

## Parents' Association Candidate Biographies 2018

### **President Candidate**

#### *Noreen Mormando*

My name is Noreen Mormando and I am running for re-election for President of the Parents' Association. I am married to John and have two children who are current students at St. Brigid Our Lady of Hope school. My oldest child, Christopher, is in his first year of the Middle School and my daughter Victoria is in Miss Barnett's fourth grade class. I grew up in Sea Cliff, attended North Shore High School and have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and Administration from Adelphi University. I have been working full time in Human Resources at JP Morgan Chase in New York City for the last 24 years and currently hold the title of Executive Director within the firm's Investment Bank.

I have been very active in the Parents Association since we joined the school 5 years ago, the last two year's serving as Parents' Association President. I have been the co-chair of the Fashion Show committee since 2015 and have also participated in many of the school's committees, most notably the Vegas Night, Street Fair and Golf Committees. And I have also been a class parent every year we have been in the school. In 2015, I researched and implemented the school's School Supply Program. In addition, since becoming President I have begun an annual Hersheypark ticket fundraiser, brought back the Barnes & Noble bookfair and partnered with new restaurants for our frequent dine-in fundraisers. Under my leadership our Parents' Association has not only met but exceeded our annual fundraising goals. Lastly, I successfully petitioned the school board to increase the annual participation credit from 40 hours per year to 60 hours, without increasing the participation contribution parents' pay at registration.

My professional experience, commitment as a volunteer, and being a working parent has given me an appreciation for attention to detail, planning, communication, multitasking and deadlines. My motto is always give a project to the busiest person you know, they will always find a way to get it done.

I look forward to continuing to serve our school as President.

### **Vice President Candidates**

#### *Nicole Auguste*

"Good, things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle (Martin Luther King Jr.)." Hi my name is Nicole Johnson- Auguste and I am running for Vice President of the Parents' Association. Let me tell you a little about myself. I have two wonderful kids that attend St. Brigid/ Our Lady of Hope School. My children are Kimora and Aniyah. Kimora is currently in Mr. Rogers' 4<sup>th</sup> grade class and Aniyah attends the toddler program in Mrs. Ruggolo's class. I grew up on Long Island and I am an alumna from Holy Trinity High school. In 2013, I graduated from St. John's University with my Bachelors in Criminal Justice. I am a Paralegal for a Law Firm and I am also a Medical Secretary for NYU Winthrop.

I work alongside one lawyer and I manage over 50 clients and assist doing Landlord & Tenant, Real Estate and Wills and Estates. At NYU Winthrop, I am a part of the Activities Committee for the whole hospital. We come up with events and fun things for the staff to do all year round. Also, I am one of the voices for a campaign throughout the Hospital; it is called Care, Compromise & Compassionate. My role is to find ways and ideas to have all employees send out the same message to all patients and their families.

Currently, I am the Chairperson for lunch in our school. I oversee 22 volunteers; manage inventory of our children's snacks, milk and ice cream. I assist the volunteers whenever I am around in the school. This is my first time doing this and I have made changes to the lunch room too. From equipping our lunchroom, my family donated a snack rack in which the chips would look nicer and presentable to our kids and staff. We just want to make things easier for the volunteers and most importantly our children. From occasional early mornings to late nights, my husband and I go to the school to restock the snacks and check that everything is up to date and not expired. The Hershey's Chocolate Fundraiser, in which my husband was Chairperson; I assisted him every day with management. The fundraiser netted over \$7,000.00 which benefits our school in a major way.

## Parents' Association Candidate Biographies 2018

I love St. Brigid school and as your Vice President I promise to be your voice and will utilize my skills in conflict resolutions and practical decision making while identifying key issues.

### *Elizabeth Copeland*

My name is Elizabeth Copeland, and my daughter, Jennifer, currently attends St. Brigid Our Lady of Hope Regional School. She is in Miss Barnett's fourth grade class. I grew up in Westbury, attending St. Agnes High School in Uniondale, and Westbury High School. I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from SUNY Old Westbury in 1997, and a Masters of Business Administration from St. John's University in 2003. I am currently employed as a Supply Chain Analyst at Northwell Health in New Hyde Park.

I try to be as active as I can with volunteering for the school. I have been a part of the Christmas Boutique, Mother's Day Plant Sales, assisted with distribution of the cakes and gift wrap after the sales, Thanksgiving Luncheon, the book fair, and of course the Parent Association. In addition, I have been serving as Secretary on the Parents' Association Board since being elected in 2016.

I have previously been an active member, and former Board Member for the Junior League of Long Island, and a member of the Finance Council at St. Patrick's Church in Glen Cove. I am also a member of Slow Food North Shore, volunteering when I am able.

