



St. Mary's Servant

volume IV issue iii MMXI

Bismarck, ND



FUN AT THE PUMPKIN PATCH

AFTER THE SUMMER FLOOD, PUMPKIN PATCH RE-LOCATES TO DAKOTAH CENTENNIAL PARK, CONTINUES TO HOST STUDENTS

SCHOOL NEWS

EMAIL CHECK



The school office has noted that batch emails to families via Sycamore are increasingly not reaching parents to the expected degree. If you have not been receiving emails from Katherine, our Administrative Assistant, please contact the office to confirm your email address, or check your junk mail settings on your email account. And if you do not have access to email, please let us know, and we would be happy to provide written communication.

PARKING VS. PLAYGROUND



Each day from 2:45 - 3:15 p.m. the school playground is transformed into a parking lot for after-school pick-up. At 3:15 however, in order to provide for the safety of the children in the LaMere after-school childcare program, all vehicles must exit the grounds so that the parking lot can turn back into a playground. Thank you for your understanding.

BISMARCK, ND - St. Mary's Grade School Kindergarten and 1st grade students were again treated to a wonderful afternoon of fun and games at the Papa's Pumpkin Patch this year. The event was much to the delight of students and teachers, who had heard the summer news about the original Papa's Pumpkin Patch being inundated by the Missouri River flood waters.

Fortunately for our students, and for students all over Bismarck, Pumpkin Patch organizers Tracy Finneman and Dave Pierce moved the project to Dakotah Centennial Park in Mandan this year.

Papa's Pumpkin Patch began in 1983 as a "Happy Accident", according to their website, www.papaspumpkinpatch.com, and opened to the public in 1989. It now hosts nearly 50,000 visitors per year, and expects 25 -30,000 "pumpkins, gourds, decorative corn and related harvest items this year."

Our thanks to Tracy and Dave for their tireless efforts this year in preparing the Dakotah Centennial Park for this year's Papa's Pumpkin Patch. It has developed into a fun and exciting tradition for our young students at St. Marys Grade School.



St. Mary's Grade School 1st grade students exiting the slide



St. Mary's Grade School Kindergarten students hold up some bumpy pumpkins during the afternoon event.

***FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:
EVEN CLOCKS DON'T WORK LIKE CLOCKWORK***

By this time every year, we are conditioned to settle in to the routine of everyday classes. With the schedule set and students and teachers familiar with each other, this is about the time of year when things should begin to work like clockwork.

In my brief experience as a teacher and administrator however, I have grown to realize that in school the only thing that works like clockwork is a clock, and even that needs regular maintenance and repair. As our students grow and mature in so many ways, so must our styles, schedules, and methods also change.

Tuesday, October 18th will mark the completion of the first quarter of our 2011-2012 school year, and I can proclaim with certainty that there is no settling in, no routine, no clockwork.

Each morning at St. Mary's Grade School, 28 dedicated and compassionate staff members, from custodians and cooks to administration and faculty, provide a warm, caring, stimulating environment for 234 children enrolled in Preschool through 8th grade. Most importantly, we do so through the teachings of Christ, offering our wholehearted energy in bringing to these children a sophisticated, challenging curriculum combined with the values of the Gospel.

One consistency we offer is the consistency of change: altering lessons and schedules, organizing field trips, scheduling speakers, meeting with students and parents, and meeting with fellow teachers and administrators.

Throughout the pages of this, the October 2011 issue of The St. Mary's Servant, you will see evidence of the

traditions and the changes, of the spiritual, emotional, physical, and intellectual development of our students, and of the professional development of our staff.

Personally, I am currently enrolled in an education foundations course at University of Mary, and the assigned reading I have completed - from Plato and Aristotle to John Dewey and Maria Montessori - has prompted in me valuable reflection about what happens here at St. Mary's Grade School.

It's extremely encouraging to be spending so much of my life in such an important endeavour, and I continue to count myself so blessed to be a part of this school community. I hope you all feel the same. God Bless.

-Tony

SPORTS NEWS



Tri-School girls' volleyball continues to enjoy the largest participation of any sport in the program. This year, Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Ritter coached the 7th grade team, leading them to a successful season.



