

# St. Mary's Servant

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Bismarck, ND



# Y 2 K!

## YEAR OF TWO KINDERGARTENS

*St. Mary's Grade School plans to open second section of Kindergarten to accommodate increased enrollment for 2011-2012 school year.*

### **TRI-SCHOOL JAZZ GROUP JUDGED 'OUTSTANDING BAND' AT FESTIVAL**

In late January Mr. Krueger and the Tri-School Jazz Band traveled to the University of Mary to participate in the annual University of Mary Jazz Festival. They were among over 40 student groups from the region who performed during the weekend event.

Each year, the University of Mary Music Department organizes the festival to promote and educate about jazz music, and to provide student jazz bands and choirs an opportunity to perform for and be adjudicated by jazz professionals.

Among the several great artists to adjudicate at the festival this year was renowned saxophonist Jeff Coffin. Mr. Coffin is well-known as a member of Bela Fleck and the Flecktones and as a new member of the rock group The Dave Matthews Band.

At this year's festival, the Tri-School group had the privilege of performing for Mr. Coffin. After the performance, the jazz artist was thrilled.

"It is so great to see so many students improvising at such an early age," Coffin said to the Tri-School group.

His enthusiasm for the Tri-School Jazz Band became even more evident on Saturday afternoon of the festival, when the panel of judges awarded to the Tri-School group an Outstanding Band trophy in recognition of their fine performance.

Congratulations to St. Mary's Grade School students Anna Horner (piano), Ben-Luke Metzger (bass guitar), Sasha Rodacker (alto saxophone), Michael Hebert (trumpet) and John Windsor (trumpet) for their outstanding efforts at the University of Mary Jazz Festival.



*St. Mary's Grade School Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Bihrlé reads to the students during daily story time.*

BISMARCK, ND - In early October, St. Mary's Grade School began preparing for the 2011-2012 school year, and encountered an interesting problem: a large increase in projected Kindergarten registrations. As Fall moved into Winter, those projections became reality, forcing some tough decisions for administration.

In late January it was time for a choice: either restrict Kindergarten openings to one classroom or plan for an additional classroom for the 2011-2012 school year. After much thought, conversation, and prayer the St. Mary's Grade School Board unanimously recommended to Pastor Gene Lindemann that "no student be turned away from St. Mary's Grade School." With Father Gene's concurrence, plans are now underway for two Kindergarten classrooms for next school year.

"It is an extremely exciting development based on a combination of several factors, I think," described Mr. Fladeland in a recent interview with the St. Mary's Servant. "The increased quality of service at LaMere Learning Center, the restructuring of the Preschool program, and the growing community awareness of our high quality

staff, services, and school culture are all resulting in the increase in admissions," Fladeland said.

The decision to accept all students will result in some welcome challenges for St. Mary's Grade School. Several options are being considered now regarding classroom arrangement, hiring, curriculum, supplies, and mid to long range planning. For the upcoming year the two Kindergarten classrooms will most likely be placed next to each other so that the two classes and teachers can easily cooperate on curriculum and activities during the year.

"Plans are to add an additional classroom per year to accommodate the increased enrollment," described Fladeland. "St. Mary's Grade School and the La Mere Learning Center continue to grow, providing a safe, prayerful, and caring place for students to learn. We're so excited about the coming years."

St. Mary's is currently accepting applications for enrollment at all levels of instruction, Preschool through 8th grade. Contact the school office at 701.223.0225 or [st.marys@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:st.marys@sendit.nodak.edu) for more information.



## **NEW SALAD BAR LATEST ADDITION TO TOP QUALITY FOOD PROGRAM**

### **FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS APPLAUD THE KITCHEN STAFF ON INTRODUCING NEW ITEMS**

In August, as new head cook Sharon Mertz became acquainted with the St. Mary's Grade School kitchen, Principal Fladeland thought it might be the perfect opportunity to inquire about the inclusion of a salad bar into the daily lunch program.

For years, St. Mary's has been known to have one of the best grade school lunch programs in the city. The addition of a full salad bar to the daily menu now leaves little room for doubt.

"What I would like is to offer the kids a variety of healthy choices on the salad bar," explained Mrs. Mertz. "Some days we'll change it up, offering a taco bar or potato bar, but mostly we'll stock it with a variety of salads, fruits, and vegetables."

Since the introduction of the salad bar, several improvements can be seen during the lunch hour. The students are able to move at a better pace through the lunch line, and are also able to have greater control over their portions.

St. Mary's Grade School congratulates kitchen staff Sharon Mertz, Bertha Delzer, Martha Kuntz, Mary Urlaub, Clara Sheldon, Ernie and Patty Vollan, and custodians Dean Pflieger and Jim Cossette for their wholehearted efforts in organizing a first class salad bar and food program.

