



Celebrating Advent

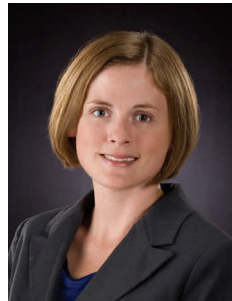
"O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death." - Advent Antiphon for December 21

A few years ago, I was inspired by the suggestion of some of our city pastors to try a few observances during Advent: one extra weekly Mass, praying five minutes each morning, and going to Confession on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Seems pretty insignificant, right? Yet, that Christmas, the Lord responded with abundant generosity to change my heart. I cannot explain this, but can only praise Jesus for the gift of faith. It is no exaggeration to say that Advent changed my life.

I sometimes wonder how such small actions on my part made such a big difference, and the best answer I can give is His humility. He makes Himself vulnerable, whether as a helpless baby in a manger or as a humble piece of bread in the Eucharist. He holds nothing back.

Now, as President of MACS, the observance of Advent and of our patronal feast day on the December 8 recall to me that special Advent of small sacrifices, which led to so great a gift in return. This year, the pandemic has caused all of us to make sacrifices, some small and some not-so-small. May we offer these sacrifices with great love, trusting in the Lord that he will respond with unmatched generosity. May we show our children how to be hopeful and joyful, by God's grace, even in times of darkness and doubt.

To all our MACS families, I wish you a hopeful Advent.



Mrs. Molly Bushman
MACS President



The New Liturgical Year

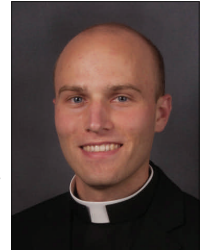
Happy New Year!

No, I'm not trying to shoo 2020 out the door earlier than it should be because of the challenges it has held for us. There's another new year that has already begun, and that is the new liturgical year. The Church always begins its new year by journeying through Advent, the four-week long season of preparing for Christ's coming at Christmas. It always seems that the world at large forgets that Advent exists.

By now, many Christmas decorations have been up for weeks, radio stations have been blaring Christmas tunes, and the Christmas shopping season is in full swing. In our culture, that's about as far as preparing for Christmas goes.

But there's wisdom in taking time to prepare ourselves for things, especially if the thing we're preparing for is the coming of someone great, like God Himself. The Church gives us Advent as a time to slow down and grow in patience as we wait for the coming of Our Savior. The people of Israel had to wait over a thousand years for the birth of Jesus, the promised Messiah. We have just a few weeks. I invite you to take on something this Advent that will turn your focus from the immediate, but inevitably unfulfilling, gratification of this world to the incomparable joy that the coming of Jesus will bring to those who wait for Him in hope.

Have a Blessed Advent!



Fr. Ethan HoKamp
Chaplain

McDonnell Area Catholic Schools are committed to the formation of community, academic excellence and the spiritual and physical well-being of each student in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

McDonnell Area Catholic Schools Central & Scrip Office Hours

*Please plan ahead for your holiday Scrip purchases.
Thank you very much!*

Thanksgiving Week

Monday–Wednesday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Order Scrip before 3:00 for a Tuesday 4:00-6:00 pickup in parking lot.

**Closed: Thursday & Friday, Nov. 26-27
for Thanksgiving break.**

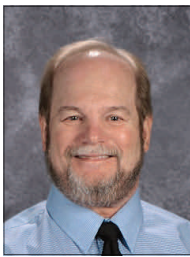


DECEMBER EVENTS

For full calendar listing, view on MACS website monthly events calendars.

- Nov. 23-24** Teacher In-Service
- 25-29** No School - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 30** MACS Christmas Giving Tree ends Dec. 18
NDMS Band & Choir Concert held in auditorium 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 8** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Holy Day & MACS Patronal Feast Day.
- Dec. 9** MABC Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. (see pg. 3)
- Dec. 14** Music Booster Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. (see pg 3)
Faith Boosters Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. (see pg 3)
- Dec. 17** Education Commission Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21-22** System-wide virtual community days
- Dec. 23 – Jan. 1** **NO SCHOOL**
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
- Dec. 24 & 25, Jan. 1** **Central Office and Early Childhood Center Closed**



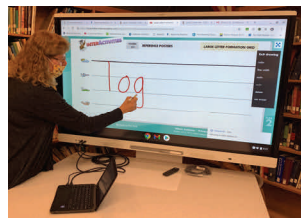


Education Technology & Media

Val Knobloch, MST Director of Technology
 v.knobloch@macs.k12.wi.us
 715.723.0538 ext. 3324

MACS on the Move

My MACS Christmas wreaths have just come in and we are looking forward to transforming our home and school for the holidays. Hard to believe, but Thanksgiving and Advent are here. It is a time of anticipation, of thanks and of hope as we transition from 2020. We celebrate the service given by our xStream team members and the staff, students, and parents who serve on the Media & Technology committee. Servant leadership is well represented. Along with a major influx of new personal devices, we are looking at what will replace something that is over 10 years old and in every classroom - the "Smart Board." Diane Hietpas is seen (right) working with one of two interactive large screen monitors as a proof of concept for the planned replacement of 47 Smart boards.



