

Putting Faith Into Action



Dedicated to Service

The Key Club is an Upper School student group that is dedicated to helping others. The students in this club initiate and facilitate service opportunities for the school community by sponsoring projects throughout the school year. This club is an official Key Club chapter with sponsorship by the Kenwood/Madeira/Silverton Kiwanis Club.

This year the Key Club raised over \$3,400 to support a variety of efforts and communal needs. Students discuss proposed projects, choose a project, and launch the project by conducting a presentation on the service opportunity at a school assembly.

The following are several examples of this year's Key Club projects:

- A Back to School Supply Drive to benefit students at Corryville Catholic, Silverton Paideia, and Rothenberg Elementary schools;
- The Haitian Orphanage Project raised \$895;
- A Winter Coat Drive for the West End Emergency Center;
- The Sierra Leone Brick by Brick School Building Project raised \$750;
- Thirty-four Thanksgiving food baskets donated to families of Rothenberg Elementary School;
- The Giving Tree Project provided over 160 presents for students at St. Francis DeSales School;
- UNIFAT Project raised \$600 for a Uganda school and housing project that will sponsor education and room and board for two students for a year;
- Memory Project raised \$300 for portraits to be painted and framed of orphans in other countries. These are sent to the children as "keep-sakes" from their childhood.
- Foreign Language Academy Project purchased flags of the various countries which represent the students who attend this new school.
- The Key Club raised \$550 which was given to the Leukemia Lymphoma Society in memory of Emil Nelson, a beloved Middle School teacher.
- The Shantytown Project raised awareness of the struggles of the homeless through a 30-hour student experience.

According to Mr. Mike Johnson, Upper School Religion teacher and Key Club moderator, "The Key Club has once again led our community in service to people locally, nationally, and internationally. Key Club members struggle with the very real dilemma of weighing the needs of people seeking assistance with our ability to respond. They have led projects that not only raise awareness and provide relief, but also challenge us to respond with a charity that treats the symptoms of the problem and a justice that addresses the root causes of the problem."

Demonstrating Leadership



Diversity and Inclusion in the Middle School

This year The Diversity and Inclusion (D & I) Team expanded its activities to promote awareness and respect into the Middle School. According to Señora Ynggrid Thurston, Spanish teacher and D & I coordinator, "Everyone in the Middle School is a member of this team. Our mission as stated in our character pledge is to appreciate and celebrate our differences."

Each quarter a specific focus regarding diversity was highlighted by the following topics:

- **First Quarter-The Definition of Diversity:** Students discussed what diversity meant to them during advisement. They designed a poster that described their team's definition. Pictures of the advisement group and their definition were displayed throughout the Middle School.
- **Second Quarter-Poverty:** Students discussed the causes of poverty in the United States and wrote about this through a forum format on Blackboard. Following research and discussions, posters were created stating facts on poverty. This corresponded with the holiday canned food drive.
- **Third Quarter-Physical Disabilities:** A guest presenter from the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired spoke about services for the blind. Mr. Mike Johnson spoke about sign language, and Mr. Mark Wiesner spoke about volunteering for Radio Reading Services.
- **Fourth Quarter-Multicultural Festival Classroom Activities:** Each week students participated in numerous activities from scavenger hunts to PA announcements that focused on the featured countries of Peru, Egypt, Turkey, and South Korea.

Along with sixty other students from other independent schools, ten Middle School students participated in two Circles of Diversity Middle School conferences. The first conference, held at Seven Hills School, was designed to build leadership skills by addressing the issues of self-awareness and one's identity in relation to others. The second conference, held at The Summit, addressed building strong interpersonal relationships, gaining insight into leadership, listening, and learning communicative skills in order for students to be more effective in carrying out the diversity mission of their schools, and for students to understand how these strengths influence their peers in positive directions. Students shared what they learned from these conferences and have been busy planning future diversity and inclusion activities for their fellow students.

May 2008

CREDO

The Summit's Educating for Character Program

Our Story

It has been an outstanding school year for *Credo* accomplishments!

Our responsibility as parents and educators is to provide the opportunities and guidance that will allow your children and our students to grow as people of character.