My profession, previous volunteer experience, and being a working parent have given me an appreciation for attention to details, planning, communication and deadlines.

### *Myla Marcelo*

My name is Myla Marcelo, and I'm running for Vice President of the Parents' Association. For many years I have been one of the most dedicated and active parents of St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope. I have two children, Victoria and Christopher. My daughter Victoria attended STBOLH beginning in First grade, graduated in June 2014 and is now a senior Sacred Heart Academy; she will be matriculating into the College of the Holy Cross in the fall. My son Christopher started in the school in mommy and me and is currently in the fourth grade currently in Mr. Rogers class. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Radiologic Technology and have worked for the last 12 years as Surgical Case management coordinator for an Ophthalmology group affiliated to Winthrop Hospital.

My volunteer service to the school goes back to the very beginning when my children started attending the school. I fell in love with the school and found myself getting involved in all of its major events; the Golf Outing, Mother's Day Plant Sale, Catholic Schools Week, and my all-time favorite, the Fashion Show. In fact, my husband and I have been sponsors for the Golf Outing and Fashion Show for many years. In addition to assisting with those events I have been the chairperson of the Hospitality committee for more than a decade and host some of my favorite events: the Spooky Supper, Breakfast with Santa and the school's Multicultural events. As if all of this wasn't enough, I have been serving students in the lunchroom every Wednesday for more than ten years now and have been my son's class mom for several years as well. Outside of school my husband Hector and I are also quite active with the very successful Westbury/Carle Place Wildcats baseball travel team, which Hector helped to create. I am a founder of the Filipino-American Scholarship Program here at school which we have been blessed to be able to give out a scholarship to an 8th grade student every year since its inception.

Lastly, I have the experience necessary to become your Parents' Association Vice President having previously served in the position from 2014-2016. As your VP, I look forward to continuing to serve our school and helping it be the best it can be for the years to come.

## Parents' Association Candidate Biographies 2018

### *Nancy Wygand*

My name is Nancy Wygand and I am married to John Wygand and we are the proud parents of John Wygand, who has been at the school since Kindergarten and is currently a student in Ms. Nappi's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class at St. Brigid Our Lady of Hope. You are probably more likely to know my son as "Duke" as that is his nickname and the handle he much prefers (to the chagrin of his Dad who shares the name John Wygand!) - and I am running for election as Vice President of the Parents' Association.

I am a Long Island native having grown up in Port Washington. I graduated from Paul D. Schreiber High School and then SUNY Albany earning BA degrees in political science and history. Post SUNY I started working full time and after stops at a few different companies, including the National Basketball Association and Tommy Hilfiger, I found myself at the National Football League, where I have been working full time for the past 11 years. I am not a place kicker or quarterback though; I am the Director of Trademark & Brand Protection – maybe not as cool as being a QB...but I like it and it has afforded me great opportunities to learn and grow.

Since joining the STBOLH family 3 years ago, I have been an active, reliable parent volunteer. Although I do work full time, I make it a priority to be visible and to assist in the numerous initiatives our PA undertakes to help ensure that our children have a school experience that is second to none. On a more personal note, it is also very important to me as Duke's mom, for him to know that I am committed to working together with the other school parents in the name of bettering our school, where possible, to the benefit of him and his friends!

To that end, over the past three years I have participated as a volunteer at many of our school events. I have been a member each of my 3 years of the Annual Golf Outing Committee and was the co-chair of the event last year – and I am pleased to say we exceeded our fundraising goals! I have taken that role on again and am looking forward to working to make it another success. I have also been a member of the Fashion Show Committee for the past 3 years, taking on the role of model co-coordinator and coordinator respectively, the last 2 years. I have been a member of the Murder Mystery Night committee as well.

On a somewhat related note, I have been a very active fund-raising committee member of the Port Washington – Manhasset Chapter of Cancer Care and am a life-long member of the charity. This is a cause that was close to my mother's heart and I worked with her and her friends since I was a kid on charity fund raising events. The number of walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, candy sales, variety shows (yes, variety show) etc. that I participated in and/or helped to organize since before I was in high school is too many to count – Although, CC has taken a little bit of a backseat since Duke has arrived on the scene, my experience of working with the charity (as well as my professional experience) has been invaluable and taught me skills that have positioned me well to assist at STBOLH.

STBOLH is a fantastic place, full of beautiful people and at the end of the day, I just want to help and I will continue to work hard and find ways to participate – this is something that I am committed to doing as it is important for our kids.

