

Mack Messenger

MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS No. 1 - 2022



Pray for Ukraine!

McDonell Area Catholic Schools was able to assist Chalice of Mercy to raise money and gather goods to help Ukrainian refugees.

INSIDE

- Mass with the Bishop
- Mardi Gras 2022
- Alum Spotlight
 - Steve Roesler '14H
- Newest Hall of Fame inductees



**MCDONELL AREA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
Est. 1882

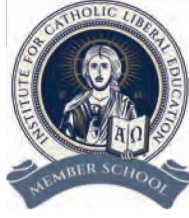
Education for Life

The 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.



Education for Life

Witness the Difference of Catholic education.



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Community | Servant Leadership

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@McDonell_HS

Watch live stream coverage of events at
McDonellAreaCatholicSchools.org/about/livestream.cfm

The Mack Messenger is published twice a year by the McDonell Area Catholic Schools (MACS).

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Very Rev. Jesse Burish, Dean
Molly Meinen Bushman '98, President
Libby Cyr Leinenkugel '94
Director of Advancement
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Communications Coordinator

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Share your photos and information with us!
MackMessenger@macs.k12.wi.us

McDonell Area Catholic Schools believe that all the information within this publication is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge. Please contact us for any inaccuracies.

Chippewa Falls Parishes

St. Charles Borromeo

Rev. Msgr. Michael Gorman
Associate Pastor Rev. Ethan Hokamp
Dcn. Dan Rider



The Church of Holy Ghost

Very Rev. Jesse Burish, Dean
Associate Pastor Rev. Brandon Guenther



The Church of Notre Dame

Very Rev. Jesse Burish, Dean
Associate Pastor Rev. Brandon Guenther



Chippewa Falls Deanery Supporting Parishes

Holy Cross, Cornell

The Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jim Falls

St. Anthony, Drywood

Rev. Eric Linzmaier, Dcn. Kurt Zakrzewski

St. Bridget, Springfield

Very Rev. Jesse Burish, Rev. Brandon Guenther

St. John the Baptist, Cooks Valley

Rev. Victor Feltes
Associate Pastor Rev. Chinnappan Pelavendran

St. Paul, Bloomer

Rev. Victor Feltes, Dcn. Dick Kostner
Associate Pastor Rev. Chinnappan Pelavendran

St. Peter the Apostle, Tilden

Rev. Msgr. Michael Gorman, Dcn. Dan Rider
Associate Pastor Rev. Ethan Hokamp

All Saints Catholic Parish, Boyd, Cadott, Stanley

Rev. William Felix '73, Dcn. Ned Willkom

Thank you to the area priests and parishioners for your support of Catholic education.



From the Dean

Christendom today

from Very Reverend Jesse Burish



Very Rev. Jesse Burish
Chippewa Falls Dean

I recently read a book entitled *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*, published by the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota in 2020. The book distinguishes between two different cultural ages that can exist in the life of the Church: Christendom and the apostolic age.

Christendom is when the culture largely aligns itself to the Gospel message. The Faith has influenced the key institutions of society and the maintenance of those institutions is the focus. Christian morality has taken root and is largely the presumed norm. In an apostolic age, however, the Gospel and the Church are not the predominant influencers in society. Christians will likely either encounter hostility or apathy from the prevailing culture. Suffering for the Faith and martyrdom is more common.

McDonell Area Catholic Schools was established in a Christendom time. Christendom culture in North America, however, has largely disappeared or is quickly on its way out. We see this in the health of so many of our parishes, the declining numbers of priests and religious, declining Mass attendance, the suppression of various religious freedoms

in society, and the general hostility present toward Catholic teaching and morality. This cultural change poses numerous, but not insurmountable, challenges for the accomplishment of the mission of our schools.

The book offers many pieces of advice for us living in a post-Christendom, now-apostolic age, and I'd recommend it to any of you. When considering the mission of our Catholic schools today, one key strategy is that we must all personally strive to adopt a more apostolic attitude, adopting Christ's call to "go and make disciples of all nations." As parents of children in our schools, teachers, and school leaders, we need to find renewed confidence in the goodness and truth of the Gospel message. Have we fully heard it, embraced it, and let it transform our lives, families, and worldview? Is our tie to the Church and our schools merely hereditary or sentimental? Or are we real believers wanting a life that is intentionally different from the rest of the world? "To be apostolic is more than to assent to a set of doctrinal truths or moral precepts, essential as they are; it is to experience daily the adventure that arises from the encounter with Christ; to view events and people moment by moment in the light of that vision..." The more each family in the MACS community embraces the apostolic attitude as a family, the more our schools will be a transforming leaven for the truth and beauty of the Gospel in our local community in this apostolic age.



In Gratitude

Generosity of the Faithful

from President Molly Meinen Bushman '98



Molly Meinen Bushman '98

In education, we often discuss the "climate and culture" of a school. In a Catholic school, a related but richer concept is that of "charism," which encompasses a school's special gifts, particular spirit, and identity inspired by the Holy Spirit. Charism is the foundation of mission and vision and is

lived out through a school's culture. With that in mind, what is MACS' charism?

