

November 2009



ST. PATRICK PARISH SCHOOL

Can't Hide That Panther Pride

St. Patrick Parish School Fall Alumni Newsletter

Dear Alumni of St. Patrick Parish School,

The current students and families of St. Patrick School can be proud of the 51 years of history and traditions that began with the many students and families that attended St. Patrick's over the years. While times have changed the most important aspects of St. Patrick School have remained constant. Our focus on Catholic values, family-friendly atmosphere, high academic standards and service to our community and the wider church have remained as our strengths.

Today's students attend St. Patrick's for the same reason as students before them. They want to be challenged, understood, loved, accepted, and are looking for guidance. Although times have changed our current families are seeking the same high-quality, faith-filled education for their children, just as your parents did when they sent you here.

Some changes have taken place over the past several years, but things are always moving forward to offer the best for our students. The classrooms were given a fresh coat of paint this past summer, the staff have attended several classes on multi-age education and are implementing ideas into the classroom. Our computer lab is being upgraded to Windows XP, so that beginning this school year the staff can be trained and administer the MAP (Measuring Academic Progress) Assessment program. This program allows the staff to better assess all students and help those who are struggling. These assessment procedures will begin shortly after the holiday season.

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. The teachers, administrator, and priest 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.



Elkhorn, Wisconsin

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.

Educating The Whole Child

- ⇒ Academic Excellence
- ⇒ Faith-Based Values
- ⇒ Proud Athletic Tradition
- ⇒ Extra-Curricular Activities
- ⇒ Community Outreach
- ⇒ Multi-age Classroom and Activities



I first visited St. Patrick School as a child when I had the day off of school and St. Pats didn't. I came with my next door neighbors—Dan and Steve Cobb (then students). The Principal was Sister Susan and I thought it was cool that we shared the same name. I remember thinking how small the school seemed—but something about it was special. Being a public school student, it seemed odd to hear prayer in the classroom—but something about it

felt very good too.

Many years later, when I moved to Elkhorn, I applied for the job of Preschool/ Kindergarten Teacher at St. Pats and got the job. Mary Steele was Principal at the time. With many life changes, and moving from the city to a small town, etc., I was quite nervous and unsure—but something about being at St. Pats was comforting.

I'm now in my 13th year of teaching Preschool/ Kindergarten at St. Pats, and although there have been many changes, the sense of "family" among staff, students, and parents still remains the same.

Our small school gives children an excellent education, and prepares them for the joys and trials of life. My first Kin-

dergarten students are now seniors in high school, and I've kept in touch with most of them. They are kind, motivated young adults, who have the brightest of futures ahead. I hope they can look back someday, and realize how attending St. Pats "sculpted" some of who they are and maybe consider a Catholic education for their own children.

Coming to St. Patrick School each day, past the parade of happy faces, and knowing that I might be able to help someone is a good feeling. It doesn't get much better than that. Thank you Dan and Steve Cobb!



Can't Hide that Panther Pride

Our athletic program provides a wide range of competitive sports and opportunities for leadership, team play, skill development, and fun. The sports program is now parish based to offer those same opportunities to active REP students.

We offer girls and boys basketball, girls volleyball, and boys football.



Athletics & Activities

Many of our students are also 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
- * Sewing Club
- * Cooking Club
- * Drama Club





A Message from the Pastor

The purpose of a Catholic school is to raise up members of the Church and society who will contribute to advancing the Kingdom of God on earth, while keeping their ultimate fulfillment in heaven close to their heart. Parents entrust their children to the school's care so they have an excellent education in all fields, especially in the faith. Students who graduate from St. Patrick's

will know deeply the foundations of their faith so they can easily recognize the aspects of the culture that are contrary to the faith. With the other subjects mastered also, they will be able to think critically and articulate the ways in which all of life can advance through Jesus' worldview conveyed through the Catholic Church. Please pray for all Catholic Schools so we can help our future generations live up to the high standard of authentic Catholic education.

God bless you.

Fr. Jim Jaeger

St. Patrick's Parish



St. Patrick's At A Glance

St. Patrick's School has grown and changed tremendously over the years. Highlights of St. Patrick's today include:

- ◇ PK4-8 Instruction
- ◇ WRISA Accreditation
- ◇ Faculty-student ratio 1:8
- ◇ Integrated Wireless Technology
- ◇ Average class size of 15 students
- ◇ Smart Board computer-Aided Education
- ◇ Health Education K-8
- ◇ Spanish Instruction K-8
- ◇ Advanced Mathematics, Algebra
- ◇ Hot Lunch program
- ◇ Financial Aid Available
- ◇ Multi-grade classroom and activities
- ◇ Sacraments of First Communion and First Reconciliation
- ◇ Academic standards meet & exceed state and national standards
- ◇ Choir, Band or General Music for 5-8
- ◇ Christmas Concert & Spring Concert
- ◇ Student Council run community events



Living Our Faith

Jesus is an integral part of our 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 parish priest, caring teachers trained in catechesis and the structure of an all school weekly mass celebration. We do many

service projects from singing at the local nursing homes to collecting food for local pantries, and raising funds to help Heifer International, children in War torn countries, and soldier overseas.

St. Patrick's students learn and become very active in what it means to serve the Lord, by serving those in need.



At Mass with Archbishop Dolan and Walworth County Catholic Schools



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St. Patrick Parish School
534 Sunset Drive
Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121
262-723-4258

We're on the Web
www.stpatrickselkhorn.org

The tradition continues...



Back Row: Jennifer Cook, Nick Cook, Adam Alder, Steven Wales

Middle Row: Keaton Cooper, Oscar Straube, William Elhen, Addy Gonzales, Sydney Roe

Front Row: Abby Cook, Taylor Ellsworth, Cohen Straube, Riley Vaughn, Maura Vaughn, Aren Gonzales, Alex Gonzales Not picture Chloe Robinson

Alumni continue the tradition of Catholic Education.

Dan Alder Class of 1966

Katie (Matheius) Robinson Class of 1993

Tom Cook Class of 1981

Debra (Jagodinski) Roe Class of 1979

Lisa (Schmitt) Cooper Class of 1971

Sara (Droster) Straube Class of 1991

Rick Ellsworth Class of 1963

Bridget (Leahy) Vaughn Class of 1988

Gina (Kellen) Ehlen Class of 1971

MaryJo (Goebel) Wales Class of 1972

Jason Gonzales Class of 1983

Don't Miss This....

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

Annual Pancake Breakfast January 10, 2010
8:00-12:30

Lenten Fish Fry Dinners February 19, 2010
March 5, 2010
4:30-7:30

Second Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Return Appearance by Leahy's Luck
March 20, 2010 7:00-10:00



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?**
- ◇ **Also 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:

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