



St. Mary's Servant

volume III issue iii MMX

Bismarck, ND



THE JOY OF LEARNING

SOME "WIN/WIN" IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

artsonia

At the website artsonia.com, locate Bismarck, ND schools, or search for "Saint Mary's Grade School" to view hundreds of student art projects that can be printed onto items like cards, posters, coffee mugs, t-shirts, and many others. They can make great gifts from students to relatives or friends, and St. Mary's Grade School receives 15% of the price to use to purchase art supplies through Artsonia.

shopwithscrip.com

This year, SCRIP has been more widely used and more successful than any previous year at St. Mary's. SCRIP are the equivalent of gift cards that can be used for regular purchases from hundreds of local and national companies. St. Mary's purchases the SCRIP at a reduced rate, and then sells the cards at face value. The profits can go towards tuition or directly to the school. Purchase SCRIP at the school office or after weekend masses.



Children at the LaMere Learning Center observe a science experiment performed by their instructor.

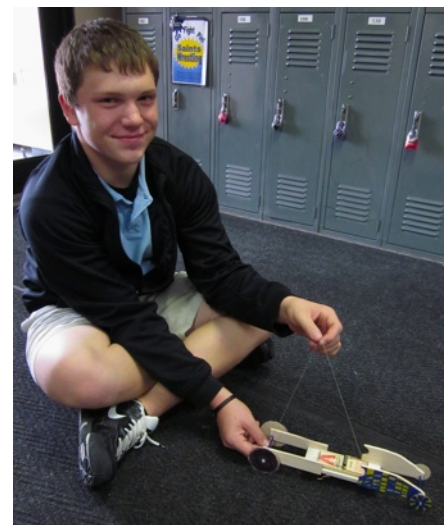
EXCITEMENT FOR SCIENCE LEARNING STARTS EARLY AT THE LAMERE LEARNING CENTER

BISMARCK, ND - At the LaMere Learning Center at St. Mary's Grade School, children are now being introduced to the foundations of scientific discovery. By introducing the basic concepts of chemistry and physical science into their daily activities, the child-care staff at the LaMere Learning Center are fostering in children an interest and excitement in the sciences. With the recent addition of an up-to-date science lab located at LaMere, St. Mary's Grade School is able to foster that interest and excitement throughout a student's tenure at our institution.

7TH, 8TH GRADE CLASSES OFF TO THE RACES

In what has become a yearly event for the 7th and 8th grade classes, Mr. Frink has again guided students in the construction of mousetrap cars. The construction kits, which were purchased with the help of the St. Mary's PTO, included mousetraps to be used as engines, wooden part for the car bodies, and tools for the construction.

Across the nation, students' scores on standardized science exams are falling. At St. Mary's Grade School, while engaging students in a comprehensive, rigorous Science curriculum, we feel that it is equally important at younger levels to foster excitement and interest in "living" science.



8th grade student engineer Austin Braunagel prepares to test his mousetrap car outside of the Science classroom.



8th grade student Jackson Grad is one of three tuba players in the Tri-School Junior High Band.

FALL CONCERT A SUCCESS FOR THE TRI-SCHOOL JUNIOR HIGH BAND

On Wednesday, November 10th, St. Mary's Grade School 7th and 8th grade Band students performed their first concert of the year at the SMCHS Gymnasium. Under the direction of Mr. John Krueger, the students again combined with bands from Saint Anne and Cathedral Schools to form the Catholic Tri-School Junior High Band.

Mr. Krueger, who is in his first year of teaching at the three schools, was impressed with the students' performance. "This being my first concert, I didn't quite know what to expect," described Mr. Krueger. "The students behaved well, and they played even better, so I was quite impressed."

The Fall Concert featured performances by the Tri-School Junior High Band, the SMCHS Symphonic Concert Band, and the SMCHS Wind Orchestra.

