

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

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McDonnell Area Catholic Schools and St. Charles Early Childhood Center

Erica Abramowicz
Tiffany Abramowicz
Abigail Adams
Kathy Adams
Michelle Arndt
Brendan Bauer
Rebecca Beaufeaux
Emmaline Becker
Elizabeth Blum
Erica Boehm
Chad Bormann
Jaynee Brannen
Joelle Bremness
Tammy Brown
Wendy Buchmann
Fr. Jesse Burish
Molly Bushman
Victoria Chartrand
Korina Colliver
John Connell
Don Cooper
Jason Cox
Nicole Cox
Anne Dachel
John Dachel
McKenzie Dachel
Teresa Dachel
Debra Dahl
Jamie Dodge
Brad Donaldson
Rachael Dordal

Gwen Doyle
Mike Dubiel
Barb Eckwright
Bridget Erickson
Sally Folczyk
Lyle Geissler
Phyllis Goettl
Cathy Greenseth
Brittany Halvorson-
Canfield
Sean Hanson
Jeffrey Heinzen
Diane Hietpas
Fr. Ethan Hokamp
Lisa Hubbard
Mary Huffcutt
Jennifer Hughes
Shannon Jaeger
Samantha Jandourek
Patty Jansky
Gabriella Jauch
Julia Jilek-Proue
Jacob Jiskra
Lexi Johnson
Paula Johnson
Gretchen Jorgensen
Donna Keck
Patrick Kelly
Bruce King
Mary King
Morgan King

Fr. Justin Kizewski
Valerius Knobloch
Emma Krejci
Justin Kuehl
Wendy Larson
Natalie Lilla
David Luedtke
Emily Mallek
Paul McDonald
Caitlin McElroy
Wayne Mercer
Cheri Miller
Van Dyke
Krista Misener
Jackie Moulton
Mark Neppel
Marilyn Newton
Brian Pauley
Nicole Peet
Yvonne Peterson
Julie Pomietlo
Ruthann Proue
Tony Reiter
Sheyanne Ressler
Michelle Retzlaff
Brianna Rider
Deacon Dan Rider
Sandra Ringle
Jill Ritchie
Steve Roesler
Kendra Rogers

Matt Rose
Jennifer Rubenzer
Christian Ruf
Jennifer Schafer
Adam Schilling
Brian Schulner
Katelyn Shepardson
Valerie Siegenthaler
Cortarch Smith
Scott Sokup
Stephanie Solberg
Nicolett Sorensen
Alysia Steiger
Kari Stepp
Roxanne Swoboda
Teresa Swoboda
Brittany Sykora
Vanessa Talford
Peter Thoma
Lou Tozer
Mary Travis
Maria Viergutz
Carolyn Volrath
Eric Wedemeyer
Kennedy Willi
Josie Witkowski
Cindy Yohnk
Katelyn Ziarnik
Elaine Zwiefelhofer



Come Lord Jesus Come

To all our MACS family,

What a miracle that the Word, through whom the universe came to be, humbled Himself to share our humanity, giving us the power to become children of God. This is the Christmas joy we share with our students - the joy of being children of God. We work tirelessly in hopes that our students may receive the most important gift: faith in Jesus Christ. "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!"

Merry Christmas to each and every one of the parishioners of our Chippewa Falls Deanery and to all our MACS families. Thank you for your support and may the joy of Christmas continue into the new year.



Mrs. Molly Bushman '98
MACS President

Hope and Peace

The Christmas season is rife with traditions: setting up and decorating the Christmas tree, finding the right Christmas presents, and Christmas caroling, to name just a few. Many of these traditions have been altered somewhat during this year. However, even as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord in a different manner this year, we ought to remember that these traditions themselves are not the source of Christmas joy. The source of true Christmas joy is the message the herald angels brought the shepherds that first Christmas Eve: "Today, a Savior has been born for you, who is Christ and Lord."

The Christmas message is the message of the Gospel, and that message is that God has not left us alone in our misery. Rather, God Himself came to earth as one of us so that we would not be left to deal with sin, suffering, and death on our own. I pray that you and your family may have the joy of knowing Christ and His presence, even in the midst of this pandemic and even in the midst of our own unworthiness of His love. If our own sin couldn't stop God from reaching us, surely a virus could do no more.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Fr. Ethan HoKamp
Chaplain

Christmas Giving Tree BIG THANK YOU!

