

# St. Mary's Servant

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Bismarck, ND

## BACK TO SCHOOL IN CLASS

REMODELED CLASSROOMS READY FOR USE, CLASSES SPEND OPENING WEEKS IN ALTERNATE LOCATIONS



### SCHOOL NEWS

#### STUDENTS IN GRADES 6 - 8 ATTEND INTL. POWWOW AT UNITED TRIBES

On Friday, September 9th, St. Mary's Grade School 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students were given the opportunity to experience the International Powwow, the yearly event held at the United Tribes Technical College in south Bismarck. It was an extraordinary experience for the students to witness the wonderful music and dances of the various Native American cultures present at this year's powwow.

St. Mary's would like to thank Annette Beyer and everyone at United Tribes who helped to organize the event for their gracious invitation to students in the area.

#### INDIVIDUAL PICTURES RE-SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 4TH

Earlier this year, students and families received a notice that student photographs would be taken during the first full week of school. After hearing from several concerned families, the decision was quickly made to postpone picture day until a later date.

On Tuesday, October 4th, local photographer Mike Joyce will be in the building to take individual pictures of all children at the LaMere Childcare Center and all students at St. Mary's Grade School. More information for families will be sent home soon.



On the first day in the new classroom, Mr. Ulmen gives the 6th grade Science class an introduction in molecular structures. The new classroom was previously a boys locker room and storage closet.

BISMARCK - As the opening day of school approached at St. Mary's Grade School, teachers were excited to get back into their classrooms to get ready for the new school year.

But three of them, Mrs. Gilchrist, Mrs. Zenker, and Mr. Ulmen, were busy making

others plans: how to spend the first two weeks of school in temporary locations.

While construction crews scrambled to finish the remodeling project that transformed an office and two locker rooms into two classrooms, the three teachers were  
*(continued on page 2)*

## 6TH GRADE BAND 100% READY TO GO



Mr. Krueger instructs students on how to hold their instruments on the first full day of 6th grade Band.

Along with so many traditions at the start of the school year, the 6th grade Beginner Band Program was off to an early start, and the students at St. Mary's were ready for the challenge.

"Every single 6th grade student will be participating in Band this year!" exclaimed Tri-School Band Director John Krueger. "St. Mary's Grade School continues to have some of the highest participation rates in the state of North Dakota."

Overall this year, in grades six through eight, 85% of students participate in Band class under the direction of Mr. Krueger. Furthermore, the 7th and 8th grade Choir, under the leadership of Mrs. Celia Schmalz, enjoys large membership as well, with 65% of 7th and 8th grade students participating.

At St. Mary's Grade School, we are thankful and blessed to have such a strong music program under such talented leadership.

## NEW CLASSROOMS OPEN FOR LEARNING

### SUMMER PROJECT OF REMODELING YIELDS TWO NEW CLASSROOMS FOR STUDENTS, PROVIDES MUCH- NEEDED INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE

*(continued from page 1)*

busy setting up temporary classrooms in alternate locations.

Early in the summer, St. Mary's administration began planning for the possibility of needing the extra locations. After it became clear that the new classrooms would not be ready for the start of the school year, Mr. Ulmen's 5th grade was temporarily set up in the Science Lab and Mrs. Gilchrist's and Mrs. Zenker's 6th grade was set up in the Library.

"It helps so much to have such understanding, flexible faculty to work with," described Principal Fladeland. "All three teachers were aware of the possibility of the rooms not being ready on time, and they took it in stride."

Another teacher who was forced into some tight quarters during the first two weeks was Library and Spanish instructor Mrs. Sarah Voigt. Due to the 6th grade's occupation of the Library for use as temporary classroom, Mrs. Voigt's temporary quarters were moved to the Computer Lab.

"We'll actually be spending a lot of time in the Computer Lab this year with the new language curriculum," described Mrs. Voigt in a recent interview with the St. Mary's Servant. "So it made sense to move up there for the first few weeks. It gave me the opportunity to teach the students about proper protocol in the lab and how to use the headsets before we actually got the program up and running."

During the summer, Mrs. Voigt and Mr. Fladeland met to schedule additional sections of Spanish for several of the grades. Students in grades one through eight now participate in the 30 - 45 minute class three times per week. See *page 4* for more details.

Overall, the completed remodeling project adds to the excitement of this new school year. The temporary locations have now been returned to their original use and the 5th and 6th grade teachers and students are thrilled to be in their new classrooms.

All families are encouraged to visit the school soon to see the two new classrooms.

## A.S.A.P. GIVES STUDENTS EXTRA TIME, VENUE FOR HOMEWORK

Increasingly, students in the upper grades 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 ongoing efforts to provide students with more opportunities to succeed in academics, St. Mary's Grade School will again be implementing a program of after school studies to offer students a venue with teaching resources to complete homework assignments.