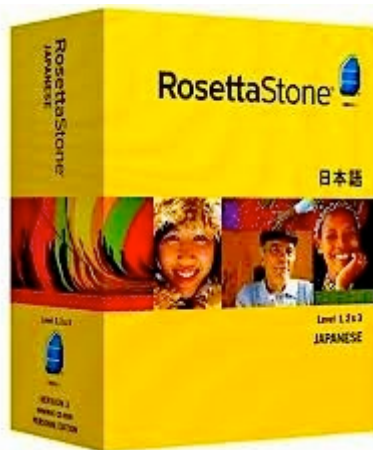
ROSETTA STONE "ON LINE" FOR 2011-2012

IN A RECENT DEVELOPMENT, THE ST. MARY'S SCHOOL BOARD HAS APPROVED PLANS TO IMPLEMENT ROSETTA STONE LANGUAGE EDUCATION INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM FOR THE UPCOMING 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR.

At a November meeting, St. Mary's Grade School Principal Tony Fladeland presented to the school board a short video and PowerPoint presentation about the benefits of the Rosetta Stone method of language education, a computer based program that focuses equally on listening, speaking, and writing.

In a recent interview with the St. Mary's Servant, Mr. Fladeland described his experience in learning a foreign language. He noted the differences in conventional teaching

techniques compared to immersion simulation, which is the basis for Rosetta Stone's Dynamic Immersion method of instruction.



"I took Spanish courses from junior high through high school, five years in all, from wonderful

teachers," commented Mr. Fladeland. "After those years of instruction it was still difficult for me to speak or understand spoken Spanish. Yet after just one year of immersion in a French-speaking country I was able to communicate in the French language at a basic level, in speaking and in writing."

Fladeland, who currently uses Rosetta Stone to improve his Spanish language ability, went on to explain how the program is the closest thing to language immersion that a school can offer to students.

In the coming months, Mr. Fladeland will be working with Mrs. Sarah Voigt and other teachers to further develop the details, such as how many languages will be offered and how frequently the students will use the program. More information will be announced as those details are developed.



Birgen Blaack, Logan Pieterick, and Alexis Dauenhauer display their Student of the Month medals.

NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH CHOSEN BY FACULTY

At the end of October, the faculty at St. Mary's Grade School designated students from the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades who most exhibited the ideals and actions of servant leadership.

Through their behaviors and interactions towards their peers

and teachers, Birgen Black, Logan Pieterick and Alexis Dauenhauer provide good examples to those around them.

St. Mary's congratulates these three individuals for their exemplary behavior over the past month.

DANCE EXHIBITION BRINGS STUDENTS CLOSER TO NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONS

On the day before Thanksgiving in the St. Mary's Grade School Gymnasium, an all-school assembly was held in coordination with other activities to promote and celebrate Thanksgiving and the Native American culture.

Organized by Bernadette Dauenhauer, parent of 8th grade student Alexis, the Native American dance exhibition was narrated by United Tribes International Powwow Committee co-chairman Mr. Tom Red Bird, and featured four different dancers. Also featured was accomplished singer and drummer Peter Little Owl, who sang different songs to correspond to the different dances.

"You'll see our dance as a way of communicating with our faith [and] Mother Earth, telling a story," explained Mr. Red Bird to the students.

Dancer David Small, pictured here at the exhibition, stressed to the St. Mary's Grade School students the importance of wisdom, how it should be revered and sought after despite cultural norms to the contrary.

Perhaps the most intriguing dance of the exhibition was performed by Small's son, Taylor, who is a 2nd grade student in Bismarck. Taylor performed the Grass Dance in which he mimicked the motion of grass on a prairie landscape.

Our thanks and appreciation goes out to Mrs. Dauenhauer and all of the participants who helped to make this event possible.



Monday Chess Club member Thomas Clark contemplates his next move.

MONDAY CHESS CLUB BEGINS

When the idea of a chess club was presented to the students in October it received a warm reception, so plans moved forward to create the Monday Chess Club. At 3:15 a.m. on November 22nd, they held their first session in the Music Room at St. Mary's Grade School.

Under the instruction of North Dakota Chess Champion Nolyn Falcon of Bismarck, the twelve members of the club will learn the basics of chess like piece movement and board position, and learn tactics like pinning and forking.