### **Secretary Candidates**

#### *Juanita Hall*

My name is Juanita Hall and I am running for Parents' Association Secretary. I am married to my husband Carlton Hall for eleven years, and we have one son together, Joshua Hall who is currently in the fourth grade. We have been a part of the St. Brigid's family now for five amazing years. Joshua is in Miss Barnett's fourth grade class. He is on Student Council, Chess Club, and he plays Flag Football in the fall with his fellow St. Brigid's classmates for the Carle Place League. He is currently and has been for five years on the St. Brigid's CYO track team.

## Parents' Association Candidate Biographies 2018

I am originally from Brooklyn, I moved to Queens as a young teenager where I would attend high school. I moved to Long Island when I was twenty-one years old and made this my permanent home. I have an Associates degree from Nassau Community College, and a Bachelor's Degree from Queens College. I work full time for First American Title Insurance Company.

I have tried to be very active in St. Brigid's events and fundraisers as much as I can. I have volunteered every year since I've been a part of the St. Brigid family. I have been class parent twice, I have volunteered for Spooky Super, Vegas Night, Breakfast with Santa, Volunteered and Served on the Fashion Show Committee. I am currently on the Centennial 5K Committee where we will be hosting a 5k run in November in celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> year, I will also be a runner. Recently I participated in the 5k run for Tomorrow's Hope representing St. Brigid's, and I am and have been a track coach for St. Brigid's CYO track team for the last four years.

I love to be around people, I love to serve and I want to do my part in keeping with the spirit of the school. I feel so fortunate that I am able to send my son Joshua Hall to a school where he not only gets an excellent education but he also gets an extended family. We have made so many friends here that they have become more like family. I know at any given time I can call more than a handful of moms in this school if I was ever in need who would have my back with no questions asked.

St. Brigid's has really has been a God send for us, we travel daily from Massapequa to attend this school, it has meant so much to our lives, I want to give back in any way that I can. I would consider it a privilege to be your new Parent's Association Secretary.

### ***Priscilla MacDonald***

My name is Priscilla MacDonald and I am running for Secretary of the Parents' Association. I am married and have three children -Gavin, Giselle, and Tristan who attend St. Brigid/Our Lady Of Hope. My twins Gavin and Giselle are 2nd graders preparing for their First Communion & Tristan is a Kindergartner.

I grew up in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti and attended Catholic School—Saint Louis De Bourdon. I moved to the United States Of America in 1987. I attended Tilden High School in Brooklyn. I graduated with an Associate's degree in Paralegal Studies from Nassau Community College and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from SUNY Old Westbury.

I have been a stay at home Mom for the past eight years. Since October of 2017 I have been working as a receptionist/surgical coordinator in an Ophthalmologist's office.

I am currently a class parent for my son Gavin's class-2A Ms. Nappi. I also volunteer as a lunch mom and at other events such as the Spooky Super and Breakfast with Santa. I am a team player who is dedicated and committed to my work and I look forward to being more involved in the continued success of our school.

### ***Jo-Ellen Murray***

My name is Jo-Ellen Foti-Murray and I was nominated to run for Secretary of the Parents Association. I accept that nomination! I have been part of the St. Brigid's school family for the past four years; however, my husband David Murray attended St. Brigid's as a child – and his 8th grade graduation picture still hangs on the wall outside of the Chapel. Our daughter Jordan continues the legacy and has attended St. Brigid's since Nursery and is currently in Mrs. Bentsen's 1st grade class. Jordan followed in the footsteps of her Dad and both of her Murray Aunts as my husband and his sisters all attended St. Brigid's throughout the 1970s and 1980's. Jordan

## Parents' Association Candidate Biographies 2018

wears her uniform proudly and loves attending St. Brigid's. She recently performed in the Spring Dance Recital, and we all enjoyed the Family Fun Night /Father Daughter Dance this past February, as well as the annual Spooky Supper which is our family favorite!

My home town is Long Beach Island, New Jersey. I attended New York University earning a double major undergraduate degree in Performing Arts from Tisch School of the Arts and a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. With a thirst for knowledge – I went on to graduate from Dickinson School of Law in Pennsylvania. With a zest for travel, I headed west and continued my career soul search and ultimately found myself back in school obtaining my Masters in Social Work – which would become my life's passion/work graduating Magna Cum Laude from California State University at Long Beach. I continued travelling and moved to London, Great Britain where I worked as Social Worker in Uxbridge/Hillingdon gaining more life experience than I could have ever imagined. When I moved back to the states, I accepted a job with a foster agency in Manhattan and met my husband David - we fell in love, married at St. Brigid's Church, and I made his hometown of Westbury my home too. I work full-time at Northwell Health in Cohen Children's Medical Center as the Social Worker in the Pediatric Level 1 Trauma Center/Emergency Department, a position that I have held proudly for the past 12 years.