I have reflected upon our school's past, present, and future to help answer this question. First, I think of our patroness, whose generosity is proclaimed in her canticle: "My soul magnifies the Lord." Throughout our history, generosity has been a common theme. Our founder, the pioneer priest Rev. Charles F.X. Goldsmith, gave his entire adult life in service to this community. Our namesake A.B. McDonell showed generosity through his gift to build and endow McDonell

Memorial High School in 1907. Examples of generous service have continued over the years, especially through our dedicated faculty and volunteers.

More recently, I think of charitable giving and works of mercy that are a regular part of our lives at the schools. For example, our school responded to the invasion of Ukraine through a day of prayer for peace followed by a day of giving in support of refugees. As we look to the future, the Holy Spirit is leading us to connect our relationship with God to living lives of virtue, especially through the charism of generosity. Think of the shape of the cross: the vertical axis points to our relationship with God, while the horizontal axis represents our arms extended in authentic love of neighbor. God is the source of our gifts and He will never be outdone in generosity.

Thank you for *your* generosity. Please pray for us as we strive to be a living institutional witness to Jesus Christ and his message.

Staff Recognition and Achievements of 2021-22 School Year

RETIREMENTS



Mr. Steve Roesler

Mr. Steve Roesler '14H has made his teaching career at McDonell Area Catholic Schools for the past 47 years. It has been his first and only teaching career. He has seen many students walk the halls of the high school over the years and grow into contributing members of society, some students even having returned to MACS for their own careers. Steve has been very involved with the school, beyond teaching, particularly with athletics. Steve is looking forward to enjoying his retirement by taking the days one at a time. **See pages 10 & 11 to read more.**

Mr. Brian Shulner has worked as the high school and middle school principal at McDonell Area Catholic Schools for the past six years. He has been a beloved character by all students and staff for all of these years and his vibrancy will be missed. He has loved watching the students achieve great things and develop their passions. He also has loved working with the teachers to grow their careers and their passions. Brian is looking forward to spending time on his farm during his retirement. He plans to take more time training and riding his horses and being with his grandchildren. **See page 3 to read more.**



Mr. Brian Shulner



Deacon Dan Rider

Deacon Dan Rider has worked at McDonell Area Catholic Schools as the Food Service Director for the past 10 years. Prior to his career at MACS he was a professional baker. He brought with him to his position at our school his craft of delicious baked goods and a passion for cooking. Thanks to Deacon Dan, MACS has a higher standard of school lunches that most schools don't get to enjoy. Deacon Dan has enjoyed his time at MACS working with his food service staff and seeing the children every day. He is looking forward to a retirement of working on his farm and spending quality time with his wife and grandchildren.

Ruthann Proue has been at McDonell Area Catholic Schools as the Middle and High School Counselor for the past six years. She has spent a total of 23 years in the School Counselor profession, but is especially grateful to be able to finish her career at MACS as she has found it fulfilling working with the MACS families and having God at the center of her work. Ruthann is looking forward to traveling more in her retirement and spending time with her grandchildren.



Mrs. Ruthann Proue



High school English teacher, Frank Rineck '16 was voted 2022 Best Teacher in the Chippewa Valley by readers of the VolumeOne Magazine.



Mr. Frank Rineck '16



Mr. Eric Wedemeyer '92

New Middle and High School Principal for the 2022-23 School Year

Mr. Eric Wedemeyer '92 will be taking over the position of principal for the Notre Dame Middle School and the McDonell Central Catholic High School, beginning in July 2022. Mr. Wedemeyer has served at MACS for 20 years, including as principal for the past three years at St. Charles Borromeo Primary and Holy Ghost Elementary.

Mr. Wedemeyer commented "The MACS school system and community have had such a profound impact on my personal and professional life. I am humbled and extremely grateful for the opportunity to work alongside our middle and high school staff and lead both schools into an exciting future."

“Get on my Pony and Ride!”

from Principal Brian Schulner



Mr. Brian Schulner

I am certain many of you have heard me say that I retired once six years ago and that lasted 24 hours and 50 minutes. That's actually true. After 14 years of teaching and 20 years as a principal I decided to call it a career and go ride my horse. Then I saw a job posting for McDonell and thought I'd throw my hat in. I guess I figured it would be like a semi-retirement, running a school half the size of my previous school with a bunch of Catholic kids. All I would have to do is polish their halos each day. That's where I learned rule #1: Kids are kids no matter the religion.

The best way to sum up the past six years is to reflect on what I have witnessed in regards to the overall mission and vision of McDonell Area Catholic Schools. The best part of my job is that I had a front row seat to witness our students' success and our teachers' passion and dedication playing out not only in the classroom but as citizens of our community.