Each weekly class, held for 60-75 minutes, combines group lessons taught by Mr. Falcon and match play. Throughout the sessions students play opponents of varying skill levels, and since no one comes close to defeating Mr. Falcon, all of the students are challenged.

The Monday Chess Club is the first installment of after-school activities that will be designed in the coming months to challenge St. Mary's Grade School students outside of the regular curriculum.

The current Monday Chess Club will be held until Christmas break, and another session will be offered towards the end of February.

Contact the school office if you are interested in participating. The next session may be open to students and families, and will involve more advanced techniques and strategies. More information will be announced in February.



STUDENT SPEAKERS PRESENT TO U-MARY AND ROTARY CLUB

On separate occasions early in November, students from St. Mary's Grade School traveled to the University of Mary and the Rotary Club to teach members of the community about the *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. The events were part of St. Mary's Grade School Servant Leadership program.

On November 9th, the student speakers traveled to the University of Mary Tharaldson School of Business to present to two different classes of college students. Upon returning to the bus after the presentations for the ride back to Bismarck, the students and Mr. Fladeland discovered that *someone* left the lights on in the school's van, and the battery was dead.

So, Mr. Fladeland led the students on an improvised tour of the campus before returning to the van. There, they were met by a custodian from the university who promptly jump-started the van with the use of jumper cables and a reliable truck battery.

Two days later, on November 11th, the same students traveled to the Bismarck Elks Club to attend a Rotary Club meeting. During the presentation to the Rotarians, the students entertained questions about how to put those *7 Habits* into their daily lives. The students were received well by the group, and were even treated to ice-cream during their visit.



Abbi Köpp, Avry Greff, Hannah Zeien, and Ty Sturm present to the Rotary Club at the Elks in Bismarck.



Student speakers Dylan Dosch, Tatum Butz, Abbi Köpp, Avry Greff, Emelie Swonger, Mathew Churchill, Ben-Luke Metzger, Addison Erling, Brandon Franchuk, Grant Johnson, Gabby Easton, Ty Sturm, and Hannah Zeien

Each semester, two students from each class are chosen to represent their fellow classmates by visiting organizations in the Bismarck Mandan community. During the meetings, the students teach participants about the *7 Habits*:

Be Proactive
Begin with the End in Mind
Put First Things First
Think Win/Win
Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood
Synergize
Sharpen the Pencil

These habits, made famous by best-selling author Steven Covey, provide powerful guidelines students can follow to become more effective servant leaders.

St. Mary's Grade School thanks the University of Mary and the Rotary Club for allowing the students to present.



MAJOR GENERAL SPEAKS TO STUDENTS ABOUT SERVANT LEADERSHIP

St. Mary's Grade School students were treated to a rare privilege on November 30th: a special visit from the highest ranking officer in the North Dakota National Guard, Major General David A. Sprynczynatyk.

The general spoke to two different sections of the student body, first with students in grades K-4 followed by students in grades 5-8.

He began each session by speaking with the students about the importance of servant leadership, and how service to our country is an example of servant leadership. He also entertained a multitude of student questions on topics ranging from his uniform badges to terrorism to Just War Theory to job satisfaction.

He described the best thing about his job being the opportunity to work with people who are so dedicated to serving their country and the people close to them.

The general's visit was part of the St. Mary's Grade School Servant Leadership Program. One of the several aspects of the program involves bringing in prominent community and state leaders to speak to the students about what they do and the importance of servant leadership.

SPEED STACKING VIRUS HITS ST. MARY'S; RECORDS BROKEN



From left to right, St. Mary's Grade School students Justin Becker, Erica Glass, Jared Klein, Eden Schlinger, and Ben Archuletta participate in the cup stacking.

During a portion of November, students in physical education classes participated in speed stacking, an engaging activity that focuses on hand eye coordination and precision. In speed stacking, students begin an exercise with twelve cups and work to create cup stacks of different sizes. Mrs. Heuer and the students practiced the stacking during the course of several classes and then organized a school-wide event and tournament. Fourth grade student reporters Gabby Easton and Kinley Bosch and student photographer Thomas Clark reported on the stacking event.