MACS Angel Giving Tree total donations were **\$3,041.50!** Thank you to everyone who donated *with a special shout out to an anonymous donor who generously matched all the donations that came in at St. Charles and Holy Ghost on December 18.* The gift will be given to Chippewa County Outreach Program in helping the needy and homeless members of our Chippewa community. (See page 8.)

Referral Program Continues With Changes for 2021-22

Thank you to all our families who have made the referral program so successful. The Referral Program is reviewed each year to determine its continuation. This year we are happy to report it will continue another year for 2021-22 with some changes.

1. As of December 31, 2020, all families who have credits from this year and previous will stay the same.

2. Moving forward on January 1, 2021 the program has updates.

[Review entire program details on our website by clicking here.](#)

3. When you have filled out the referral form before your referred family enrolls or within seven (7) days following their enrollment, they will receive 10% credit off each student enrolled, for three (3) consecutive years enrolled at MACS.

4. Your family will receive a 10% credit with your oldest student for one year. If the oldest is at a \$500 tuition threshold, any additional new student credits will be applied to the second oldest.

For any questions please reference the website or call the MACS Central Office.

JANUARY EVENTS

Go to www.macs.k12.wi.us for all school's entire monthly event calendar.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Dec. 23– Jan. 3 | School System Break <i>Have a blessed Christmas!</i> |
| Dec. 24-25, Jan. 1 | St. Charles Early Childhood & MACS Central Office Closed |
| Dec. 28 | Retreat Day. Central Office opens at 2 p.m. |
| Jan. 1 | Mary, Mother of God - Holy Day |
| Jan. 6 | MABC parent meeting - 6 p.m. at McD |
| Jan. 7 | Home & School Meeting - 6 p.m. at SC |
| Jan. 11 | Music Booster meeting - 6 p.m. at McD Faith Booster meeting - 7 p.m. at McD |
| Jan. 15 | End of second quarter |
| Jan. 18 | Third quarter begins |
| Jan. 22 | No School, Teacher In-service |
| Jan. 28 | Education Commission - 5:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 31 - Feb. 6 | National Catholic Schools Week |
| Feb. 1 | Enrollment for 2021-22 begins |

Tuition tax deduction for 2020 tax year – file Schedule PS

MACS would like to share with you information regarding the Private School Tuition Deduction (Wis. Stat. s. 71.05(6)(b)49) for your taxes.

Schedule PS is a form you will need to fill out to send in with your state tax form.

There is specific information on what an individual will need in order to complete Schedule PS:

1. The State of Wisconsin does not require the school system to provide you with a form of what tuition was paid in the calendar year. You will need to look through your paperwork (check stubs, etc.) to determine what amount you paid in tuition for each child to the school from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
2. You will need our official name, address and FEIN:

**McDonell Area Catholic Schools, Inc.
1316 Bel Air Blvd.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-1908**

School FEIN number: **39-1032800**

The Schedule PS will define for you what is tuition and examples of what is not tuition.



System Fundraising News



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

Merry Christmas from the Advancement Office! With changes to safely gather this year, we are missing getting together with our alumni and will miss hosting the 13th Annual Mid-Winter Mardi Gras in February.

Mrs. Jaynee Brannen '03

Discussion has started on a new summer event to temporarily replace Mardi Gras. *If you are interested in being part of this planning committee, please email myself with address above.*



MACS hosts two fundraising events a year to help support our faculty, staff and students. Without these events and volunteers to help host these events, more individual fundraising would need to take place or a fundraising fee would be implemented.

Please consider joining the planning committee, volunteering and attending these events.

May you have a safe and blessed holiday season.

SCRIP Gift Card News



Ms. Kathleen Adams

Kathy Adams, Executive Administrative Assistant & Scrip Fundraising Coordinator
[Scrip order form online](#) 715.723.0538 ext. 3301
k.adams@macs.k12.wi.us.