Our students are involved in many of these initiatives offered to them by our faculty. As always, I have enjoyed working with faculty and students on projects that promote character development, and I would like to share with you some Summit highlights:

- **Exploring Spirituality: To Make a Difference**
- **Developing a Moral Compass: All I Ever Needed I Learned at The Summit**
- **Building Partnerships: Living in the Spirit of Saint Julie Billiart**
- **Enhancing Diversity: A Three Day Cultural Celebration**
- **Learning Values Through Academics: Making Wishes Come True**
- **Putting Faith Into Action: Dedicated to Service**
- **Demonstrating Leadership: Diversity and Inclusion in the Middle School**

Together, we work both at home and at school to provide a culture of character as a lifestyle for your children and our students. We salute all who are involved in this endeavor.

We wish you a relaxing and character-enriching family summer. We are planning for our students many events for a fantastic 2008-2009 school year. Please enjoy the May *Credo* report.

Mary F. Brinkmeyer

Mary Foss Brinkmeyer '67
Assistant Head

Exploring Spirituality

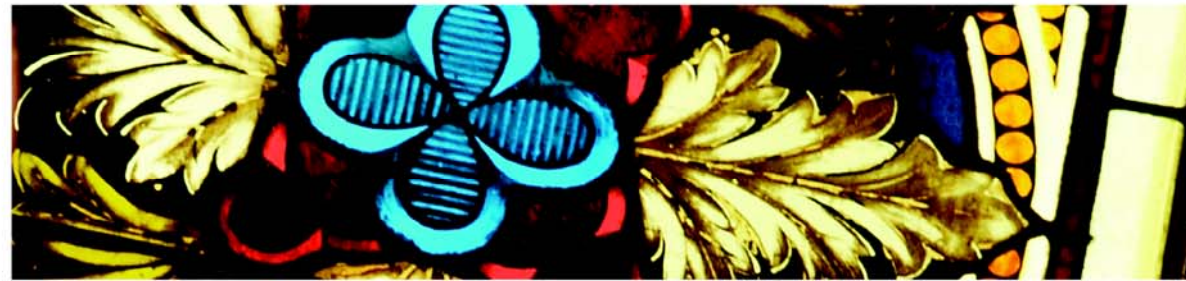


To Make a Difference

The Summit was founded 118 years ago by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in order to provide an excellent academic and spiritually based education for its students. *Credo*, the school's Educating for Character Program, continues this mission. Fostering values is incorporated within the daily life of the student, most especially within the curriculum as evidenced by Mr. Kurtis Smith's seventh grade religion classes. Mr. Smith's students were given an assignment to develop a "To Make a Difference" project. Each of his five classes was challenged to "come up with a unique idea to do something for someone else without an expectation of gaining anything in return – to do something that may effect change or to inspire others to want to make a difference." Students in each class were given a few days to decide on the project for their group. They needed to identify the challenge, define what needed to be done, assign roles and responsibilities to each member of the project team, and strategize the steps to be implemented. Mr. Smith was extremely impressed with their "take charge" leadership with these projects. He reports, "Each group of students worked diligently to organize and implement these projects with minimal adult intervention." The student projects provided impressive results:

- **Saving the Environment** – Students researched environmental issues. They created a "How to Save the Environment" poster and visited Springer School to share their research with first through fourth graders.
- **Pay It Forward** – Students watched the movie, *Pay It Forward*, which featured acts of kindness for others without receiving anything in return. They visited Springer School and shared the theme of this video with second graders. They discussed ideas for projects to help others and illustrated these ideas on tee-shirts that were given to each student.
- **Appreciating and Recognizing The Summit Support Staff** – Students organized and led a "thank you" surprise party for the maintenance and food service departments. The students decorated Knights Hall; prepared sandwiches, desserts, and punch; gave an appreciation presentation; and led a "getting to know you" round-robin session.
- **Sportsmanship** – Students researched the qualities of good sportsmanship and shared this information with Summit fourth grade students. They discussed "how to cherish winning and to lose with grace." The students played soccer and demonstrated sportsmanship by role-modeling these qualities.
- **Animal Shelter** – The students' goal was to raise \$400 in four days to save four cats at the local animal shelter. Within that week they raised \$530 and donated cat beds and animal toys to the shelter. When visiting the shelter, the students saw what they could accomplish to effect positive change for animals.

Students concluded this project with personal reflection papers and discussions on their "To Make a Difference" project experiences.



Developing a Moral Compass



“To work at the formation of our character is sometimes the labor of a whole lifetime.”

- Saint Julie Billiart

The Upper School Formation Program is an enriching experience for students. Beginning the first day of school, during Ignition Day, freshmen learn about the school's mission, and this learning experience continues through various program opportunities during the next four years. Prior to Thanksgiving, students, faculty, and staff participate in Formation Days that comprise three days of retreat, service, and leadership activities designed to create time for students to reflect and grow in their relationship with God, others, and self.