Remember to visit the [2021 Speak Up Survey](#) and click "Take the Survey." MACS has been recognized nationally for our use of the survey. Since 2012, we have used the local data gathered along with national data in our technology planning. Parents, community members, staff and students are all encouraged to complete by March 1, 2020.

Finally, we wish you all the best during the holidays and are so thankful for your participation and the resources you provide to help us join you in the education and care for your children.



SCRIP GIFT CARD NEWS



Kathleen Adams, Executive Administrative Assistant & Scrip Fundraising Coordinator
 715.723.0538 ext. 3301 or
 k.adams@macs.k12.wi.us.

Gifting that Gives Back

'Tis the season and the Central Office is ready with Scrip. We hope you choose to use Scrip for all of your shopping needs including holiday parties, baking necessities, gifts, stocking stuffers and your overall everyday needs. Friendly reminders for Scrip:

- Scrip can be purchased by emailing myself, calling the office, sending your form into a school office with your child or completing the Google Form on our website
- Use Amazon Smile when purchasing through Amazon and select MACS as your donation destination for an additional kick back.
- Kohl's is one of the only retailers that allows you to use gift cards to pay on your Kohl's card bill
- The VISA gift cards we sell do not have an activation fee
- Most gift cards can be used for online shopping just as easy as in store shopping
- Download and use the Benefit Mobile App for mobile payment.

We need 100% family participation to help make Scrip a success. Please contact me with any questions to help you get started.

May the Holy Spirit be with you and your family this Advent season.

System Fundraising News — Involving YOU in our mission



Mrs. Jaynee Brannen
 Director of Advancement
 j.brannen@macs.k12.wi.us.
 715.723.0538 ext. 3306

Spaghetti Spectacular and Mardi Gras webpages can be found under **Support MACS - Events**



Mrs. Katrina Geissler
 Spaghetti Spectacular Chairperson

Thank you for supporting our 13th Annual Spaghetti Spectacular! We had beautiful weather and a great turnout for our drive-thru meal. Congratulations to winners of the classroom theme baskets: Allison Amundson, Brooke Bach, Molly Bushman, Julie Clark, Patricia Cuddy, Sue Eckes, Daniel Fritz, Kasey Janc, Wendy Larson, Jay Prissel, Chris Samb, Missy Schamberger, Jaci Uttecht.

We exceeded our \$20,000 goal and raised \$23,000! A huge thank you to our committee, volunteers, student ambassadors and school



sponsors for making this event possible.

We are actively seeking committee members for our Mardi Gras committee. Mardi Gras will not take place on February 13, 2021 as originally planned. However, we are looking for ideas that are safe in lieu of this event. If you are interested in joining this event committee or have suggestions on event ideas amid COVID-19, please contact the Advancement Office.

Home and School Association (HandS)

email: macshomeschool@macs.k12.wi.us
 website: [hands](#)



Mrs. Chelsey Lindenberg
President

We hope everyone has a blessed Thanksgiving and wonderful start to the Advent season! Thank you to everyone who joined our scavenger hunt down at Irvine Park. We had a great turnout! It was so nice to see families being able to connect safely outside and socially distanced. The kids also had a great time dressed up in their costumes and being with their friends. We felt a true sense of our school family.

Our next meeting is January 7. Please consider attending this virtual meeting - we always look forward to seeing new faces and hearing new ideas! If you cannot attend, but have some COVID friendly ideas for us to bring families together-don't hesitate to contact us at any time!

Please also watch for flyers coming home in regards to winter activities such as sledding and walking through the park to see the Christmas lights!

Happy Thanksgiving, from the HandS Committee

MACS Athletic Booster Club - Grades 5-12

website: [ndaa](#) website: [mabc](#)



Mrs. Janet Roth
Secretary

Congratulations to the Cross Country team and the girls Volleyball team for their appearances at their respective State tournaments. We are all so thankful that we were able to participate in fall sports considering the current severe level of the COVID-19 pandemic in our county.

Good luck to the winter sports athletes – both boys & girls basketball and hockey. If you are able to attend a game, we know the athletes appreciate the support. Otherwise, we've again been blessed to have the games live streamed.

Go Macks!

On behalf of MABC, happy Thanksgiving to all. Good luck to the hunters; stay warm and safe.



MACS Music Boosters

email: macsmusic@macs.k12.wi.us
 website: [musicboost](#)



Mrs. Megan McChesney
President

Music Boosters met virtually during November. The boosters would like to thank high school teacher, Greta Jorgensen, for stepping up to put on a musical this winter. This year's performance is "My Fair Lady". There are six total performances planned for the beginning of February (to accommodate

for COVID). Mr. Hansen and Mr. Nepl will be putting together their Christmas performances by videotaping this year, so watch for the link once it's been prepared. Additionally, both high school music teachers cited diocesan policy of their students wearing masks during class. This is particularly challenging for band students, as special masks are required. Mr. Hanson will update the booster club on status of special band masks after Thanksgiving. Please email the music boosters for information to our December virtual meeting. As always, thank you for your support of Fine Arts at MACS!

MACS Faith Booster Club

email: faith@macs.k12.wi.us
 website: [macsfaithboosters](#)



Mr. Rolly Enderes
President

Our Campus Ministries is preparing the potential for retreats to continue as planned for later in the school year. In preparations, the faith booster continues our efforts to raise funds for these and upcoming years future activities and events. We are continuing with car wash sales for the entire year. You can purchase a pack of 5 car wash for \$40 and can be used at Express Mart car washers.

