



# De LaSalle News



“A Beacon of Hope

for students with learning challenges.”

## Principal’s Corner



Mrs. Riti

De LaSalle Academy started the 2015-16 school year, our 4<sup>th</sup> year, at full capacity in our new building! From 2012-2015, our enrollment has grown from 68 to 145 students in grades 2-12. Throughout our first three years, we established and enhanced our educational and therapeutic programs to meet an increasingly wide range of special needs. During these beginning years, in the midst of exponential growth, we also maintained the goal of meeting the standards necessary for accreditation.

It is my honor and pleasure to announce that De LaSalle Academy was awarded fully accredited status by the Association of Independent Schools of Florida (AISF) in September 2015. The visiting team and AISF Board of Directors commended the school for its extraordinary professional staff which ensures that the vision, mission and philosophy of the school is carried out.



## De LaSalle Academy Board of Directors

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Karen Nathan, Ph.D.

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The school was also commended on the positive ways that the staff nurtures relationships with students while delivering a strong curriculum through an individualized approach. Achieving accredited status has been the goal since the school’s inception and we are thrilled to have reached this critical milestone.

We are sincerely grateful to the community of Southwest Florida, our school family, and the De LaSalle Board of Directors for supporting the mission of our school. Every person who has helped along the way has contributed to “a beacon of hope for students with learning challenges.”

- Mrs. Riti

*Students Creating Ceiling Tiles for Lee Memorial Health System Patient Rooms*



### De LaSalle Academy Golf Team

Andrew McManus, Matthew Krupka, Adam Naqui, Samantha Guterman



### Student Profile

Tianna Starke

**Tianna Starke** is a senior who has been a De LaSalle Academy student since the school’s opening day. Her struggle with dyslexia led her to De LaSalle and the partnership has been very successful. Tianna appreciates her teachers at De LaSalle who are always available for one on one assistance and are very supportive of their students’ achievements.

Tiana has been involved with the school in many ways, in addition to her studies. She has tutored elementary school students in reading and math. On the Student Government, she has served as Treasurer, Vice President and President. She has participated in the Golf Club and on Yearbook, Homecoming and Prom Committees for three years.

After De LaSalle, she hopes to study at Florida SouthWestern State College to become an elementary school teacher and at Fort Myers Institute of Technology to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. In the spring, Tianna will move on from her De LaSalle family feeling well-prepared for her future.

**Mrs. Stolz** is originally from Bayshore, NY and grew up in Sparta, NJ. She has been a teacher at De LaSalle Academy since it opened. She taught at a similar school, under Mrs. Riti’s leadership since 2006. Currently, she teaches Level B which is the elementary and early middle school class.

In Mrs. Stolz’s words, “I teach because I love being a part of children’s lives and making a difference in them! I teach special learners because I understand what my students go through each day because I am the mom of a special needs child myself. I know how hard it is to learn for some children because I have spent many days and nights at home with my son, Ryan, trying to figure out how he learns and what I can do for him. I love being able to help other children using the knowledge I have gained as a teacher and a mom. The best part is when I teach a concept that my students have been struggling with in a different way and they get it! The smiles are priceless- that’s what I really love about teaching!

De LaSalle is a wonderful place to work because I am surrounded by professional people who love their jobs and are dedicated to improving the lives of the children at our school. We work a lot and we enjoy what we do! I feel lucky to be a part of it.

I love so many things about my students! I love their jokes and their stories. I love their innocence and their kindness. I love how hard they work but most of all, I love all the great lessons I learn from them each day. “



### Teacher Profile

Mrs. Stolz



De LaSalle Academy  
6401 Techster Boulevard  
Fort Myers, FL 33966  
(239) 245-8212  
(239) 245-7951  
www.delasallefm.org

### Upcoming Events

December 10, 2015  
Holiday Program

January 30, 2016  
Winterfest

February 24, 2016  
Grandparents Breakfast

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