



JOURNEY OF HOPE

15929 SW 150th Street Indiantown, FL 34956

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April 2024

Hope Rural School 2023-2024



**“Continue growing with energy and love,
with kindness and creativity
and with the goodness of God in your hearts!”**



Pictured with Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Martha ~ Mr. John Clarke, Associate Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Palm Beach, and our Visiting Accreditation Team: Tara Marino, Nicole Wilson, and Jess DeLeon



**We are proud to announce that Hope Rural School
has once again been granted
FULL ACCREDITATION from the Florida Catholic Conference.**

A WARM WELCOME FROM OUR DIRECTOR, SR. ELIZABETH DUNN, O.P.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Siefker
President

Brian Powers
Vice President

Amy Holley
Secretary

Miguel Gaspar

Judy Pierman

Adrian Reed

Carl Schlanger

Peter Upton

Mission Statement

The mission of Hope Rural School is to offer hope to families.

The school primarily serves children from immigrant families by providing them with a Catholic Elementary education in grades Pre-K3 through 5 in an environment that nurtures the Gospel values of mercy, justice, and love, through fostering the principles of Christian discipleship; supporting, guiding and encouraging parents in the education of their children; developing an appreciation and respect for heritage; encouraging and enabling graduates to reach their full potential through advanced education.

Dear Friends,

The air is still very warm from the arrival of spring and an early Easter. All of us at Hope Rural are living and walking into a future that is filled with possibilities, with each step, we are ignited to offer hope and create opportunities where buds of new life can be nurtured and blossom. We may not see the future we are helping to create, but we are called to let go and nurture the soil with our lives so that the future may be rich.

You have believed in our vision and mission and have faithfully supported Hope Rural for many years. Your support and faith in what we do each day at Hope Rural School continues to help us claim and embrace God's mission to be "our mission." This year we celebrate 44 years of leaving a meaningful legacy of Hope and Inspiration to families in Indiantown. From everyone at Hope Rural, we thank you for using your God-given gifts to make a difference in our school community by helping us to continue offering a quality education in our community.

Together, the difference we're making is inspiring future generations. On the cover of this issue of "Journey of Hope", we share a picture of our 143 Hope Rural students who are presently in PreK3-Grade 5. We have also pictured on the cover, the "Good News" of our school being fully reaccredited until 2030!

This year, our beloved principal, Sister Martha Rohde, OP passed into eternal life on January 23, 2024. She was full time in school until January 11, 2024. She was a woman of faith, love, service, and mercy. Her faith and kindness illuminated not only her own life but also the lives of countless students and colleagues... She taught us to open ourselves to live each season fully and with great integrity and grace, as together we "participate in the building of a holy and just Church and world."

We call on this blessing for our valiant faith-filled sister of German heritage from the Irish poet, John O' Donohue, on the "Death of The Beloved."

Sister Martha: "May you continue to inspire us: To enter each day with a generous heart. To serve the call of courage and love (as you did). Until we see your beautiful face again in that land where there is no more separation, where all tears will be wiped from our mind, and where we will never lose you again." Amen.

What will go down in the annals of our history are the miracle stories of the teachers, staff, students, volunteers, school board members and donors who create and recreate the Hope Rural miracle daily.

Thank you for your love, support, and especially for your belief in our students and their possibilities.

With deep gratitude,

Sister Elizabeth Dunn, OP

A Former Student becomes Principal of Hope Rural School "We have come full circle."

We extend a warm welcome to Mr. Miguel Gaspar, who will be the new Principal of Hope Rural School during the 2024-2025 school year. Hope Rural didn't have to look far to find the most qualified person for the position. In fact, he was right within their backyard. Miguel not only graduated from Hope Rural School but has served on our Hope Rural School Board since 2008. The stars have always fallen upon Hope Rural and having a person of such caliber waiting in the wings is evidence of God's providence in our midst.



VILMA SHAW SCHOLAR GRADUATES



Ashley Gamez
Southern Adventist
University
Bachelor of
Business Administration



Ashley Perez
University
of California
Bachelor of Science in
International Business



Danny Perez
graduated with
his Degree from
State of Florida
Barber School



Melvin Vicente
University of
Central Florida
Bachelor of
Electrical Engineering

For many years, the Vilma Shaw Fund has graciously endowed scholarships towards higher education for students who have graduated from Hope Rural. As we continue to follow our Mission Statement for advanced education, we are proud to say that we currently have 18 of our alumni studying at the following schools: Indian River State College, Florida Gulf Coast University, University of Northern Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach State College, University of Central Florida, University of California, and Southern Adventist University.