Please contact Campus Ministry Erica Boehm using the faith boosters email above or her school email. Special thanks to Thaler Oil for your support with these car wash certificates.

This year the Faith Boosters were able to use the wreath sales for a fundraiser. (Usually the senior class trip receives the proceeds.) It was a complete success and we sold out of wreaths. Thank you to everyone that ordered! Have a great Thanksgiving to everyone and God Bless. Email the club if you would like to join the virtual December meeting.



Christmas Giving Tree Project



MACS Angel Giving Tree begins on Monday, November 30 and continues through December 18. (See page 11 in newsletter for details.)

SENIOR NEWS

Senior Photos for Yearbook

The deadline was November 2. Students must have your picture sent in JPEG form to Mr. Cox for the yearbook. His email address is: j.cox@macs.k12.wi.us. These should be turned in immediately.

Also, you will need to turn in one 2.5 "x 3.5 " or one 4"x 6" (that can be cropped) for office use. *It must be a vertical head and shoulder pose.* Call now to let the school office know if you would like to use the LifeTouch school photo. This photo will be used if we do not receive any other photo for the senior pages in the yearbook.

Parents/Guardians

Orders have been placed with Jostens for the senior graduation announcements, caps and gowns. If your son/daughter failed to bring the order form home, it is now **your responsibility** to directly place an order by calling **Jostens** at 715.832.0762. This order needs to be placed **as soon as possible.**

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

The McDonell National Honor Society (NHS) joined the YMCA and Leinenkugel Brewing Company in sponsoring the 13th annual Support Our Troops Drive. They expanded their collection locations to St. Charles, Holy Ghost and St. Peter's schools along with the local parishes.



The event goal was to package 100 boxes. With all of the extra support, 120 boxes were filled. Along with the material donations, MACS donated \$540 that will help with the cost of shipping.

Four McDonell NHS seniors were part of the eight volunteers that helped sort all of the donations and prepare everything for packaging. The NHS students were complimented on their professionalism, kindness, and their giving hearts.



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Mrs. Gretchen Jorgensen
mcd.s.council@macs.k12.wi.us
715.723.9126 ext. 2203

The Student Council held their annual poinsettia sale from November 1 –20. If you missed the pre – order date, extra plants were ordered by the student council. Give us a call or send us an email if you would like one or more plants. The poinsettias are \$11 each. Colors are white, pink and red.



STUDENT AMBASSADOR NEWS



Mary Jacobson, Program Coordinator
Mrs.jacobson@macs.k12.wi.us
715.723.9126

Monthly Connections a Hit

Mrs. Mary Jacobson

November has been a busy month for the student ambassadors. We are constantly working on our monthly newsletter, "Connections" that we send to the local long-term care facilities and several others isolating at home. Approximately 450 people are receiving it.

On November 8, thirty-seven ambassadors helped with the drive-through Spaghetti Spectacular. I was proud to hear how they all worked maturely, efficiently, and respectfully. I know these students help with the success of this fundraiser every year.

The diaper drive was exceptionally successful with about 100 packages of diapers and wipes donated, and \$399 in cash donations. Additionally, the proceeds from the rose sale added \$1,125 to go towards purchasing more diapers, wipes, etc. We are thrilled to be able to support local agencies who provide for those who are in need of diapers.

At the end of each quarter, I choose several students to be recognized with the "First You, Then Me" awards. It was a hard decision trying to select only six students this quarter. So many more have been exceptional this first quarter at school. The six students selected were seventh grader Delaney Smiskey, eighth graders Grant Smiskey, Ben Siegenthaler, & Sophie Schmidgall, freshman Olivia Clark, and senior Rachel Eisenreich.

While the pandemic has kept us from many of our typical projects, the generous spirit in these students is anything but typical.

Right: Donated diapers are loaded up and distributed to St. Francesca Resource Center, Catholic Charities, the Chippewa County departments of Public Health and Foster Care Program.



SCHOOL COUNSELOR NEWS



Ruthann Proue School Counselor
 r.proue@macs.k12.wi.us
 715.723.9126 ext. 3317

ACT

Juniors should take the ACT at least one time during their junior year. Test dates and registration deadlines are:

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
12-12-20	11-06-20	11-07-20
02-06-21	01-08-21	01-09-21
04-17-21	03-28-21	03-13-21
06-12-21	05-07-20	05-08-21
07-17-21	06-18-21	07-09-21

Register online at www.actstudent.org.

You will need to enter the McDonell school code, which is 500-402. When you register, you may select four colleges to receive your scores. Be sure to do so, or you will end up paying up to \$17.00 per report to send scores to your colleges at a later time.

College Applications

For seniors who have not completed the college application process, they should submit as soon as possible. Seniors be sure to review the scholarship page on our website

Eighth Grade

Informational meetings for high school planning will take place the week of December 7-11. Small group meetings will be scheduled at 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. each day. The information regarding course selection, high school graduation requirements and other educational opportunities will be presented. Parents will receive an email with details after Thanksgiving.