The Tri-School boys' 7th and 8th football teams enjoyed strong participation this year, and finished the season with 4-3 and 4-4 records, respectively.

And for the 7th grade team - the breaking of a drought - defeating both Wachter and Simle for the first time in recent memory!



The combined 7th/8th grade Tri-School boys' soccer team had a promising year as well, finishing with a 4-4 record in the most competitive soccer environment in the state.

SPECIAL SCHOOL REQUEST

AN 'APPLE-A-DAY' BRINGS A PORTABLE COMPUTER LAB OUR WAY!



With the introduction of Rosetta Stone language curriculum into our school day, one of the expected results has been the increased use of our Seiler/Klein Memorial Computer Lab.

St. Mary's Grade School is asking for generous contributions from interested families and individuals to our 'Apple-a-Day' Computer Drive, which aims to provide to St. Mary's Grade School students with 26 MacBook Pro laptop computers for use as a portable computer lab. The lab will be used in all grades to accomplish a wide range of educational goals.

Please consider donating to the 'Apple-a-Day' Computer Drive by contributing to the purchase of the computers!

Apple-a-Day Computer Drive

- 2 Computers \$2600
- 1 Computer \$1300
- 1/2 Computer \$650
- 1/4 Computer \$325
- Other amount

If interested, please make check payable to St. Mary's Grade School. Documentation for tax purposes will be provided upon request.





Evan and Conner seated near the 8th grade lockers, participating in 'Buddy Reading'

'BUDDY READING' PROMOTES LITERACY IN KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten, sixth, and seventh grade class are teaming together to read, write, and draw. Each sixth and seventh grade student will be assigned a kindergarten buddy. Together they will choose a book that isn't too hard and find an appropriate place in the school to read. The sixth and seventh grade students will model to their buddies the three ways to read a book. They will first learn to read pictures, to read words, and retell a story. The students will read aloud to the their buddies as well as echo read with their buddies. Echo reading allows the kindergarten students an opportunity to read the same sentence back to their buddy.

Buddy reading provides the Kindergarten students with the support they need as beginning readers. Explicit modeling, practice, and reflecting will take place during this reading time. The students will often write and illustrate along with their reading, ensuring that all students are highly engaged during this time.

This will prove to be a nurturing community of trust for all students and will lead to a lifetime of independent literacy.

FIRST GRADE STUDENT VOTED 'ARTIST OF THE WEEK' THROUGH ARTSONIA PROGRAM

In our strong efforts to make student art at St. Mary's Grade School accessible to families and friends outside of school, our teachers regularly post student artwork on the popular art website, Artsonia (www.artsonia.com).

Each week, certain student artwork from around the country is showcased and can be voted on by website viewers. In late September, 1st grade student artist Joe Kalb was the top vote-getter in his category, and received an 'Artist of the Week' award for his *Hands* art project.

"I'm not sure how many families know how artistic these students are," describes Principal Fladeland. "Visiting the Artsonia website gives families an

amazing opportunity to view all of the various art projects submitted by our teachers."

When visiting the Artsonia website, parents, relatives, and friends can search for "St. Mary's Grade School" under "find a school by name" to view all of the submitted artwork. In addition to viewing the pieces, one can purchase items such as coffee mugs, keychains, greeting cards or T-shirts with the art printed on them.

So while we dare not bring up the fact that the Christmas shopping season is fast approaching, we know that student art can make wonderful gifts for relatives and friends. Just a thought. And the school gets free art supplies as a result!



1st grade student artist Joe Kalb with his award



Sarah, Adam, and Anthony displaying their 'Student of the Month' medals

SEPTEMBER 'STUDENTS OF THE MONTH' CHOSEN AT ST. MARY'S

As part of our Servant Leadership program at St. Mary's Grade School, we recognize students in grades six through eight at the end of each month who most exhibit the ideals of servant leadership.

At their last weekly meeting of the month, teachers of students in grades six through eight discuss choices for the awards and come to a consensus before reporting the students' names to Principal Fladeland. In a timely manner then, Mr. Fladeland contacts Dakota Awards to engrave the student names on the back of 'Student of the Month' medals.

Through their behaviors and interactions towards their peers and teachers, Sarah Zander, Adam Greff, and Anthony Vecchia provide good examples to those around them. Congratulations to all three for being selected as September Students of the Month.

