



# Five Circles of Light

Risen Christ Catholic School is grounded in the histories and traditions of our five founding parishes. Five Circles of Light is a publication of RCCS.



September 2011

## San Miguel Students: An Opportunity to Open Hearts and Minds

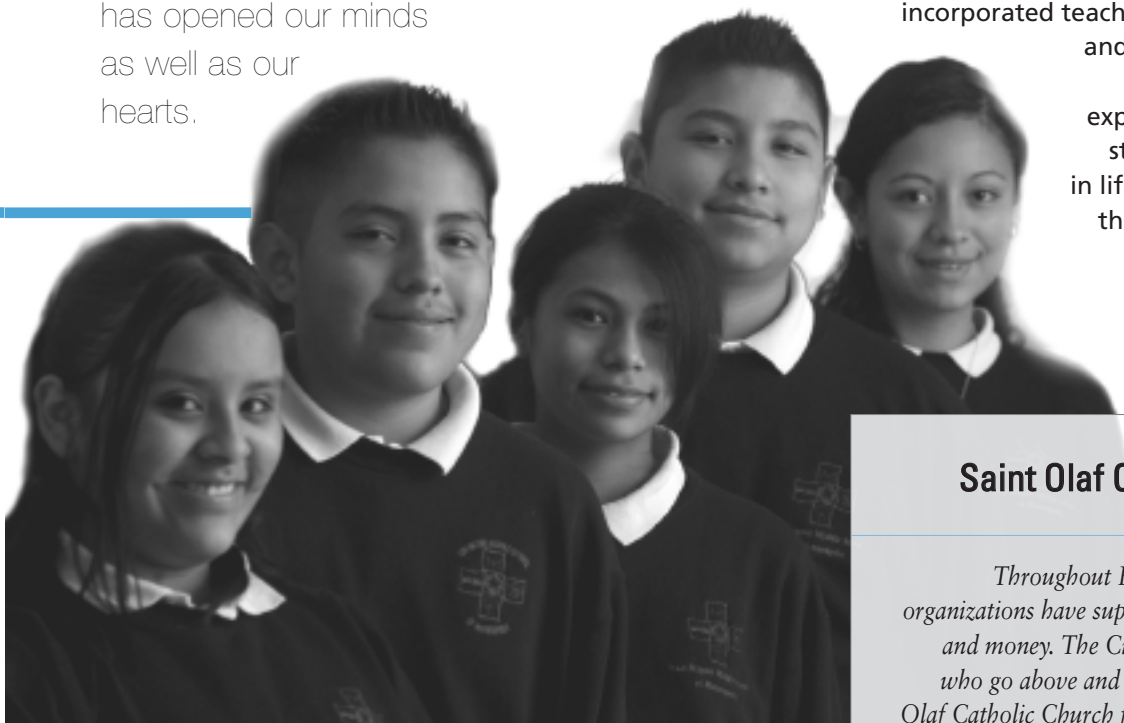
Making a difficult transition you never thought you'd have to make can be challenging, upsetting and unwelcome especially when you're 12 or 13 years old, and it involves leaving friends and a school you love. But that's exactly the transition that faced the students coming to Risen Christ School this fall from San Miguel Middle School. San Miguel closed after 11 years of empowering youth through a Lasallian education, successfully closing the achievement gap of their students, and seeing them through to high school graduation.

To ease that transition, Risen Christ reached out to San Miguel to collaborate on how we could better welcome the 22 students joining our 7th and 8th grades. During their first days at Risen Christ, we knew the students would experience a mix of great anticipation mingled with nervousness and the disappointment of not being able to graduate from the school they knew best. We knew those feelings would soon give way to excitement and a growing sense of trust for their new teachers as well as an eagerness to make new friends.

Transitioning is a process of change, and we are fully engaged. Welcoming our San Miguel students has opened our minds as well as our hearts. The process has proven to be an opportunity to serve all students even more successfully. We have incorporated teaching strategies from San Miguel and set in motion systems to grow and deepen our middle school experience. Our goal is to prepare students for success in work and in life, and we are grateful to share this goal with all of our students.

—Fran Rusciano Murnane  
Director of Advancement

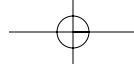
Welcoming our San Miguel students has opened our minds as well as our hearts.