MUSIC NEWS



Mark Neppi, Choral Director
 m.neppi@macs.k12.wi.us
 715.723.9126 ext. 2216



Sean Hanson, Band Director
 s.hanson@macs.k12.wi.us
 715.723.9126 ext. 1114

Mr. Mark Neppi

Mr. Sean Hanson

Notre Dame and McDonell Band and Choir

The bands and choirs are working hard to prepare a virtual Christmas concert. Recording is planned for the second week of December. Watch for the announcement of the airing of the Christmas concert.

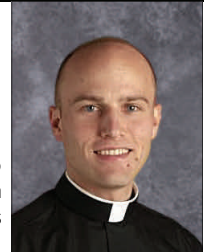
Right: High school and middle school band members rehearse in the auditorium to help with physical distancing while they practice.



CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS



Erica Boehm
 Campus Ministry
 e.boehm@macs.k12.wi.us
 715.723.9126 ext. 2210



Rev. Ethan Hokamp
 Chaplain
 e.hokamp@macs.k12.wi.us
 715.723.9126 ext. 3319

Ms. Erica Boehm

Rev. Ethan Hokamp

Exalt

What: A night of Adoration and Worship Music for **Middle/High School Students** and their families.

Where: St. Charles Borromeo Church

When: Tuesday, December 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Aly Aleigha will be joining us to lead worship for the December Exalt night. **Aly Aleigha** is an Indie-Folk Singer / Songwriter as well as a Catholic Speaker / Worship Leader from Duluth, MN.

High School Hangout

What: An evening for **high school students** to gather together to learn about a Saint/Scripture

When: Thursday nights, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Where: Basement of St. Charles Church (go through back door of the Church on the school side)

MACK Time

MACK Time will still be continuing for the **middle school and high school** while we are virtual. Go to Ms. Boehm's YouTube page to watch LIVE. Recordings will be posted on Class Google Classroom pages.

Ms. Boehm's YouTube: <https://bit.ly/BoehmVideos>

Watch for communications for competitions and prizes!

Sacraments and Prayer

Prayer and Sacraments will still be available while we are virtual. Look for emails and communications in Google Classroom for the scheduled times.

December 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception communications coming. Watch for special events for that day!



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Brian Schulner, NDMS & MCCHS Principal
b.schulner@macs.k12.wi.us
715.723.9126 ext 3309

I must admit, this has been one of the most interesting first quarters of any of the past 39 I've been part of. I call it playing chess with an invisible opponent. We made it to day 40 without an issue and then COVID-19 came knocking at our door. At this point we have had three staff members and three students test positive; contact traced and had many (including myself) on quarantines. Our daily attendance has been riddled with quarantines of students who have been in close contact with a family member or friend who tested positive and increased numbers of families choosing the remote option for their children.

On November 9 we went to a hybrid schedule for the high school as part of a response to being at a level two status in our pandemic Brick to Click plan. Level two means we are seeing over 20% of our high school students missing on a daily basis. The hybrid schedule allowed for face to face learning two days a week with the remaining days being remote. The arrangement allowed for fewer students in the building, classrooms and allows for better distancing, along with better contact tracing in the event of a student testing positive.

While we haven't had any middle school students test positive and the absence numbers are hovering around 12%, we had the middle school going full time face to face four days a week with Wednesdays remote for deep cleaning the building.

The number one priority is the health and safety of our students and staff. The anxiety, pressure and strain that have been put on our teachers are taking its toll. Preparing for dual platforms of lessons each day, sanitizing between classes, keeping students distanced, reminding them to keep their masks up and following all of the safety rules is a painstaking and thankless task. I will continue to remind everyone that it's not the bricks and mortar that educate our students. The teachers are our

biggest investment and without them there is no learning or student success. They are the backbone of our mission and vision and I can only pray that relief is on the horizon for them. Many are beyond retirement age, have health issues of their own or are taking care of sick or elderly family members. They could easily take a leave of absence through this pandemic, but they are true to our mission. They know the risks, yet show up daily to do their job without complaint. That's true dedication.

With the numbers rising in the county and under the advisement of public health, the MACS pandemic committee, and MACS Education Commission, we will be going fully remote at Notre Dame Middle and McDonell Central Catholic High Schools as of November 30 through December 22. We will review our status as the weeks progress and make a decision regarding what our educational platform will look like when we return in January after Christmas break.

I don't have a crystal ball, I can't see the enemy coming at me and I have only a plan that tends to fluctuate as the numbers change each day. I appreciate all of the support, patience and understanding that many families have given and expressed throughout the past months. We are not out of the woods yet and our response to this pandemic is day by day, so your continued support is appreciated.

As we approach the holiday season I hope all of our students, staff and families take time to relax, reflect on your blessings and stay healthy.

God's speed in our journey,

Mr. Schulner

Below: In celebration of 200 lunch periods served and the fact we are not going to see the students in-person for awhile, Dilly Bars were served by Mr. Schulner and Mr. Smith from our custodian and maintenance department.

SCHOOL MUSICAL



It's time to mark your calendars and save some important dates for this year's McDonell musical, **My Fair Lady**.

Auditions are complete and the cast is already rehearsing to put on a great show. The show is scheduled to perform Friday, February 19 & 26, Saturday, February 20 & 27 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, February 21 & 28 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold during Christmas break \$10 for adults, \$6 for seniors and children ages 5 and under.





