



De LaSalle News

"A Beacon of Hope
for students with learning challenges."



Winter 2016

Principal's Corner



**Mrs. Riti
Principal**

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De LaSalle Academy has entered its 5th school year! It is astonishing to reflect on how we opened our doors in 2012 with 68 students in six classes and in August 2016 we welcomed 140 students in 12 classes. This kind of growth is unprecedented in any new endeavor. We can attribute this success to the dedication of our talented teachers, therapists, support staff, parents, Board of Directors and community volunteers. It is truly remarkable how much support has been given to our school in order to bring our mission to Southwest Florida: to educate students with special needs by providing a safe, supportive and nurturing environment where each child's diverse ability is honored and valued.

Our school is evolving and adapting to meet the needs of the students who seek our help. A pilot program for transition services has grown into a structured experience that guides high school students to continue their success after leaving De LaSalle. We added American Sign Language to our high school curriculum this year, providing foreign language credit for students. *(continued on back)*

De LaSalle Welcomes New Board Member

De LaSalle Academy is proud to welcome NBC2 Anchor Kellie Burns to our Board of Directors. Originally from upstate New York, Kellie graduated from the State University of New York at Geneseo with a bachelor's degree in both Communications and Political Science, and a minor in International Relations.

She started at NBC2 in 1994 as a reporter, working her way up to Collier County Bureau Chief, weekend anchor and finally primary anchor in 1996. Ms. Burn's award-winning career includes two Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards and several awards from the Florida Associated Press. In 2011, she took first place in the Hard News Feature category for her coverage in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.



Kellie Burns

Ms. Burns was recognized in "2010 Power Women in Lee County" by Florida Weekly and named one of "Southwest Florida's 47 Power Players for 2010" by Gulfshore Business Magazine. She splits her time between Fort Myers and Chicago with her husband Ed, son Jack, daughter Elle and step-daughter Kara. De LaSalle Academy is excited for all the talent and experience Ms. Burns will bring to the school.

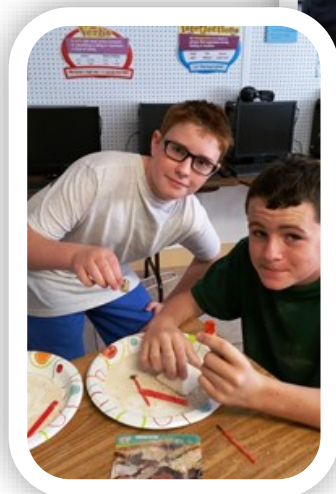


De LaSalle Welcomes Speech Pathologist, Jessica Boyd



Mrs. Boyd was born in Terre Haute, IN. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology and a Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology, both from Ball State University. She is certified as a Speech Language Pathologist by the American Speech Language Hearing Association. Mrs. Boyd was a Speech Language Pathologist in the Indiana Public Schools for 10 years.

Mrs. Boyd's role at De LaSalle will be to work with students to improve and enhance their language skills so that they reach their reading and writing goals both inside the classroom and outside of school. With the help of staff and students, she has made a smooth transition into her new position and has already begun to build relationships within the De LaSalle family. She looks forward to sharing her ideas and strategies with her students so that they may set long and short term goals as they work toward becoming successful adults.



Principal's Corner (continued)

Clubs and sports are flourishing, giving students opportunities to shine and enhance development of critical social skills. This semester, we accepted our first four student teaching interns from FGCU, a big milestone for our school. The staff is currently developing a Parent-School Partnership Plan with the support of the Step Up for Students organization. We are exploring ways to increase parent engagement in our school community, which has been proven to significantly affect educational outcomes for students. We are an entity in motion, always evaluating what is working and identifying ways to give our students more of what they need. We are grateful to our supporters for making it all possible!



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Upcoming Event

January 28, 2017

Winterfest

11:00 to 4:00

at
Gateway Sherman
Soccer Complex