The After School Academic Program (A.S.A.P.) will be held Monday through Friday from 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. at St. Mary's Grade School. It will primarily be supervised by Miss Amber Birrenkott and Mr. Michael Ulmen. The program will consist of a 45-minute professionally supervised study hall for students in grades five through eight.

While students that are experiencing difficulties in one subject or another are certainly the focus of this program, all students in those grades will be allowed to participate. In addition, students in grades five through eight who fail to turn in homework at the beginning of a class period will be asked to stay after school that day to complete the work.

Please contact Principal Tony Fladeland at 701.223.0225 or [tony.fladeland@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:tony.fladeland@sendit.nodak.edu) if you have any questions or concerns about the ongoing program.



*From late July to late August, a locker room transformed into a classroom*

# AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP LOCATIONS TO CHANGE FOR K AND JR. K STUDENTS

**KINDERGARTEN AND SIBLINGS TO BE PICKED UP ON PLAYGROUND, JR. K MOVES TO 8TH STREET.**

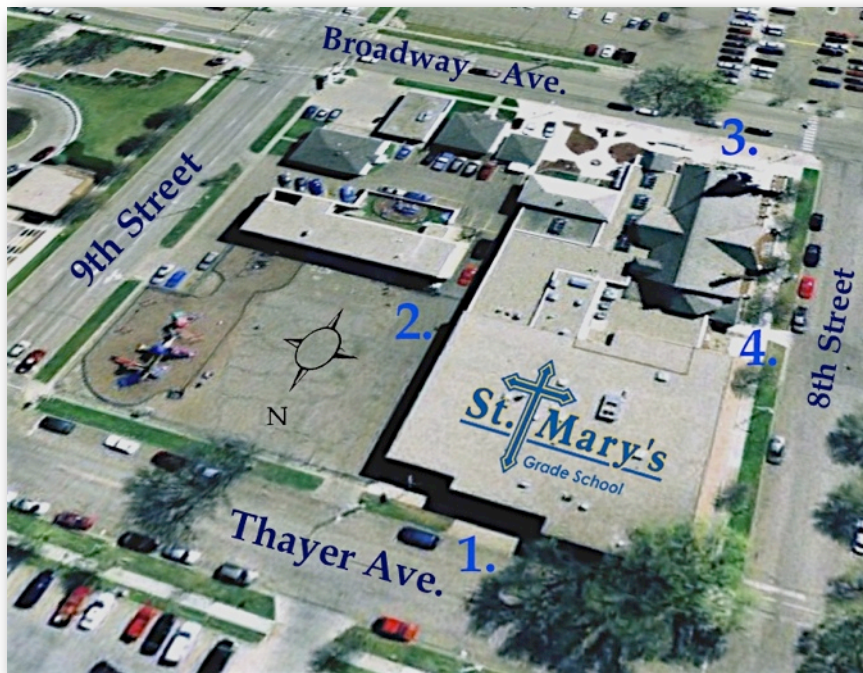
It was a matter of simple math - and the numbers didn't add up. Within weeks of starting the 2011-2012 academic year, a change is being made to solve problems with the newly-devised after school pick-up schedule.

Beginning Monday, September 26th, all Kindergarten students and their siblings will be picked-up after school from the playground entrance to the school, located

at **2.** below, the southwest corner of the playground. The Jr. Kindergarten students and siblings will be picked up at **4.** below, the entrance located between the church and school on 8th Street.

"The playground/parking lot has more capacity for parking, and with nearly 40 Kindergarten families converging every day at 3:00 p.m., it makes sense to make the switch," explained Katherine Engelstad, St. Mary's Grade School Administrative Assistant.

Please see below for additional information on after school pick-up.



Mr. Fladeland has not disclosed exactly how much time he spent creating this after school pick-up diagram of the school, but he did credit Google Earth for providing the aerial photograph.

## TEACHERS EMPHASIZE 'SAFETY FIRST' IN STUDENT PICK-UP

Please remember the following important points when picking up children at the end of the school day:

- 1) Drivers should park vehicles on the side of the road to pick-up children. Double-parked vehicles pose a safety risk for students entering those vehicles and for others in the surrounding area.
- 2) Due to increased congestion at the end of the day, drivers should refrain from parking in front of or near the school and church entrances for extended periods of time.

- 3) Students and drivers should communicate regularly about any changes in after school pick-up routine that may occur. Drivers are encouraged to contact the school office to notify students and teachers of any last minute changes that may occur.
- 4) Drivers should refrain from parking in front of the entrance to the playground. If parking in the playground after school, drivers should exercise extreme caution and drive at very low speeds when entering or leaving the playground parking area.