MACS would like to thank everyone that has supported us with your purchases of Scrip in 2020. Scrip continues to be a top fundraiser and we depend on each of you to make it a success! If you have never used Scrip, please consider purchasing in the new year. With every Scrip card purchased MACS receives a rebate, with 50% of the rebate going to your tuition and the remaining to MACS. *You may also select the remaining 50% to go to your local parish or another family if your student is graduating in the spring. Please contact myself at 715-723-0538 or k.adams@macs.k12.wi.us for any questions.* The Central Office continues to sell Scrip Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. or you may send your Scrip order into any school office with your child any day of the week for same-day turn around. May God continue to bless you and your family abundantly through the new year! A friendly reminder that enrollment for the 2021-22 school year will kick off February 1, 2020!

Education Technology & Media



Mr. Val Knobloch

Val Knobloch, Director of Technology
715.723.0538 x3324 or
v.knobloch@macs.k12.wi.us

January 2020 - MACS on the move

The A new beginning during Advent and the Christmas season. We will begin our annual recycling and clear out excess computers, monitors and laptops out of storage. This year we will also have working iPads available for families to consider. Watch for the announcement. We have renewed 80% of the St. Charles iPads and also introduced chromebooks to the 3rd and 4th grades to replace older iPads. Our major upgrade to the McDonell sound systems in the auditorium, commons and gym have gone well and we are now expanding to some of the streaming options. This includes adding a third channel dedicated to Mass, Convocations and other events. Stay tuned.

Speak to us: The media and technology committee is made up of parents, students, teachers and administrators and meets three or more times a year to make policy and planning recommendations. Let us know if you have any suggestions or might be interested in serving on the committee. Remember to help us by taking the [2020-21 Speak Up Survey](#) which provides great data for our technology planning. Parents, community members, staff and students are all encouraged to complete their respective survey by March 31, 2021. **We hope you have had a blessed holiday season and that you have bookmarked [MACS TV](#).** There you may see past concerts and religious and sporting events. In December, we have **over 25 streamed events.**



Home and School Association (HandS)

email: macshomeschool@macs.k12.wi.us
 web link: [www.macs.k12.wi.us/parent/parent clubs](http://www.macs.k12.wi.us/parent/parent%20clubs)

Merry Christmas to all of our wonderful MACS families!! Our next meeting is January 7. Please consider attending this 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 look out for flyers coming home in regards to winter activities such as sledding and ice skating!

If you are in need of gently used uniforms for K-5, please send a note with your child to school, contact the school secretaries, or send the HandS committee an email! We have an abundance of pants, a few short sleeve polos, and a slim pick of long sleeves. However, we would love to share with you what we have!

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
 HandS Committee



Mrs. Chelsey Lindenberg
 President

McDonell Athletic Boosters (MABC)

website: ndaac website: mabc

Season's Greetings and Blessings to All!

Winter sports have begun and even though attendance is limited, you can still cheer on your Macks by watching the games via live stream. You can access the streams on the MACS website – [click here](#):

Thank you also to all who sold and purchased football mania tickets. We had about 74% participation this year and we're looking at a profit around \$12,000.

We're already planning the 2021 Spirit of the Macks Silent Auction and hope to be back 'in person' next year. If you are interested in helping out with this fundraiser, please email us at: spiritofthemacks@macs.k12.wi.us. We're always looking for volunteers and new ideas!

Thank you for your support during the past year – it is noticed and very much appreciated.

Our next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. Please watch for details on the location or for the link to join the virtual meeting.



Mrs. Janet Roth
 Secretary



MACS Music Boosters (MMB)

email: macsmusic@macs.k12.wi.us
 web link: [www.macs.k12.wi.us/parent/parent clubs](http://www.macs.k12.wi.us/parent/parent%20clubs)

Thank you to our wonderful music teachers at all of our schools. The virtual Christmas programs were enjoyed by all. Your hard work paid off - the students sounded great! Parents watch for the videos to be downloaded on the MACS TV website to watch anytime.

Coming up next is the much anticipated musical, "My Fair Lady." The students, and directors are hard at work preparing for the show which will be performed two weekends in February 19-21 & 26-28. Watch for tickets going on sale as the dates get closer. Please join us at our next parent meeting on January 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library unless we need to meet virtual. Email us with your ideas and questions anytime. Merry Christmas from the Music Boosters.
See you next year!