Principal's Corner

Mr. Eric Wedemeyer, Principal
St. Charles/Holy Ghost Schools

Dear Families,

In a time where many have had to sacrifice so much, I want to take this opportunity to give thanks to everyone that has given so much of themselves to provide some semblance of normalcy to our students. Especially during unsettling times, it is even more important to encourage all of our students to believe in their own abilities and praise their successes, even the little ones. Every one of our students is special and we want all of them to feel good

about themselves. It is essential that they feel this support from us. With the continued reinforcement of what we teach, I am certain that our students will continue to grow into confident and service-minded people.

In times like these when we feel like we are just trying to keep our heads above water day by day, looking ahead is hard to do. As Advent season approaches, our focus will be to prepare each of our hearts to celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is an exciting time for our students for many reasons, and we want to add to their experience by creating a mood of anticipation. Your students will notice in their classrooms that our teachers will attempt to accomplish this by displaying the colors purples and violets along with the traditional reds and greens. The purpose is to remind our students the meaning of Advent. Which again, is a time of devout and joyful expectation for the celebration of Christ's birth and also for His second coming.

I continue to pray for each of our families and hope that we can get past this pandemic soon. I wish you all health and strength during this time and may God be with you all.

St. Charles Borromeo, the man, becomes real to boys and girls



November 4 is the Feast of St. Charles. After Mass on that day, Mrs. Yohnk pointed out the statue of St. Charles and his relic that Monsignor Gorman had mentioned in his homily. Overhearing this, Monsignor came out and offered to show the relic to each student.



UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Charles and Holy Ghost Schools – December 2020

- Nov. 30** Christmas Giving Tree Begins
- Dec. 1** SC Mass at 8:30 a.m.
HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 3/5)
- Dec. 2** SC/HG Virtual E-Learning Day
- Dec. 3** HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grade 4)
- Dec. 8** Feast of Immaculate Conception
SC Mass at 8:30 a.m.
HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 3/4/5)
- Dec. 9** SC/HG Virtual E-Learning Day
MACS Athletic Boosters Mtg. (see page 3)
- Dec. 10** HG Reconciliation (Grades 3/4/5)
- Dec. 12** SC/SP First Reconciliation – 9 a.m. at SC
- Dec. 14** MACS Music Boosters Mtg. (see page 3)
MACS Faith Boosters Mtg. (see page 3)
- Dec. 15** SC Mass at 8:30 a.m.
HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 4/5)
- Dec. 16** SC/HG Virtual E-Learning Day
- Dec. 17** HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grade 3)
MACS Education Commission Meeting
- Dec. 18** Christmas Giving Tree Ends ~ Thank you!
- Dec. 21-22** MACS Virtual Community Days
- Dec. 23 – Jan. 3** **NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break**
- Dec. 25** Merry Christmas! **Jan. 4** School Resumes

Watch for information on our upcoming virtual Advent/Christmas Programs!

Fire Prevention Week Theme – Serve up Safety in the Kitchen

Fire Prevention Week was October 4-10, 2020. Area students in grades 1-5 were invited to enter the 57th annual fire safety poster contest sponsored by the Chippewa Falls Fire and Emergency Services Department. This year's national theme was: **"Serve up Safety in the Kitchen"**. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more and more families are making their own meals at home this year. Cooking was already the leading cause of fires at home, and with more people choosing to stay home and cook, this is causing a large increase in cooking fires this year. The goal of this poster contest is to help children learn about how we can make our homes safer and how to react in a fire.

Winners at St. Charles and Holy Ghost include:

Grade 1:

Cecelia Schneider, 1st Place
Avery Bowe, 3rd Place

Grade 2:

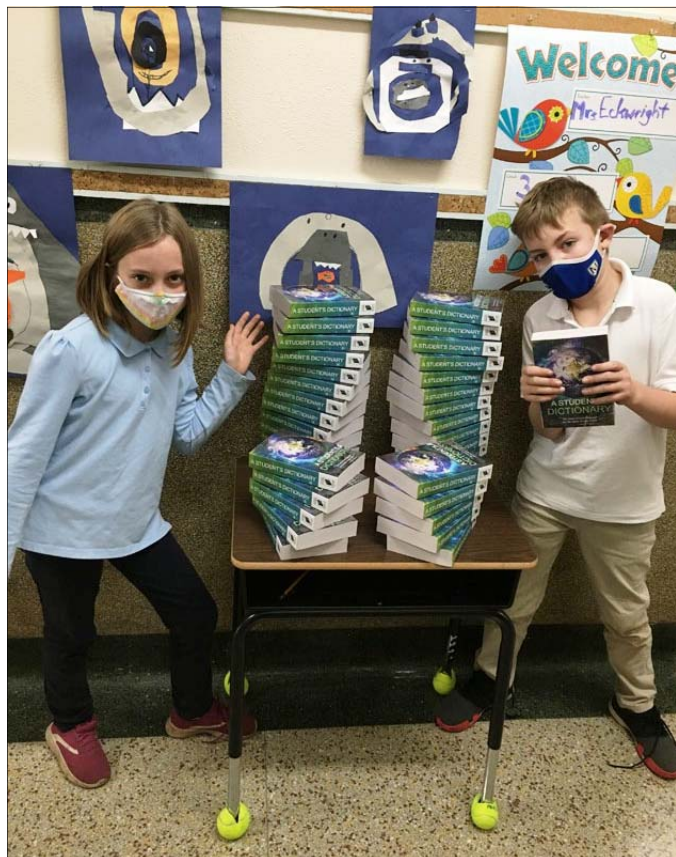
Aubrey Willkom, 2nd Place
Lydia Sullivan, 4th Place

Grade 3:

Avery Rush, 1st Place
Isabella Wellner, 2nd Place
Camilla Doyle, 3rd Place

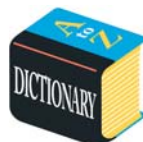


Congratulations to these winners and to all our students who participated in the contest!



