



St. Patrick Parish School

ELKHORN • WISCONSIN

PANTHER ALUMNI NEWSLETTER • FALL 2010

Dear Alumni of St. Patrick Parish School,

As I begin my fifth year as administrator at St. Patrick Parish School, I took a few minutes to reflect on how many things have changed in those years.

- We have the MAP (Measuring Academic Progress) Assessment program going full swing. It allows the staff to better assess all students and help those who are struggling or need that challenge to keep their academic progress at the higher levels.
- The staff has attended many workshops over the summer months that address the areas of differentiated instructions, RTI strategies for the classrooms, and supportive consultative training to help modify student learning when necessary.
- We have incorporated into the curriculum a Saint of the Month activity for all students grades PK-8. The seventh and eighth grade students prepare a presentation so that the lower grades can learn about a different saint each month.

Even though other aspects have changed, our focus on Catholic identity, values, family-friendly atmosphere, high academic standards and service to our community and the wider church have remained as our strengths. I invite all of you to renew your relationship with your school. Our school is dependent upon the spirit of its families and alumni to support and maintain that which we all value. Some faces may have changed, but the dedication and spirit of St. Patrick School remains. This is due to the fact that countless people have sacrificed and dedicated their lives to ensuring that children would have the opportunity to learn about their faith not separated from other learning, but rather as part of their over-all learning.

Sincerely,

Julie Mullenbach, Principal



Saint Patrick Parish School

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We're on the Web:

www.stpatrickschool.elkhorn.org

We Want to Hear from You

- Is there something exciting happening in your life or an alumni's life that we can highlight?
- Do you have an idea for a featured article?
- Tell us what fond memories you have of St. Patrick school and your experience at the school.
- Send information, updates, address corrections or any other pertinent information to:

Julie Muellenbach

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Meet the New Staff

Brian Wrightson

I have been teaching for seven years now beginning this school year. I spent my first five years teaching at my high school alma mater Driscoll Catholic in Addison, IL. Tragically the school closed down due to the economy and declining enrollment in 2009. I made the move up to Wisconsin last summer and accepted a position teaching 6-12 band, choir, and general music at St. Joseph High School and Interparish Junior High. I had a great year and will forever cherish the memories of meeting and working with such talented students, but decided I needed to slow down a little bit as they kept me quite busy over there.



I chose to become a teacher because my old high school really needed a music teacher at the time, and I had coincidentally graduated from college and was ready to find a job that same year. The administration knew me as a student and encouraged me to go and work there. My original major was in music business, so I was a little scared and really didn't know if I would be comfortable as a teacher, but I quickly fell in love with the job and realized it truly is a wonderful thing to be able to spend every day sharing my passion and enthusiasm for music with kids! I also had a truly great music teacher in Jim Lilly while I was a student at Driscoll. Unfortunately he had to resign due to declining health while I was in college, but I tried to emulate what I remember he did with us during my four years there.

I feel like I have been in school for a very long time, but it's okay because I absolutely love to learn. I started my education at Elmhurst College, and while teaching at Driscoll I simultaneously was attending classes at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, IL. I was enrolled in their masters and certification program from 2006 until my wife and I moved up to Wisconsin in 2009. It was here where I learned the basics on playing trumpet, flute, and percussion. My many teachers there included Dr. Charlie Menghini who is actually one of the authors of the Essential Elements method books we are using. I recently transferred my credits over to Carroll University in Waukesha and whenever I am not at St. Patrick this is where you will find me.

I grew up in Roselle, IL and attended catholic schools my whole life. My parents really instilled the importance of prayer and communicating with God in me at a very young age. I have had some very trying times in my life, even despite my young age, and God has always been an important aspect of getting me through. My wife Johnelle McDermott and I dated for ten years before finally getting married. So she is my proverbial high school sweetheart. We have a Siberian Husky/Alaskan Malamute mix named Mika. We have had her since she was a little puppy, and she loves to go on walks, play, and give kisses to everyone she meets.

