



# St. Mary's Servant

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Bismarck, ND



## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DELIGHTS

**ALL SCHOOL PRESENTATION  
COMBINES ACTING, SONG, AND  
DANCE; DELIGHTS A PACKED  
CROWD AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

BISMARCK, ND - On Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, parents, relatives, and friends packed into St. Mary's Church to witness the annual St. Mary's Grade School Christmas Program. This year the all school event featured acting, song and dance from all grades of St. Mary's Grade School, including the Preschool and Jr. Kindergarten students.

Under the direction of Music teacher Mrs. Celia Schmaltz, the program began with a wonderful performance of Christmas songs by the Preschool and Jr. Kindergarten classes, including the holiday favorite, "The Reindeer Pokey". Several of the young students commented, "That's what it's all about."

*(continued on page 4)*



*Third grade student Morgan Salwei dressed as a shepherd during the December Christmas Program*

# -10°F

temperature or  
wind chill

**COLD TEMPS WILL  
KEEP STUDENTS  
INDOORS FOR RECESS,  
PLAYGROUND GATES  
WILL OPEN FOR  
VEHICLES**

When Principal Fladeland begins work each morning, his first task during these cold winter months is to check the current weather conditions to monitor low temperatures.

If either the temperature or wind chill is -10°F or less, the students will spend their recess time indoors in classrooms or in the gymnasium.

During such days of indoor recess, we will open the gates of the playground during morning drop off to help alleviate the morning traffic congestion.

Because of our limited street parking, please be courteous when parking in front of the school by limiting parking to a reasonable amount of time.

Please contact the school office at 223.0225 if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

## DEMAND FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION ON THE RISE

**ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL OPENS  
REGISTRATION WITH LIMITED  
AVAILABILITY IN ALL GRADE LEVELS**

Before the Christmas trees even came down this year, the St. Mary's Grade School office wasn't just busy selling record amounts of SCRIP to parish families and friends, they were also immersed in processing registrations for the 2011-2012 school year.

During November and December, families with children currently enrolled in Preschool through 7th grade re-enrolled for the upcoming school year.

With that completed, St. Mary's has now officially opened registration for the 2011-2012 academic year.

According to Principal Tony Fladeland, the trend is clear. "What we're seeing at St.

Mary's is a strong demand for enrollment at our school. It's a wonderful thing.

"We're seeing this welcome demand for enrollment because the word is getting out, not only because of the high quality of our academic programs, but also because of the second-to-none school culture that we provide to students and parents."

There is currently limited availability at all levels of instruction for the 2011-2012 school year. Contact the school office at [st.marys@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:st.marys@sendit.nodak.edu) or call 223.0225 with any questions or concerns.



*7th grade student Jennifer Nagel reads to Kindergarten student Lily Ann Haag during a Friday Reading Corner*

## ***KATHERINE ENGELSTAD HIRED AS FULL TIME SECRETARY***

Before the holiday break, St. Mary's Grade School welcomed a new member to our wonderful staff. Mrs. Katherine Engelstad accepted the position of secretary to replace Shelly Vecchia, who resigned in December.

Katherine is a recent graduate of the University of Mary with an undergraduate degree in social and behavioral sciences and a Masters degree in community counseling. A St. Mary's parishoner, Katherine is married to Dustin Engelstad, and they have a nine month old son, Levi.

Katherine will be in the office Monday through Friday as secretary. Claudia Nagel will continue to serve as school nurse and secretary, working Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Shelly Vecchia will work part time for the school, assisting with finances and student accounts.



*Claudia Nagel and Katherine Engelstad working in the office with matching sweater designs.*



*From left to right, Kindergarten students Ella Glass, Lilyann Haag, and Joe Kalb examine the inner chamber of the pyramid.*

## ***SIXTH GRADE EGYPT STUDIES CONCLUDE WITH PRESENTATIONS***

Each year, as part of the 6th grade social studies curriculum, students in the 6th grade class explore the complexity and mystery surrounding ancient Egyptian cultures.

During the annual program, students learn about the hierarchical structure of Ancient Egyptian societies, how the majority of people living in those societies were farmers, and how only a few scribes and officials made up the ruling class. It is this ruling class that developed elaborate methods of burial and mummification for which their society is remembered.

For their final project on ancient Egyptians, the 6th grade students are individually tasked with constructing either a royal burial tomb in the form of a pyramid or a mummified sarcophagus. Both methods are used to display the distinct ways used to preserve and honor the deceased leaders of ancient Egypt.

To present their final projects this year, the students invited the rest of the school into their classroom to teach them about the different properties of mummification and pyramid construction. Again this year, it was a wonderful educational experience for everyone involved.

## ***DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH CHOSEN***

At the end of December, 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, Addison Erling, Zach Zenker, and Aadya Kaushik provide good examples to those around them.

St. Mary's congratulates these three individuals for their exemplary behavior over the past month, and we send our best wishes to Aadya and her family as they start a new chapter of their lives in Albany, New York.



*Addison Erling, Zach Zenker, and Aadya Kaushik display their medals.*



*Chris Mathew from the God's Child Project speaking in the Music Room*

## **CHRISTMAS CHARITY PROJECT RAISES FUNDS FOR GOD'S CHILD**

One day in mid December, students were surprised to receive an afternoon snack in the form of mini M&M's, but there was a catch. The M&M's were given to the students so that over the Christmas break the students could fill the containers with quarters to donate to the God's Child Project.