I was told once years ago, by a school superintendent, that I would never make a good superintendent because I put too much faith in my staff. My response to that was, "Multi million dollar buildings, athletic facilities, and technology does not teach the students. It takes a teacher to open a student's mind. Give me a teacher who can engage students and all they need is the shade of an oak tree to allow education to take place. It doesn't take bricks and mortar." We all know that Catholic school teachers are compensated much less than our public school counterparts. I have witnessed three specific instructors in the high school who have given forty or more years of service each to this school system. They have a passion for their subjects, a connection with students, and a candle that glows brightly for the teaching profession. Give me a dedicated group of teachers and the sky is the limit.

I am very impressed with the leadership of our students. I can't count the number of clothing, diaper, and relief efforts our students have been involved in. You don't find many schools who have an organized group of student ambassadors who welcome the call of those in need. The most recent, of course, is the Ukraine relief effort. It was inspiring to watch as our students, parents, and community rallied around people we don't even know, to aid in relieving their suffering and needs.

Our Catholic faith is our foundation that is the glue that holds our community together. We celebrate who we are in prayer, Mass, practicing the virtues, and walking in the shoes of Jesus Christ. Whether a family here is Catholic or not, it's what you sign up for and Catholic is what you are going to get.

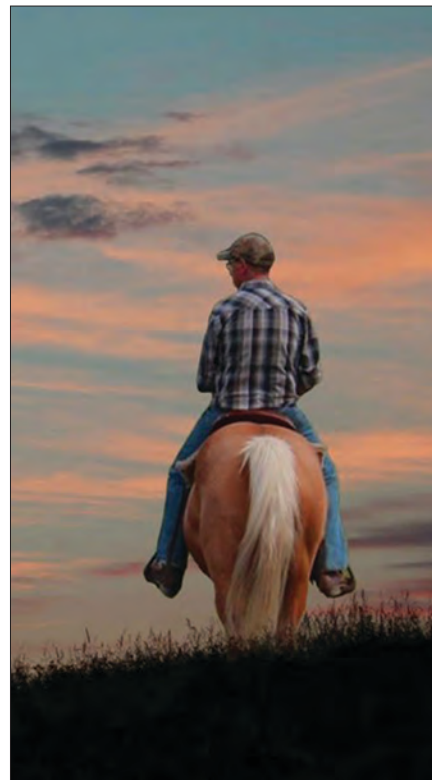
Our students are very academically prepared. I'm a data hound and I can remember being at an Education Commission meeting where there was a lot of negativity. "Do you really not know how good you have it?" I exclaimed. Our ACT average is two full points over the state average. Compared to surrounding schools we are even better. Also, 95% of McDonell Graduates go on to technical schools, universities, or military service. Before coming to this school I thought 60% was very good. Finally, 100% of the average GPA per graduating class is 3.25 and above.

A person once mentioned to me that it must be nice to be at a school where you can recruit athletic talent. I stated, "Yeah, our starting five for our state tournament bound boy's basketball team have been together here at MACS since kindergarten. Those recruiters sure know how to pick them." In just the six years I've been at McDonell I am impressed with the number of state tournament runs our girls and boys have had in basketball, cross-country, volleyball, soccer, track & field, and softball. There is something special.

An old African proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child." I am constantly impressed by the turnout and involvement of parents in every facet from athletics, musical productions, relief efforts, and special events. While there may be disagreements at times, the main focus is always on what is best for the children.

Thank you to everyone for allowing me the privilege to be your principal the past six years. Blessings and Happy Trails,

Mr. Schulner



Mr. Schulner riding into the sunset on his palomino horse.



IT Specialist, Cameron Fahrman and IT Coordinator, Josh McCormick stand next to one of the new Promethean boards.

This year has been an exciting year of upgrades and advancements for the Technology Department. Our first major update was replacing our core network switches. This project has been on the horizon for two years, and is a major improvement to our network. The new switches provide redundancy and increase our bandwidth on the network to handle more devices and network traffic. The new switches will allow us to scale up our network, and will be a great pairing with our next major project, replacing our main server.

We are expected to replace our aging server this summer. The current server is over 10 years old and getting outdated, while running out of resources to efficiently run our network. We are planning on implementing a new three node hyper converged

Server. This allows all three nodes to work in tandem, and if one node goes down, the other two will take over instantaneously, with virtually no network down time or lost data. Our new server will also include a new backup system, which will keep our information safe and secure. Our Server project will provide more storage, better backups of our data, provide redundancy and increased security to keep MACS online and secure.

We are also excited about the progress on our plan of replacing all of our projector style SmartBoards with Promethean interactive panels. The majority of classroom projectors are near end of life, and as the year progresses, more have started failing and started to degrade. The new Promethean boards will be a major upgrade from the current projectors and will allow for more functionality in the classroom, better visibility for the students, and have a longer life expectancy. New Promethean boards have been ordered for every classroom K-12. We plan to start installing them as they arrive as early as this spring, with complete installation by the start of the 2022-23 school year. We currently have 11 Promethean boards installed, and with positive feedback from the teachers.