Caitlyn Loth

This is my first year at St. Patrick's School. I teach 4 year old kindergarten. I chose to be a teacher because of my passion for children and the great amount I value education. I attended the University of Minnesota Duluth and earned degrees in Unified Early Childhood Studies and Special Education. I grew up in Antigo, WI and just moved to Elkhorn earlier this year. I am a new member to St. Patrick's Parish. I love working with the little ones and am extremely motivated by their energy and excitement to learn!



Margaret Mary Zirngibl

I am a first year teacher here at St. Pat's. My family is originally from the northwest side of Chicago; however, I grew up in Walworth and Williams Bay, WI. Growing up in a large family who revered education as a main priority in life, I knew from a young age that I wanted to become a teacher because I saw the joy that it brought my parents, grandparents, uncles, and cousins who have taught not only around the Midwest, but also around the world. Not to mention, I had phenomenal teachers when I attended both St. Francis de Sales Parish School in Lake Geneva, and Williams Bay Public High School. These formative years only helped me solidify my appreciation for educators and their passion for learning.



While still in grade school, I had my first job at age 12, I worked at Big Foot Country Club as a caddie, and I continued to work there throughout high school. After graduating from Williams Bay, I attended Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI and John Cabot University in Rome, Italy, with the help of Western Golf Association's Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship - the most life changing gift I have ever received. While abroad, I had the unique opportunity to travel to over 15 different countries, and I have been addicted to traveling ever since. Nevertheless, I'm excited to begin my teaching career at St. Pat's, and I am looking forward to embarking on this new chapter of my life.

Andrew Cordell

I am a 2008 graduate of Northern Illinois University. I have been teaching since January of 2009 at the middle and high school level. I chose to be a teacher because I was inspired by one of my professors at Marquette to bring my knowledge of math and zeal for helping others to the classroom. I was born and raised in Dixon, IL. I attended St. Mary Catholic Elementary and Junior High School in Dixon, Sterling Newman Central Catholic High School in Sterling IL, Marquette University and Northern Illinois University. I have been a practicing Catholic my entire life and call St. Sebastian Parish in Milwaukee my faith home. Obviously, I love all things involving math. Algebra, geometry and calculus are my favorite classes to teach and learn about. I am an avid runner and enjoy rooting for my favorite sports teams including the NIU Huskies, Milwaukee Brewers, and Manchester City F.C.



Living Our Faith

Jesus is an integral part of each school day. We start each day with prayer. Catholic values, beliefs, and sacraments are integrated into each subject. Students are supported as they grow in faith with guidance from our caring teachers trained in catechesis and the structure of an all school weekly mass celebration. We travel periodically to hold Mass in the parish church. We Jesus, Mary, and many other saints through our Saint of the Month Presentations. We gather as a student body to pray the rosary throughout the school year and partake in a May Crowning Celebration each May. The students do many service projects for the local community such as singing at the nursing homes, collecting food for the local food pantries and raising funds for various charitable organizations. St. Patrick's students learn and become very active in what it means to serve the Lord, by serving those in need.



Principal and Students dress down for MDA.

Pre-Kindergarten

During the 2010-2011 school year we began the first full year of our Pre-Kindergarten for the four-year-olds with a capacity class of 15 students. We presently offer the program 3 days/week and parents can choose to enroll their child for half days or full days. The students experience in the pre-kindergarten is filled with many different activities that help to prepare them for Kindergarten. The students partake in art, music, computers, with the specialty teachers as well as reading, math, science, and socializing skills.



Guardian Angel Fund

A Catholic School Education is Available to All!

The Guardian Angel Fund is a Tuition Assistance Program designed to give families the ability to send their child/children to St. Patrick Parish School but are unable to fund the tuition. During the last several years this program has provided assistance to over twenty families. The Knights of Columbus and many anonymous donors have greatly supported this fund over the years. This program allows many families to benefit from the gift of a life time in a Catholic Education.

Many of the donations are from graduates impressed by the outcome of a Catholic education. These anonymous donors want to give every child the opportunity to excel spiritually and academically.

Donations to the Guardian Angel Fund are currently being accepted. To donate to the program, contact Julie Muellenbach, School Principal at (262)-723-4258.