Chris Mathew of the God's Child Project contacted Mr. Fladeland early in the month to propose the fundraiser. Fladeland, who had participated in a 1999 service project at the headquarters of the organization in Antigua, Guatemala in 1999, instantly accepted.

"In the Bismarck Catholic community, we hear a lot about the God's Child Project and their fundraising efforts. When I traveled down to Antigua, it made a lasting impression on me. I saw where that money was going, saw the people it was helping. It certainly made a lasting impression on me."

Combined with a Jeans Day earlier in the year, the M&M (Money that Matters) fundraising efforts collected over \$600 for the God's Child Project.

## **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS EXTRA TIME, VENUE FOR HOMEWORK**

Increasingly, students in grades five through eight can find their time after school occupied by a host of different activities, from sports to dance to music lessons. While certainly beneficial to the student, these events can also act as a deterrent to homework completion.

In increasing efforts to provide students with more opportunities to succeed in academics, St. Mary's Grade School will now be implementing a program of after school studies to

offer students a venue with teaching resources to complete homework.

Every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday St. Mary's Grade School will now offer a 45 minute professionally supervised study hall for students in grades five through eight. The study hall will be supervised by teachers of the appropriate grades on a rotating basis. While students that are experiencing difficulties in one subject or another are certainly the focus of this program, all students in 5th through 8th grades will be allowed to participate.

Please contact Principal Tony Fladeland at 223.0225 or [tony.fladeland@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:tony.fladeland@sendit.nodak.edu) if you have any questions or concerns.

## **ST. MARY'S STUDENT TAKES TOP SPOT IN ALL STATE GROUP**



*8th grade student Michael Hebert in the St. Mary's office.*

In late breaking news, The St. Mary's Servant has learned that 8th grade student Michael Hebert will be principal trumpet for the 2011 North Dakota Junior High All-State Band.

Each year, a committee of music educators from across North Dakota develops and distributes audition materials to all 7th and 8th grade Band students across the state.

After receiving the auditions, the student musicians are given about 8 weeks to prepare a CD or tape recording of the material. In recent years, the material has included three sections: a set of major scales, a chromatic (half-step) scale, and a 16 measure etude, or musical study.

Because there are so many trumpet players at the 7th and 8th grade level, being chosen for the all-state group on that instrument is particularly rewarding.

This year Michael, who is the son of Dr. Brian and Darcy Hebert, was chosen for the top spot over a field of over 60 top players from across the state of North Dakota.

He joins the ranks of several St. Mary's Grade School students who have taken principal positions in the All-State Band over the years, including Carolyn Braus on alto saxophone in 2002, Alexandra Vecchia on clarinet in 2007, and Shane Bourgoin on trombone in 2009.

The All-State rehearsals and concert will again take place at Mandan High School Auditorium this year on March 11th and 12th.

The event will be familiar to Michael. He also was chosen last year to participate in All-State as a 7th grade student.

Congratulations, Michael!



**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

*(continued from page 1)*

The Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes followed with a short program of Christmas songs including "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas". As of publication date, Santa could not be reached for comment.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Choir completed the first half of the program with a wonderful selection of pieces, including the challenging "O Sifuni Mungu". The African-style piece featured several soloists and percussionists from the two grades.

Following intermission, students in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade performed the popular production, *Arrest These Merry Gentlemen*.

Mrs. Schmaltz, with the help of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who designed the stage and lighting effects, directed the 8 – part production, a parody about a modern-day



*Kindergarten and 1st grade students perform during the first half of the Christmas Program.*

detective investigating the events surrounding the birth of Christ.

With outstanding performances by Cale Zeien, Michael York, Tatum Butz, brothers Dawson and Dylan Dosch and several others, the musical interspersed short acting scenes with full choir singing by all of the classes. Each of the choir members was assigned a particular costume to produce and wear, such as a shepherd, a commoner, or an angel.

The entertaining performance drew frequent laughs from the audience packed into the St. Mary's Church.

Congratulations to all of the students and to Mrs. Schmaltz for the excellent performance.



*Michael York and Tatum Butz act as news reporters during the Thursday night production.*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

All of the faculty and staff at St. Mary's Grade School would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. As we begin 2011, we continue to fulfill our *Mission of Christ, to celebrate faith, proclaim the Gospel, become servant leaders, and provide a quality education.*

Thank you to all of the families and individuals who have volunteered their time and talents over the past year in support of our school. It is with this invaluable support that St. Mary's Grade School is able to continue its mission.

Happy 2011!

Tony Fladeland, Principal



*1st grade student Catherine Hanson celebrates the New Year with her class in early January.*

**JANUARY/  
FEBRUARY  
CALENDAR**

**JANUARY 22**  
**Family Fun Night**  
**5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**St. Mary's Gymnasium**

**JANUARY 30 -  
FEBRUARY 4**  
**Catholic Schools Week**

**FEBRUARY 4**  
**PTO Meeting**  
**12:15 p.m.**

**FEBRUARY 4 - 6**  
**St. Mary's Carnival**  
**at SMCHS**

**FEBRUARY 11**  
**Tri-School JH Band**  
**Brass Festival**  
**4:00 p.m. at Cathedral**

**FEBRUARY 18 - 21**  
**Presidents' Day Weekend**  
**NO SCHOOL**

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:*  
*Second grade "angels" at the Christmas Program*  
*December 16, 2011*