Mrs. Megan McChesney
 President

Parenting with the Heart of Christ



Information on the program <http://www.twl4parents.com/>

Mission: McDonell 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.

Core Values: Faith, Honor, Academic Excellence, Healthy Living, Community, Servant Leadership

MACS Faith Booster Club

email: faith@macs.k12.wi.us
 website: macsfaithboosters

Express Mart Car Washes

With winter months upon us you may be looking for ways to keep your car clean. Faith Boosters has a packet of five car washes for \$40 at Express Mart located downtown

Our Kids Carnival which usually happens during Catholic Schools Week will need to be altered this year. Watch for information on an alternative fundraiser to replace.

Like the MACS Faith Boosters page on Facebook for updates on our club. [@macsfaitboosters](https://www.facebook.com/macsfaitboosters)

Our next meeting is Monday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. always the second Monday of the month.

Our virtual Google Meet for our meetings:

<https://meet.google.com/xjk-zohn-wwa>

Merry Christmas and happy new year!



Mr. Rolly Enderes
 President



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Brian Schulner, NDMS & MCCHS Principal
b.schulner@macs.k12.wi.us
715-723-9126 ext. 3309

Dear MACS Families,

Sitting down to write my annual Christmas Principal Corner, I began to reflect on the past year and the roller coaster ride we have been on. Never in my wildest dreams (nightmares) did I think of sickness and death at the magnitude we have witnessed, wearing masks, distancing our students, contact tracing and remote learning. With everything being different, I had to stop and pause to reflect on what I have to be thankful for this holiday season. When I look back at it, despite the pandemic, I have so much to be thankful for.

Mr. Brian Schulner

Family

That is the foundation to my everything. If I picture a perfect day, my wife, children and grandchildren are in it. Everything I am and everything I do is for them. They may not see it, but it doesn't matter. They are my world.

Health

I have small health issues, and always worry about bigger health issues, but the truth is, I am extremely lucky to be healthy, and that everybody in my household is also healthy. My mother had a difficult year with falls and broken bones. She was in assisted living for some time, but is now home. Watching what she has gone through has given me a new appreciation for my health. I am deeply grateful for it.

Technology

Can you imagine this pandemic without the internet or even more importantly these days, Zoom, Google or Facebook? Even though I say that there is someone always trying to invent ways to make my job harder (cell phones come to mind). Without the technology, this year would have been much harder.

The Arts

When things are not going well, all it takes is a bit of music, a painting or photograph to brighten the mood. Try it.

Food

Of course! The thoughts of Christmas cookies and our annual holiday family shrimp and ham dinner come to mind. Appreciate it, there are many who go without.

Laughter

It is great for the soul. Laughing moments, those where you can't stop and laugh so much your stomach hurts, are some of the best memories I have.

A job I truly love

I am fortunate to be doing what I love doing, day in, day out. My work is rewarding and fulfilling. I hope yours is too.

The roof over my head

Even in these COVID times, my family has a roof over their head. Think of those unable to pay the rent or mortgage that have no shelter or security. This is something to be very thankful for.

Healthcare

So many countries going through this pandemic have very little access to good healthcare. Be thankful for our healthcare system and frontline workers.

To be alive (And God to believe in)

Everyday I thank God for being alive, for giving me another day. As I head into the final chapter of my life, I have deep thoughts about life and death, questioning my purpose on this earth and finding time is moving too fast. I can't control time. All I can do is be happy that I am here today. So I am.

Continue to maintain a positive mind set and we will get through all of this. I use the example with students of seeing a young boy digging through a room full of manure. I asked, "What are you doing?" His response, "With all of this manure, there must be a pony somewhere in here."

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I would like to wish a blessed Christmas Season to all of our MACS families! We are deeply grateful for your presence and support of our schools.

As always, take every opportunity to say something great about your school!

Merry Christmas,

Mr. Schulner



SCHOOL COUNSELOR NEWS



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

Mrs. Ruthann Proue

Greetings and Merry Christmas to the parents and guardians of our McDonell students! I hope you're enjoying this time of year; not only preparing for intimate family celebrations, but also preparing your heart for the birth of the Christ child.