To continue this growth and reflection, Upper School students, along with the guidance of the Student Senate, plan and organize a Community Forum each quarter of the school year. Each Community Forum focuses on a topic that is of interest to the student body. The key to the success of this program is the follow-up reflections by students when they gather in their advisements to discuss what was presented. This year's forum included the following topics: "Charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur" presented by Dr. Pat White and Mr. Jerry Jellig; "All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned at The Summit" presented by the 2007-08 Student Senate; and "Making the Right Choices" presented by Andrew Campbell '98.

During the "All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned at The Summit" presentation, the 2007-08 Student Senate gave short narratives on what it is about The Summit that makes the school so special. They summarized their Summit experience with the following responses:

At The Summit we...

- Learn the importance of prayer • Know that great teachers inspire
- Learn to throw yourself into it • Believe that "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." – Einstein • Work hard. Play hard
- Find out "Nothing is permanent in this world – not even our troubles." – Charlie Chaplin • Value others • Appreciate friendships - "Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of life's best gifts...appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another." – Confucius
- Understand that "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." – Henry Ford
- Learn to plan. "It Wasn't Raining When Noah Built the Ark." – Dr. Joseph Bordogna

We thank the Senate for their shared wisdom and for the student body discussions that followed on these topics.

Building Partnerships



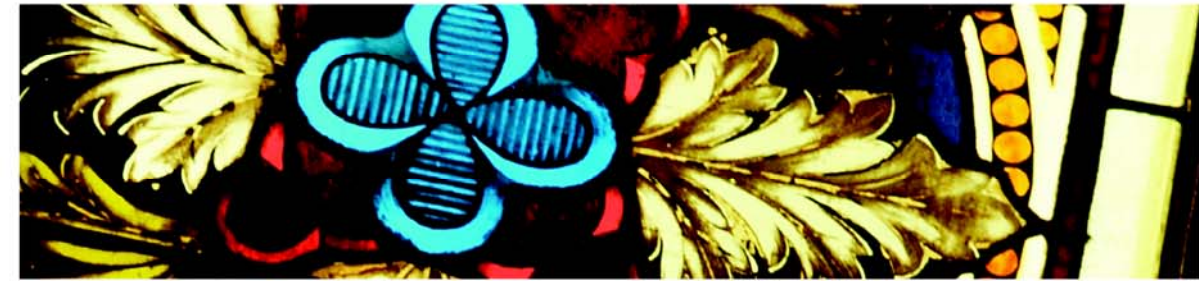
Living in the Spirit of Saint Julie Billiart

The Summit community partnered with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in numerous projects throughout the school year. Having joined the Notre Dame Virtual School community, this world-wide network links The Summit to other Notre Dame schools around the world. Summit sixth grade students, along with Sister Joan Krimm, SNDdeN, students from Notre Dame in Norwich, England, and students from Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton, Ohio, participated in a video conference about Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, who worked endlessly to protect the Amazon Rainforest and its people. Lower School students honored Sister Dorothy Stang with a "We Remember Sister Dorothy" prayer service. After their study of the rainforest, first graders created their own rainforest and hosted a luncheon for the Sisters to discuss the life of Sister Dorothy. Upper School students planned and led a dedication ceremony that named the newly renovated fourth floor in Sister Dorothy's honor.

Once a month, Middle School students and parent volunteers visited the after-school program to host Fun Fridays at Corryville Catholic, a Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur school. The students shared a nutritious snack and then had fun playing games, reading stories, assembling puzzles, and drawing. In addition, students participated in Make-A-Difference Day by volunteering at two local agencies operated by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. One group went to Venice on Vine, a pizza parlor and catering service, that gives hands-on business training to inner-city residents. A second group went to the West End Center and cleaned fourth floor office space that will house the AmeriCorps Cincinnati volunteers.

Twice a week throughout the school year students in the Middle School Writers' Club met to write with the goal of writing a short novel about The Summit. The students began by brainstorming ideas of plot, character, and setting. Who better to ask for help than the Sisters of Notre Dame! The Sisters who were interviewed influenced the plot and the characters immensely. Mr. Pat Kelly, Summit English teacher and historian, gave the students a historical tour of the school which helped create the setting. The result – **Faded Secrets** – is an enthralling work of fiction based upon The Summit's historical past. Please do not miss reading this novel. The book signing is in May!