We are continuously evaluating and reviewing needs for new student Chromebooks and teacher devices, such as laptops, both of which are due for a refresh. The Technology Department is very excited about the upgrades taking place, and excited about what lies ahead, keeping the MACS system up-to-date with the latest educational technology.

Bringing the Cinderella Musical to the Stage

Cinderella was truly a “must not miss” musical. This Rodgers & Hammerstein version of Cinderella was a Broadway version of the fairy tale we all know and love. This cast was bigger than ever with 60 students involved! McDonell theater productions are on another level, with students taking great ownership in their work. There is high school theater, then there is McDonell Central Catholic High School theater, blowing the standard out of the water.

The costume department must get notable credit for this particular performance. In the past it has been primarily operated by experienced seamstress volunteers. However, this year it was taken over entirely by students with Senior, Helen Bullard as the costume director. The students banded together and put in countless hours making costumes that went above and beyond the crowd’s expectations. Cinderella’s dresses were especially a sight to behold as they transformed before the audience’s very eyes as she twirled on stage!

The stage crew also did an amazing job beating a time crunch to finish the set design that helped bring the musical to life. With their efforts they were able to bring the audience to the living room of Cinderella’s step-mother, to the Prince’s dance hall, and to the town’s square.

The McDonell theater is an exceptional example of the MACS values in action. With students putting their efforts in with full gusto, helping each other make something great for their community’s entertainment and joy, learning about theater, putting faith in the process and each other, and taking leadership of their efforts. Once you come to a McDonell musical, you will be looking forward to the next theatrical performance our students have to offer.



Show Director
Gretchen Jorgensen



Gretchen Jorgensen
Show Director

Mark Neppi
Vocal Director

Erica Boehm
Stage Crew

McDonell Central Catholic High School
presented their 41st consecutive
musical production, Cinderella,
in February of 2022.

MAIN CAST MEMBERS

Prince Topher - Edgar Benedek

Cinderella - Paige Smiskey

Marie, the Fairy Godmother - Helen Bullard

Lord Pinkleton, the Lord Crier - Angelo Enderes

Sebastian, the Lord Protector - Paul Tetrault

Madame, the Evil Stepmother - Eva Bushman

Charlotte - Maria Herron

Gabrielle - Tessa Roach

Jean-Michel, the Revolutionary - Harrison Bullard

Stage Crew:

Avory Anderson, Sarah Buchmann, Ellie Eddy,
Aurora Gillett, Ben Goebel, Olivia Herr, Miranda
Johnson, Lillian McDonald, Sean Rasmus



Homecoming ended with a BANG!



Army Reserve Officer plugs his ears as a Howitzer is fired to celebrate a touchdown during the Homecoming football game.



Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Clare Nelson fires off the Howitzer after much behesting from the Army Reserves.

McDonell Central Catholic High School formally apologizes to its surrounding neighbors who were inconvenienced by the sounds of heavy artillery fire during the MACS homecoming football game, October 15, 2021.

Having a canon fire for touchdowns during high school homecoming games is not an unheard of tradition. However, with the help of the Army Reserves, Chippewa Falls Police Department, and the enthusiastic organization of MACS' students and teachers, MACS was able to take this homecoming display a step further by bringing a Howitzer canon to the field. This was the first, *and last*, time MACS will have the privilege to bring extra excitement to the game field in such a way.

While we have since been asked to not conduct such loud cheering tactics, it will be interesting to see how future classes attempt to top this school year's homecoming celebration methods. Regardless of the disgruntled neighbors, the disturbance of neighborhood dogs, and the startled fans, this was a fun opportunity for the homecoming game attendees to experience and it made the night one to remember.



Our team battled hard, but the Gillman Pirates came out with the win.

McDonnell Fall-Winter Varsity Athletics 2021-22



BOYS CROSS COUNTRY (Sectional champions; State 12th place)



GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY (8th place Cloverbelt Conference meet)



GIRLS BASKETBALL (Regional champions; Sectional champions; State qualifier)



BOYS BASKETBALL (4th place Western Cloverbelt Conference)



8 MAN FOOTBALL (qualified for the level 1 8-man WIAA tournament)



VOLLEYBALL (Regional champions; Sectional champions; and State champions)



WRESTLING has been brought back to McDonnell and will be eligible for WIAA competition for the 2022-23 school year. Participating athletes had a good first season despite entering a little late into the game. We hope they will begin making headlines as the years progress.



Congratulations to our student athletes participating in co-op sports, including soccer, swimming, and hockey.

Cloverbelt Scholars - Athletes recognized along with teachers and coaches



Kallee LeCloux

Seniors Kallee LeCloux and Helen Bullard were chosen by the administration for their outstanding academic performance. They were honored as Cloverbelt Scholars.



Helen Bullard

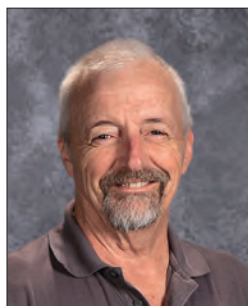


Sydney Flanagan

Cloverbelt Scholar - Athletes, Seniors Sydney Flanagan and Brendan Bresina were chosen by the administration for their outstanding academic and athletic performance.