I would like to share with you what has been happening in the school counseling department.

To the parents of:

Seniors

At this point in time, college applications should be complete and students should be thinking about scholarship opportunities. Two teacher letters of recommendation and one community member is typically needed for most scholarship applications. For a listing of scholarships, ([click here](#)). Do check the site frequently as I will be updating it as soon as new scholarships are sent. Also in this area is a handy checklist for seniors to review to make sure they are taking care of the necessary business that needs tending to.

Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshman

Registration Materials for the 2021-22 school year will be coming out soon. Please watch for a separate email with directions on how we will be distributing the materials.

Incoming freshmen for 2021-2022 (Eighth Grade)

After Christmas break watch your email for an informational meeting where registration materials will be handed out. These small group meetings will take place in the evenings for your convenience. Please watch your email for more information and an invite.

I am blessed to be here at McDonell. Everyday is a learning opportunity and working with your student(s) is truly a pleasure. I look forward to continuing to serve as your school counselor.

God's peace and joy to you all!

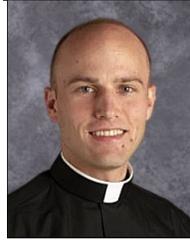
ENROLLMENT NEWS



SAVE THE DATE

Monday, February 1 is set for 2021-22 MACS enrollment. *Please watch for more details coming in January on enrollment.*

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS



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

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

Rev. Ethan Hokamp Ms. Erica Boehm

Exalt: A night of adoration and worship for middle school and high school youth and their families

Where: St. Charles Church

What time: 7-8:30pm

When: January 5, Feb. 2, March 2, April 6, May 4

Catholic Schools Week: be on the look out for information on events happening during Catholic Schools Week including a guest worship leader at the February 2 Exalt night!

Follow @macsministry on Instagram for updates on events and ways to get involved!

Faith Boosters:

Car washes for sale in the high school office. Five car washes for \$40 good at Express Mart!

Watch for info on an alternative fundraiser to take the place of what would have been our 2nd Annual Kids Carnival!

Like the MACS Faith Boosters page on Facebook for updates: @macsfaithboosters

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



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

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

Mr. Sean Hanson Mr. Mark Neppi

The Band and Choir

Sections worked hard to prepare and record the virtual Christmas Concert 2020! The program aired on Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22 at 2:00p.m. and again at 4:30p.m.

Thank you for watching the virtual Christmas concerts and supporting the music program at the schools. A lot of work was put into this production and we hope we could bring some joy in these challenging times!

Merry Christmas from the MACS Band and Choir!

STUDENT AMBASSADOR NEWS



Mary Jacobson
Student Ambassador Coordinator
715.723.9126

Mrs. Mary Jacobson

The monthly newsletter, "Connections" that the student ambassadors create for those in long-term care facilities was a special edition this month. Our goal was to bring those folks some joy during a time that they are separated from their loved ones, and when their usual activities and parties are pared down or canceled in order to keep them safe during the pandemic.

The ambassadors shared information about the real meaning behind the Christmas carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas". They also wrote about how St. Francis of Assisi is credited with the first live nativity scene in 1223, along with a picture of the Nativity drawn by Chloe Flanagan, pictured here. Additionally, they shared how the song "Silent Night" was written.

Father Hokamp provided inspiration in finding joy during this unusual year, with reference to the message given to the shepherds from the angels. And each month, the newsletter includes jokes, local trivia, and some sort of word puzzle.

Please keep these folks and those caring for them in your prayers, especially during this holiday season.



NOTRE DAME STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS



Peter Thoma, NDMS Student Council Advisor
p.thoma@macs.k12.wi.us
715-723-4777 ext. 1109

Mr. Peter Thoma

The Notre Dame Middle School student council continues to work towards making the school a better place for everyone.

During these challenging times, we hope all students and families remain safe.

McDONELL STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS



Greta Jorgensen, Student Council Advisor
g.jorgensen@macs.k12.wi.us
715-723-9126 ext. 2203

Mrs. Greta Jorgensen

McDonell HS Student Council had a scaled back poinsettia sale this year due to virtual school and COVID. We thank all of you who purchased a poinsettia this year!