### Saint Olaf Catholic Church—

#### 2011 Circle of Light Reception

Throughout Risen Christ School's history, numerous people and organizations have supported our students through generous gifts of time and money. The Circle of Light award, established to recognize those who go above and beyond for our children, will be presented to Saint Olaf Catholic Church for its longstanding partnership and years of steadfast support for Risen Christ students on October 12 at the School.



## Welcome— Bienvenidos to New Board Members

HELEN DAHLMAN, PRESIDENT

**We are pleased and privileged to be welcoming three new members to our Board of Directors this fall.**

Dr. Bill Hudson, the President of Totino Grace High School in Fridley, has more than twenty years of experience in Catholic education at the elementary, secondary and national levels, having served three years as the Associate Director of the Department of Secondary Schools for NCEA in Washington DC. One of Bill's great strengths is his clear and compelling advocacy for the mission and ministry of Catholic schools in this archdiocese and around the country.

Mr. Frank Miley, J.D., the Director of Development at Cretin-Derham Hall High School (CDH) in St. Paul, brings a depth of skill and experience to our Board. Not only is Frank an attorney, he has also been a Catholic high school teacher and was the president of Holy Family High School before accepting the position of Director of Development at CDH. Frank's expertise in development and marketing will greatly benefit our own advancement efforts at Risen Christ School.

Ms. Kelly Regan, a Director and Vice President of Marketing for Premier Banks in Maplewood, lived in Mexico City for 17 years, so it is no surprise that Kelly's passions include international trade and developing the potential of the Latino immigrant community in Minnesota. Kelly's excellent Spanish skills and deep connections with the Latino business community bring an important dimension to the Board.

It is also with great appreciation that we say goodbye to three outgoing board members: Sheila Cracraft Fehler, Barbara Sykora and Al Woodward. We have been blessed by their tremendous dedication to the mission and children of Risen Christ School and we are a better faith and learning community for their efforts.

## Preparing for an Exciting School Year

LIZ RAMSEY, PRINCIPAL

Summer is not only for vacations. Exciting events take place at Risen Christ in preparation for another growth-filled year. Fifty-eight students attended five weeks of summer school, Federally funded through Title I and provided by Minneapolis Public Schools and LDA of Minnesota. Students worked on improving their reading, math and science skills.

We welcome four new teachers. Kara Lockridge hails from Texas, our second grade teacher, who is fluent in Spanish.

She worked at an orphanage in Mexico with first grade teacher Stephanie Sias. Jessica Argabright worked in Brooklyn, New York and will teach middle school science. Liam Baucom will commute from Buffalo as our technology specialist—a lead teacher at his former school. Gaby Arguello, our middle school religion teacher, was raised in Miami, Florida, is fluent in English, Spanish and Italian and is working on her Master's degree in Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas.

*We welcome four new teachers.*

*Kara Lockridge*

*Jessica Argabright*

*Liam Baucom*

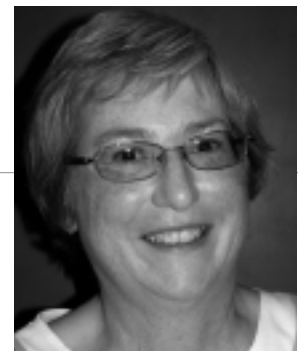
*Gaby Arguello*

## New Advancement Office Staff

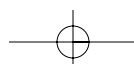
*We welcome two part-time employees: **Ginger Graham**, grant writer/ advancement associate, holds a BS in technical writing, has broad experience in developing proposals, educational materials and textbooks. She was a Peace Corp volunteer in Belize and worked in Texas.*

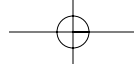
***Briana Malrick**, gift accountant/ researcher, is working on her Public Relations degree at Metropolitan State University. She most recently worked at Be the Match Foundation—a National Marrow Donor Program—leading a wide range of database projects.*

*We welcome the passion and expertise they bring, helping us serve our children and our constituents more efficiently and successfully.*



Nine teachers attended a middle school summer institute held at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School the first week of August, broadening and deepening our middle school program. They created yearly academic goals based on the MN state standards and worked on creating cross-curricular units, explored best strategies for empowering all students to be actively engaged in learning,





## Success Brings Business Leaders Back to Risen Christ

Risen Christ School's Imagine the Possibilities program, initiated in September 2010, was hugely successful. The program paired top executives from over a dozen companies with Risen Christ's oldest students. Highlighting that success, all of the business leaders are returning.

