

THE

EAGLE REVIEW

FALL/WINTER 2021 EDITION

537 Miles: Retracing a Hero's Journey

FEATURED ARTICLE ON PAGE 3



Pictured: George Siller, brother of Frank Siller '71 and father of Greg Siller '99.

Photo courtesy of Tunnel to Towers Foundation

#EaglesEndure

From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

It's with great pleasure and warmest wishes that I write this letter to you. Perhaps it is brought upon by the calendar year's close, or maybe the nostalgia particular to this winter period, but more than any other, I find myself most reflective at the bookend of the Christmas season.

My heart is full from familial bonds and the brotherhood of you, my St. Peter's family. I can only hope you've found such blessings throughout this holiday.

But while the past is comforting, the future is just as exciting. The possibilities of all that He has planned appear as radiant as the new day. The Lord has blessed us all with another chance at greatness. I, as well as those at our beloved school, are eager to venture forward into this next great unknown.

As we head onward into 2022, let us do so with faith in God and with the confidence that his hand shall be there to guide us. Let us use this new year as an opportunity to recommit ourselves to his teachings and to our mission of doing the same for St. Peter's next generation.

Please enjoy this special issue of The Eagle Review, and thank you for your continued support of St. Peter's Boys High School.

God bless,



John A. Fodera

JOHN A. FODERA '62
President
Principal, 1991–2017

LET'S BE SOCIAL

Follow us on
social media at:

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 @stpetersboyshs

From the Desk of **PRINCIPAL COSENTINO**

Dear Friends,

It feels like an understatement to call 2021 eventful. As Eagles, we've overcome life's unexpected challenges and did so together. I'm glad to be writing to you once again and hope you and your family are happy and healthy going into the New Year. There has been so much to share since our last Eagle Review. Here are some of the highlights:

I am excited to report that Eagles fall sports returned in full swing this year! Our football, soccer and cross country programs showed their strength as they battled it out with St. Peter's pride. Congratulations to Mr. Felix Gilroy '84 on his first season as head coach of our track program! We are lucky to have this faithful St. Peter's teacher leading our athletes.

With the help of our new Student Council Moderator, Freshman Guidance Counselor John Mancuso '98, we swore four deserving students into the St. Peter's chapter. Congratulations to Andrew Cranston, Dominick Valentine, Michael Zarilli, Sean Danis, and our newly inducted National Honor Society members.

Our recent open house brought a great crowd of 7th and 8th grade students to tour St. Peter's. I feel confident they left with a strong sense of what it means to be an Eagle and the success that our school can offer.

We are honored to welcome our new pastor, Fr. Louis Jerome, into our school's family. With his help, our annual Senior Ring Day ceremony was a beautiful display as we celebrated the class of 2022. It is always exciting to guide another group of young men through this right of passage.

I would also like to thank Fr. Michael Cichon for his service to our school. We wish him luck on his new assignment at St. Christopher's on Staten Island.

We are excited for the launch of our new culinary program, which Mr. John Mancuso will spearhead. The program is set to begin in the second semester of this year and already has the interest of 20 students who attended orientation on December 9th.

Our Alumni Lecture Series has officially kicked off with Flagship Brewery's Matt McGinley '93' and Jay Sykes '00', and Vincent Innocente '08' of St. George Theatre Marketing. We look forward to our next lecture heading into the new year.

The annual blood drive was another huge success. This year's event saw over 130 students and faculty donating. These generous actions are what make me proud to be an Eagle!

Finally, our winter sports are underway, and our teams are off to a great start. Basketball players are carrying victories into 2022 with their win over St. John's. Our bowling team is undefeated and number one in Staten Island for the first time in program history and swimming and wrestling show nothing but promise for a strong season!

Thank you to all who have helped support St. Peter's throughout the year. You are the reason our students and school continue to thrive.

God bless,



MICHAEL COSENTINO '03
Principal
Live Jesus in our Hearts...Forever!

Live Jesus in Our Hearts... Forever!

End of a somber journey:

Frank Siller completes 500-mile
walk on Sept. 11

Article published in Staten Island Advance
by Tracey Porpora, 9/12/21



The "Never Forget Walk" from Washington, D.C., to Manhattan spearheaded by Frank Siller, Tunnel to Towers chief executive officer, culminated at Ground Zero on the 20th anniversary of the deadly attacks on the World Trade Center. (Courtesy of Tunnel to Towers Foundation)

FEATURED STORY



Members of the military at Ground Zero on the 20th anniversary of September 11. (Courtesy of Tunnel to Towers Foundation)

"We lost 2,977, but all those first responders gave their life by running into that building and saving over 20,000 people," Siller said.

(Courtesy of Tunnel to Towers Foundation)



The 537-mile walk and its tribute to all those lost in 9/11 — especially his younger brother — is one Frank Siller will never forget.

Dubbed the “Never Forget Walk” from Washington, D.C., to Manhattan, Siller, Tunnel to Towers chief executive officer, culminated his somber journey at Ground Zero on the 20th anniversary of the deadly attacks on the World Trade Center.