Students receive the gift of words

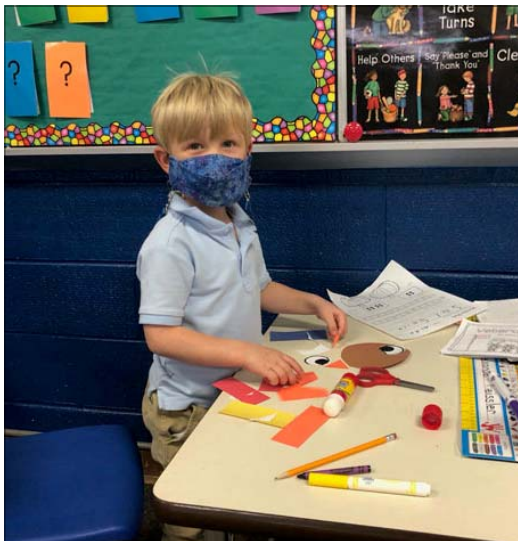
Two students (left) show off a display of 35 brand new dictionaries given to the Holy Ghost third graders. Each year, the Chippewa Falls Optimist Club gives area third grade students a copy of their very own dictionary. This fall, the Optimists delivered over 600 copies throughout Chippewa County! The students will enjoy discovering a world of information within the pages of their new gift.



"Good words are worth much, and cost little."

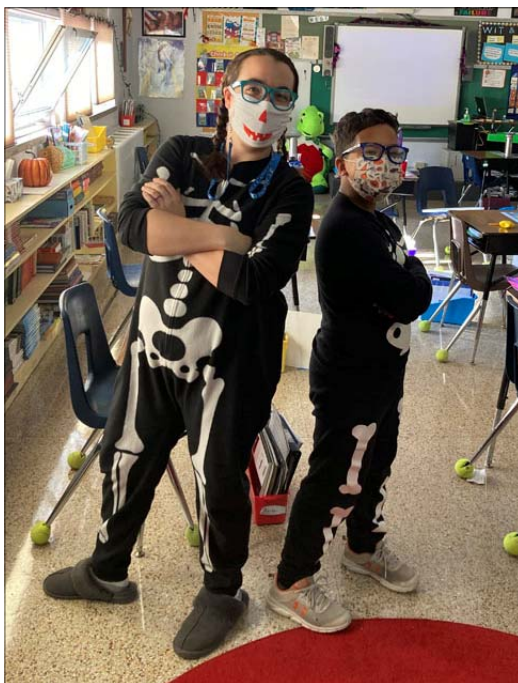
- George Herbert





Kindergarteners offer thanks

Kindergarten students worked on art projects that showed their thanks for God, their families, school, home, teachers, and pets. This boy and girl (left) are assembling turkeys, the symbol for our ultimate day of gratitude – Thanksgiving.

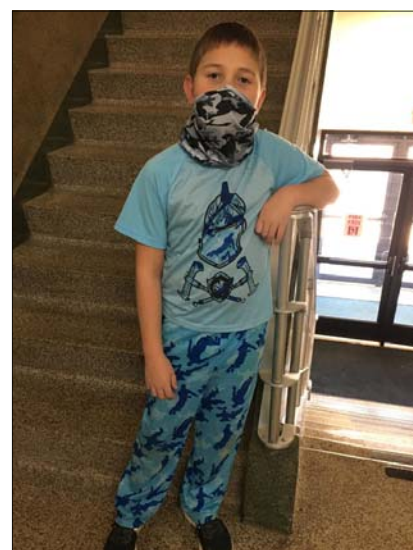


Halloween week = fun

Although some annual activities had to be canceled this year, students and staff at St. Charles and Holy Ghost Schools still had the chance to have fun and dress up during the three days before Halloween.

Make no bones about it – Mrs. Bekka Beaufeaux and her “Mini-Me” strike a pose (above).

Two fifth graders show off their stuff on crazy day (above right) while another pair of students relax in their pajamas on cozy, casual day (lower right).



LITTLE MACK MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2020

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD?

Our classrooms spent the month of November learning all about Thanksgiving and what being thankful means. Coming up in December we will learn about winter and do many fun activities related to Christmas. Please remember to send outside winter clothes with your student(s) so they can enjoy the weather comfortably! We are very limited on what we are able to borrow this year. Our students are looking forward to playing in the snow once it comes. The snow will really put us in the Holiday spirit!

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN BB4C?

Our students have been learning remotely for most of November. Our classroom uses Google Classroom. We appreciate all of the work that families have been putting in to help their child(ren) succeed during this difficult time. We are hoping that they can return to St. Charles in December!



