

## MPB is on Facebook!

Most Precious Blood School is on Facebook! Become a friend/fan. With everyone's busy schedule, it is hard to stay connected to family and friends. Now with social media web sites such as Facebook, keeping in touch just got a little easier. In preparation for the 50th Anniversary celebration next year, MPB has established a "public" profile to get in touch with former students, families and friends. To find us you must have internet access and log onto [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), sign up for a free account, then type in MPB Alums Denver. Check us out.



**Former MPB Pre-kidg Classes of 1995**



**Become the High School Graduates of 2009**

High School Graduates gathered for a celebratory brunch in April 2009. The list of college admissions and scholarships garnered by this group of former MPB students is impressive; from scholarships in academics, athletics, and music, to a Boettcher scholarship. Good Luck Class of 2009!!!

## Then and Now



### Fall 1960

When MPB School opened it only had six classrooms and only the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades.



### Spring 2009

Former MPB grads, Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing, "The Okee Dokee Brothers," instructed the MPB elementary grades. The room was electric as every song encouraged the kids to dance, sing, or play instruments. Find out more about The Okee Dokee Brothers online at [www.okeedokee.org](http://www.okeedokee.org).

## Blackboards are Now White and SMART.

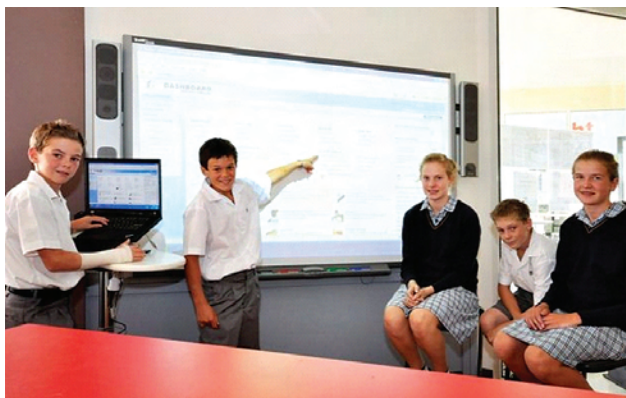
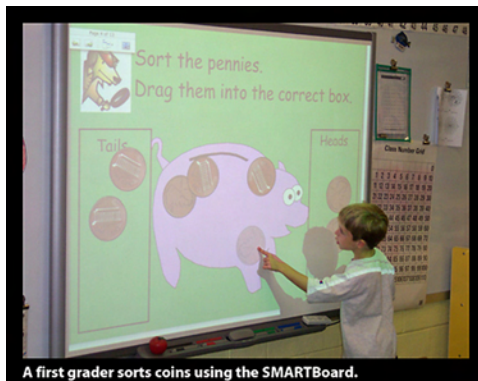
As the school year begins, MPB is excited to announce the addition of SMART Boards in seven classrooms. SMART Boards are 3 ft. by 4½ ft. interactive computer whiteboards that allow teachers to access the internet, provide learning games, even post notes or quizzes in a way that is interactive and effective for students. It all started with one teacher who was willing to do the very thing MPB teachers ask of their students: take risks, learn new skills, and persevere when things were not immediately easy.

When Ms. Lexi Tokarski stopped in to work in her fourth grade classroom the summer before last, Ms. McManamon, the principal, approached her about the possibility of being the teacher to pilot the SMART Board here at MPB. Ms. Tokarski, who had briefly seen a SMART Board used during her student teaching experience, was aware of some of the SMART Board's capabilities, and accepted the challenge.

With no training and no other educators in the building to guide her, Ms. Tokarski spent many hours in the fall of 2008 learning how to use the SMART Board. By December, Ms. Tokarski was able to introduce the SMART Board to the rest of the faculty. From there the enthusiasm spread, and six other teachers submitted requests for SMART Boards in their classrooms.