'TOP 20' PARENTS WORKSHOP SET FOR OCTOBER 18TH

The life journey of our children will inevitably present them with challenges along the way. Come to this energetic session and learn insights and practical strategies to:

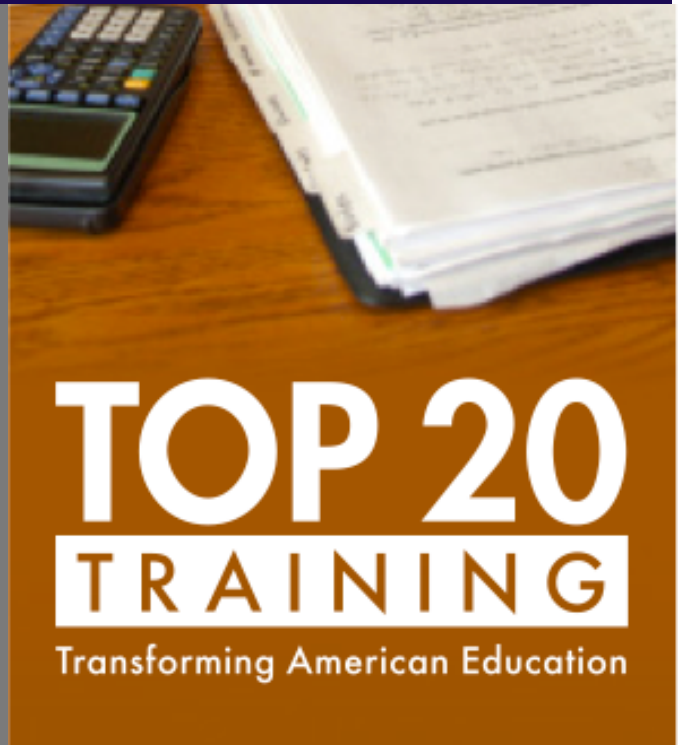
- Help your child: "Live Above the Line"—be aware of and manage their thinking in order to make successful choices that provide positive experiences
- Help your child to learn from mistakes and to move outside their comfort zone to be successful
- Assist your child in practicing "Instant Re-plays" and deal with conflict more effectively
- Teach your child to value confusion as a natural and necessary part of learning

WHAT: Top 20 "Guiding Our Children Through Life's Challenges"

WHEN: Tuesday, October 18th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Cathedral School Gymnasium

Please RSVP to the St. Mary's Grade School office by October 17th.



TOP 20 TRAINING

Transforming American Education

TOP 20 PRESENTERS BRING EXCITEMENT AND IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STAFF OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Our presenters, Paul Bernabei and Willow Sweeny, are currently on staff at Cretin-Derham Hall High School in Minneapolis and have presented to over 40,000 teachers, parents, coaches, and 10,000 students. They are the co-authors of three books:

- Top 20 Parents: Raising Happy, Responsible and Emotionally Healthy Children
- Top 20 Teachers: The Revolution in American Education
- Top 20 Teens: and The Best-kept Thinking, Learning and Communicating Secrets of Successful Teenagers

FACULTY EMBARK ON 'DAILY FIVE' BOOK STUDY, LOOK AHEAD TO FURTHER WORK WITH 'LOVE AND LOGIC'

Each year at St. Mary's Grade School, we work to provide the best possible education for not only our students, but our teachers and staff as well. This year, among diocesan, local, and school staff meetings and in-services, teachers at St. Mary's are meeting twice per month for a book study on the Daily Five instructional strategies developed by Gail Boushey and Joan Moser.

According to the founders, the Daily Five is a "is more than a management system or a curriculum framework - it is a structure that helps students develop the daily habits of reading, writing, and working independently that will lead to a lifetime of literacy independence." It is a structure formed of five separate components through which groups of students rotate

Cathedral, Saint Anne and St. Mary's Grade School teachers, principals, and staff participated in "Top 20 Training" last winter, and were thoroughly impressed by the quality of the presentation and material.

"I have never been at an education in-service that kept everyone so engaged with quality, practical material," described Principal Fladeland.