Due to virtual school and COVID, Student Council is taking a break from its normal activities. We will still be active in Catholic Schools Week, and spring activities as the situation allows. Thank you for your continued support in this unusual time.

As always, please feel free to contact McDonell Student Council mcd.s.council@macs.k12.wi.us with questions or concerns.

MACKS magnets available for purchase. See image at right. 5.00 each.



MATH DEPARTMENT NEWS



Tony Reiter, Math Department
t.reiter@macs.k12.wi.us
715.723.9126 ext. 1101

Mr. Tony Reiter

Wisconsin State Math Test

Congratulations to Rongxian Yang for scoring the highest score at McDonell on the State Mathematics test which was taken on December 3.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



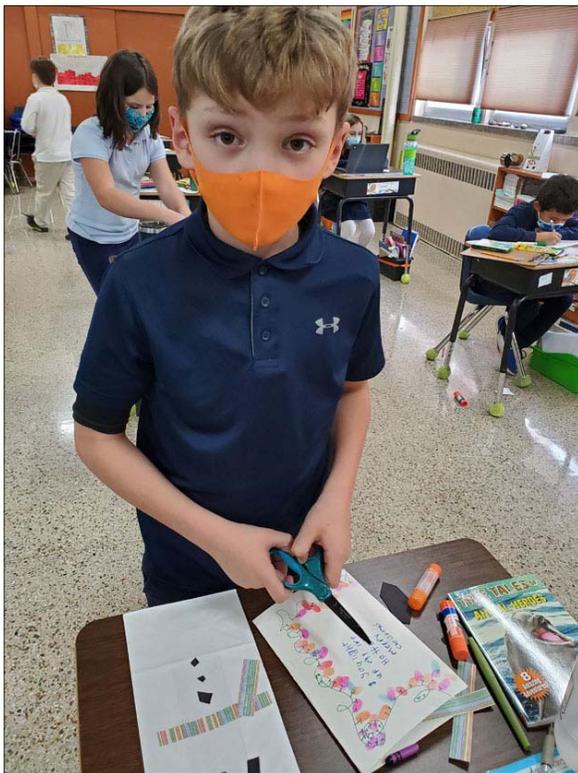
Principal's Corner

**Mr. Eric Wedemeyer '92, Principal
St. Charles/Holy Ghost Schools**

Advent and Christmas season are such an uplifting and hope filled time of year. As we continue to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, I am hopeful that we will continue our mission in educating our students through the Catholic faith. I am so thankful for the support for our families and stakeholders. It is through all of us that we make this happen.

I'm always amazed at how our Christmas programs come together each year to showcase the talents of our students. As with nearly everything else this school year, they have been especially challenging to organize. Our music and band teachers have done an outstanding job pushing through the obstacles to record the shows. Proudly displaying our students talents is wonderful to witness and I thank you all for making the videos unforgettable.

As the Christmas break approaches, we are near the midway point of the school year. I am confident that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us through this pandemic and that the hope that comes with the new year will provide all of us with the energy to see this to the end. As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions. May God's peace be with you and your family during this Christmas time.



A third grade boy (above) designs a cheerful snowman gift bag to hold Christmas treasures.



UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Charles and Holy Ghost Schools – January 2021

- January 4** School Resumes
- January 5** SC Mass at 8:30 a.m.
HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 3/4)
- January 6** SC/HG Virtual E-Learning Day
- January 7** HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grade 5)
Home & School Meeting (see page 3)
- January 11** MACS Music Boosters Mtg. (see page 3)
MACS Faith Booster Mtg. (see page 3)
- January 12** SC Mass at 8:30 a.m.
HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 3/4)
- January 13** SC/HG Virtual E-Learning Day
MACS Athletic Booster Mtg. (see page 3)
- January 14** HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grade 5)
- January 19** End of 2nd Quarter
SC Mass at 8:30 a.m.
HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 3/5)
- January 20** Beginning of 3rd Quarter
SC/HG Virtual E-Learning Day
- January 21** HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grade 4)
- January 22** **NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-Service**
- January 23** HG Parish First Reconciliation – 8:30 a.m.
- January 26** SC Mass at 8:30 a.m.
HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 3/5)
- January 27** SC/HG Virtual E-Learning Day
- January 28** HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grade 4)
MACS Education Commission Meeting
- January 29** SC/HG Report Cards Go Home
- January 31 – February 6** Catholic Schools Week



After making a donation, a first grade boy and girl (above) and a pair of third grade students (right) each select an ornament as a thank you gift off the trees at St. Charles and Holy Ghost Schools.