Looking Forward

**December 24:
Center Closed**

**December 25:
Center Closed**

**January 1: Center
Closed**



“And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’” ~ Matthew 25:40

Dear MACS Families,

For many years, our MACS family has celebrated Christmas with **The Christmas Giving Tree** fundraiser, starting the first day we come back from Thanksgiving break. We collect monetary donations through different events such as Jeans for Jesus, sweatpants day, selling treats at Notre Dame and McDonell and gifting ornaments at Early Childhood, St. Charles and Holy Ghost in exchange for a donation. This year we are excited to share that we will give our donation to the Chippewa community.

We plan to work with the Career Development Center (CDC) - Chippewa County Outreach Program in helping the needy and homeless members of our Chippewa community.

Funds we raise at our schools will go towards:

- **Gift cards from Holiday Gas station** (gas cards only)
Examples of when these will be used for transportation: doctor appointments, job interviews, court hearings, reuniting with families and going to/from school (when school is in person).
- **Lighten Your Load**
This program helps families maintain clean laundry (laundry machines and detergent).
- **Motel Vouchers**
Indianhead Motel partners with the CDC by offering rooms for \$70.00 a night.
There is also a motel in Bloomer that offers rooms for \$35.00 a night.
- **Santa's Sacks**
This project supplies Christmas gifts for children in need.
- **Hope Village (Tiny Homes)**
As a long term goal, we will start building a fund for MACS to sponsor a “tiny home”.

Monetary donations can be made at Early Childhood, St. Charles and Holy Ghost or can be sent to the MACS Central Office to the attention of Kathleen Adams by Monday, December 21, 2020.

Unfortunately, we anticipate donations will be down at McDonell and Notre Dame due to being virtual for the month of December. Therefore, we hope that our MACS families will be generous in remembering those less fortunate members of our community.

Thank you for keeping the Christmas spirit alive!

- MACS Administrative Assistants



McDonell High School Student Council's Annual Sale of



POINSETTIAS

\$11

Orders are DUE by Friday, November 20th!

Order **ONLINE** at <https://forms.gle/BABNJw2csa1w36Qc7>

or by **EMAIL** at mcd.s.council@macs.k12.wi.us.

PICK UP DATE: McDonell High School on Monday, November 30, 2020 from 1:30-4p or delivery by Student Council within the immediate Chippewa Falls Area.

These beautiful plants are perfect for gifts for your piano teacher, your neighbor, your daycare provider, those in the nursing home, your boss, the grandparents and special friends. They are also beautiful for your home, school and office decorating.

COLD WEATHER CAUTION:

Poinsettias are extremely sensitive to the cold. Each plant will be wrapped in pretty foil and placed in a plastic sleeve when you pick them up. You **must** protect them from the cold air. You cannot leave them in your vehicle or uncover them until they are in a warm environment.

Please submit cash or a check payable to "McDonell Area Catholic Schools" (or "MACS") for total order **upon receipt**.

PLEASE ENTER THE NUMBER OF PLANTS YOU WOULD LIKE FOR EACH COLOR:

Red Poinsettias _____ White Poinsettias _____ Pink Poinsettias _____

I will pick them up _____

I need them delivered _____ (include address)

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Physical Address (for deliveries only) _____



Thank you for supporting Student Council at McDonell Central Catholic High School!

Teaching the Way of Love



Circle of Virtue

Parenting
with the Heart
of Christ

Let me talk to you as one parent to another. Life is tough. It is rarely a cakewalk. Difficulties happen every day. Regrettably, we often lose our temper and civility when we are provoked or tested under fire. Instead of holding it together, we blow. And that only makes life more trying.

Have you noticed, though, that some parents navigate the inconveniences of life without getting rattled? They maintain a sense of calm as if to say that they know the difficulty will eventually end. No matter the issue or event, some parents remain patient and unruffled. Why is this?

For the skeptics reading this, you might say that undisturbed parents do not care. That is one possible answer. But another possibility is that the unruffled parent chooses to endure the hardships of life. They choose to keep it all together, even when provoked or under trial. They choose to demonstrate the virtue called longanimity.



Longanimity, also known as 'long-suffering', gives you extreme patience. It allows you to be patient with your spouse, your children, your neighbors and co-workers, bad drivers on the highway, slow clerks at the store, people of a different political party... You get it. Longanimity helps you to keep your cool and maintain a peaceful demeanor no matter what comes your way.

It is likely that you have never heard of longanimity before. Perhaps it is because society holds instant gratification more important than waiting. For example, fast food is everywhere. Fast delivery service is expected. Fast checkout lanes exist in most stores. Express services are a mainstay in business and industry. One might assume patience is no longer fashionable, important, or necessary.

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But longanimity is more urgent today than ever and here is why. Knowing how to wait, especially in the face of difficulty, results in improved mental stability, physical health, and personal relationships. It helps you act rationally rather than react emotionally. Extreme patience gives you the time to reframe situations, think more clearly, and be more creative in finding solutions to the issues you face.