As always, each division of The Summit celebrated the feast day of Saint Julie Billiart, the foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, with prayer services that honored Saint Julie's life.



Embracing Diversity



A Three Day Cultural Celebration

Through music, dance, cultural exhibits, and even dessert, students at The Summit experienced the countries of Egypt, Turkey, Peru, and South Korea as part of the fifth annual Multicultural Festival. Last year China, Columbia, Germany, and Nigeria were featured.

Students began the week with a Dessert Food Festival during lunch time. Students had the opportunity to sample many different desserts of the world. Among the many treats prepared by parents were German Pfeffernusse cookies; Italian Pizzelles and Biscotti; Danish Spritz; Belgium Profiteroles; Scottish shortbread cookies; Mexican wedding cookies; Egyptian Basbousa; and Korean Mandoo dumplings. In addition, the Upper School Cooking Club prepared Turkish Baklava and Peruvian and Korean cookies.

Students viewed exhibits from Egypt, Peru, Turkey, and South Korea. These exhibits "brought the countries to life" as they depicted native architecture, food, clothing, jewelry, schools, homes, currency, and art. Students also experienced interactive performances from the four featured countries. Dances from Egypt and Turkey were presented, and Grand Master Kyongwon Ahn and students of Ahn Taekwondo Institute demonstrated this Korean martial art form in Kyte Theater. The Cincinnati Zoo conducted an interactive presentation featuring birds from Peru, Turkey, and Egypt, and Peruvian Alpacas were displayed and petted on the Flannery patio.

During the month of April, the entire Summit faculty incorporated cultural coursework and advisement activities into the curricula. Games and activities of each country were featured on the school's website for faculty and students to access. Students' artworks and projects were proudly displayed.

Each day Father Phil Seher emailed to the faculty and staff a prayer that celebrated the featured countries and the United States. The festival culminated with an all-school Multicultural Mass, "Celebrating a Diversity of Cultures," featuring a Montessori parade of costumes and flags with music by the Middle School Band. Students and faculty dressed in clothes representative of their native heritage or favorite country. After Mass, The Lion of Babylon Studio performed Egyptian and Turkish dances.

The Summit thanks the Multicultural Festival Chairwoman, Mrs. Teri Comber, and her committee of parents, faculty, staff, and students for everything they did to orchestrate such an educational and memorable week. If you would like to exhibit your country and/or perform next year, please contact Teri Comber, rcb2fosse3@aol.com.

Learning Values Through Academics



Making Wishes Come True

Since 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has enriched the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions through its wish-granting program. A wish experience is a source of inspiration and a positive force that helps children overcome their obstacles. There are four steps to granting a wish: a referral, medical eligibility, finding the true wish, and creating joy by granting the wish.

In the firm belief that children should use their creativity to help others, our Lower School students in first through third grades made ceramic bells topped with an animal. They made two, one to keep and one to sell. Many gave both to be sold as they understood that the money raised would go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Cincinnati. William was our inspiration. William, a Montessori student, is eligible for a wish from the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Summit Lower School students challenged, through the Ohio Art Education Association, students across the state to create bells in their art classes and then to sell them to earn money for the foundation. Eleven Cincinnati schools joined The Summit in this endeavor. With a fantastic response, the bells were sold at the Pendleton Arts Center during the March Final Friday. From that evening and the weeks that followed, \$3,000 was collected from "bell sales" for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Art teacher Mrs. Jan Wiesner said, "Our students were proud that they were the catalyst for this project, and, through their art classes, they were able with their creativity to help earn a wish for a sick child."

Thanks to yet another incredible team of students, parents, and teachers, Summit fourth graders have raised over \$7000 for the Make-A-Wish program. Opting to replace the annual class party with an act of doing something for others, their goal is to grant one wish to one child. Students earned money for this cause in various ways, including bake sales at Summit basketball games, requesting donations in lieu of gifts at birthday parties, caroling at Christmas, chores at home, and asking for donations. The students also had craft parties to decorate tee-shirts specifically designed for the team. The "Summit 4th Grade Wish Grantors" team culminated this year-long endeavor by participating in the Walk for Wishes at the Cincinnati Zoo in May. Summit parent Mrs. Becky Hogya summarized these initiatives, "We and our children are blessed in so many ways – health, knowledge, Christian faith, family, and opportunity - what better way to celebrate our blessings than with an opportunity to *pay it forward*."