

## All School Retreat – April 5, 2006

We hope you and your family have a meaningful finale of Lent, a blessed Holy Week, and joyous Easter Season. Before we leave school for the Easter/ Spring Break, our school community will gather for our annual All School Retreat on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The retreat last year, "Celebrate Our Diversity, Honor Our Unity," was a huge success. This year, along with the Sisters of the Holy Cross, we will focus on Eco-Spirituality and the story of the universe.

*From its beginning the earth is a spiritual as well as a physical reality.*  
– Thomas Berry

Our keynote speaker is Jennifer Morgan.

*(Today there) is a call to the human species to learn anew its rightful place among all other members of the total Earth community.*  
– Jane Blewett

Ms. Morgan is an educator, author, storyteller, and environmental advocate who lives with her family in Princeton, NJ. Ms. Morgan is a former director of the Organic Farming Association of New Jersey where she started local and national programs for farmers and consumers. After completing the Earth Literacy program in cosmology and evolution at Genesis Farm, Blairstown, NJ in Ms. Morgan continued her studies those subjects at Princeton University. She also has a degree in

*We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.*  
Teilhard de Chardin

1996,  
in  
She

theology from the University of San Francisco and is an adult convert to Catholicism.

By sharing her new studies with her son at bed time, Ms. Morgan was challenged by his questions and curiosity about the universe so much that she investigated and subsequently wrote three books concerning the origins of all things. The first book won Learning Magazine's Teacher Choice Award and both published books received the highest review ratings from AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science.) Each book is beautifully illustrated by Dana Lynn Andersen, M.A. Ms. Morgan is friends/colleagues with Thomas Berry and utilizes the work of John F. Haught and Brian Swimme.

The following is a listing of Ms. Morgan's books, Universe Story Trilogy, published by Dawn Publications: *Born with a Bang* (2002), *From Lava to Life* (2003), *Mammals Who Morph* (To be released in 2006).

For more information: <http://www.universestories.com>

*The mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. . . All this will be a memorial for the Lord, a sign that for all time will not be cut off.*  
Isaiah 55: 12-13

We hope to show the divine creativity and illuminate both the transcendence but most importantly the IMMANENCE of GOD. . . Immanent understanding of the DIVINE. Through stories and new discoveries in the sciences, we learn that we are not only apart of the earth but WE ARE THE EARTH (literally). Also, we will illustrate how our ancestors from ALL traditions had an intuition that the universe had a beginning. We will utilize Jennifer's experience, knowledge and trilogy of children's books where the universe tells her story as the backbone for a day of discovery and activities. Working in collaboration with many departments, we hope to help the students recognize the amazing relationship they each have with GOD, the UNIVERSE and each other.