Today is World Cup Stacking Day. Kids around the 1st grade say the jumbo ones are better to stack with. There is a 1st grader named Alex Clark, he said just doing the "sixes" takes ten seconds.

The older kids are doing a competition with two people at once and then the two people from each grade will be the stackers and then we will see who is the school's fastest stacker.

Here is the competition: representing 3rd grade: Michael and Morgan Salwei, 4th grade:



Gabby Easton and Kinley Bosch

Emily Glass and Allison Schumacher, 5th grade: Jared Klein and Russell Koch, 6th grade: Justin Becker and Eric Horner, 7th grade: Nathan Schumacher and Sam Wilke, and 8th grade: Gus Smrekar and Michael Hebert.

Emily Glass explained, "I am nervous because people are yelling and staring at me!"

Here is an answer from a 5th grader: "Pretty cool watching," says a person that is watching it. Everyone thought it was a lot of fun. We can't wait till next year.

COMPETITION WINNERS

- 1st place - Justin Becker
- 2nd place - Jared Klein
- 3rd place - Michael Salwei

FASTEST RECORDED TIMES

- 1st place - Jared Klein
- 2nd place - Sam Wilke
- 3rd place - Justin Becker



11/11 @ 11:00 **STUDENTS WITNESS VETERANS' DAY EVENT AT CAPITOL**

While most students in Bismarck-Mandan had a day of vacation on November 11th, 5th grade students spent part of Veterans' Day at the World War Memorial Monument at the North Dakota State Capitol to witness an event that only occurs once per year.

At 11:00 a.m. every November 11th, light from the sun shines directly through a small shaft in the monument's thick concrete wall to illuminate a section of the globe that includes North Dakota. The students were part of a large crowd that gathered to witness the event.

During the ceremony, the participants reflected on the importance of Veterans' Day, honoring those in past or present service to our country and those who have sacrificed their lives in that service.



5th grade students observe the sun shining on North Dakota



1st grade student Samuel Sailer fixes a hat to the tree.

1ST GRADE DECORATES MITTEN TREE FOR ADVENT SERVICE PROJECT

As part of Advent season, each class in St. Mary's Grade School organizes a service project designed to instill in students the importance of servant leadership and giving.

This year, the 1st grade service project involves collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for children who do not have enough to keep them warm this winter.

All of the items collected by the 1st grade class will be placed like ornaments on a tree in Mrs. Fischer's classroom before being sent to needy children in the Bismarck-Mandan area.

PIROGUE CHEF COOKS UP SOME HEALTHY CHOICES FOR STUDENTS

The 6th grade class at St. Mary's Grade School got a different look at cooking this past month as they participated in a cooking lesson with Chef Stuart Tracy, owner and proprietor of Pirogue Grille in downtown Bismarck.

During the first of three 45-minute sessions, Chef Tracy taught the students simple ways that fresh, healthy foods can be cooked at home. He highlighted regionally grown items like barley and lentils as well as orange and green leafy vegetables.

Throughout the lesson the students, and a few hungry teachers, were able to sample the wonderful dishes created.



Chef Stuart Tracy in the kitchen with the 6th grade class

DECEMBER CALENDAR

DECEMBER 8
Immaculate Conception
All-School Liturgy
9:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 10
PTO Meeting
12:15 p.m.

DECEMBER 11
Barnes & Noble
PTO Fundraiser
Noon - 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 16
All-School
Christmas Program
7:00 p.m. (note time change)

DECEMBER 17
Golden Mass
9:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 23
Christmas Break Begins
NO SCHOOL
(school will resume Jan. 3rd)

The St. Mary's Servant is a publication of:



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page 1 banner photo:
St. Mary's Grade School First Communion,
April 23, 1911

page 4 banner photo:
Fifth grade snow angels at the Capitol

page 6 banner photo:
11/11/2011 at the
War Memorial Monument at the Capitol