

Dear St. Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery Parents, Alumni, and Friends,

We would like to take a moment and share with all of you some information about a special Fund that was established by our family in 2007 for the teachers at St. Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery.

My name is Myong Caiafa and my husband Gene and I are parents of three boys. Jack graduated from the Murray Hill class in 2008, Charlie graduated in 2009, and Grant is currently enrolled. We often look back and remember fondly their days spent at St. Ignatius. We think about their time spent here among the most amazing teachers who greeted them every morning with smiles and hugs and offered comforting words when there were what Gene and I call the “Monday Morning Meltdowns.”

We want to share with you a very special story about our sister, Christine Caiafa Guarino. She was a school teacher from Brooklyn, NY, who unfortunately passed away in 2005 after a three-year battle with brain cancer. May 12, 2012 marks the seven year anniversary of her death. She was 31 years old. As much as she loved teaching, it wasn't always the easiest profession. Many times, she used her own funds to further her education and give back to her students. With this in mind, our family started the Ladybug Fund at St. Ignatius Loyola. Its goal is to raise funds that will be dedicated solely for the continuing education of the teachers at the nursery school. Often, funds for this purpose have been limited.

Since the Fund was started seven years ago, many teachers have been able to pursue additional studies that may not have been possible before the Ladybug Fund. The level of commitment that these teachers have is remarkable, and our children benefit greatly from their knowledge and enthusiasm on a daily basis. A teacher that has the opportunity to take continuing education classes will ultimately be able use these skills in order to enhance the children's learning experience.

We want to thank you for allowing us this time to share our story about Christine and the Ladybug Fund. We hope that you take this opportunity to make a donation to our teachers for their priceless gift of teaching and the love that they share with our children.

Our warmest appreciation,

Myong and Gene Caiafa