Athletics & Activities

Many of our students are involved in the wide variety of after school activities that are offered. They include:

- Music Lessons
- Yearbook
- Battle of the Books
- Knowledge Quest
- Game Night
- Ski Club
- TGA Golf
- Cooking Club
- Drama Club



In addition to the many activities we also offer athletic programs. The sports program is still parish based and offers the same opportunities to active REP students. We offer girls and boys basketball and girls volleyball. Our Girl's Volleyball team has made its second trip to the

Still Missing

Please check our section under alumni for more missing.

- 1990:** Dunham, Terah • Johnson, Leslie (married name Gostomski) • Lindhorst, Travis • Schultz, Corina
- 1991:** Gotcher, Gregory • Lange, Melissa (married name Biederman) • Lindhorst, Clint
- 1993:** Gotcher, Kristy
- 1994:** Hommen, Kevin • Hayes, Todd
- 1995:** Froeming, Jed • McAdams, Krystal
- 1996:** Gevaert, Douglas • Gevaert, Mark • Munro, Nicholas • Paul, Becky
- 1997:** Hoffman, Gregory
- 1998:** Gevaert, Jeffrey
- 1999:** Bukouraas, Jennifer • McAdams, Stephanie
- 2001:** Benavides, Reyna • Myers, Marie



Don't Miss This....

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the following events:

The Annual Pancake Breakfast

January 16, 2011 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm

Lenten Fish Fry Dinners: (Fried & Baked fish available)

March 11, 2011 & April 8, 2011 from 4:30-7:30 pm

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

March 26, 2011 7:00-10:00 pm

Teacher's Spaghetti Dinner

May 11, 2011 from 4:30-7:00 pm



The Graduating Class of 2011

Front: Taylor Ramos, Madeline Ramos, Addy Gonzales

Back: Margaret McGraw, McKenna North,
Victoria Brossard, Bridget Bleser, Eleanor Czerwinski

St. Patrick's "Giving Tree"

It takes all of us together to educate our children in a Catholic School. Education comes in many forms through the knowledge in education, the wisdom of prayer and the spirit of community. In the extraordinary example of the generosity of the Giving Tree who gave all it had to the little boy we are grateful to those who give generously to St. Patrick Parish School.

We say thank you to: Knights of Columbus, Ladies Guild, Market Day, teachers, staff, and Fr. Jim, Apple Wagon, Guardian Angel Fund, all the school committees, the homeroom moms, monetary support, donors of Wish List items, the St. Patrick School alumni and volunteers of all kinds.



Down Memory Lane

I left St. Patrick's with a bevy of educational gifts- the greatest of which was an ability to write a coherent, declarative sentence from Mrs. Jo Welch in 4th grade.

-Don Davis (grad. 1963)

St. Patrick's school includes my favorite teacher Miss Jean Morrissey. She was my 2nd grade teacher but also the music teacher. I can remember her pushing the piano around and always having a pitch pipe handy.

-Mary Breesee (Leahy) (grad. 1980)

Fr. Hanauska was always at the school, it seemed like every day, and knew every child by name. On Fr. Joe's day he always brought cupcakes to school and we would have a get together in the gym to celebrate.

-Tom Cook (grad. 1981)

I feel so confident that continuing Catholic Education for my family is the right choice. I know that the teachers of St. Patrick's love what they do and take pride in the children they help to grow and shape in God's love each day of the school year.

-Sara Droster (grad. 1991)

St. Patrick's influenced me by preparing me academically for HS, college, and medical school. Because older kids were always helping younger kids, this helped the students relate to different ages of people. It also strengthened my morals, values, and beliefs of the Catholic Faith.

-Lindsay Graham (grad. 1997)

I am grateful for the memories at St. Pat's School, the faith I learned, and how well it prepared me for high school.

-Terrin Seaver (grad. 2005)

Vision Statement

We are a community dedicated to nurturing the gospel values of our students. We believe in the intrinsic worth, goodness and potential of every child and provide an environment of cooperation among and between our parish families, teachers, staff, and students. We advocate a balance of spiritual, intellectual, and physical growth from which socially and morally responsible leaders will emerge.

Our goal is educating the whole child with:

Academic Excellence • Faith-Based values • Proud Athletic Tradition
Extra-curricular Activities • Community Outreach • Multi-age Classrooms and Activities