

St. Angela School

TODAY'S LEARNERS, TOMORROW'S LEADERS.

JULY 2017

THIS IS THE DAY
THE LORD HAS MADE.
LET US REJOICE IN IT
AND BE GLAD.

Dreaming in Shades of Green

Dear Friends,
Since we announced in January that St. Angela church, convent and rectory would be demolished this summer, we have heard from many alumni: most of them sad, some angry, many of them philosophical about change and loss. I understand. I know what it is to let go of things and places that were the backdrop for your life, particularly when you were a child.

But my ministry—the ministry left to the St. Angela community since the parish closed—is to the children who make this their school home. I am sad that a beautiful church is gone. And I am thrilled that we have the opportunity to make a beautiful space for our scholars to play. We are dreaming of trees that will shade their classrooms, grass for them to sit on, and a natural, pretty place in which they can start and end their days. We will replace vacant buildings with things that grow, and concrete with things that are alive. We are dreaming in shades of green.

Ms. Ruden's second graders read a book this spring about the demolition of an apartment building and the children discussed the sadness the characters in the book felt. *"I used to live there, right there where that window is, and now they are going to tear it all down,"* one of the characters cried. The boys and girls talked about how sad that would be but it is not hard for them—urban children who see constant change around them—to understand. Our compassionate seven-year-olds understand loss.

Now we, and they, invite you all to see how *they* view this change: it is exciting! It is a whole new school to them, something that will open new options in their school day world. And, no, while it is not what we would have wished for (another marvelous church gone?), it is *wonderful* for these children.

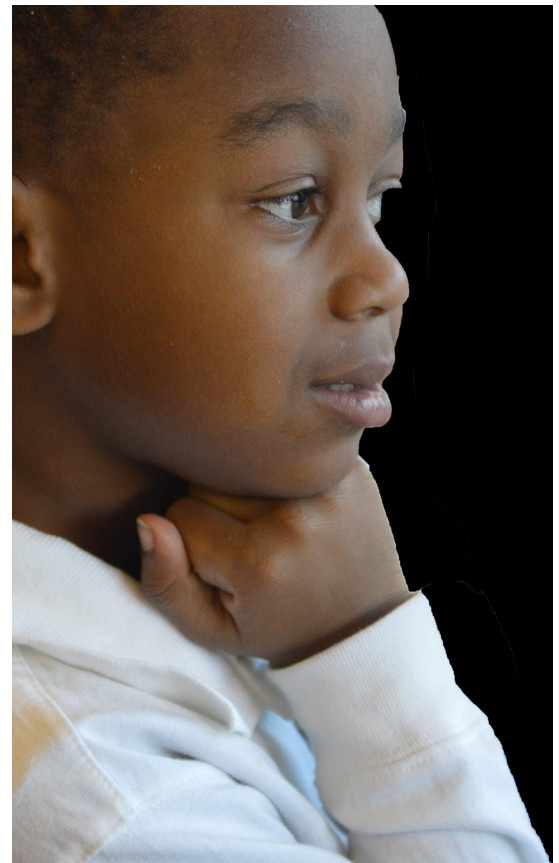
So we hope that you can be glad, be hopeful for them, and join us in our **Green Dreams**. Celebrate that St. Angela School remains a force for good in the Austin neighborhood and help us gather the resources so that someday we can plant gardens, kick a ball around and read a book in the shade.

Perhaps when the dust has settled you can come read with them!

God bless,

Sr. Maryellen Callahan

Sr. Maryellen Callahan, RSM, President



Can you help make the **Green Dreams** of St. Angela boys and girls come true?

Our Priorities

Trees and grass and green things growing

“We love to be outside,” says third grade teacher Meaghan Cakuls, “and we can’t wait until we have more outside options: places to read and run and talk. We will all be glad to spend our school days in a greener space.”

Mrs. Cakuls’s colleague in the other third grade classroom, Sarah Blazer, has some specific things she’d like to do outside. “We can do a lot of science right here in our yard. There are so many options for observation, experimentation and, of course, planting and growing a garden. I look forward to working with other teachers and their students to talk about the possibilities open to us.”



Telling our story

Alumnus (Class of 1973) and Patrons Board member Dan Jordan is happy that we’ll have a place on the new campus that honors the people who made St. Angela their school and parish home for the last hundred years. “While the announcement and photos of this demolition have been hard for many of us,” he says, “the brick garden is a very cool opportunity for alumni to be part of the campus by engraving bricks honoring parents, friends and classmates.” Dan has also been involved in youth soccer in Oak Park for many years and hopes that someday St. Angela’s soccer teams will be playing on some of the new field space. In the meantime, he enjoys watching SAS basketball games in the Jack Jordan Gym! “I hope our alumni will visit often and will continue to support the mission of this still-thriving school,” he said.

