

# St. Mary's Servant



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Bismarck, ND

## From the Principal's Desktop

As expected, the first few weeks of the school year have passed by quickly, with all of us transitioning into new schedules and responsibilities.

The positive and respectful culture of St. Mary's Grade School continues to impress me. These types of behaviors and interactions can only exist when parents and teachers all reinforce respect and kindness in word and deed. For that I am extremely thankful.

This year, we will continue to publish our newsletter, The St. Mary's Servant, every two to three weeks. It will serve as tangible documentation of the various activities taking place at St. Mary's Grade School. It will also be available on our website, [www.stmarysbismarck.org](http://www.stmarysbismarck.org).

This week, contractors have already begun work on closing the section of 8th Street between Rosser and Thayer Avenues. While this is an immediate inconvenience for all of us, it will eliminate part of a dangerous intersection on Rosser Avenue. I am sure we will soon grow accustomed to the change. Please plan your pick-up and drop-off routes around that new construction.

If you have any news involving our students, and would like it included in the newsletter, please contact me through the school office, or email the school at [st.marys@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:st.marys@sendit.nodak.edu) with articles, photos or contacts.

Sincerely,

Tony Fladeland, Principal  
[tonyfladeland@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:tonyfladeland@sendit.nodak.edu)

### NEWS NOTES

#### ***CUSTODIAL STAFF LEADS RECYCLING EFFORTS***

Custodians Ernie Vollan, Jim Cossette, and Dean Pflieger are again providing leadership this year in St. Mary's efforts to recycle paper, cardboard and plastic. During the first and third Friday's of the month, they collect paper from the classrooms to be picked up by Waste Management Recycling. Also, all cardboard boxes used in food or instructional material packaging are broken down and recycled. Most recently, bins have been placed around the school for plastic recycling. It is part of St. Mary's Grade School's continuing effort to educate students in our role as stewards of the environment.

#### ***HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS***

As the new school year begins, St. Mary's Grade School is working to promote practices that prevent the spread of illness. Students wash their hands and clean their desktops regularly in an effort to reduce spreading illness. Please help prevent the spread of illness by keeping students with contagious illness home from school and by promoting healthy habits at home.



*Lucas Mueller and Christian Hanson participate in an afternoon reading activity.*

#### ***ST. MARY'S READING PROGRAMS PROMOTE SERVANT LEADERSHIP***

One of the critical components of language arts education is the student-to-student learning activities. In programs coordinated by St. Mary's Grade School faculty, more accomplished readers from the upper grades are paired with younger, more challenged readers to provide a different, more engaging mode of instruction.

While the younger readers are given the great opportunity to work with older students, the older students are tasked with using their reading skills to serve and lead the younger students.

Already this year, several of the grades have partnered to provide this valuable experience.



*Sixth grade students Tatum Butz, Aadya Kaushik and Gabrielle Youngbird participate in the Circle Dance at the end of the Friday morning activities at United Tribes Technical College.*

## ***ST. MARY'S STUDENTS RETURN TO THE INTERNATIONAL POWWOW***

On Friday, September 10th, St. Mary's 6th and 8th grade students participated in the 41<sup>st</sup> annual United Tribes International Powwow held at the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck. The students were part of hundreds of Bismarck-area students that visited United Tribes to take part in the 17th annual Youth Day. It was a free event that accompanied the powwow celebration, and was sponsored by United Tribes Technical College.

This year, the students were treated to wonderful performances by the Haudenosauee Native Smoke Dancers, featuring the Seneca, Mohawk, and Oneida Nations. The morning of activities was organized by Valerie Parker of Bosom, New York, an award-winning smoke dancer and accomplished musician.

Also included in the activities was a performance by Jackie Bird, an award-winning hoop dancer, story teller and musician. She performed for the students on voice and guitar, spoke to them about values and respect for cultural diversity, and performed a hoop dance to Native American drumming and singing.

Throughout the morning's events, the students were able to experience the rich cultural traditions of Native American people. Each year at the International Powwow, which has become one of the premier powwows in the region, different native music groups and dancers from around the country participate in the festival. More information about the annual event can be found at [www.unitedtribespowwow.com](http://www.unitedtribespowwow.com).

## ***DAUENHAUER AGAIN PARTICIPATES IN THE DANCING COMPETITION***

Eighth grade student Alexis Dauenhauer returned to the United Tribes Powwow to compete in the dance competitions during the weekend. Alexis has been dancing in the powwow competitions since 2000, when she was just 3 years old.

"I feel it's very important for students to experience the powwow," Alexis said. "We always learn about cultures from other countries but we rarely learn about some of the cultures in our country."