Siller made a 537-mile walk from the Pentagon to Ground Zero through six states in six weeks to honor and support first responders and their families.

After a stop on Thursday at his home parish, Blessed Sacrament R.C. Church, West Brighton, and another in Fort Wadsworth for a homecoming barbecue on Friday, Siller completed his journey with a walk through the Hugh Carey (Brooklyn-Battery) Tunnel.

That leg of the journey retraced the footsteps of his late brother, Stephen, an off-duty firefighter who valiantly ran through the tunnel

in 2001 and ultimately lost his life as he responded to the World Trade Center attacks.

“All I was thinking about was my brother, of course,” said Siller of his walk through the tunnel on Saturday.

“I mean who does what he did? Right? Throws his gear on his back and runs through that tunnel, and I’ll tell you, I was walking through there with my family, who I love so much, and I was thinking of his face so vividly and his bald head and his smile. And I’ll tell you, I know he was running there and he had one thing in his mind: to help and to save. And he gave it all that day,” added Siller as he made the poignant journey on Saturday with a team of family, friends and supporters behind him.

Stephen Siller was one of 343 firefighters who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks.

“And firefighters, we lost 343 firefighters that day, each of their names are right along this wall,” Siller told the

FEATURED STORY



The Siller family on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

(Courtesy of Tunnel to Towers Foundation)

Advance/SILive.com about his journey. “And we lost over 60 police officers. They gave their life that day. We lost 2,977, but all those first responders gave their life by running into that building and saving over 20,000 people. And my brother was a part of that, and he’ll always be remembered as the firefighter who ran through the tunnel and gave up his life to help others.”

THE FOUNDATION

Since then, Siller and his siblings have built the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which has grown from a grassroots local organization to a national effort that makes sure heroic sacrifices by firefighters and police officers, as well as members of the U.S. military, are rewarded. In 2011 Siller made an announcement that the foundation would build a smart home for every “catastrophically injured service member.”

Over the years, the foundation has built more than 100 smart homes for severely injured U.S. military members.

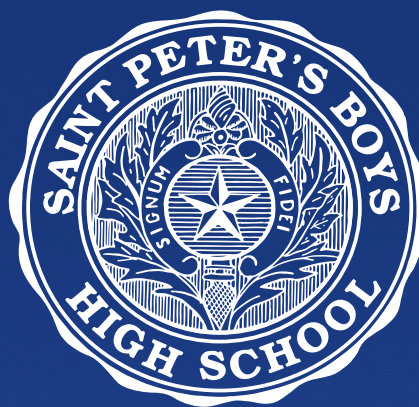
“When somebody goes to serve our country, or our communities, and they give their kids a kiss goodbye, and they don’t come home, we’re going to take care of the families left behind,” said Siller.

“We’re going to deliver them a mortgage-free home, or we’re going to pay off their mortgage if they have a home.”

THE WALK

“I think it’s because everyone’s spirits have carried me, especially my brother Stephen’s spirit,” Siller told the Advance/SILive.com last month as he walked through the hills of Pennsylvania as part of the Never Forget Walk.

Throughout the walk, Siller has been encouraging Americans to “never forget” the sacrifices of the nearly 3,000 Americans murdered by the events of 9/11 — including his brother. His second goal is to encourage 1 million supporters to sign on to donate \$11 a month to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.



ST. PETER'S BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

**2022 BASKETBALL
ALUMNI GAME**

ALL ALUMNI ARE WELCOME!

Saturday, March 26, 2022

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Boys High School

200 Clinton Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301

Refreshments to follow in the school's cafeteria

\$60

Includes game, t-shirt
and refreshments (playing)

\$40

Includes admission and
refreshments (non-playing)

Please RSVP by March 16 to
Matt Genovese '05 at genovese.matthew@gmail.com

A HEARTFELT *Thank You*

Dear Family, Friends, and Neighbors,

“Be Doers of the Word, Not Merely Hearers” James 1:17-18

It is difficult for me to express how grateful and thankful I am for all you have given me over the past few months because words simply do not suffice. Whether it was prayers, thoughts, lending a helping hand, or generous gifts, the display of love and support for me and my family is something I will never forget. You are the “Doers of the Word” by coming together to help me in any way that was doable for you. I will forever be indebted to you for what was done for my family and me. You will always hold a special place in my heart.

In this world we live in today, we need more acts of kindness like yours to change the world for the better. To make a difference, look no further than helping your neighbor when in need and treating them the way you would want to be treated every day. I want all of you to know that you have made a huge difference in my life.

Throughout the recovery process, the power of prayer and faith has been instrumental. Thank you to my family, friends, neighbors, the entire St. Peter's Boys High School community, RUMC hospital, all elementary and high schools on Staten Island, and the entire Staten Island community for coming together in prayer to give me the strength and hope needed to battle through one of the most difficult situations of my life.

After beating this terrible disease, the medical professionals warned me about being depressed after having such a severe case of COVID, but because of all of the LOVE I received, depression could not and will not set in. I am blessed and inspired by all of you, which has given me the determination to come back stronger than ever and support all of you in any way that I can for the rest of my life.

