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St. Pius X marks golden year

By Sarah Hardee • Enquirer contributor • September 14, 2008

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St. Pius X School reached a milestone this month, and students, alumni and staff are kicking off a yearlong celebration that marks 50 years of education at the school.

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students celebrated Sept. 3 with a birthday cake.

Students made birthday cards, which are being displayed throughout the building, and many classes are delving into the history of the school.

"It's great to know that we're part of a school that has been spreading the faith for 50 years," said eighth-grader Catriona Shaughnessy. "All of my siblings have gone to school here, so it's been interesting to see all the changes that have gone on over the years ... celebrating the history here is important to us."

The school is also reaching out to former students with a new alumni and friends registry. Former students, and their family and friends, can register to keep up with happenings at the school and have the opportunity to reconnect with former classmates and friends.

The database is up to about 350 people, Trenkamp said, and it's growing by the day.

"St. Pius X is a family and we all feel fortunate to be a part of it," Trenkamp said. "Our whole community is celebrating with us this year."

The school opened at its Dudley Road location on Sept. 3, 1958, with about 200 students. The first class photos - one picturing the girls and one of the boys - still hang on the wall outside the front office.

"Marking half a century is giving us the opportunity to celebrate and look into our school's history," said Principal Betty Trenkamp. "We're well established and have a lot to be proud of 50 years later."

This year's theme at the school is "50 Years of Faith Formation."

The school held an open house last month and



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The Enquirer/Patrick Reddy Paxton Kirpes, a seventh-grader at St. Pius X School, researches a history project in the school library. The school is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and is marking the occasion by connecting alumni, building a commemorative wall, holding a homecoming and having students learn about the history of the school.

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An alumni homecoming is planned for January, and the school is also constructing a commemorative ceramic tile wall.

Families from the St. Pius X Parish and school, as well as alumni and friends, are invited to purchase and design tiles for the wall, which will be in the hallway connecting the school building and conference rooms.

Tiles can be purchased for \$50 and proceeds will go to repair the church roof.

For more information about the alumni registry or to purchase a tile, visit the school's Web site at www.stpiusx.com/school/

[index.html](#) or call the school at 859-341-4888.

The school is also planning to take separate photos later this month of the 565 girls and boys who attend the school. They will hang next to the photos that were taken 50 years ago when the school first opened.

"The photos will be a reflection of who we were then and who we are now after 50 years," Trenkamp said. "We've come a long way and changed in terms of keeping up with new technology, but we still have the same values and we're moving our kids forward."

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