are numerous: the student who tutors a classmate, the teacher who covers another's dismissal duty, the parent who organizes dinners for a family challenged by an illness, families who give tirelessly to parish projects, or a staff member who goes the extra mile for someone else. It is this living out of the Gospels that is the difference provided by a Catholic education and environment. We are proud of our commitment to helping others and teaching this virtue to our young people.

"And whoever gives to one of these little ones but a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple, amen I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42)

God bless you and yours,
Nancy L. Genzel
 Principal

The Mission of Resurrection Catholic School is to embrace the message of Jesus Christ and empower children to integrate His values and teachings into their lives. We strive to create an environment which stimulates the students to achieve academic excellence and prepares them to serve others.