"We, the Catholic School Administrators, heard such positive feedback from our teachers, that we immediately began lobbying for their return this year. This time, for them to include a parent workshop is wonderful."

The Diocese of Bismarck educators and staff will be participating in Top 20 Training on Wednesday, October 19th at the Seven Seas in Mandan. The parent workshop is on Tuesday, October 18th.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to hear from experienced parents and professionals about practical parenting strategies. Join us on Tuesday, October 18th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Cathedral School Gymnasium for this valuable parent workshop. Call the school office for more information.

- Read to Self
- Work on Writing
- Word Work
- Listen to Reading
- Read to Someone

Also on the agenda for faculty professional development this year and next year is a revisiting of the highly effective 'Love and Logic' method of teaching and classroom management.

Love and Logic is a general method of teacher behavior which focusses on positive interaction, decision-making, positive reinforcement, and student empowerment.

For more information on the two areas of study, visit the two websites: TheDailyCafe.com and LoveAndLogic.com.

'PRIDE OF DAKOTA' DAY PROMOTES LOCAL FOODS, HEALTHY EATING

In charge of the best school lunch program in town, St. Mary's Grade School Head Cook Sharon Mertz approached Principal Fladeland early this year about organizing a 'Pride of Dakota' Day in the lunchroom, whereby the kitchen staff would work to prepare a meal composed of products grown in North Dakota and the surrounding region.

That day came on October 4th, when Mrs. Mertz and the rest of our dedicated kitchen staff prepared another tasty and nutritious lunch for the students. The menu - the popular taco-in-a-bag.

"We used Cloverdale meat, Barrel O' Fun Chips, and used all local and regional sources for our produce," described Mr. Fladeland. "It brings attention back to the plate - the dinner plate. Where our food comes from makes a big difference, and I think the cost is worth it." For the remainder of the year, St. Mary's will be ordering the Cloverdale meat for the taco menu.



U-Mary football players Adam Tescher and Jon Burke about to serve up some tacos.

In addition to the local food, St. Mary's employed the services of local university football players to help serve the food. Head Coach of the U-Mary Marauders football team Myron Schultz was gracious enough to organize a group of U-Mary football players to visit St. Mary's to help serve the food.

Families are always welcome for lunch at St. Mary's. At right is a sample weekly menu of the salad bar that Mrs. Mertz prepares each week in addition to the various hot lunch items. Call ahead if possible to let the kitchen know that you'll be stopping by for lunch!

ST. MARY'S TOBACCO FREE STUDENTS ATTEND BISMARCK'S 6TH ANNUAL TOBACCO PREVENTION YOUTH SUMMIT

The Tobacco Free Coalition Group led by Mrs. Amy Heuer met recently to discuss the upcoming Annual Bismarck Tobacco Prevention Youth Summit Conference that will be held on October 12th in Bismarck. The group consists of eleven devoted seventh and eighth graders who educate themselves on tobacco prevention.

The intent of the Bismarck Youth Summit is to give students the latest information about tobacco prevention and youth empowerment. Each of the schools attending has a school tobacco coordinator. The students who attend will be the lead students to work with their school tobacco coordinator on tobacco prevention activities. The activities are centered around educating their peers and public about the benefits of promoting the ND Quitline/Quitnet.com through the use of Public Service Announcements.

The Tobacco Free Coalition Group at St. Mary's will meet twice a month and discuss the negative effects of smoking. Their goal is to learn the facts about smoking and to persuade others to be tobacco-free.

Salad Bar Menu

Date: October 3-7

	M	T	W	Th	F
<u>Lettuce</u>	x	x	x	x	x
<u>Cucumber</u>	x	x	x	x	x
<u>Carrots</u>	x	x	x	x	x
<u>CROUTONS</u>	x		x	x	
<u>Bread Sticks</u>		x			
<u>Crackers</u>					x
<u>Cottage Cheese</u>	x	x	x	x	x
<u>Deli Ham</u>	x				
<u>Deli Turkey</u>				x	
<u>Breaded Chicken</u>					
<u>Taco Meat</u>			x		
<u>Shredded Cheese</u>	x		x		x
<u>Boiled Eggs</u>		x		x	
<u>Spinach</u>	x	x	x	x	x
<u>Olives</u>	x		x		x
<u>Broccoli</u>	x	x		x	
<u>Cauliflower</u>	x	x		x	
<u>Tomatoes</u>	x	x	x	x	x
<u>Peppers</u>	x	x	x	x	x
<u>Apples</u>	x		x		x
<u>Oranges</u>			x		x
<u>Bananas</u>		x			
<u>Canned Fruit</u>		x		x	
<u>Yogurt</u>	x				
<u>Pasta Salad</u>		x			