THANK YOU, and may God Bless each and every one of you.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Cosentino".

MICHAEL COSENTINO '03
Principal
Live Jesus in our Hearts...Forever!



*St. Peter's principal Michael Cosentino holds up fist greeting supporters at Richmond University Medical Center, West Brighton after his battle with COVID-19 for more than a month. Wednesday July 21, 2021.
(Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel)*

FACULTY RECOGNITION



Frank Cafaro *recognized* with prestigious Minty Award

The Spirit of St. Genesius Award is given to individuals who have strongly supported The Minty Organization for the Performing Arts schools' performing arts programs and have made a lasting impact on students' lives. This award recognizes educators and mentors that have been involved in Minty Organization schools outside a traditional director/musical director/choreographer role.

Since 1974, Frank Cafaro, AFSC, has been a presence behind the scenes — and on stage — at St. Peter's Boys High School. Born and raised on Staten Island, Frank attended St. John Villa Elementary School, New Dorp High School, and St. John's University. In 1973, Frank began his tenure at St. Peter's teaching history and religion while also serving as a guidance counselor. After a two-year stint as Dean of Students at St. John's, he returned to St. Peter's in 1983 and became Director of Guidance and moderator of the student council and hockey team while serving as the Driver's Ed teacher.

The 1998 Lasallian Educator of the Year, he served on the Lasallian Christian Brothers Mission Counsel for New York from 1999 to 2011. In 2018, he was presented with the Letters of Affiliation to The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools with November 5, 2018, proclaimed as "Frank Cafaro Day" in Staten Island.

A constant and strong presence in the St. Peter's Boys' drama program, Frank began his work backstage in 1974 during the tenure of legendary impresario Carl William Lesch. Over the course of the next four decades, Frank would also appear in cameo roles in "The Most Happy Fella," "Brigadoon," "My Fair Lady," "Sugar," "Paint Your Wagon," "On the Town," "South Pacific," "The Music Man," "Damn Yankees" and "West Side Story."

"Anyone who walks through the doors of St. Peter's knows Mr. Frank Cafaro. So it is no surprise that he has often graced our



stage," said Michael Taccetta, current director of St. Peter's Drama. "His love and compassion for theatre shines through to our students not just in all his support behind the scenes but onstage as well. Keep an eye out for him in our upcoming production of 'Guys and Dolls' this May!"

We congratulate Frank on nearly a half-century of dedication to St. Peter's and the Performing Arts!

We look forward to recognizing Frank's achievements, along with our other honorees, at the Minty Organization Gala in January!

BASKETBALL

JV boys' basketball: St. Peter's victorious

*An excerpt from an article published in Staten Island Advance
by Charlie De Biase Jr. 11/25/21.*

ST. PETER'S 72, ST. JOHN'S PREP 44

Mike Quionnes and **Jorel Monroe** scored 17 and 16 points, respectively, to paced the Eagles to the season-opening, non-league victory over the Queens school on Tuesday.

Quionnes and **Monroe** teamed to hit 13 of 18 free throws for the Eagles.

Antonio Morello (7 for 8 free throws, trey) added 12 points while **Maddox LaPierre** (two threes) chipped in with 10 for St. Peter's.

St. Peter's topples Scanlan

*An excerpt from an article published in Staten Island Advance
by Charlie De Biase Jr. 12/6/21.*

**ST. PETER'S 63,
MONSIGNOR SCANLAN 60**

Jorel Monroe finished with a game-high 19 points, including a 9-for-11 performance from the free-throws line, as St. Peter's registered a 63-60 CHSAA victory over visiting Monsignor Scanlan Sunday in New Brighton.

The 3-0 Eagles, who improved to 1-0 in CHSAA AA play, also received solid performances from point guard **Antonio Morello** (18 points, 8 of 9 from the charity



*St. Peter's point guard Antonio Morello looks for an open man against St. John's Prep during non-league junior varsity game on Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021.
(Staten Island Advance/Annie De Biase)*

stripe) and shooting guard **Chris Bedford** (17 points, all in the second half).

St. Peter's, which owned a 16-point lead early in the fourth, finished 22 of 26 from the free-throw line, including 11 of 12 in the final period.

WRESTLING

St. Peter's opens season with win over Sea

*Published in Staten Island Advance
12/8/21.*

Captain **Mike Aruta** (152 pounds), **Greg Ajose** (160), **Luke Tarantino** (172), **Billy DeBiase** (189) and **Deen Radoncic** (215) all won via pins to lead St. Peter's to a season-opening 40-33 CHSAA victory over host St. Joseph by-the-Sea on Wednesday.

"I am very proud of how far the St. Peter's Boys HS wrestling team has come along and has overcome the obstacles of these past few years," said Eagles coach Joe DeSimone.

Radoncic also won via pin at 285 pounds in a non-scoring exhibition match.

St. Peter's other points came via **Aiden Capasso-Khan's** major decision and a forfeit win by **Chris Bala**.