Space!

“From the beginning, the challenge of this project was all about what to do with the space that would be new; the space left after the buildings came down,” says Principal Kurt Wittenberg. “It was overwhelming. But we enlisted the help of people whose business it is to look at a school and the land around it differently, and we’ve been surprised to see even more ways that these changes will be good for our community. The demolition of the convent allows for additional parking and for the development of a pattern for a smooth traffic flow, a welcome improvement for St. Angela parents and guests who had to time their departures carefully or be trapped in the after-school gridlock. Another way to make our school more welcoming.”

“This project and these experts are helping us look at the campus as a whole,” adds assistant principal Kelly Busa, “and see ways to soften some edges. It will take time, but we’re excited to be moving ahead.”

Our Green Dreams!

We will seek resources for this project from granting agencies, but the bulk of our funding will come, as it usually does at St. Angela, from generous individual donors. Will you be one of them?

This initiative cannot replace our fall appeal since your gifts to that effort are necessary for our operating budget. Our financial goal to begin realizing our Green Dreams is \$60,000. We hope you will see this project as a great new opportunity to invest in the children of St. Angela School!

Please check out our suggestions on the reply envelope. We invite you to:

Provide some shade: Will you be one of the 40 or 50 people we need to buy trees? The gift of a tree is \$600.

Provide some flowers: Will you be one of the 100 people we need to provide flowering plants and bulbs to give our space some color? The gift of color is \$100.

Provide hedges that will become a source of security for the children: Will you be one of the 50 people we will need to provide hedges? The gift of a group of hedges is \$350.

Provide an engraved brick to tell our story, create a pathway, honor our people: Will you be one of the 200 people we need to buy bricks? The gift of a brick is either \$250 or \$125.

If we can find the people (about 390 of them) to make these gifts, we will surpass our launch goal of \$60,000. Please dream green with us!

St. Angela Memorial Bricks

Help us build a beautiful memorial garden and establish a tribute to the history of this great community. Invest in our future with your purchase of your own little piece of SAS real estate! We invite you to honor a classmate, a loved one, a teacher or coach, or commemorate your own days of glory in the St. Angela gym, by purchasing an engraved brick to be planted forever on our campus. Is this a gift? We will send you a certificate for presentation!

Bricks are sold for \$125 (4 by 8 inches) and \$250 (8 by 8 inches). All bricks will be the “regimental red” shown in the picture above. (These are new bricks, not bricks recycled from the demolished buildings.) Smaller bricks allow three lines of up to 20 characters each; larger bricks allow six lines of the same size.

A “character” is any space that you use: a letter, a comma, a number, a space, etc. Indicate on the form if you prefer all upper case letters or a mix of upper and lower. Please, no profanity or language that could be misinterpreted.

Some areas of the brick garden will be dedicated to individuals who may be honored in many bricks. Each of those spaces will be named with a larger brick, indicating the special “neighborhood.” Thus, if you want your brick included in that area, you don’t have to include the name in your engraving.

The areas that we currently have planned: The Patrick Mahoney Circle; Sr. Maryellen’s Garden; Sr. Mary Finnegan Way; Mary Kay O’Rourke’s Classroom; Friends of St. Angela Parish; Mr. Jordan’s Place. Please advise us of any other special requests for brick placement (family or classmate groups, for example) and we will try to accommodate those requests.

Please fill out both sides of this form and return it with check or credit card information to the address below.

Name

Address

Email

City, State, Zip

Telephone

Class of *(if applicable)*

_____ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

_____ Please charge my order of \$ _____

Credit Card Number

exp date

CVV

St. Angela Advancement Office • 1332 N. Massasoit • Chicago, IL 60615



*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of
the skies; for the love from which our birth,
over and around us lies; Lord above to thee we
raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*



A few of the 300 Green Dreamers at St. Angela School. Come join us—outside!

Use this graph to help with the layout of your engraved brick. The special placement option allows you to use more characters for your message rather than use many of them for the full name of your honoree. Please call us with questions: 773.626.2655.

Special placement: ___ None; ___ Mahoney; ___ O'Rourke; ___ Finnegan; ___ Callahan; ___ Jordan; ___ Other (we will be in touch)

4 by 8 inch brick: \$125 • three lines • twenty characters per line *(three lines means three consecutive lines)*

8 by 8 inch brick: \$250 • six lines • twenty characters per line

A "character" is a letter, a number, a space, a comma, etc.