MRS. HAUGEN TAKES THE REINS IN ORGANIZING EVENT IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY, DEACON TERRY LEADS PRAYER SERVICE

The feast day of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary was on October 7th. St. Mary's Grade School celebrated by having a Children's Holy Hour. It began with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; this was the first experience with Adoration for many of the children.

The hour continued with quiet reflection and prayer and concluded with praying the rosary. St. Mary's Grade School would like to give special thanks to Deacon Doug Helbing from Christ the King who made rosaries for each of our students!

This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to spiritually unite with other children throughout the world by praying for peace and for families of the world.

When asked about their experience, 2nd grade student Nicholas Windsor said, "I felt Jesus presence with me during our time in church."

What a wonderful way to end our week at school!



STUDENTS PREPARE FOR CONFIRMATION THROUGH PRAYER AND SERVICE

7th and 8th grade students at St. Mary's Grade School are beginning to prepare for the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation. St. Mary's Parish Family is a Stewardship Parish, and therefore service has always been an integral part of our Confirmation preparation. The 7th and 8th grade students are serving our community in many different ways such as cleaning up the highways, babysitting for the church, and spending time with the elderly. In addition, all 7th and 8th grade students will serve as ministers at a weekend Mass during the year.

Through the instruction of Religion teacher Mrs. Sharol Haugen, students will study the Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment,

Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, and Awe and Wonder - while growing in their Catholic faith. In choosing their Confirmation names they will research the lives of saints, and will participate in several retreats to help with reflection and discernment. They also look forward to a personal interview with Father Gene Lindemann to verify that they are prepared and eager to be confirmed.

Our former eighth graders, most of whom are now 9th grade students at SMCHS, will be receiving the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation on December 4th, 2011 at St. Mary's Church. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of our students as they continue on their spiritual journeys in preparation for Confirmation.

CODE ERROR YIELDS UPDATED (AND FREE) SCOREBOARD FOR SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

In late September, school staff notified administration that the old scoreboard was no longer functioning. With a new Daktronics control panel recently purchased, the custodial staff set out to quickly purchase a new scoreboard needed for the current volleyball season.

After researching the possibilities, custodian Dean Pflieger contacted Solen High School, who had a scoreboard for sale, priced at a very reasonable \$200.

Upon returning to St. Mary's with the new board, Mr. Pflieger discovered that the

old scoreboard had worked all along, but that a coding error had prevented scorekeepers from properly operating the board.

Because the new scoreboard was a newer model, in better condition, and just happened to be in school colors, the decision was made to install the newly acquired board, and sell the old board for \$200. Within days, the new scoreboard was installed and a school family bought the old board, making for an inexpensive episode yielding a new scoreboard!

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



807 East Thayer Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
www.stmarysbismarck.org

Anthony Fladeland, Principal
tony.fladeland@sedit.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 6 banner photo:
1st grade Pumpkin Art
October 11, 2011*



The new scoreboard installed in the gymnasium

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR

OCTOBER 18

Top 20 Parent Workshop
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Cathedral Gymnasium

OCTOBER 19

Staff Development Day
NO SCHOOL

OCTOBER 20/21

NDEA Teachers' Convention
NO SCHOOL

OCTOBER 28

School Board Meeting
12:00 p.m.
South Multi-Purpose Room

OCTOBER 28

Fall Dance
5:00 p.m.
Monsignor Feehan Hall

NOVEMBER 2

PTO Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Library

NOVEMBER 3

Parent/Teacher Conferences
1:30 - 7:00 p.m.
(school dismissal at 1:00 p.m.)

NOVEMBER 4

P/T Conference Comp. Day
NO SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 9

Tri-School JH Band Concert
7:30 p.m.
SMCHS Gymnasium