*St. Peter's Mike Aruta gets set to pin Sea's Brendan Palmeri in their 152-pound match.
(Courtesy of St. Peter's wrestling)*



SWIMMING

Sea splits tri-meet vs. Farrell and St. Peter's

An excerpt from an article published in Staten Island Advance by Kara Buzga 12/6/21.

St. Joseph by-the-Sea boys' swim team split a CHSAA tri-meet with Monsignor

Farrell and St. Peter's on Sunday at the College of Staten Island pool.

The Eagles' **Joseph Puca** (100 back in 1:07.14) and **James Curran** (100 breaststroke in 1:23.63) were victorious.

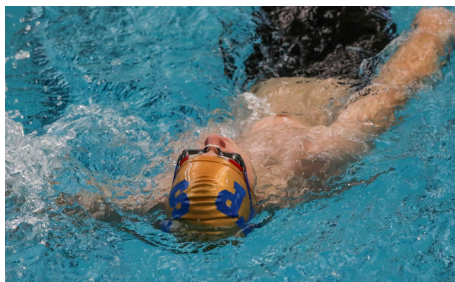
St. Peter's 200 medley relay team, consisting of **Puca, Cosmo D'Amelio, Jack Plaia** and **Curran** was first in 2:06.26.



St. Peter's James Curran, competing in the 100M Breaststroke, in the Catholic Tri-School Swim meet:

Monsignor Farrell; St. Joseph-By-The-Sea and St. Peters, on 12/5/2021, at College of Staten Island. (Kara Buzga for Staten Island Advance).Kara Buzga

St. Peter's Steven Maniscalco, competing at the Catholic Tri-School Swim meet: Monsignor Farrell; St. Joseph-By-The-Sea and St. Peters, on 12/5/2021, at College of Staten Island. (Kara Buzga for Staten Island Advance).Kara Buzga



St. Peter's, Cosmo D'Amelio, competing in the 100 M Fly, in the Catholic Tri-School Swim meet: Monsignor Farrell; St. Joseph-By-The-Sea and St. Peters, on 12/5/2021, at College of Staten Island.(Kara Buzga for Staten Island Advance).Kara Buzga

EAGLES *out and* ABOUT

Daniel C. Perrone ESQ. *Class of '06*

Daniel C. Perrone ESQ. '06 & Kristin Perrone welcomed their daughter, Eliana Rae, on Aug. 16, 2021.



Charlie Debiase

Class of '87

Charlie Debiase '87 and his wife, Helen, celebrate his induction into the Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame's "Unsung Hero Award" recipients at the 2021 induction ceremony.



Mike Paulsen

Class of '81

Mike Paulsen with hall of fame golfer Gary Player at Glen Oaks Country Club.



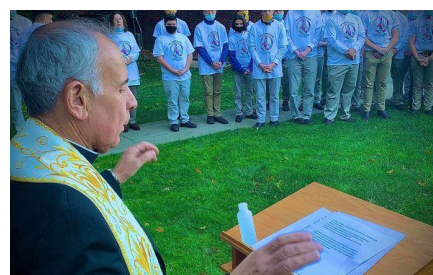
Briane Perrone

Class of '09

Brian Perrone '09 graduated from NYU school of dentistry, completed his 2yr. residency at SIUH & has joined his father, Dr. Daniel Perrone '70, at his dental practice.

Day of Peace Ceremony

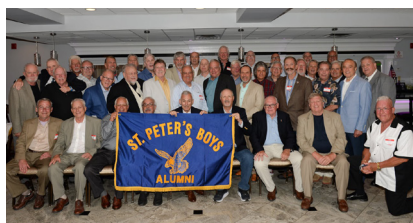
St. Peter's Boys High School celebrates their Day of Peace Ceremony as they welcome the new pastor of St. Peter's parish, Rev. Louis Jerome.



50-Year Reunion

Class of '71

The class of '71 celebrated their 50-year reunion.

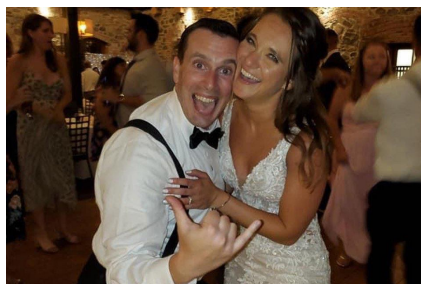




Andrew Gangemi

Class of '05

Andrew Gangemi '05 and his new wife share their excitement during their wedding reception.



Anthony Massa

Class of '13

"I can officially say that I played soccer in a professional soccer stadium! Thank you to the New York Red Bull's for such an amazing experience. I will remember this day forever! I am also honored to have my name on the wall behind the bench." - Anthony Massa '13 who was honored as one of the many Youth Soccer coaches by the NY Red Bulls.