## PTO NEWS

### LABELS, BOX TOPS, UPC'S, ETC.

Again this year, the PTO will be regularly collecting a variety of labels, box tops, UPC labels, store receipts, etc. to raise money for the school and to receive school-related products and discounts.

Below are several of the programs that the PTO will be participating in this year:

- 1) **Box Tops for Education** - This includes products from companies such as Avery, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Hamburger Helper, Juicy Juice, Ziploc, Cheerios, Kleenex, and Hefty.
- 2) **Central Market** - Central Market shopping receipts *must* be stamped with a "We Care" stamp in order to qualify.
- 3) **My Coke Rewards** - All Coca-Cola products properly labeled are eligible.
- 4) **Kemps - Nickles for Schools** - Our school will need 2000 PoP's (proof of purchase) to qualify for this program. That's a lot of ice cream!
- 5) **Labels for Education** - Our largest source of collection, this includes labels from companies like Campbells, Bic, Pop Secret, V8, Emerald, Prego, Time, Glad, Pace, Dannon, Post Cereals, and SpaghettiO's.
- 6) **Labels for Learning** - This program includes labels from Food Club and Our Family food products, available at Central Market and Cashwise Foods.
- 7) **Target - Take Charge of Education** - Shoppers using a Target charge card for purchases can designate St. Mary's Grade School as their "target" school.



## **ROSETTA STONE ONLINE THE LANGUAGE PROGRAM BEGINS! EL PROGRAMA DE IDIOMAS COMIENZA! DIE SPRACHE PROGRAMM BEGINNT!**

語言節目開始

**STUDENTS AND FAMILIES  
CAN NOW ACCESS THE  
PROGRAM AWAY FROM  
SCHOOL, ALLOWING  
GREATER EXPOSURE,  
ADVANCEMENT**

After much anticipation and excitement, planning and scheduling, the new Rosetta Stone language curriculum is off to a wonderful start at St. Mary's Grade School.

Early this year, all families with students in grades one through eight submitted language choice forms, received USB headsets, and received individual student accounts with the online version of the popular language software. The students are now well underway in learning a second language in a more unique, more effective way.

Because the language program is an online version, a student and family can access the student's account from anywhere with Internet access. This means that a student's family can also take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn a new language through the Rosetta Stone process.

In order to access the program from home, students must have an Internet connection and must either have a headset with earphones and microphone or have a computer equipped with speakers and a microphone. Students and families can visit the website [smgs.rosettastoneclassroom.com](http://smgs.rosettastoneclassroom.com), and then input their username and password to access their individualized program. Please contact Mrs. Voigt at [sarah.voigt@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:sarah.voigt@sendit.nodak.edu) if you would like to access the program away from school. ¡Buena suerte!



*6th grade student Kaylyn participates in the Rosetta Stone program in early September.*

### **SEPTEMBER OCTOBER CALENDAR**

**SEPTEMBER 23**

**School Board Meeting  
12:00 P.M.**

**South Multi-Purpose Room**

**SEPTEMBER 24**

**AutumnFest Parade  
10:00 A.M.**

**Downtown Bismarck**

**SEPTEMBER 24/25**

**Ministry Fair  
St. Mary's Church**

**OCTOBER 4**

**Pride of Dakota Day  
St. Mary's Cafeteria**

**OCTOBER 7**

**PTO Meeting  
12:15 P.M.**

**South Multi-Purpose Room**

**OCTOBER 18**

**End of 1st Quarter**

**OCTOBER 19**

**Staff Development Day  
NO SCHOOL**

**OCTOBER 20/21**

**NDEA Convention  
NO SCHOOL**



*Christian and Anthony during Monday Chess Club last year*

### **MONDAY CHESS CLUB RETURNS IN OCTOBER**

Beginning Monday, October 3rd, North Dakota Chess Champion Nolyn Falcon will return to St. Mary's Grade School for a six-week program of Monday Chess Club. This program is designed for chess players of all levels, from beginning to expert. Chess master Mr. Falcon will begin each session with a lesson of moves and strategies, and will then break up the group into students of similar levels for further instruction, practice, and games.

The Monday Chess Club will be held every Monday from October 3rd to November 7th at 3:15 p.m. Students in grades three through eight are eligible to join. The activity fee will be \$40, and chess boards and clocks will be available for \$10 each. More information and registration forms will be sent home with students soon. Call or email the school office for more information.

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



807 East Thayer Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
[www.stmarysbismarck.org](http://www.stmarysbismarck.org)

Anthony Fladeland, Principal  
[tony.fladeland@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:tony.fladeland@sendit.nodak.edu)

701.223.0225 - phone  
701.250.9918 - fax

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

*page 4 banner photo:  
North wall of the new 6th grade classroom  
September 16, 2011*