

From the desk of Dan Richard, Principal

January 2021

The last 10 months have been very challenging on Walcott Street. Like the rest of the country, we have dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest within our society, and a very uncertain future. Despite these challenges, the Saints community has relied upon one another and accomplished amazing things during the past year.



In the fall semester, we began the school year using a "hybrid model," and we were the only Catholic high school in Rhode Island that was not forced to close temporarily due to community spread of the virus within the school. The campus also looked different as we took steps to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. Alumni Hall, our beautiful athletic facility, was transformed into our cafeteria with 60 tables set up to seat two students each and keep a 6-foot spacing minimum. Our full-time nurse Kathy Freeborn (Siou), Class of 1987, worked in the White Building, where we had an isolation room set aside in the building to deal with any positive cases on our campus. Lastly, we purchased air purifiers for every classroom on campus. The commercial air purifiers extract all the contaminants out of the air, and they have been a huge comfort for both the students and faculty. All the changes we have implemented helped get us through the past months, but what made it special was the attitude and effort displayed every day by our students and SRA faculty. Despite the many obstacles (mandatory face masks, COVID-19 concerns, limited extracurricular activities for students), both the students and faculty wanted to be in the classroom. They all showed us what it meant to be "Saints Strong!"

As a school community, we also witnessed tremendous accomplishments. Earlier this semester, three of our student-athletes signed full scholarships to attend the following universities and colleges: Iowa State University, University of Massachusetts, and Monmouth College. These students are superb athletes, but more importantly, they are better people! A wonderful example of living out the mission of our Academy was on display in 2020 by a brother and sister who both attend Saint Raphael Academy. The students realized there was a shortage of provisions at our local soup kitchen and initiated two food drives, one in the spring and the other in the fall. When they were completed, they had obtained more than nine tons of food for the soup kitchen at Saint Joseph's Church on Walcott Street.

The last group of people I would like to highlight during the last year are our SRA alumni. When we asked for your assistance last spring and later this fall during the annual fund drive, you delivered... thank you! As we all know, this pandemic has left many families in Rhode Island struggling financially, and your generosity and kindness has allowed us to keep these students at SRA. On a personal note, our alumni have always responded every time I have asked, and I really appreciate what all of you have done to make Saint Raphael Academy a very special place for our students. You will always have my gratitude and respect.

In Peace,
Dan

(Pictured above right, Principal Dan Richard with Henry Lesieur '64 in November 2020, as he presents Dan with the gift of a custom stained glass window he designed and created.)

[Visit our Website](#)

It was a great day to be a SAINT

November 13, 2020, was Signing Day on campus. Three amazing student athletes have chosen their paths after Walcott Street.

Amaya Dowdy (pictured left) will be attending University of Massachusetts, Lowell to continue her education and join the women's basketball program.

Amaya earned All-State recognition multiple times, with a First Team spot last season. She hit her 1,000th point in her junior year, which helped Saints to go on to win the Division 1-C title. Amaya also received Player of the Year recognition from the Providence Journal and was named MVP by the Woonsocket Call/Pawtucket Times All-Area Girls Basketball Team.

Darius Kipyego (pictured middle) will be attending Iowa State University where he will join the Track Program and continue his education. He revealed his choice at the signing on campus. Darius was also offered admissions to University of Southern California, Penn State, and University of Virginia. He has earned multiple All-State, All-New England and All-American honors. Darius is ranked No. 1 in the world for U-18 800-meter runners by the International Amateur Athletic Federation. He brought home the silver medal in the 800-meter at the summer 2019 Pan-American U-20 Championships.

Rachael Mongeau (pictured right) will be attending Monmouth University in New Jersey to continue her education and run for the Track Program. Rachel has two individual Class C championships to be proud of. She has two second place finishes in her freshman and senior years. She was last seasons top runner in RIII, Class C indoor track. Rachel took first place in the 1000- and 1500-meter races.

Hall of Fame 2020 news

The Hall of Fame 2020 has been officially postponed and will take place with the installment of the Hall of Fame inductees for 2022. Due to Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings and travel, all involved felt a safer way to celebrate and commemorate the honor is to wait until everyone can join together and gather safely and in good health.



If you happen to know and are in contact with one of our inductees please send them a congratulatory message. If you had purchased tickets or sponsorships for the event please contact Mary Alexandre at malexandre@saintrays.org or Aimee Tortolano at atotolano@saintrays.org for more information.

