KUDOS TO OUR EIGHTH GRADERS — THE CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATES!

Congratulations to the Class of 2017! On Friday evening, June 9, 99 Eighth Grade students graduated from St. Raymond Elementary School. Our pastor, Father Cruz, was the celebrant. The graduation ceremony took place at St. Raymond Church following Mass. This year’s Salutatorian was Carina Medrano and Valedictorian was Jaileen Wales. In addition to the awarding of diplomas, awards for scholarship and excellence, as well as for subjects, were given out at the graduation ceremony. Here are just a few things about the Class of 2017 that make them special:

• 22 of our graduates have attended St. Raymond Elementary School since either Pre-K or Kindergarten.
• 12 of our graduates have had perfect attendance.
• 12 of our graduates are members of the Junior Honor Society.
• 7 of our graduates are altar servers.
• 15 of our graduates have siblings in our school.
• 99% of our graduates took the TACHS exam and 99% of those students were accepted into Catholic high schools.

We are so proud of our graduates. Best wishes as they go on to high school and all the new adventures that await them there. Congratulations and thank you to their families for the sacrifices they made so that their children could receive a Catholic education.

TYROS WIN STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP!
MARCHING BAND WINS BEST MARCHING UNIT!

Congratulations to our athletic teams for another great year. The undefeated Tyros won the School, Parish, Bronx/Manhattan CYO and New York State Championships. Melissa Torres is their coach.

Congratulations also to the Boys Varsity, who won the CYO Bronx/Manhattan Championship, and to our Marching Band, which was chosen the Best Grade School Marching Unit in the Yonkers St. Patrick’s Day Parade on McLean Avenue for the second time.

Kudos to all of you, to our Athletic Director, Bridgette Guzman, and to all our coaches for a great year!
Dear Alumni and Friends of St. Raymond Elementary School,

The 2016-2017 school year was a year of change. It was my first year as pastor of St. Raymond Parish and it was Sr. Patricia Brito’s last year as principal of St. Raymond Elementary School. I have chosen Eugene Scanlon as the school’s interim principal. While change is sometimes difficult, it also provides us with an opportunity to stretch ourselves and to see things from a new perspective.

Reflecting on the completion of my first school year as St. Raymond’s pastor, I am happy to say that watching and being a part of instructing our children in the Catholic faith has been a joyous experience. The most important work going on in not only the Elementary School but in all our schools is helping our students to strengthen and live out their Catholic faith. We do that every day in our schools with gratifying results. Throughout the school year, our Elementary School students attended the celebration of Mass in the school’s auditorium from the Mass of the Holy Spirit in September to the end of the year Mass in June and various other times in between. In May, 49 children made their First Holy Communion and 52 made their Confirmation. Our students participated in Family Faith Formation Sundays, served as altar servers and lectors, collected food for the poor, and garnered service hours helping others. I am proud of them and grateful for their parents’ participation as well. The majority of our recent graduates took the TACHS exam and most of them are attending Catholic high schools.

To our administration and faculty, our parents and families, our parishioners and friends, thank you for your support this past year. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding school year ahead and wish you all God’s grace and blessings.

Faithfully in Christ,

Father James Cruz
Pastor

Dear Alumni and Friends of St. Raymond’s,

The end of the school year always means change. Eighth graders graduate and move on to high school; students move up from one grade to another; and sometimes our faculty move from one classroom to another. This year, school’s end also signaled a change in administration as our principal Sr. Patricia Brito moved on and Fr. Cruz appointed me interim principal. I am excited about the year ahead and plan to work with our staff to continue doing the wonderful work we do here at St. Raymond Elementary School.

As always, we are first and foremost a Catholic school. Our mission is not just to educate children. It is to educate them in the Catholic faith. We do that through our faith formation and sacramental instruction programs. I am delighted to tell you that 49 students made their First Communion in April and 52 students made their Confirmation in May. Ninety-five percent of our students passed the Archdiocesan Religion Exam. We are proud of our students and their commitment to the Catholic faith. One example of our faith in action is our continued outreach to those less fortunate. This year, we again participated in the Feed Our Neighbors food drive sponsored by Catholic Charities of New York and collected around 2,400 cans of food, which were distributed to local food pantries to help those in need in our own neighborhood.

The second half of our school year was as busy and productive as the first half. Hundreds of samples of our students’ artwork were again showcased in the annual Parish Art Show in March. In April, Grades 1 through 5 performed in The Sound Tracks of Our Lives, our annual Spring Show. In addition, our students participated in our annual Science Fair and Spelling Bee, and for the second consecutive year students in some of our classes dressed as their favorite characters — real or fictional — on Character Day. In June, we had 22 eighth graders pass the NYS Algebra I Common Core Regents and 23 eighth graders pass the Living Environment Regents Exam.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Eugene Scanlon
Interim Principal
OUR JANUARY-JUNE HAPPENINGS

Sisters of Charity Celebrate 200th Anniversary

First Grade Character Day

McLean Avenue St. Patrick’s Parade

Tristate Italian-American Award Winners

Parish Art Show

Science Fair Winners

Spring Show

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OUR JANUARY-JUNE HAPPENINGS

First Communion

May Crowning

Confirmation

Pre-K3 Moving Up Ceremony

UPK Moving Up Ceremony

Kindergarten Moving Up Ceremony

End of Year Mass

Ice Cream Social

Photos by Annemarie Sanseverino