Ed Panelli & Chris Gangemi

Class of '70 & '07

Ed Panelli '70 has participated in Milwaukee's 9/11 Memorial, reading names of the fallen NYFD firefighters to honor their sacrifice. During this year's 20th anniversary memorial service, Ed was introduced to Chris Gangemi '07, "the other New Yorker" who would be assisting him in this reading. Ed was pleasantly surprised when he discovered that Chris was not only a fellow New Yorker, but a St. Peter's alumni too! Call this another case of "St. Peter's Six Degrees of Separation."



Liam Sanborn

Class of '17

Liam Sanborn '17 was named CUNYAC Player of the Week for hitting a game winning three-point shot, as well as scoring his 1,000 collegiate point in his final season for Baruch.



Alumni Birthdays

Class of '64

Members of the class of '64 recently celebrated their 75th birthday together. - Left to right, Bob Kress, Craig Brooks, Gerry Cameron and Larry Burke



EAGLES *out and* ABOUT

'82 Alumni Meet-Up

Class of '82 had their yearly gathering at Lee's Tavern which is always the first Friday after Halloween.



'87 Alumni Meet-Up

The class of '87 gathered for their annual meet-up at Jody's which is always the Friday after Thanksgiving.



Erin Engleson

Class of '11

Edward & Erin Engelson, class of '11, her mother works at the school.



Enzo Villani *Class of '88*

"Today is a special day. Blockchain Moon Acquisition Corp (\$BMAQU) went IPO. This is the first company I've taken public on Nasdaq. It's dear to me since I spent 10 years at Nasdaq and till this day have some great friends from those years working together. It's also special because I get to do what I love and also be a part of something bigger like blockchain and cryptocurrencies. Thanks to everyone on my board and Wes Levitt, my CFO for backing the idea of a blockchain focused SPAC." - Enzo Villani '88



Anthony J. Lotito

Class of '94

Anthony J. Lotito '94 celebrated the opening of his fourth restaurant franchise and second Angry Lobster location this fall in West Brighton.



Nick Bellomo & Kwame Tawiah

Class of '01 & '03

Nick Bellomo '01 and Kwame Tawiah '03 at MetLife Stadium for a rare Jets win.





Eric Allen *Class of '19*

Eric Allen class '19 is currently in training for the United States Army Reserves in Fort Jackson, SC.



Roy Wickstrom

Class of '08

Roy Wickstrom '08 and Christina Dimarsky got engaged.



Terrence Haggerty

Class of '00

Congratulations to Terrence Haggerty '00 as another St. Peter's alumni to be awarded with the "Unsung Heroes Award" by the Staten Island Hall of Fame Committee. Terrence and Jody's Club Forest have been and continue to be a faithful supporter of St. Peter's Boys High School. He has earned a well-deserved reputation for supporting various causes and sports, especially youth golf.



'75 Alumni Meet-Up

Class of '75 alumni, Lou Pisano, Mike Demato, Rich Gross, Tom McSherry and Bob Brown, resumed their annual meet-up as they reunited in Tannersville, PA to catch-up and reminisce after a two-year hiatus. The group has been meeting since 2007.



WHERE ARE YOU?

Hey Eagles! We know moving has a lot of components already, but please remember to let us know your new address and contact information to stay in the loop on all things St. Peter's. Our current database has a number of outdated addresses, so ask your friends and fellow alumni to send current addresses to communications@stpetersboyshs.org.

FEATURED ALUMNI



Reilly Walsh, left, is joined by, left to right, dad John '84, mom Christine, friend Jenny Driscoll and uncle, Paul Driscoll '85, shortly after completing the IRONMAN Florida 2021 competition at Panama City Beach, Fla., last weekend. Walsh, a former Jaques Award winner from St. Peter's, placed first in his age group of 18-24-years-old. (Courtesy of Reilly Walsh)

Former St. Peter's Jaques Award winner was a true man of steel at IRONMAN Florida 2021

*Published in Staten Island Advance
by Charlie De Biase Jr., 11/9/21*

Reilly Walsh '15 is a former Jaques Award winner who averaged 25.0 points a game his senior year.

The former St. Peter's hoops star also went on to play college basketball at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, a Division 1 program.

Is there a degree of difficulty when you're playing at that type of level? Sure there is. In one way or another, you're playing with a target on your back.

But any three-point shot attempt with a hand in his face or double-team he might have experienced against St. Raymond's or Cardinal Hayes, for instance, likely pales in comparison to the obstacles Walsh encountered while competing in last Saturday's IRONMAN Florida 2021 competition.

"I never thought in a million years I'd be doing something like this, even going into the (competition)," said Walsh of the long-distance triathlon, which is widely considered one of the most difficult sporting events on the planet. "But I was prepared and had a great support system that obviously worked."

Walsh competed in the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26.22-mile run for the first time in Panama City Beach, Fla., and not only finished with an impressive time of 9:46.51, but, incredibly, finished first in his age group of 18-24-years-old. In addition, he placed 42nd overall out of a whopping 1,696 people who actually finished the event.

The most recent average time for men completing the grueling race is 12:38.

And what does the lifelong West Brighton resident get for placing so high? Well, he qualified for the IRONMAN World Champs in Kona, Hawaii, between Oct. 6-8, 2022.