Again this year, our MACS schools were involved in the Christmas Giving Tree Project. This time around, all the funds collected will go to the Career Development Center (CDC) – Chippewa County Outreach Program to help the needy and homeless members of our Chippewa community. All of our MACS Schools together were able to raise over \$3,041.50 for this important and urgent need! Thank you to all our MACS families for their generosity in helping to improve the lives of our less fortunate neighbors in Chippewa County. Together, we can make a difference and keep the Christmas Spirit alive!

Students give to those in need

Last year during the season of Lent, Holy Ghost students began a “Penny War” to raise money for a good cause. This fundraiser was cut short on March 17 due to the end of in person classes because of the COVID pandemic. However, the students were still able to raise \$221.67!

Fast forward to this school year. The current Holy Ghost student council thought about several worthy organizations and decided to donate the Penny War money to Sojourner House in Eau Claire.

In his thank you note to the school, Executive Director Roberto Partarrieu said, “In 2019, Sojourner House was able to provide safe shelter to 440 individuals on 18,635 separate occasions. Our guests were welcomed with kindness and respect; they had access to shower facilities, a warm meal, clothing and the resources they need to help them to survive on the streets or, better yet, to find permanent housing. We could not have done this without your help. Thank you!”



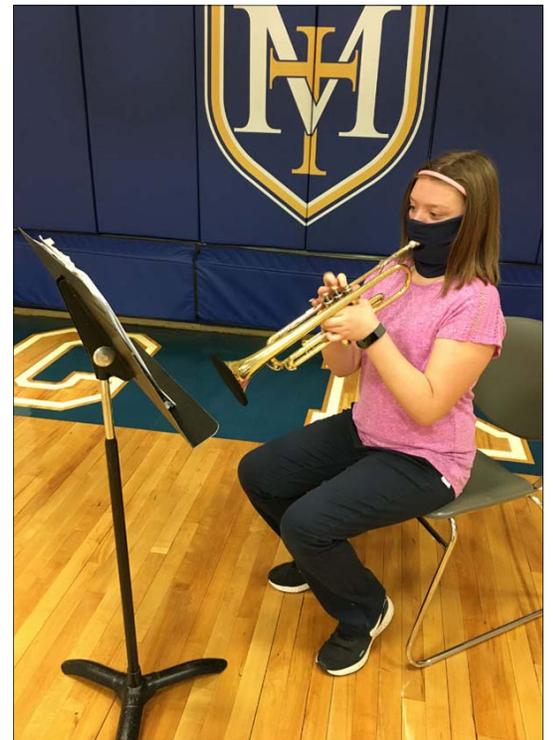
Sojourner House

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a sojourner and you welcomed me.” ~ Matthew 25:35



Counting down the days to Christmas – masks and all!

Two fifth grade girls practice their band numbers for the virtual Holy Ghost Christmas Program (right). Who could have predicted in 2019 that this year's show attire would include masks? The trumpet player seated at far right is wearing a specially designed mask that allows her to blow her horn through an opening in the material.



Nothing tells the true story of Christmas like a Nativity scene. This first grade girl (above left) proudly displays her very own personal crèche that she cut out and colored at school.

Who are those St. Charles morning greeters (above right) all decked out for Christmas? Why, it's none other than Mrs. Val Siegenthaler and Mrs. Kris Horan who are definitely smiling beneath their holiday masks!

Merry Christmas

LITTLE MACK MESSENGER

JANUARY 2021

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD?

Our classrooms have been busy learning about and doing Christmas crafts. We had a very busy couple of weeks making fun holiday crafts. This month our classrooms will continue to complete Winter projects and learn about snow! Please remember to send your child(ren) with a jacket, snow pants, boots, hat, and mittens every day! When the weather allows, our classrooms will go outside.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN BB4C?