Brendan Bresina



Mr. Tony Reiter '74

Kallee chose Mr. Tony Reiter '74, retired high school Math Teacher and Helen chose Mrs. Carrie Bullard, a K-8 Music Teacher at Assumption Catholic School (Durand) as their influential teachers.



Mrs. Carrie Bullard



Mr. Steve Roesler '14H

Sydney chose Mr. Steve Roesler '14H and Brendan choose Mr. Ryan Baier '12 as their most influential coach/teacher.



Mr. Ryan Baier '12

Student Ambassadors News

from Mrs. Mary Wermund Jacobson '78



Mrs. Mary Wermund Jacobson '78

Since the fall of 2005, I have been running the MACS Student Ambassador Program, with the exception of taking one year off. Once Beth, my youngest child graduated in 2011, many thought I would hang up my hat. I stuck with it because of the students, the parents, and the MACS staff. I was also still committed to the mission of the program. I have been rewarded with the interactions of the students, watching their dedication to serving others and the difference they are making, while witnessing the growth in their personal development.

I have decided that this will be my last year leading this program. Stepping away from running the program has been a really difficult decision. I love the students and I love my time at school! However, I find it is time for me to do other things.

I am working with the school in trying to create a program to succeed the student ambassador program. I hope to mentor a new coordinator for the program. The school is committed to servant leadership. We welcome any suggestions or volunteers who might want to get involved in supporting community service in our schools.

Thank you to the many students who have filled my heart with joy. Thank you to the many parents who supported their children and thank you to the MACS staff who also supported the students and me.

- Mrs. Mary Wermund Jacobson '78



The Student Ambassadors had their most successful Diaper Drive this year. Above, a handful of the Student Ambassadors pose with a small portion of the diapers collected. The diapers were donated to local non-profits that specialize in helping struggling families and foster children.

Bishop's Mass

Catholic Schools Week (CSW), January 30 to February 5, 2022 was a success! Contrary to years past, no snowstorms, cold snaps, or pandemics impeded our celebration this year. *Praise be to God!*

The week kicked-off with a mid-winter kids carnival at St. Charles Borromeo Primary, put on by our Faith Boosters Club. Mayor Gregory Hoffman, of Chippewa Falls, signed a proclamation declaring it Catholic Schools Week and our Dean, Very Rev. Jesse Burish blessed the event by leading everyone in attendance in prayer.

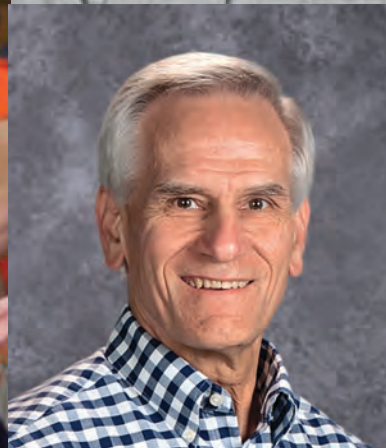
Wednesday, February 3, McDonell Central Catholic High School hosted the Catholic Schools Week Rally Day. Students from Catholic schools across the Chippewa Falls Deanery came to join MACS for Mass led by our Bishop William Patrick Callahan. The Mass was also blessed with the presence of nearly all the priests of the Chippewa Falls Deanery. It truly was a Mass to remember that brought our local Catholic communities together for the day.

After Mass with the Bishop, our elementary students got to partake in fun activities throughout the school. There were games and a sneak peak preview of the Cinderella Musical. Everyone left with smiles, goodie bags, and the Bishop's blessing.



Above: Bishop Callahan stops to talk with the children from a visiting school.
Below: Priests from across the Chippewa Deanery join in the Mass for CSW.





A Lifetime Teaching at McDonell Area Catholic Schools

It is clear to those who have had the privilege to walk the halls of McDonell Central Catholic High School in the past 47 years, Mr. Steve Roesler '14H has set a standard by which all of MACS is measured. It is hard to accept, after all these years, Mr. Roesler will be retiring at the end of the 2021-22 school year. However, Steve "Sir" Roesler has certainly left his mark and we will still be seeing him around at school events for years to come.

During his time at MACS as a teacher he has taught Western Civilization, American History, American Government, Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Postwar America, and the list goes on. Mr. Roesler has also served the students as a coach. Overall, with all he has done over the years for both his students and his colleagues, he has come to be known as one of the wisest mentors to walk these halls.

Amongst students Mr. Roesler has become legendary. The students, and many parents and colleagues who may have had Mr. Roesler as a teacher during their time as a student at McDonell, refer to Mr. Steve Roesler as Sir. This nickname caught on when an international student from Egypt in 1986 had difficulties pronouncing "Roesler" and, being from a culture which was very formal towards mentors, the student referred to him with the title "Sir." Soon this title caught

on amongst all the students as the perfect nickname for the esteemed Mr. Roesler, and for the past 36 years he has gone by the name. "It's a great nickname. How good do our students look when we're out in public and they address me by 'Sir'?" Steve continued, "It's a great PR move for the whole school."