Not too shabby.

"I'm going to take a little bit of time off now, rest my body because I am a little beat up," laughed Walsh, who fully plans on competing in Hawaii next year. "I'll be getting back to it soon, but I'm going to rest up first."

Walsh's road to competing in the highly popular triathlon started almost a year ago when he decided to sign up for IRONMAN Maryland, which took place this past September. However, he was forced to switch to Florida, which was approximately two months after the Maryland event, after he sustained an ankle injury while training at an Olympic distance-event in the Poconos last June.

WHY IRONMAN?

The 24-year-old said his decision to take part in an IRONMAN competition was a combination of two things.

"First, I was looking for a new challenge. I wanted to push myself to try something different," he said. "But then I also saw a YouTube video of a guy named Nick Bare," he added. "He had a documentary on his IRONMAN training. He was doing it for his mother, who had cancer. That really hit home for me."



*Former St. Peter's basketball star Reilly Walsh
nears the finish line after traveling over 140 miles at
IRONMAN Florida 2021 last Saturday.
(Courtesy of Reilly Walsh)*

Walsh's mom, Christine, is a breast cancer survivor who has been in remission for three years.

"My mom was in the same exact situation, so there was a parallel to (Bare) in that way," explained Walsh. "It just hit home. I watched his video, then went right to the website and signed up.

"It 100 percent inspired me (to compete). I was there for my mom's treatments and they were some difficult times. She taught me what it means to persevere. And (competing in the IRONMAN) doesn't compare to what someone with cancer goes through."

SECOND-TO-NONE SUPPORT

Walsh, who began training last January, was initially in contact with Jenny Driscoll, another former hoopster and family friend who is also the daughter and niece of his former coaches at St. Peter's. Denis Driscoll, Jenny's dad, was Walsh's freshman coach while Charlie Driscoll, Jenny's uncle, was his varsity coach.

Jenny Driscoll was the perfect person to speak to because she competed in IRONMAN Lake Placid in 2017.

"She took me under her wings," acknowledged Walsh, who also heaped praise on eventual training partner Stephen O'Driscoll,

FEATURED ALUMNI

a fellow Islander and St. Peter's alum. "(Jenny) showed me the ropes."

But Walsh's path to IRONMAN success was really enhanced when he took on Robert Pollastro, the president of the NYPD Triathlon team, as a trainer.

"He helped me immensely," said Walsh of Pollastro, a former record-breaking swimmer in college. "I really had no idea what I was doing (when I started) and he trained me from day 1. He was exactly what I needed to get me ready for this event."

ROUND-THÉ-CLOCK TRAINING

The 6-foot-3 Walsh, who is a business analyst for RiskVal Financial Solutions in Manhattan, began training for an approximate total of 20 hours a week when 2021 hit. On weekdays, he'd be up at 5 a.m., train, work at home between 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., then train again when his shift was over.

He also trained extensively on weekends.

"Running was the most natural since I did it for years with basketball and, although it was years ago, I did swim competitively when I was a kid," he said. "It was getting used to biking that was the challenge. I never biked like this before, certainly not the way I had to bike last Saturday."

Walsh arrived in Panama City Beach on Nov. 3. He was aware that his parents, Christine and John, as well as Sue and Paul Driscoll, his aunt and uncle, would be meeting him in Florida. But he was surprised by Jenny Driscoll on race day.

"It was really cool to have them all down there," said Walsh. "I went into (the event) with the intention of just finishing. That was my first goal and anything else was just a plus."

His family met him at various spots over the course of his time competing. And they helped support him in other ways as well.

"I could hear my dad yelling things like (my time) and when I had a couple of miles to go," he laughed.

Then, there was crossing the finish line, the realization he achieved his goal — and then some — and meeting his family afterwards.

"There was a lot of emotion, some tears of joy for sure," said Walsh. "Over 10 months of work put into it and it all came to fruition."

"But it wasn't just me competing," he added matter-of-factly. "I was obviously the one racing, but there was everyone else helping me behind the scenes."

"It was a spectacular feeling."

One he hopes to experience again in the Aloha State next October.



Reilly Walsh was all smiles after finishing his first IRONMAN event last Saturday. The West Brighton resident earned a spot in the IRONMAN World Champs in Hawaii next October.

(Courtesy of Reilly Walsh)

FEATURED ALUMNI



The proposal was a surprise to everyone, even family and friends. (Courtesy/Dave Giordano)

Staten Island comedian Eric D'Alessandro Proposes to longtime girlfriend during show at St. George Theatre

An excerpt from an article published in Staten Island Advance by Annalise Knudson, 10/17/21

Staten Island comedian Eric D'Alessandro '08 already delivered. He had his crowd of 1,900 people roaring with laughter at the sold-out St. George Theatre. But his final bit of entertainment was a punchline the audience never saw coming.

At the conclusion of his homecoming performance, D'Alessandro summoned his longtime girlfriend Leanna Kostalos to the stage, dropped to a knee, and asked her to marry him, putting an exclamation point on an unforgettable show.