*This is an actual picture of St. Mary's Grade School salad bar. No lie.*

## **MR. ULMEN GOES TO HOUSTON**

### **FOUR DAY CONFERENCE ENGAGES SCIENCE TEACHERS FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

In just his second year as 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mr. Mike Ulmen traveled down to NASA's Houston Space Center to participate in the Space Exploration Educators Conference.

During the four day workshop, science teachers from across the country gathered to learn from NASA specialists about bringing space science into the classroom.

"It's about bringing science into the classroom in an interesting, engaging way," described Mr. Ulmen in a recent St. Mary's Servant interview. "We need to keep students excited about learning and participating in the sciences."

St. Mary's Grade School applauds Mr. Ulmen on his commitment and passion for science learning.



*The "Space Wall" of Mr. Ulmen's 5th grade classroom*



*Sam Wilke, Kaitlyn Ekre, and Abby Greff display their 'Student of the Month' medals.*

## **JANUARY 'STUDENTS OF THE MONTH' CHOSEN**

At the end of January 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, Sam Wilke, Kaitlyn Ekre, and Abby Greff provide good examples to those around them.

Congratulations to all three students for receiving the January Student of the Month award.

## STUDENTS TAKE AIM AT 'ONE OF A KIND' SCHOOL ARCHERY PROGRAM



by 4th grade student reporter  
Thomas Clark

Archery is a fun thing whether you are an amateur or a pro. I believe all schools should have archery class available for their students.

With archery, safety and fun are both very important. For amateurs, here are some tips for success:

1. Pull your bow back far. It won't break. Hold the arrow and string together in the knock.
2. Aim until you find a good shot. Keep holding the arrow and string with your fingers.
3. Listen to the whistle commands. They will mean something important, and obeying them will help keep you safe.
4. Sometimes patience is the key to making a good flight. You should not just rush through.
5. Release the string and hit your bulls-eye.

Archery is a fun sport and if done right it will be fun and safe.



6th grade student archer Adam Greff prepares another shot.

## DR. DUFFY TEACHES 1ST GRADE STUDENTS ABOUT HEALTHY TEETH AND GUMS



By 1st grade student reporters Madeline Erickson, Gracie Pansegrau, and Riley Meyer

Dr. Duffy is a dentist at Nelson Family Dentistry and lives in Bismarck. She came to first grade at St. Mary's Grade School and she said number one candy to eat is M & M's and that chewable vitamins are better

for your teeth than gummy vitamins. She came because February is dental health month. She brought a wand with a tooth on top and it had streamers and she brought a book and it said that George Washington got so many toothaches that he had to take all his teeth out and had a bunch of different teeth.

Dr. Duffy brought a trivia game and pictures for us to color. There was a tooth fairy and a dragon picture and a tooth chart and history about teeth. She also brought goodie bags for us that had toothpaste, a toothbrush and some floss.



In February, Dr. Duffy Meyer, parent of Riley Meyer, spoke to the 1st grade students about healthy teeth and gums



Sam Wilke, John Windsor, Michael Hebert, Abby Greff, and Zachary Vetter

## STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL MATH COUNTS COMPETITION

Each year, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Math teacher Mrs. Sharol Haugen assembles a team of master mathematicians from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to compete at the Math Counts competition held in Bismarck.

Congratulations to team members Sam Wilke, Zachary Vetter, John Windsor, Michael Hebert, and Abby Greff, who participated in this year's events.



# ART IN THE HALLS

## STUDENTS PREPARE FOR ALI LAROCK RESIDENCY WITH CLASSROOM ART PROJECTS

The February/March issue of the St. Mary's Servant features some diverse classroom art projects on display in the grade school hallways.

The April issue will include highlights from the Ali LaRock artist-in-residence program beginning in late March. The residency is funded in part by the North Dakota Council on the Arts and the St. Mary's PTO.

Mrs. LaRock will work with students in Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade with creative art.

After the two weeks of art creation using a variety of mediums, St. Mary's Grade School will present an art show featuring all of the work created during the residency. The show will also feature presentations by Mrs. LaRock. More information will be announced soon.



From above left moving clockwise: 1st grade "Snowman", 4th grade "Birch Trees", 3rd grade "Sunset", 3rd grade "Valentine's Day", 2nd grade "Snowmen", and 1st grade "Calligraphy"



Top row: Kaylee, Jack, Emily, Brooklyn, Andrew, Thomas, and Mary  
 Bottom row: Allison, Ella, Gabby, Brooke, and Kinley  
 (Not pictured: Jake and Jolee)

### 4TH GRADE STUDENTS COMPLETE PRESIDENTS PROJECT

A standard in Mrs. Julie Tello's 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom is an introductory overview of the United States Presidents. Each year the students in her class research the different Presidents and in what time period of American history each of them served.