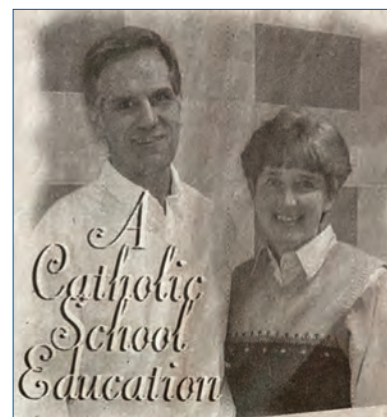
Sir's classes are just as famous as the teacher behind them as Sir holds his students and athletes to a high standard of conduct and doesn't want them to settle for any less of themselves. "If you have to go to the bathroom, go before class or hold it, you don't

“ It's better to aim high and miss, ” want to miss any information,” said Senior Sydney Flanagan. “He has a multiple, multiple choice system on his tests that will trick you. It is also vital that you do all your homework and that you follow 'Roesler's Rules' to get your 30 extra credit points at the end of the quarter.” Sir went on to explain his expectations for his classes with two quotes that he has

“ want to miss any information,” said

Senior Sydney

Flanagan. “He has a multiple, multiple choice system on his tests that will trick you. It is also vital that you do all your homework and that you follow 'Roesler's Rules' to get your 30 extra credit points at the end of the quarter.” Sir went on to explain his expectations for his classes with two quotes that he has



Steve '14H & Deb Frierhood '04H Roesler featured in a news article.



Steve Roesler '14H coaching football.

posted at the front of his classroom. The first quote is "It's better to aim high and miss than aim low and hit." The second quote is "Attitude determines altitude."

Over the years, the memories of his first years at McDonell and the struggles as a new teacher have faded. However, he quickly realized in the beginning of his teaching career that it was vital to make connections with the kids. He was able to make these connections in his own unique way. It is clear that his efforts have made an impact with the students as

he is very beloved, despite the challenges of his classes. "This is the part of the job that keeps me coming back and it is the part of the job that I will miss the most," Sir had to say about his connections with the students. "If you have a job you love you don't work a day in your life, and that's how I feel about my job working with the kids."

When asked how his faith has impacted his work Sir said, "You can't separate the two. MACS and my colleagues have taught me to be giving, loving, and faith filled. It's a big reason why I'm here."

Sir's career as a coach came about as a happy accident starting off as an assistant football coach. In 1979, he became the head track coach. Eventually, he came to be involved in volleyball as he came to marry a fellow teacher by the name of Deb Friermood, who was a volleyball coach herself during her time teaching at McDonell. Over the years football and track coaching has fallen from Sir's plate, but volleyball has stayed as a constant passion Sir has carried with him since meeting his late wife Deb. "I have kept this passion especially close to

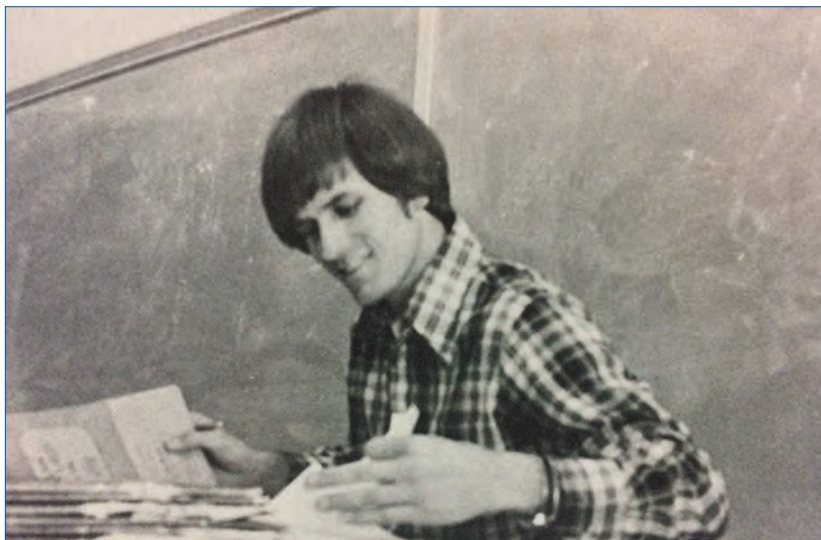
me since Debbie's death in 2003," Sir said.

"In 1976 there were five of us that came to MACS as new teachers," Sir explained. One of these teachers was Deb Friermood. In 1980, Steve and Deb were married and in 1982 they had their first child. Sir credits Deb with a large part of making him the person he has become, as well as building the culture of the school. In 2004, Deb Roesler was named an honorary alumna and in the spring of 2019 the McDonell gym was named the Steve and Deb Roesler Gymnasium. "I want everyone to know how much it means to me that both Debbie and myself were nominated to become honorary alumni and the gymnasium was named after us," said Sir. The Roesler family have truly become an icon of MACS with not just Steve and Deb having left their mark on the school, but their daughters Kari and Kathy "Kat" also picking up the torch of teaching and coaching at MACS.