When asked how many people knew he would propose, he said "no one." But since many of their family and friends were all going to the show, he explained it was the perfect opportunity.

"The laughter filling the room was exhilarating...what an epic moment for Eric and his family," said Doreen Cugno, St. George Theatre president and CEO. "Last night was an amazing evening for all and an exciting way to re-open our venue!"

"Eric has been one of my best friends since we were five years old, so it was a great honor for me to be able to work on this special show," said Vincent Innocente, director of marketing and audience services for the St. George Theatre. "It was awesome to see so many people there we know from St. Roch, St. Peter's, and more all to support Eric!"

"I want to thank everyone so much, it was one of the coolest nights of my life, and I'm extremely grateful," he said about Saturday night's show and proposal.

FEATURED ALUMNI



The Tobin Family unveils the street sign. Pictured are Beverly Morganbesser, Kathleen Roesler, Mary Alice Rowan, Councilwoman Debi Rose, Mrs. Alice Tobin, Kevin Tobin, Stephanie Duffy, Michael Tobin and Daniel Rowan. (Photo courtesy of Denise Boccia)

Coach John Tobin Way:

Late X-C and track mentor gets his due with street naming

*Published in Staten Island Advance
by Joe D'Amodio, 10/4/21*

The late John Tobin '56 loved his hot dogs.

That's why a hot dog cart was on hand Sunday during a street naming for the legendary Island high school cross country and track & field coach on the corner of Oakland Avenue and Nutly Place in West Brighton.

The name "Coach John Tobin Way" is now visible at the intersection of the two North Shore blocks.

"If you ever asked John Tobin 'would you like a hamburger or hotdog?' his response would have been 'I'll take 3 hotdogs!'," said Denise Boccia, a friend of Tobin's and the administrative director of SI Elite Track & Field. "Miss him terribly!"

Boccia was one of more than 200 family, friends, peers, former athletes and students who turned out for the 1 p.m. ceremony.

Alice Tobin, John's widow opened the ceremony by thanking Boccia, Bill Welsh and Jeff Benjamin, who led the campaign for the street naming.

The Rev. Terry Troia led everyone in The Celtic Prayer for the poor in honor of Tobin and remembered the man who put the community first.

"His vision of a school for all led to his leadership in creating and continuing the New World Order Prep School," said Troia.

Commemorative T-shirts and journal books that Alice Tobin and Boccia worked on, were handed out.

Of course, the many in attendance gobbled up hot dogs and then pizza, provided by neighbor James McBratney, owner of Jimmy Max, as part of the refreshment menu.

Tobin, who passed in September of 2019 at the age of 80, was a St. Peter's High School and Manhattan College track alum, who would go on to coach at Peter's as well as Port Richmond and Tottenville. He coached notable athletes such as Pete Whitehouse, Artie Evans and Joe Ferrante and won numerous local and city championships.

Several of the St. Peter's alumni coached by Tobin were in attendance, including Marty Gray, who led the ceremonial bagpipe players.

"One of the greatest gifts Coach Tobin will leave is his legacy and what better



way to continue his love of the sport by creating a lasting scholarship for active graduating senior scholar-athletes in cross country high school,” said Boccia. “I’ll be sending over the application to SIHST&F Association to distribute to all SI High School cross country coaches for athletes to apply for the 2021 season.”

Tobin’s fingerprints on Island road racing goes back decades.

In 1957, he and his close friend, Welsh, created the Staten Island High School Track & Field Association.

“There never will be a coach as interested as John Tobin in the complete athlete -- body and soul, athlete and school citizen,” said Welsh. “He was a father to anyone who ran for him. I learned from John.”

The longtime NYC educator was a driving force in the New York Empire State Games and the New York City Big Apple Games, and was honored with the Staten Island Advance’s Service Award in 1968.

Kevin Tobin, one of Tobin’s six children, was in attendance and said his dad taught him to give generously.

“Dad taught us to give back and you would get it back tenfold,” he said. “He always

told us that tough times don’t last, tough people do!”

St. Peter’s cross country alum and captain Ed Grippe called John Tobin his mentor.

“Coach Tobin was my best coach and mentor,” said Grippe. “A leader who inspired excellence and a mentor both on and off the track.”

Billy Bates, a St. Peter’s track alum, said, “As a freshman, John Tobin was our coach and as a senior John Tobin was our friend. He taught us to push through pain both in running and life...he took a group of boys and made us men.”

Longtime friend and Port Richmond colleague Angelo Aponte said Tobin’s “monument is the people here whose lives he has affected and who continue to affect people’s lives to this day.”

Judge Mike Brennan, John Tobin’s brother-in-law, summed up the day the best

“John, this day’s for you,” said Brennan.

“The sun didn’t always shine on your face, but you dealt with life in great dignity and honor and respect for other people.”



