



# School Highlight

S.S. COSMAS AND DAMIAN

S.S. Cosmas & Damian Catholic School (SSCD) is located in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The school was built in 1892 and by January of 1893 had an enrollment of 116 students. Today there are 143 students attending SSCD in pre-school through eighth grade.

*The mission of S.S. Cosmas and Damian School is to educate the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially through classroom instruction, religious formation, and personal example. The faculty and staff are dedicated to Christian education in a Catholic tradition, they strive to provide this through professional competence and development in a faith-centered environment that is nurturing and affirming. Their goal is to enable students to become Christ-like.*

Mrs. Ann Smith has been the principal for twenty four years, she also teaches Social Studies to grades 6 through 8. Including Mrs. Smith there are fourteen teachers at SSCD. The school has earned its Middle States Accreditation and is currently working on its most recent evaluation.

SSCD offers technology to all students and Spanish is offered to students in grades K-8. Extra-curricular activities include; boys and girls basketball, band, chorus and an after-school homework program.

Last summer Msgr. Riccardo, pastor of S.S. Cosmas & Damian, purchased 20 laptops computers for the technology lab and had wireless internet installed making it available for students in the lab as well as other areas of building.

Msgr. also purchased several 42" televisions; one for each classroom. Teachers use the televisions in conjunction with their lessons, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students use them for daily announcements and as a venue for praying together as a school each morning.



Pictured above are Mark Vasbinder, Ryan Presloid & Mary Sloniger working on a wireless computer. This was a great opportunity for the students to work interactively together while learning the importance of internet safety.



SSCD Food Drive

This summer plans have been made to provide an on-site playground for the students of SSCD and children in the neighborhood. The playground project will be funded by a grant from the PA Department of Economic & Community Development.

The parish has just completed an addition of a gathering space in the church. Next year will be the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish and the renovations were done in conjunction with that celebration. The children attend a student Mass in the Church weekly and have enjoyed seeing the transformation of the interior.

When asked about SSCD's experience with The Children's Scholarship Fund of PA, Mrs. Smith said, "Our involvement with the Children's Scholarship Fund has truly been an asset to our families and our school. For those who truly appreciate the value of a Catholic education and cannot afford it without financial assistance, the scholarship fund has been a real blessing." Mrs. Smith added, "I feel that it is so easy for our parents to fill out the applications. I am very well satisfied with how The Children's Scholarship Fund interacts with S. S. Cosmas and Damian."

Msgr. Riccardo also added, "I became familiar with the Children Scholarship Fund while at Immaculate Conception Church, in Clarion, PA as they were forming their organization. It had high hopes in the beginning with the new legislation in Pennsylvania, becoming the first organization in Pennsylvania to be certified to receive from various businesses and distribute funds to schools. The Children Scholarship Fund has grown each year in contributions and in schools affected by their fund distribution. I was happy to have S.S. Cosmas and Damian included on their list of schools. The scholarships have helped a number of our parents who otherwise would find it hard to send their children to our school. I continue to admire the work they began and continue to do for the parents and children in the schools of the Catholic Diocese of Erie."



Celebrating Dr. Seuss



Constellation Cookies 6th gr. Science project

## The Children's Scholarship Fund of Pennsylvania

Would like to thank the following Businesses for their Generous Contributions

ADD Energy

Allegheny Toyota

American Refining Group

AMSCO

Anderson Metal Industries, Inc.

Armstrong Group of Companies

Barr's Insurance

BK RV

Bronder Technical Services

C & A Trees, LTD

Car\*Mate Trailers

Carrier Insurance

Charles Tool & Supply

Clarion Animal Hospital

Clarion Coach

Clarion County Community Bank

Clarion Fruit

Commodore Homes

Crooks Clothing, Co.

DAVCOL, Inc

Doutt Tool

Eaker Enterprises PC

Equitable Resources

Farmers & Merchants Bank of W. PA

Farmers National Bank of Emlenton

Farmers National Bank of Kittanning

First Commonwealth Bank

First United National Bank of Fryburg

Francis J. Palo, Inc.

Gateway Health Plan

Howard Drilling, Inc.

Hubbard Bus Service

Hunter Truck Sales & Service

Interstate Pipe & Supply Co.

Jefferson Wholesale

The Kriebel Group

Law Offices of Greco & Lander, P.C.

McCabe Drug

McKean Animal Hospital

National City Bank

Northwest Savings Bank

Pathways Adolescent Ctr

Pennco Tool & Die

Pennsylvania General Energy Co.

Phoenix Metals of PA

Pizza Pub

Pure Tech, Inc.

Rosebud Mining

S&T Bank

Seneca Hardwood Lumber

Sherry Distributor

Snyder Associated Companies, Inc.

Stubler Drive-Thru Beverage

Tunnelton Liquids Company

TURM Oil Company

UPMC

Venango Supply

Venango Valley

Voyten Electric

W.R. Case & Sons

Waste Management

Witherup Fabrication

# EITC Update

Important dates for businesses to remember:

May 15th—Applications for second year businesses are being accepted at the DCED

July 1—Applications for first year businesses (other than those claiming PIT) are being accepted at the DCED

\*If you would like us to hand deliver your first year application please contact our office at (814) 226-9722 or (814) 226-9723

July 8—Applications for businesses claiming PIT are being accepted at the DCED

## Act 4 of 2001 & ACT 48 of 2003 of the Education Improvement Tax Credit Program

### \$8,000,000 set aside for Pre Kindergarten Scholarships

- ◆ Businesses will receive a 100% credit for the first \$10,000, and up to a 90% credit on the remaining amount of the contribution.
- ◆ Requires only a 1 year commitment!
- ◆ Businesses can apply for up to a \$150,000 in credits.
- ◆ The school must be within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### \$67 Million set aside for K through 12 Scholarships

- ◆ \$44.7 Million to Educational Improvement Organizations
- ◆ Businesses can increase their Credit to \$300,000 per fiscal year for the K through 12 program.
- ◆ 1 or 2 year commitment
- ◆ The school must be within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



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*The Children's Scholarship*

# The Children's Scholarship Fund of Pennsylvania

## CSF of PA

Scholarship applications available on-line

The 2009-2010 Children's Scholarship Fund of Pennsylvania application is now available on our website, [www.csfofpa.org](http://www.csfofpa.org). Our new process is easier than ever.

You can apply on-line, pay on-line and if you prefer upload your documents on-line. Why wait, take advantage of this opportunity and apply early.

The Children's Scholarship Fund of PA would like to wish all of you a safe & enjoyable summer.



FIRST  
Commonwealth.

## Business Highlights:



Pictured from left are Dawn Martin, First Commonwealth Punxsutawney Office Manager, Ann Smith, Principal S.S.C.D., Sue Fillhart, customer service representative and Laurie Young, teller supervisor.

Utilizing the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program First Commonwealth Bank recently made a contribution to The Children's Scholarship Fund of Pennsylvania to help students attending S.S. Cosmas & Damian School in Punxsutawney.

First Commonwealth Bank operates in Central and Western Pennsylvania. They understand that every individual's financial needs and goals are unique. Because of this, they go beyond traditional banking to help clients prioritize

and assess their financial needs. This dynamic process ensures that each customer gets the most out of the many products and services First Commonwealth has to offer.

First Commonwealth continues to reach out to local communities in western and central Pennsylvania. First Commonwealth provides financial support through contributions and sponsorships to worthy community programs which enhance the quality of life of its citizens.

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