I am thrilled to be volunteering this year for the Spring Fashion show selling raffle tickets at mass, wrapping gift baskets and participating as one of the models for the Westbury Manor Masquerade themed event. I look forward to becoming more involved with St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope's school and parish this year and in the years ahead. Although I may be new to the Parents Association, my training, profession, and my life experiences have equipped me with the skills and inclination to hit the ground running. Working with children and their loved ones in crisis situations the past two decades has ingrained upon me an insight and disposition that allows for a very down-to-earth approach with families and relationships, as well as the importance of working as a team in achieving positive outcomes. Being a member of the PA would be a welcome change from the intense setting of my daily profession and I look forward to it. Our family loves St. Brigid's and all it stands for, and it would truly be an honor to give back to the school and STB/OLH community by serving as the Secretary of the Parents Association.

### ***Mindi Rogers***

My name is Mindi Rogers and I am running Secretary of the Parents Association. My husband's name is Adam and we have two children who are current students at St. Brigid's Our Lady of Hope school. Luke and Elizabeth are twins and just turned 6 and are both currently in Ms. Brady's kindergarten class. As our children were preemies having spent a week in the NICU, I volunteer to sew premie shirts for a group called Twenty Five and Four that provides easy access shirts for micro preemies and babies in the NICU. I have also been a volunteer baker for Birthday Wishes, an organization on Long Island that provides birthday parties for children in homeless shelters.

I am originally from Michigan and moved to New York in 2002. For the past 13 years, I have worked for Atos as the Service Delivery Project Manager for the technology relocation project management team in Morgan Stanley Corporate Services.

I have attended every Parents Association meeting this year and do volunteer lunch duty Thursdays. Up until the spring break we also did Friday lunch duty and have also volunteered for the Christmas Boutique, the senior thanksgiving lunch and chaired the Spring Candy Sale.

My husband and I believe strongly in supporting the school and community. We feel it's very important to be involved and to have a connection between home and school life for our kids.

I look forward to serving as the Secretary of the Parents Association.

## Parents' Association Candidate Biographies 2018

### *Jennifer Straubinger*

My name is Jennifer Straubinger, and it is with great enthusiasm that I announce that I am running for the position of Secretary of the Parent's Association for St. Brigid/OLH Regional School. I have been married to my husband, Dave, for 17 years now, and we have one daughter, Isabel, who is currently in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I grew up in Queens and graduated from Forest Hills High School with honors. I received my Bachelor of Arts *summa cum laude* in Elementary and Childhood Education and Sociology from Queens College. I later received my Master of Arts in Education and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from Adelphi University. I then received a second Masters in Language and Literacy from the City University of New York. In 1997, I began my career as an English Teacher for the New York City Department of Education. For the past 20 years, I have been a 6<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher at Intermediate School 230 in Jackson Heights, Queens. In addition to my role in the classroom, I have also served my school in the following capacity: *Comprehensive Educational Plan Committee Member, Presenter of Staff Development Workshops, Turn-key Trainer for Teacher's College, Founder of the Mentor/Mentee Program* for at-risk students, *Mentor in the ELA Department* for new teachers, *Lead Fundraiser for the Penny Harvest*, and *Consultation Committee Member* focusing on school policies, budget, safety, and professional development.

Thirteen years ago, my husband and I made Westbury our home. It was at that time, that we became part of the St. Brigid's Family. Our daughter, now 11, began her journey at St. Brigid's when she was just two and half years old. Since that time, my family and I have taken on a very active role in the school community, a community that is near and dear to our hearts. During the past 9 years, I have served the school in the following capacity: *Chairperson for the Barnes and Noble Book Fair, Fashion Show Committee Member, Class Parent for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years, and Weekly Lunch Duty*. I have also assisted on a variety of other committees and participated in various events throughout our tenure at St. Brigid/OLH. Additionally, along with my husband, I am the *Co-Coordinator of the St. Brigid's CYO Track Team*. My responsibilities include: *collaborating with various organizations in order to obtain permits, insurance, and usage of track facilities, maintaining the CYO page on St. Brigid's website, monetary transactions, social media communication, maintaining ongoing communication with parents, coaches, and track officials, and organizing the track awards luncheon...*just to name a few.

I firmly believe that my strong work ethic, commitment to volunteering, extensive experience in the education field, and my unwavering passion to improve our school community would make me a valuable contribution to the Parent's Association. I have always believed that it takes a village to raise children, and I am both honored and humbled to be part of this village...St. Brigid/OLH Regional School. I look forward to having the opportunity to serve as Secretary for the St. Brigid's Parent's Association and to continue serving our children and school community.