Marty Gray leads the Staten Island bagpipers and drums. (Photo courtesy of Denise Boccia)



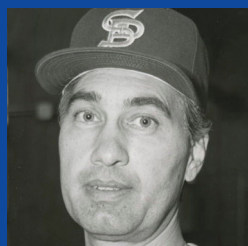
A saying by Coach John Tobin is seen on a T-shirt. (Photo courtesy of Diane Boccia)



Editor’s Note

St. Peter’s Boys High School would like to thank the Staten Island Advance for their continued dedication to the school and alumni. Their coverage of our activities both on and off campus is invaluable.

IN MEMORIAM



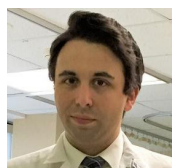
COACH ERNEST ANTHONY TULINO passed away on Dec. 5, 2021. Born in Brooklyn, Ernest dedicated his life in service to those in his surrounding NY communities, serving as Recreation Supervisor for the NYC Parks & Recreation for more than 30, as well as a teacher at the New Brighton School and, most notably, coach to St. Peter's Varsity baseball team. Coach Tulino believed that there was potential in everyone and committed his life to helping others reach theirs. Ernest is survived by his wife, Jane, as well as his children and grandchildren.

ROBERT (BOB) FALLAR '52 passed away on Oct. 24, 2021, at the age of 86. Bob was born and raised on Staten Island. Bob was the beloved husband of 61 years to Rosemary Fallar, a cherished father and adored grandfather.

DAVID RAFTERY '54 passed away on Oct. 29, 2021, at the age of 85. Despite numerous health issues throughout the years, those close to James noted his ability to always keep a positive outlook. James served as a rifle instructor in the U.S. Army Reserve and held a successful career in finance where he found special joy in greeting out-of-town clients with Broadway performances.

EDWARD F. CUMMINGS '64 passed away on Jan. 25, 2021, at the age of 74. Ed enjoyed a long, lucrative career in business, during which he served as Vice President for both J.P. Morgan Bank and Fifth, Third Bank. Following retirement, Ed and his wife enjoyed life as avid travelers.

JAMES E. SUTERA '85 passed away on Dec. 6, 2021. James was a lover of the outdoors and could often be found out on the water or on the golf course. He found passion in reporting, founding his court stenography firm, Eagle Reporting, and later in the world of acting.



DR. JOSEPH FERRARO '05 passed away this year.

PASCAL M. GAMBARDILLA '65 passed away on Dec. 5, 2021 at the age of 73. Pascal was a devoted husband and loving father who found his joy in music. He was known by many for his great sense of giving and loved nothing more than to make others happy.

MICHAEL GRADY '98 passed away this year. Michael was a member of the U.S. Navy. Surviving him are his parents, Timothy and Marguerite Grady, his wife, Michelle, and his daughter, Gabrielle.

KEITH SCHETTINO '94 passed away this year after a battle with brain cancer. Keith is survived by his wife, Brenna, and their two daughters, Emma and Lilly. A gofundme has been established in his name for all wishing to make a donation.

JOSEPH EDWARD GILROY, JR. '74 passed away on Nov. 11, 2021. Along with a successful 50-year banking career, Joseph was honored as the 2013 recipient of Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame's "Unsung Heroes" award. Joseph was known for his generosity and was heavily involved in his local not-for-profits.



ARTIE SCHMITT, SR. '67 passed away on Dec. 5, 2021, at the age of 77. During his career, he served in the operations of NY Daily News. In his youth, Artie was inducted into the St. Peter's Boys High School Track Hall of Fame. Pictured above with his son, Artie Schmitt, Jr. '88.

JOHN L. ALTIERI '43 passed away on April 8, 2021, at the age of 93. Following his schooling, John established his own mechanical and engineering firm, Altieri Sebor Weiber LLC, and was handpicked to design systems for world-class architects. Before his passing, John served as a visiting professor for the Yale School of Architecture.



From @Principal_Cos

A selection of tweets from @StPetersBoysHS principal Cosentino.

Follow



Michael Cosentino @Principal_Cos • Oct 27
Italian Heritage Celebration @StPetersBoysHS with the one and only Mr. Cafaro.



Michael Cosentino @Principal_Cos • Oct 28
We held the 2021 Lasallian Days for Peace Ceremony this morning @StPetersBoysHS @STP_Eagles. "Rise Together For Peace".



Michael Cosentino @Principal_Cos • Nov 9
Alumni Lecture Series began yesterday with one of our Board of Advisors Vincent Innocente '08 on Marketing and Communications. @StPetersBoysHS @STP_Eagles @StGeorgeTheatre
Key Takeaways - "There are no wasted Experiences"

"The most important thing you can do is Network"



Michael Cosentino @Principal_Cos • Nov 17
Alumni Lecture #2 @StPetersBoysHS @STP_Eagles from Jay Sykes '00 and Matt McGinley '93 Founders and owners of Flagship Brewing Company.

Key Takeaways - "Work on your weaknesses in order to be successful"
"In life and business you have to be able to pivot"



Michael Cosentino @Principal_Cos • Dec 1
STP Wrestling finally gets a space to call home. Big Thank You to Head Coach Joe Desimone for making it happen @STP_Eagles @StPetersBoysHS. Let's Go STP Wrestling!!!



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