To display their knowledge, the students pick two to three Presidents, write a short paragraph about their service, and create a drawing that describes that President. During the month of March, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade presentation of their Presidents unit will be on display on the north staircase of St. Mary's Grade School.

### SCRIP 'REBATES FOR TUITION' PROGRAM 1ST YEAR A SUCCESS

The last quarter to earn rebates for the 2010-2011 school year will end on March 31<sup>st</sup>. So far over \$4500 have been earned toward tuition payments for our families with additional funds earned for childcare payments and tuition assistance funds. Sales have been steadily increasing over the year and Christmas sales overwhelmed previous years' profits.



The last distribution to tuition/childcare accounts will occur in early April. Families' April bills will reflect the balance due on tuition with final payment due by June 15<sup>th</sup>. We will then begin the process of re-enrolling families in the program for the 2011-2012 tuition year.

Remember, family and friends can also enroll in the SCRIP 'Rebates for Tuition' program, with earnings from their purchases going toward your tuition or childcare payments.

Many of our local merchants offer rebates of 10% or more. ShopWithScrip.com offers online shopping, PrestoPay, Reloading, and SCRIPnow! Please stop by the office, check out our website [stmarysbismarck.org/scrip](http://stmarysbismarck.org/scrip) or contact Katherine, Shelly or Claudia (223-0225) for more information.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ACTIVITIES BUILD COMMUNITY

During the week of January 30<sup>th</sup> - February 5<sup>th</sup>, Catholic schools across the country celebrated Catholic Schools Week, engaging students, teachers, and families in activities designed to promote community and to emphasize the exceptional nature of our schools. Below are photographs documenting some of the events.



Abby, Rachel and Ella in limbo; 1st grade bowling; Jackson jumping rope; Michael, John, and Mr. Fladeland playing jazz; Greta, Breanna, Seth, Garrett, and Preston in bingo



## MOBILE COMPUTER LAB IN THE PLANS

As reported in November, Rosetta Stone language software will be implemented as the primary curriculum for foreign language instruction next year. Later this year, Spanish teacher Mrs. Sarah Voigt and Principal Mr. Fladeland will undergo training to better understand the online and classroom administration of the program.

While the addition of language software is sure to provide an excellent educational opportunity, it will also be filling up the schedule of our new computer lab.

In order to provide adequate computer access to all students, St. Mary's Grade School will begin fundraising for additional laptop computers to create a mobile computer lab. Our goal will be to purchase 26 MacBook computers by August 2012!



## 7TH GRADE STUDENT TAKES 3RD IN VFW ESSAY CONTEST



Anna Horner displays her VFW award.

When the VFW asked St. Mary's Grade School to participate in its "Does Patriotism Matter" Essay Contest, our students were up to the challenge.

Among more than 700 entries in the district, three St. Mary's students received awards for their submissions. Within St. Mary's, Anna Horner, Anastasia Glasser, and John Windsor won 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, respectively, for their essays on the importance of patriotism in America. They received monetary awards of \$50, \$37.50, and \$25 for their selections.

As the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the local (school) contest, Anna Horner advanced to the district level, where her essay was judged as the 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner! Anna received an additional \$50 award for the district placement. Congratulations to Anna, Anastasia, and John for their quality essays.

## FIRST AID / CPR COURSE AN EXTENSION OF PREVIOUSLY LEARNED HEALTH CONCEPTS

With one of the top physical education programs in the state, St. Mary's Grade School offers an elective course in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade CPR Training. The course, taught by Mrs. Amy Heuer, focuses on the differences in technique and administration of CPR based on the age and size of the victim.

Exceeding the standards of most schools, St. Mary's Grade School implements a comprehensive, age-appropriate health curriculum throughout grades K - 8. At early levels, Mrs. Heuer and the classroom teachers convey the importance of the basics like knowledge of address and phone number, cautious behavior with strangers, and basic hygiene. As the students grow older, they learn more about health, the importance of physical activity, and first aid and CPR.



From bottom to top, Logan Pieterick, Jonah Schwindt, and Gus Smrekar practicing CPR on baby dolls designed specifically for CPR training

## MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR

**MARCH 11-14**  
Spring Break  
NO SCHOOL

**MARCH 16**  
PTO Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

**MARCH 21 -**  
**APRIL 1**  
Ali LaRock  
Artist-in-Residence

**MARCH 23**  
Servant Leadership  
Speaker - Cory Fong  
1:00 p.m.

**MARCH 24**  
Internet Safety and Texting  
Presentation  
9:00 a.m.

**APRIL 7**  
All School Variety Show  
6:00 p.m.

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 5 banner photo:  
St. Mary's Grade School all-school assembly  
March 8, 2011

page 6 banner photo:  
Archery targets in the gymnasium  
February 24, 2011