Consider this. You are driving to a meeting and you are late. To make matters worse, traffic slows to a crawl. Another driver (who also seems to be in a hurry) drives on the shoulder and cuts in front of you. For the next 10 minutes, you follow this impatient driver. What is your reaction? Do you lay on the horn, crowd the car's bumper, flip obscene gestures, and swear? Or do you take a deep breath, say a prayer for the driver and accept that you are going to be late?

Impatience leads to the emotional reaction. Longanimity results in the kinder action because it allows God to work through you. It cultivates God's full nature in your heart, calms you down, and gives you the strength to love despite your suffering. Longanimity helps you resist the temptation to roll your eyes, lose your temper, or pitch a fit. It frees you from the pull toward anger and allows you to act in love.

One more point. Long-suffering helps you accept the trials and frustration that occur as you wait for your child to mature and become the person that God created them to be. It keeps you balanced and charitable when they make life inconvenient with their tantrums and outbursts. It inhibits your desire to lose it when they want instant gratification. It is the key to maintaining peace in your heart when they provoke or push you to your limit.

Clearly, longanimity can help you do a better job raising either a son or daughter to be a faithful and loving person in today's world. It equips you with a calm readiness so that you act not react. It helps you pursue the good that might be a long way off. And, it gives you restraint in the face of anger, even when justified.

Now that you know more about longanimity, what can you do to increase your capacity to practice extreme patience in your daily life? Why not start with this prayer.

*God, teach me to be patient, especially when provoked.
Teach me how to stop and think before acting.
Remind me that You will see me through until this suffering ends.
Amen.*

This newsletter series is brought to you by Alice Heinzen and Jeff Arrowood, creators of Teaching the Way of Love. Teaching the Way of Love is designed to help you become a faithful, joyful and confident parent. Visit www.twl4parents.com for more strategies on how to become the best parent you can be. Consider becoming an annual member of the Teaching the Way of Love program. Members receive practical and timely parenting resources. Go to twl4parents.com/membership for more information.



Teaching the Way of Love



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Scripture reflections
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Helping Students & Families to be their **BEST.**

The McDonnell Area Catholic Schools and REALiving is pleased to offer a **Student and Family Assistance Program (SFAP)** to help students achieve their very BEST at school!

This program, **offered at no cost to you**, will provide up to 4 counseling sessions to each family in the school district. The district has partnered with REALiving, a local provider, to coordinate these services.

The Student and Family Assistance Program offers peace of mind to students and their families. You don't have to handle everything on your own—we can help! Some of the topics this program can help you with include:

- Academic struggles
- Discipline issues
- Household stressors
- Stress, depression, and anxiety
- Anger management
- Drugs and alcohol
- Grief
- Marital issues
- Divorce
- Relationship challenges
- Bullying
- Eating disorders

Counseling services, which are **confidential**, are designed to be short-term, solution-focused, and are provided by an affiliate network of mental health agencies in our community. Students and/or parents may contact our Call Center to seek authorization or ask questions about these services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week! School administrators, teachers, social workers, therapists and/or counselors may also recommend this support to students and their families.

Create a clear path for your student's BEST!

855.838.7170

REALiving[®]
Helping You Be Your BEST.

www.REALiving.com



DON'T let BUMPS in the ROAD of life Get in YOUR Way!

**McDonnell Area Catholic Schools
2020-2021 School Calendar**

July 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
August 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
September 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
October 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
November 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
December 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July	
4	Independence Day
August	
10-12	New Staff Onboarding
15	Assumption
18-20	Teacher In-Service
20	Education Commission
25-27	Teacher In-Service
26	Family Fun Night
31	First Day of School
September	
7	Labor Day
17	Education Commission
28	Teacher In-Service
October	
3	Spirit of the Macks Virtual
10	Homecoming
15	Education Commission
29	In-Service
30	Diocesan In-Service/McD
November	
1	All Saints Day
8	Spaghetti Spectacular
17	Education Commission
23-24	Teacher In-Service
23-27	Thanksgiving Break
December	
8	Immaculate Conception
17	Education Commission
25	Christmas
23-31	Christmas Break

January 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
February 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
March 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
April 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
May 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
June 2021						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

January	
1	Solemnity of Mary
1	Christmas Break
22	Teacher In-Service
28	Education Commission
31	Catholic Schools Week
February	
1-6	Catholic Schools Week
12	In-Service
18	Education Commission
March	
15-19	Spring Break
25	Education Commission
26	Diocesan In-Service/EC
April	
2	Good Friday
4	Easter
5	Easter Monday
15	Education Commission
May	
16	Ascension of Jesus
20	Education Commission
21	Senior Graduation
26	8th Grade Ceremony
27	8th Grade Last Day
28	Last Day of School
31	Memorial Day
June	
1	Teacher In-Service
17	Education Commission

NO SCHOOL
Important School Dates
Teacher In-Service
Holy Day of Obligation
Education Commission Meetings @ 5:30 PM
New Staff Onboarding

Quarter Schedule	
Qtr 1: 8/31-11/4	44
Qtr 2: 11/5-1/19	41
Qtr 3: 1/20-3/25	40
Qtr 4: 3/29-5/28	43

Regular School Start and End Times				
School	Hours	Lunch	Instructional time	
SC	7:40-2:30	:20	6:30	
HG	7:40-2:35	:20	6:35	
ND	7:50-3:30	:30	7:10	
McD	7:50-3:30	:30	7:10	