Sir, thank you for everything you have done for MACS. You are a symbol of aspiration for our school system and a class act that will never be beat. We'll see you at the games.



Steve's daughters Kathy Roesler Hanson '03 (left) and Kari Roesler Stepp '00 (right) give their father a kiss.



Steve Roesler '14H going over lesson plans at his desk in 1976.



Steve Roesler '14H conducting class in 2022.

Advancement



Engaging with you in our Mission & Vision

Director of Advancement
Libby Cyr Leinenkugel '94

It is hard to believe that another school year will soon be coming to an end. How are these kids growing up so fast and moving on to the next big things in life? For my husband Matt and I, we walked across the stage 28 years ago to receive our McDonell Central Catholic High School diplomas. God willing, we will soon watch our two daughters experience this rite of passage and become McDonell alumnae, five generations deep in my family.

The true experience is watching students gain their identity, guided by the values that are a part of our schools. Each class also builds their own unique culture, but at the foundation of these identities and cultures are the traditions that are a part of a faith-based education. This faith-based education truly is a gift of immeasurable value. Thank you to all who contribute time, talent, and treasure to provide these gifts to our students.

We have achieved much this year, and alongside those successes have been opportunities that gave us precious learning experiences. At the heart of it all are the teachers that give each student the tools they need to maneuver down the path of life. Equally important are the parents, guardians, and loved ones of these students who work alongside them to help create successes and support them through the challenges. For all of you, we extend gratitude and appreciation.

Mrs. Jaynee Armstrong Brannen '03 handed the Director of Advancement baton off to me in January of this year. I look forward to fostering the relationships that she has built with so many of you, as well as building new connections with people who are interested in helping us achieve the work of our Mission. There will always be great work to be had as we support our students to achieve their goals and dreams.

As a member of the MACS community, whether alumni or a friend and supporter, there is a place here for you. I enjoy hearing from you, your experiences, and feedback for improvement. Please reach out to share a story, teach me about the days gone by, or simply a quick note to keep the light shining brightly as we continue on with our adventures.

In gratitude,

Libby Cyr Leinenkugel '94



Libby Cyr Leinenkugel '94 stands with her husband Matt Leinenkugel '94, their oldest daughter Kiara Leinenkugel '25, and their youngest daughter Elin Leinenkugel '28.

THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM PARTNERS



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



13th Annual Mid-Winter Mardi Gras!



Mardi Gras 2022 Queen & King Kari Roesler Stepp '00 & Nathan Stepp



MACS would like to thank ALL who participated in our 13th Annual Mid-Winter Mardi Gras, February 12. It was a great success, with people enjoying great food, having fun, and dancing to the Troppo Big Band Jazz Orchestra. This community event, along with the Spaghetti Spectacular, helps raise the funds needed to keep our tuition affordable. We appreciate your support!

Congratulations to all the winners throughout the night! To the businesses and individuals who sponsored a dinner table, games, food and beverage tables, and gift donations for the evening, our night would not be as successful without you. Thank you! May God bless you!



Education Commission



**Committed to the
Formation of our
Mission & Vision**

Chairperson
TJ Proue '02

To 140 Years and Beyond!

Dear McDonell Alumni and Supporters,

As the 2021-2022 school year draws to a close, I want to highlight some of the important accomplishments of the MACS Education Commission this year. Last school year the Education Commission passed revised bylaws in order to refine the structure of our school governance so that we can better serve our school community through various committees of the Education Commission. This year began the task of implementing those changes in order to secure wider representation throughout our community on committees and ensure that those committees work together to advance our mission.

Big things are underway arising out of this process as the Education Commission re-constituted the Long-Range Planning Committee to review and plan for capital improvements of our school buildings. We are excited to move this process forward and ensure the continuation of Catholic education in Chippewa Falls for another 140 years and beyond!

I wish you and your families many blessings.

Go Macks!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Proue". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Alumni Association

**Keeping you
connected
to our Mission
& Vision**

MAA President
Rolly Enderes '96



New MAA President Announced

The McDonell Alumni Association (MAA), on April 1-3, hosted the Alumni Weekend which incorporated both the alumni basketball & volleyball tournaments Friday and Saturday and the McDonell Hall of Fame induction on Sunday. It was a true gathering and celebration of our McDonell Alum. We hope to see the rest of 2022 filled with other Alumni Association events including an adult dance and honoring alumni at the homecoming game this fall.

This summer I will be stepping down as the MAA President and be handing the leadership roll to Nick Martell '05, who is very involved with MAA. I want to thank past President, Pat Bischel '70 for continuing the McDonell Alumni Association tradition and also long standing board members Chris Eckes '09 and Kari Roesler Stepp '00, along with others who have served in various capacities during my tenure.