FULL CIRCLE - MIGUEL JUAN GASPÀR



I am grateful to the Hope Rural School Board for entrusting me as Principal of Hope Rural School for the 2024-2025 school year. I am humbled and honored to continue the vision and mission of the school; having served Hope Rural as a board member since 2008 and a proud alumni. I look forward to working with students, staff, faculty, parents, donors, and the community.

I have served the community as an educator for seventeen years and am proud to bring my wealth of experience to Hope Rural School. Prior to joining Hope Rural, I taught IT/computer science courses within the Martin County School District, most recently, at Martin County High School.

I also am part of the boy's basketball coaching staff since 2013 winning the 2022 Florida State championship. I also am active as an adjunct professor of education at Indian River State College.

I am a proud University of South Florida alumni, and obtained a Master of Public Administration degree and a Master of Education degree from Florida Atlantic University. I am certified in various subject areas, including educational leadership and computer science with the Florida Department of Education. I believe that accepting the position of principal of Hope Rural School is a calling to serve and I am excited to begin the journey.

*“Providence **CAN** provide, Providence **DID** provide, Providence **WILL** provide.”*

HAPPENINGS AT HOPE RURAL...OUR STUDENTS SHINE!



ACADEMIC FAIR

2024

WE LEARNED A LOT!

SHARING THE LOVE



Dear Marie Celeste,
 Did I send you pictures of our girls beautifully decked out in dresses? Handmade by our German friend, Ms. Sibylle (Billy) Thurston, a WONDERFUL seamstress who does ALL the sewing from the bottom of her sweet and loving heart using an expensive "Lilly Pulitzer" material, with a touch of fancy lace and ribbons! All of our girls had their beautiful dresses just in time for Easter...



Sister Marie Celeste Gatti (former Director) celebrated her 100th Birthday on Valentine's Day



THIS YEAR!
 Happy Birthday!



AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR US!

The Florida Department of Education granted EANS (Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools) as a Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. Criteria was established for all schools to follow for reimbursement of allowable expenses, we were fortunate to be able to take advantage of this grant. We were able to furnish our classrooms with new desks and chairs and classroom shelving. Many other instructional classroom items were also able to be purchased.



HONOR ROLL THIRD QUARTER 3RD - 4TH - 5TH

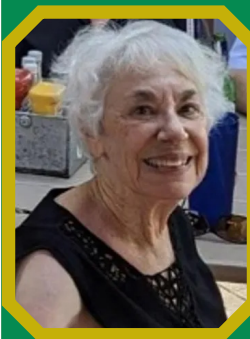
FIRST RECONCILIATION - 2ND



REMEMBERING AND HONORING OUR LOVED ONES



WHAT A GIFT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN - TO HAVE SPENT OUR LIVES GIVING AWAY GOD'S LOVE!



Because of his deep love of Hope Rural School we were deeply saddened when we received news that Don Hesch had passed away. Don had long been a vigorous advocate for Hope Rural School, his compassion and caring brought attention and assistance to many school fundraisers over the years. His memory will live on in our hearts with the legacy of love and generosity he continually bestowed upon all of us. May he rest in eternal happiness. 08/07/1932 - 01/14/2024

We at Hope Rural also mourn the passing of one of our former school volunteers, Patricia Parker. Patricia volunteered once a week as a tutor for over 11 years. Her teaching skills were shared with countless students in our second grade, reinforcing their math and reading skills. She was a lively and vibrant presence at Hope Rural. May she rest in eternal happiness. 12/07/1938 - 02/25/2024.



Memorial / Tribute Gifts



Remembering your loved ones through memorial gifts in lieu of flowers and tribute gifts in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, or other meaningful events, is a thoughtful and life-giving way to continue the mission work of Hope.

Please also consider remembering Hope Rural School in your will...a tribute for a lifetime.

Your contributions bless many! You are forever in our thoughts and prayers.

WATCH OUR WEB PAGE: WWW.HOPERURALSCHOOL.ORG FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!