Alexis' participation in the powwow provides her classmates with a direct learning experience relating to Native American cultures. It is one step towards building a better understanding between people of different cultures. Congratulations, Alexis!



*Abby Greff, Anastasia Glasser, Kyra Ekre and Alexis Dauenhauer dance to the music of Jackie Bird at the United Tribes International Powwow.*



1st grade students Riley Meyer and Gracie Pansegrau demonstrate and explain x-rays to the rest of their class. A SMART board is used for the illumination.

## **LEARNING ADVANCEMENT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY**

For the past several years, St. Mary's Grade School has been making significant investments in the latest technology for classroom use. We are one of the few grade schools in the state of North Dakota that supplies a SMART board in every regular classroom. These interactive boards along with a computer lab of 24 new iMacs and recent upgrades in teacher laptop computers allow for the latest, most advanced educational software to be presented to the students.

## **ARTIST ALI LAROCK SLATED FOR LATE MARCH RESIDENCY**



*Pieces of Me* by Ali LaRock © 2009

Bismarck artist Ali LaRock will be this year's Artist in Residence at St. Mary's Grade School. She will be in the school from March 21 - April 1, working with students of all grades in visual art. More information about Ali and her work can be found at [www.alilarock.com](http://www.alilarock.com).

## **PTO NEWS NOTES**

### **PTO SPONSORS 'MEET THE PRINCIPAL NIGHT' WITH MR. FLADELAND**

On Wednesday, September 8th, the St. Mary's PTO sponsored *Meet the Principal*, an event designed to give families the opportunity to hear from principal Tony Fladeland about his educational background, educational philosophy, and vision for St. Mary's Grade School.

"I think it is important for all schools to open up more avenues for parent involvement," said Mr. Fladeland. "The more connections we can create, the better understanding we will all have about how each student learns best."

During his Powerpoint presentation, Fladeland referred back to his experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea, West Africa, and how that experience has shaped his philosophy and opinions. He plans to hold more events, including panel discussions and parent forums throughout the year in order to provide more opportunities for open discussion.

### **MONTHLY PTO MEETINGS HELD**

The next St. Mary's PTO meeting will be held Friday, October 8th in the South Multi-Purpose Room. Contact the school office at 223.0225 or at [st.marys@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:st.marys@sendit.nodak.edu) for further information.



## FUEL UP TO PLAY 60 EVENT A SUCCESS

What began as a small activity to raise physical health and diet awareness at St. Mary's Grade School quickly turned into one of the largest Fall events that the school has held in recent years.

On Friday, September 10th, the whole school participated in the *Fuel Up To Play 60* activity promoted by the NFL. The activity was part of a grant competition organized to promote healthy eating habits and physical activity.

The day's events centered around a flag football game between the faculty and the 8th grade students. Accompanying the game were a number of afternoon activities centered around health, activity, and community.

Members of the University of Mary football team participated in the afternoon's events, reading to students in different classrooms and officiating the football game. In art classes, students created posters to support the teams, and the



*Kindergartner Sydney Ihla enjoys afternoon recess time after eating lunch on Friday.*



*U-Mary student athlete Andrew Voorhees reads to the students before the game.*

seventh grade class even choreographed and performed a dance for half-time entertainment.

However, according to student sources, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter, the officials were slightly biased, allowing the faculty to try for a two-point conversion with seconds remaining in the contest. The faculty converted, and won the game 22-21. It was a surprising victory for the faculty, who appeared old and out-of-shape compared to their adversaries.

A spokesperson for the faculty, who also asked not to be identified for this story, would not comment on the allegations of referee bias, only saying "A rematch in the Spring may in order".

## NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN



*Cooks Martha Kuntz, Mary Urlaub, Sharon Mertz, and Bertha Delzer serving lunch at the Play 60 event.*

### KITCHEN STAFF AND K of C HELP WITH PLAY 60 EVENT

During the day's festivities, the kitchen staff, under the new leadership of Sharon Mertz, served up hamburgers, salad, and fresh fruits and vegetables for an outdoor lunch. The hamburgers were grilled by St. Mary's parent members of the Knights of Columbus.

### HEALTHY NUTRITION PROGRAM A PRIORITY

Over the next year, St. Mary's Grade School will be undergoing a comprehensive review of its school lunch policy. More studies are being published affirming the importance of a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables. We are committed to providing more healthy options for our students, including locally and regionally produced foods. Look forward to more positive changes coming to the school nutrition program.

### UPCOMING DATES

**October 6th**

Festival of Faith 6:00 p.m.  
(Confirmation candidates and parents)

**October 8th**

PTO Meeting 12:15 p.m.

**October 29th**

Fall Dance 5:00 p.m.

**October 22nd & 23rd**

NDEA Teachers Convention  
No School

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