The St. Raphael Academy Christmas Ornament



Christmas might be over, but you can still order your first installment of the Christmas ornament. St. Raphael Academy is starting a new tradition. Each year starting with 2020 there will be an annual ornament designed to adorn your Christmas tree.

The 2020 ornament is still available and will be throughout the years to come. It is a special ornament that is the school's insignia and ready for you to engrave your or your loved ones graduation year.

[Christmas ornament order](#)

2020-2021 Alumni Board welcomes new officers



John Thompson '75, Alumni Board President

John graduated from SRA in 1975 and is a self employed management consultant. John graduated from Boston College studying economics. He said that his favorite thing about SRA was the close relationships built with his teachers, staff and classmates. He enjoyed the freedom to make his own choices, and the class sizes and the school were a nice, smaller size compared to other schools at the time. When asked why do you serve on the alumni board, he stated, "To pay it forward, I believe in the power of alumni networking for fun and helping those who come after us. I like the Saints community."



Shannon Bracken-Bellew '95 Alumni Board Vice President

Shannon graduated from SRA in 1995 and received a full scholarship to Lehigh University to play softball. She has many years in sales and training in the telecommunications industry. Shannon said a few things she liked most about her time at SRA were the education, the outstanding faculty and campus-like experiences. She said that she enjoyed the close-knit student body. When asked why she wanted to join the alumni board, Shannon said, "Being able to continue to contribute to the Saints family, current and past, to show my appreciation for the experience I had while at Saints and everything it has afforded me."

Want to get involved? We are always looking for Alumni

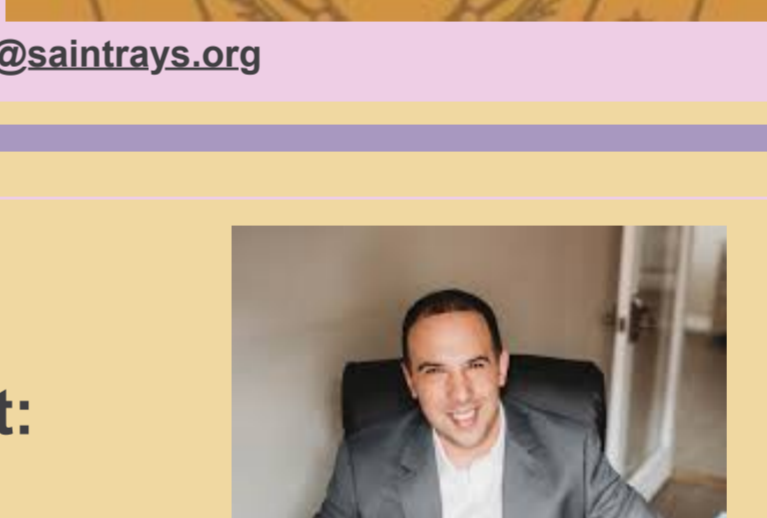
Saints has started reaching out to all alumni near and far, but we need your help. With the world going virtual we thought this would be a good time to clean house, and update all of our records. If you have not in a while, we are inviting you to update your contact information. We are also looking for volunteers to be an alumni class representative. The class representatives would be willing to assist reaching out to fellow classmates that we may have lost touch with to share the great things that are happening on Walcott Street. An alumni class representative would be someone willing to share their pride of purple and gold.

For more information please contact Aimee Tortolano, alumni coordinator at (401) 723-8100 ext. 155 or email atotolano@saintrays.org

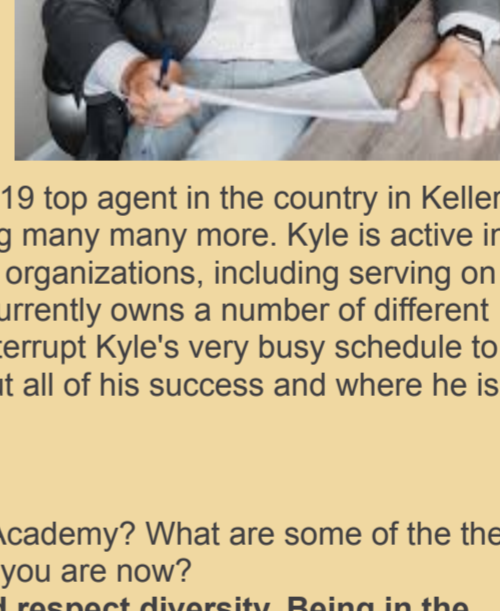
Alumni Board meetings are held via Zoom every first Tuesday of the month. If you would like to join our meeting please contact:

Aimee Tortolano
atotolano@saintrays.org

Good News makes us all feel better, and we want to hear about yours....
Keep us informed of all the great things happening in your life. Have you recently had something great happen? Tell us. Have you moved? received a degree? got married? Had a child? got a promotion?
Let us know by emailing atotolano@saintrays.org



Alumni Spotlight: Kyle Seyboth '01



After his days at Saints, Kyle went on to Elms College where he studied finance, and later received his MBA from Suffolk University. Kyle is a busy and successful entrepreneur and real estate agent in RI and MA. He has received many accolades in his field including 2019 #1 Realtor Nationwide Wall Street Journal Real Trends, 2016-2019 top agent in the country in Keller Williams, 2019 \$140M in Sales and over 600 units sold among many many more. Kyle is active in his community, sponsoring and donating to many community organizations, including serving on the St. Raphael Academy Principal's Advisory Board. Kyle currently owns a number of different companies, and 7 Century 21 branches. I had a chance to interrupt Kyle's very busy schedule to sit down with him for a few minutes to catch up with him about all of his success and where he is headed next.

What are some of the highlights of your days at Sr. Raphael Academy? What are some of the ways that SRA prepared you for where you are now?
Kyle: I believe that Saints helped me to understand and respect diversity. Being in the business and being so people driving in this field, I need to be able to work with many different people and meet them where they are. SRA helped prepare me for that in my career. I have to be relatable to my customers, and SRA did that for me, helped me to understand and appreciate diversity.

Is there anything that you wish that SRA did for you, or offered you?
Kyle: No, not specifically, no one owes me anything, I worked hard. I do wish that schools taught personal finance.

Did you play sports? Participate in clubs/organizations while you were at Saints?
Kyle: I played basketball, sports is very important in building character. Basketball was huge for me, the competition of the sport helps build what type of person you become. Playing sports, sets the drive for a person.

When you look back on your career, is this where you thought you would have seen yourself now?
Kyle: I know. I never would have thought 5-10 years ago I would be here as successful as I am now. I know that I had so much to accomplish but never thought it would lead me to where I am now.

Are there any career goals that you have set for yourself that you are still reaching? Have you met your career goals?
Kyle: No. Not even close to where I want to be working towards. Every time I reach a goal I move the goalpost. I am never satisfied. I still have so much more to do.

When you are not working, what do you do for time off, any hobbies, interests?
Kyle: I am always working. But when you do what you really enjoy, you don't feel like it's work, and you don't mind doing it all the time. They days go by so fast.

Any advice you would be willing to share for either students or young alumni?
Kyle: Everyone's path is different it is not always linear. I went into finance, took the train to Boston to make \$27k a year working 50+ hours a week. I wasn't happy and I knew that I had more. You only have one life and one chance. When you have an opportunity to take a chance when it comes to you, take it. Don't live for what you think you should do, or what other people think you should do. Life for yourself, anything is possible if you have the skill.

30th Annual SRA and Friends Golf Tournament



The 30th Annual SRA Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament is Monday, May 10, 2021. This event sells out every year so [register early](#) to reserve your spot. If you are unable to golf or just not a golfer, you can still participate by donating one of the many sponsorship opportunities. We also need VOLUNTEERS to help that day.

