

Pilgrim Alumni Association News

Keeping you a part of the Pilgrim Community.

Dear Pilgrim Alumni,

How many of you have the great blessing of being able to wake up each morning and look forward to going to work? I have that blessing. I thank you, the alumni of Pilgrim, for making that possible.

Your intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm along with your looks of sheer boredom, your commitment to support and help each other along with your "it's all about me" moments, your sharing of your Christian faith along with your expressions of skepticism and doubt, your moments of triumph along with your moments of pain and frustration, have combined to make my life's work interesting, rewarding, and meaningful. I truly thank you!

I hope you will use this newsletter, our newly developing alumni association, and www.pilgrimchurchandschool.org to reconnect with your Pilgrim experience and the people of the Pilgrim community.

God Bless You,

Dave Maring
Pilgrim, Pilgrim Lutheran School



A Lesson for the Green Team

Meet Pilgrim's Green Team

-Becky Gillespie & Mark Zlotkowski, Green Team Parent Coordinators

There's a group of kids at Pilgrim that knows that you are never too young to start saving the planet — and never too old to find joy in going through the trash.

Meet the Pilgrim Green Team: a group of about 28 students, preschool through third grade, who have helped the school save hundreds of pounds in paper towels, encouraged their classmates to use their "green wheels" to travel to school, and enthusiastically sorted trash once a month to keep tabs on the school's recycling efforts.

The group, formed in 2008, is led by parent volunteers and overseen by teacher Karen Huelskoetter. In its first year, the Green Team helped Pilgrim win a competitive Illinois Zero Waste Schools grant (awarded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity) to install five hand dryers in school restrooms. This year, the Green Team has helped research and apply for a grant to implement a composting system in the school lunchroom, install a special-items recycling center in the school and expand recycling in classrooms. (Winners will be announced later in the year).

The club also helped plan and execute the wildly successful "Green Wheels Wednesday" on October 7. Students were encouraged to travel to school in more environmentally friendly ways, including by scooter, bike, skateboard and on foot. More than three-quarters of the school participated. The team also regularly helps clean up litter in the neighborhood, spent a Saturday helping pick up trash on Chicago's Foster Beach and has conducted numerous awareness campaigns to encourage teachers and students to remember to always use both sides of a sheet of paper.

The Green Team's influence — and the hard work of faculty and staff — can be seen throughout the school: In the past year, Pilgrim has reduced its daily paper use from 17.5 reams per week to just 10. Recycling bins are available and are used in every room of the school, including the cafeteria. Hand dryers hum in the bathrooms.

And, on Mondays after school, a happy group of kids can often be found sorting and weighing their school's trash.



Pilgrim Alum Profile: Carolyn Barsano, Psy.D., Class of 1992

Carolyn Barsano graduated from Pilgrim in 1992. After earning her undergraduate degree in Psychology with a minor in Biology at Washington University in Saint Louis, Carolyn enrolled in graduate school at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Within Chicago and Los Angeles community mental health centers, Carolyn has provided psychological services and advocacy to individuals of all ages, with a passion and focus in the prevention and treatment of child and adolescent trauma and mental illness. She earned her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology and works with individuals and families as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in community and private practice settings.

Having attended Pilgrim from Preschool through 8th grade, Carolyn has many fond memories of Pilgrim, including Wildcat basketball and softball games, off-campus lunches at Budackis, and the never-to-be-forgotten operettas and graduation skits. Carolyn values her Pilgrim teachers and friends, who were positive proponents for her socio-emotional and educational development, and supported her interest in the health and wellness of individuals from a young age.

Closest to her heart are the relationships she continues to maintain with many former classmates. "They're like family to me." Carolyn continues to reside in the Pilgrim neighborhood and may be reached by phone (773) 259-4112 or email cabarsano@gmail.com.

You can be our next Alum Profile! Contact Jule Uddfolk at uddfolk@att.net or (773) 883-8843.

Help us build our community—
please tell any **alums** that you
know of to register on the Pilgrim
website at [http://
www.pilgrimchurchandschool.org
/school/pilgrim alumni.php4](http://www.pilgrimchurchandschool.org/school/pilgrim alumni.php4).