The possibilities of the SMART Board require a shift in thinking that many MPB teachers find exciting. Want to wrap up a novel unit in sixth grade by playing Jeopardy? Use the SMART Board. Need to help a seventh grader learn how to graph linear equations? The SMART Board has three "graph paper" backgrounds that are accessible in seconds. Looking for an

interactive learning game for a biology lesson? Current events and maps large enough for all the students to see? Vocabulary introduction? The SMART Board is yet another tool for teachers, and according to Tokarski and other teachers whose SMART Boards have recently been unpacked, the students are focused and enthusiastic in a new way.



Tokarski explains, "Today's students are growing up in a highly technological society. By using the SMART Board, students are seeing the technology that they are surrounded by in all other aspects of their lives being brought into the traditional classroom, and they are responding to it positively." Trevor, a student of Ms. Tokarski, knows he's learning more thanks to the new technology. "The SMART Board helps me learn better because it interacts with us. Ms. Tokarski can draw things that help us understand what we're learning."

There is a different and exciting kind of learning going on at MPB. Yes, the SMART Board is helping to make the curriculum more accessible and interesting. But something far more powerful is happening as well.

Ms. Tokarski recalls her most recent triumph with a smile. She had been trying to replicate a Smartboard function she had seen on a similar system during a visit to another school. Ms. Tokarski tried to figure out the process for three months, on and off. The students were in the room when she finally solved the mystery. "Yes!" she exclaimed as 15 heads looked up from their work. She proceeded to explain to the kids why she was so excited.

"It was truly a 'teachable moment,'" Tokarski explains. "My students knew I had been trying to figure this out for a while. They witnessed me going through the process of giving things a try, of learning from my mistakes and trying another idea. They saw firsthand that we, as teachers, don't know everything but persistence does pay off. I think this learning experience has really helped them. This class has tried things that I don't think they would have if they hadn't seen an adult struggle. It has been a good experience for all of us."

MPB looks forward to more similar experiences this year as the other teachers begin to learn and utilize their SMART Boards. Through the dedication of teachers like Ms. Tokarski and through grants and donations, MPB continues to keep pace with the ever-changing technology race, and provides students with the tools and knowledge to prepare them to live and succeed in the future.

## Calendar of Upcoming Alumni Events

### All MPB Alumni, Family & Friends

Get your teams together for the

### “MPB Alumni, Family & Friends Basketball Tournament”

Put the date on your calendar and call your friends.

There is plenty of time to sharpen those b-ball skills.

**Saturday • January 2, 2010 • MPB Gym**

Registration forms are available online at [www.mpbdenver.org](http://www.mpbdenver.org)  
or email [development@mpbdenver.org](mailto:development@mpbdenver.org).



**Paulette Evans**  
**Most Precious Blood, Denver**

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in English in 1967, Paulette Evans went to work in the Denver Public Schools system. When her husband died, she left education to raise her two daughters. She then returned to the classroom 20 years ago at Most Precious Blood where she has taught language arts to seventh- and eighth-graders.

She said her goal is to instill a love of reading and writing in her students, and to give them the basics for a foundation for growth. She enjoys working with the people at Most Precious Blood and speaks highly of Catholic education. “We don’t jump on a bandwagon simply because everyone else is,” Evans said. “We give our students a strong foundation for the future.”

## DID YOU KNOW ...

- MPB graduates are consistently accepted into their first choice Catholic High School and those who choose public school, typically enter Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate programs.
- “Specials” at MPB include Art, Music, Spanish I & II, Fitness, Computer, Photography, Service, Great Reads and Drama.
- MPB students are given numerous opportunities to be involved in philanthropic outreach including “Delores Project,” “Family to Family,” “Vincentian Walk for the Poor,” visits to area Senior Living Centers, food bank donations, etc.
- MPB students are encouraged to participate in a number of extra-curricular activities offered at school including Spelling Bee, Math Counts, Geography Bee, Basketball (girls and boys), Speech, Junior Great Books, Chess Club, Destination Imagination, Cross-Country, Regional Science Fair, Girls on the Run, Volleyball (girls), Scouts, etc.