We are so excited to have our BB4C class back to in person learning! The class will spend a few days relearning the classrooms rules and how it feels to be in school again. The students will continue learning about letters and numbers. Please make sure your student has their winter clothes each day! Our class goes outside when it is above 0 degrees.



Looking Forward

January 1
Center CLOSED

January 4
BB4C returns

January 22
Non School Day



Teaching the Way of Love

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Circle of Virtue

Parenting with the Heart of Christ

Your family needs the virtue of Hope, now more than ever. There is no doubt that you are raising your family in tumultuous times. Confusion and chaos abound in both the culture and the Church. It would be easy to throw our hands up in despair and cry out, “Why even bother? What’s the use?” Yet, through all of this, the wisest voices are telling us to stay calm and to rely on God. This isn’t just a platitude. It’s great advice - for your own sanity and for the good of your family.

The virtue of Hope is one of the three theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity). These theological virtues are infused into our souls at Baptism. They directly empower us to have a relationship with God. Like any virtue, and any relationship, they need to be exercised if they are to be strengthened.

To exercise Hope means to trust God and in His promises regarding salvation. Practically, this means that we believe in God’s mercy and forgiveness when we repent of our sin through the Sacrament of Penance. It also means that we put our cares, worries, and needs into His capable hands through daily prayer. Trust in God also means accepting our present struggles because they may be part of God’s will for us.



How do you cultivate Hope within your family? For young children, Hope grows when the world is stable and safe. That is why children need their parents to make sense of the world. They need the security of knowing that someone is looking out for them. Parents are the most effective at doing this because children usually trust their parents first. If parents face the challenges of life with calm confidence, they communicate to their children that the world is in control. When children trust their parents, parents can then expand that trust to embrace God and His loving plan.

How well parents live in Hope also determines how older children handle life’s stresses and struggles. If parents freak out and show a lack of trust that God can make sense of things, their children are more likely to react the same way. Worse yet, they won’t see the value of placing their trust in God and peacefully accepting the trials they face. But if parents are drawing their strength from God, even if they visibly struggle through the trials, their children will see the value of abandoning themselves to the Divine Will.

Let’s be clear here. Jesus never promised any of His followers (this includes us) that He would protect them from trouble. Quite the contrary. Jesus promises us that we will experience trials, persecutions, and suffering. But He also promises that He will never leave us. He promises that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen us, and that if we take up our cross and follow Him, we will experience the Resurrection. The strongest

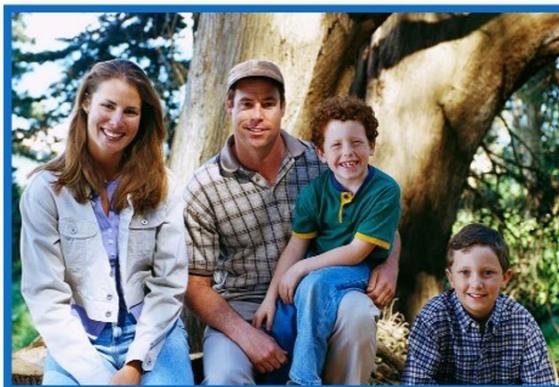
expression of Hope within our daily lives is called “abandonment to Divine Providence,” expressed in the Lord’s Prayer in the words, “Thy will be done.”

When we trust in God, we can navigate trials, confusion, uncertainty, and suffering with peace. Think of the joy with which the martyrs of the early Church met their death. They would often face the lion, the fire, or the sword singing joyful hymns. They weren’t expecting God to rescue them from martyrdom. They had firm hope in the Resurrection. One gospel song puts it really well: “I don’t know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future!” As we face trials, confusion, uncertainty, and even suffering,

So how do you strengthen the virtue of Hope right now? Begin by meditating on and living the prayer below, adapted from the prayer by Saint Jane Frances De Chantal.

*O my loving God
I abandon myself forever to Your arms.
Whether gentle or severe,
lead me wherever You will;
I will not worry about the journey,
but keep my eyes fixed upon You,
my God, who guides me.
I resolve with the help of your grace to follow Your desires and Your commands,
without doubting because You lead me this way rather than that way;
but I will blindly follow You
according to Your Divine will,
without seeking my own inclinations.
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.



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