Comments captured during the course of the first year demonstrate why the innovative mentoring program impressively filled the needs of both student and mentor.

Imagine the Possibilities kicks off its second year of mentoring seventh graders as well as eighth graders and nearly doubling the number of business executives involved—hopeful proof of the power of commitment and action.

*“Companies are yearning to do something good for our communities and for our country,” said **Sirish Samba**, President/CEO of McCombs Frank Roos Associates.*

*A native of India, Samba is involved in the program because it is important to “live your life with passion and excellence and never give up. It only takes one person to make a difference.”*



**Yvonne Cheung Ho**, President/CEO of Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA) echoed that outlook. *“The name of the program is Imagine Possibilities, and that’s exactly what we’re trying to do here—help these students imagine possibilities of being who they want to be and who they’d like to become.”*



## Looking Good!

*J. W. Dahl Interiors, painters extraordinaire, generously donated their time to paint walls at Risen Christ.*

*Thank you to all who volunteered: Jeff and Jennifer Dahl, Judy Hardebeck, Maureen and Tom Soller, Anna Marie Byrne and high school students Tony Kuplick and Michael Schnell. Thank you to Hirshfield’s for donating the paint!*



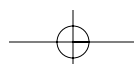
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examined student learning data, and made adjustments to our curriculum to add rigor and balance.

Teachers also attended Archdiocesan classes to upgrade knowledge of technology and its uses, explore concept teaching in mathematics and delve into methods to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students.

Be assured, everyone also took time for rest and relaxation.

*“The success of the program has exceeded all expectations,” said **Fran Rusciano Murnane**, RCS’s Director of Advancement and program manager. “We are broadening the horizons of at-risk students through the world of business and equally exciting is the unanimous commitment by these business leaders to return to mentor again.”*





# Risen Christ Catholic School

1120 East 37th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

612-822-5329  
www.risenchristschool.org

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## You Are Invited to a *'Discover Risen Christ' Lunch!*



Risen Christ School students invite you to Discover Risen Christ as they share their experiences, answer your questions and guide you on a tour of the School.

Meet at 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM on any of the following Wednesdays: Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Jan. 18, Feb. 15 and Mar. 14.

Or for a private tour, contact: Fran Rusciano Murnane, Director of Advancement 612-822-5329, ext 102; fmurnane@risenchristschool.org

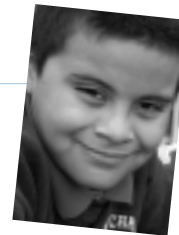
To RSVP or for more information:  
Jill Audette, Advancement Associate 612-822-5329, ext 108;  
jaudette@risenchristschool.org



of events

# calendar

- september 2011
  - Friday 16th *Imagine the Possibilities 7:30-8:30 AM Orientation for Business Executives*
  - Thursday 22nd *Heritage Council 7:00-8:30 AM Fall Breakfast*
  - Wednesday 28th *Discover Risen Christ 11:30 AM-12:30 PM Lunch with Students and School Tour*
  - Friday 30th *Imagine the Possibilities 1:40-2:30 PM Business Executives/Students meet*
- october 2011
  - Select Fridays *Imagine the Possibilities 1:40-2:30 PM*
  - Wednesday 12th *Circle of Light Reception 6:00-8:00 PM Honoring Saint Olaf Catholic Church*
  - Wednesday 26th *Discover Risen Christ 11:30 AM-12:30 PM*
- november 2011
  - Select Fridays *Imagine the Possibilities 1:40-2:30 PM*
  - Wednesday 30th *Discover Risen Christ 11:30 AM-12:30 PM*
- december 2011
  - Select Fridays *Imagine the Possibilities 1:40-2:30 PM*
  - Wednesday 22nd *Christmas Music Program 7:00-8:30 PM*



In October, look for the  
Risen Christ School  
2010-2011 Annual Report  
**online**  
at [www.risenchristschool.org](http://www.risenchristschool.org)

Founded in 1993 as a consolidated school, our founding parishes are: Holy Name, Incarnation, St. Stephens, Holy Rosary and St. Albert the Great.

For the Children

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2012 GALA! APRIL 27