## Catholic Faith

Which appearance of Mary in Mexico resulted in a massive conversion to Christianity?

- a. Guadalupe
- b. Medjugorje
- c. Lourdes
- d. Fatima

Tune in next issue for the answer.

*March 2009 newsletter Catholic Faith question: What is the meaning of Immaculate Conception? The Immaculate Conception means that Mary was conceived without original sin.*

## Out of the Mouths of Children

A little nine year old girl was in church with her mother when she started feeling ill.

“Mommy” she said “Can we leave now?”

“No,” her mother replied.

“Well, I think I have to throw up!”

“Then go out the front door and around to the side of the church and throw up behind a bush.”

In about two minutes the little girl returned to her seat.

“Did you throw up?”, her mother asked.

“Yes,” the little girl replied.

“Well, how could you have gone all the way to the side of the church and return so quickly?”

“I didn’t have to go out of the church, Mommy,” the little girl replied. “They have a box next to the front door that says ‘for the sick’.”



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## Alumni Connections

- 1963 Michael Mulhern – living in Tempe, AZ, started a construction company, married for 33 years, has 4 children and 8 grandchildren
- 1963 Bruce McQuiston – recently moved back to Denver and selling real estate
- 1976 Nanci (Hickisch) Lagnion – lives in Beaverton, OR, working as a nurse at the Veterans Hospital for 21 years, met husband through MPB alum friend, has 3 girls
- 1977 Laurie (Pasternak) Muntean – married with two children, in private practice as psychotherapist, still attending MPB church
- 1977 Charles Ruwart, III – graduated Notre Dame '85, owner of Laramie Peak Motors
- 1978 Rosalie Ruwart – living in Wheatland, WY, has her own business in corporate interior design
- 1981 Laura (Crowley) Taylor – lives in Littleton, has worked for Arapahoe/Douglas Works for 16 years
- 1982 Michael Laber – moved to Oregon, raising a family of 4 with wife, Kristen
- 1983 Ann-Louise Paull – teaching in a Denver Catholic school
- 1984 Jim Fossett – married with 2½ year old daughter, lives in Milwaukee, WI
- 1985 Jennifer (McInerney) Rahrer – married, lives in Denver, has 2 small boys, works from home part-time
- 1986 Anne-Marie (Collins) Desmond – living in Eagle, CO, has 3 small children
- 1986 Stephen Paull – currently living in Los Angeles, CA
- 1986 Michelle (Bruce) Irwin – married, has 2 daughters, taught Kindergarten
- 1987 Debbie (Jacobs) Bedard – BS University of Kansas, BSN Regis University. Last 10 years at The Children's Hospital in the Cardiac ICU, married with 2 children
- 1988 Gwen (Fonk) Kleinert – after a move to San Francisco, moved back to Denver
- 1988 Kelli (Shannon) Lowenberg – living in Montrose, CO, married with 2 children
- 1988 Amy (Haberkorn) Dexter – married, has 2 children and lives in Denver
- 1989 Krista (Stollar) McAlenney – graduated CSU
- 1989 Andy May – traveled the world, now back in Denver
- 1992 Ashley Canino-Olin – married and working as a dental hygienist
- 1994 Amy (Fossett) Riley – earned a Masters in Business Communications, career in PR, Marketing and Event Planning, has 2 girls, lives in Reno, NV
- 1996 Erin (Collins) McDaniel – producer/director for TV18 in Steamboat Springs, CO
- 1997 Kate McDonnell – Masters Degree in Education, teaching high school math and physics
- 1998 Paul McDonnell – married, working in business sales, living in Fort Collins, CO
- 1999 Justin Lansing – living and working in Minneapolis, on the side writing songs for the Okee Dokee Brothers – a children's band
- 2003 Charlie Mullins – sophomore at University of Kansas
- 2007 Elizabeth Schilling – attending Regis HS
- 2008 Emily Mauser – attending Regis HS