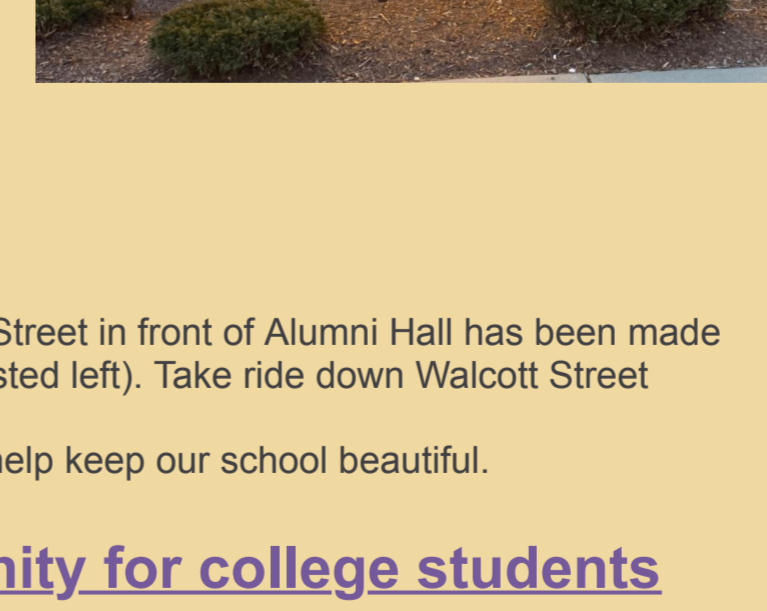
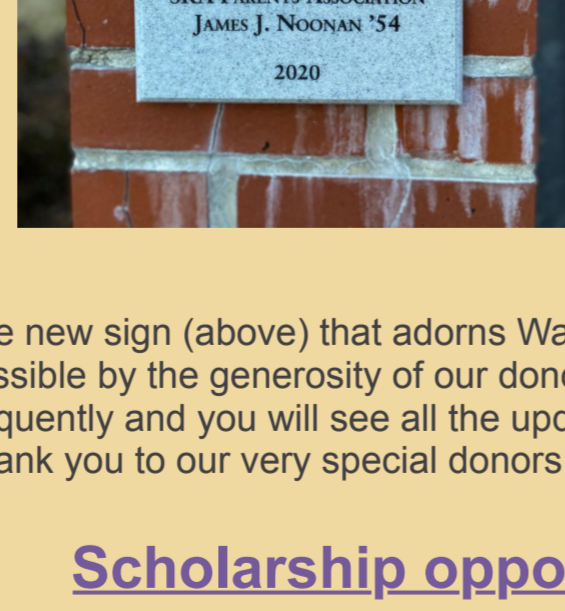
The annual golf tournament is one of the school's largest fundraisers. Money raised goes right back to helping students. Register for golf or support the tournament with a donation or sponsorship. There are many ways to help.

For more information contact: Mary Alexandre (401) 723-8100 ext. 120 or email: malexandre@saintrays.org

Keep an eye out for winter sports!

Winter sports teams have started practicing, and the athletes couldn't be more excited! After having their seasons cut short last year, this year they are ready. Rhode Island Interscholastic League recently set out guidance on winter season of competition. Stay in touch with our athletic Facebook page, for all up to date athletic information and live streaming.

[Saints Athletics Facebook](#)



The new sign (above) that adorns Walcott Street in front of Alumni Hall has been made possible by the generosity of our donors (listed left). Take ride down Walcott Street frequently and you will see all the updates. Thank you to our very special donors that help keep our school beautiful.

Scholarship opportunity for college students

The Rhode Island Foundation is accepting applications for the [Michael P. Metcalf Memorial Fund](#) and [Christine T. Grinavic Adventurer's Fund](#).

The funds provide grants to college students to subsidize experiences intended to broaden their perspective and enhance personal growth. They may include travel in this country and abroad and a variety of internship and public service programs.

Applications will be accepted from students who have been legal residents of Rhode Island. Plans must include a well-defined program and demonstrate clear purpose.

Deadline for application submission is Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Please [click here to apply](#).

Questions? Contact [Kerley Rifley, Donor Services Administrator](mailto:Kerley.Rifley@donor-services-administrator.org), at 401-427-4028 or kriley@rifoundation.org.

In Memoriam



These are such uncertain times. Many of us have experienced a loss of some kind. Please share with us a prayer for those that we have lost.

St. John Baptiste De la Salle, Pray for us. Give Jesus in our hearts, forever.

- Mr. Robert A. Bedard, Jr '81
- Mr. William J. Bowe '45
- Mrs. Nancy A. Buss
- Mr. William Castro '55
- Mrs. Eunice D. Castillo DeLaHoz '84
- Mr. Jeffrey D. Ferland '87
- Mr. Daniel J. King '57
- Ms. Angela Yany Mazzone '78
- Mr. Lawrence W. Morrissey '53
- Mrs. Bonnie Mutter
- Mr. William H. Piron '66
- Mr. Louis Rankowitz
- Mr. Charles J. Reilly '68
- Br. A. Stephen Rusyn, F.S.C
- Mr. Joseph Dolan '54
- Mr. Edmund Fuller '52