My final thanks is to all the alum who have continued to support our Alma Mater, friends, staff, as well as the families, and business supporters of McDonell Central Catholic High School and the entire MACS community.



**MAA President-Elect
Nick Martell '05**

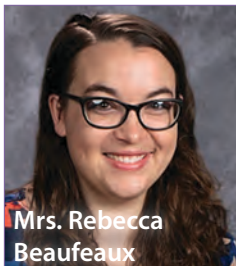
"I am honored to be succeeding Rolly Enderes as president of the MAA. I have been on the MAA board for six years and have helped run Alumni Weekend for over ten years. I hope to continue the dedicated service to Alum, McDonell High, and our faith in the MAA that Rolly has instilled over his tenure as president. I look forward to meeting you at our events throughout the year or around town. Thank you and Go Macks!"

Honoring Our Veterans

This year, at the Spaghetti Spectacular event, we were able to honor our military veterans in a most wonderful way. Students of each grade (K-12) of the entire school system joined together for a beautiful performance during Spaghetti Spectacular on Sunday, November 14, 2022. This performance would not have been possible without the collaboration and coordination of our music and choir teachers Mrs. Bekka Beaufeaux (gr. K-2), Ms. Stephanie Solberg (gr. 3-5), and Mr. Mark Neppi (gr. 6-12). While students sang, a slideshow of MACS' family members, who have served our country, played in the background. It was truly a moving display of pride for those who sacrifice so much for our freedom.

Prior to the Spaghetti Spectacular performance, McDonell hosted a presentation for Veterans Day, November 11, 2022. For this assembly, veterans from our community came together with guest speaker and McDonell alumnus, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Gilbertson '65, U.S. Army. Our veterans ended the program with a gun salute.

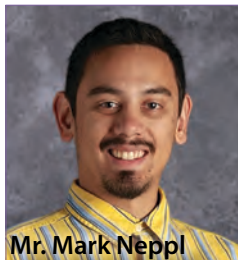
As a school and as a body of individuals, McDonell Area Catholic Schools is eternally grateful for the men and women who offer themselves for our freedom. In Christ's name, we pray for our veterans. Amen!



Mrs. Rebecca Beaufeaux



Ms. Stephanie Solberg



Mr. Mark Neppi



Veterans John Bowe, Richard Webber, Ronald Schroder, and Darrel Prince stand out in the snow and rain to give a gun salute.



MACS students big and small present a Veterans Day tribute singing Americana songs during the Spaghetti Spectacular fundraiser.

Kids Heart Challenge



Valerie Siegenthaler
Kids Heart Challenge
Organizer, Elementary
P.E. Teacher

Students from St. Charles and Holy Ghost together raised \$6,287.59, our highest amount ever achieved, all while jumping rope. This money was donated to the American Heart Association for the Kids Heart Challenge Campaign.

These students from both schools each raised \$200 or more:

Nolan Berg, Helayna Flashinski, Isaac Lubs, Addison Meinen, Gregory O'Brien, Lochlan O'Brien, Blake Rubenzer, Madilyn Rubenzer, Lydia Sullivan.

The following students competed in our school competition and the top two girls and boys in each division advanced to Bloomer High School to compete against students from other area schools.

Division 1 Gr. 1 & 2 (# of winning jumps in parentheses).

Girls: Emma Plendl (32), Cecelia Schneider (30), Danielle Andersen, Emma Berg, Jacquelyn Copeland, Emily Rush, Hattie Wollmer

Boys: Harvey Smiskey (35), Jonathan Cornell (23), Landon Dorn, Raif Grunwald, Bryce Peck

Division 2 (Gr. 3 & 4)

Girls: Solveigh Endrud (45 jumps/42 in jump-off), Jolie Bushman (45 jumps/41 in jump-off), Leila Allen, Lydia Bejin, Lydia Sullivan

Boys: Dane Smiskey (42), Nicolas Lobos (40), Brayden Baker, Cole Mudrick, Gabriel Stepp, Collin Smiskey

Division 3 (Gr. 5)

Girls: Serenity Uttecht (45), Elaina Geissler (37), Londyn Baier, Eleanor Doyle, Helayna Flashinski



Solveigh Endrud concentrates on her jumps.

We Stand with Ukraine!

Ми з Україною!



A group of McDonell High School boys happily answered the call to help when a truck of donations for Ukraine needed to be unloaded. The two ladies in the middle of the group are Chalice of Mercy founder, Valentyna Pavsyukova and Ukrainian international MACS student, Viktoriia "Vika" Kuchma.



The commons and gymnasium at McDonell Central filled up with donations for Ukraine and volunteers to help sort them.

When the war in Ukraine began on February 24, 2022 it was unclear what the MACS community could do other than pray for the innocent lives caught in the violence. However, prayer quickly led to action when Ukrainian born, founder of Chalice of Mercy, Valentyna Pavsyukova needed help collecting donations to pay for the shuttling of Ukrainian refugees fleeing their country and a location to collect donations of clothes, medical supplies, food, and other basic needs for the Ukrainian refugees.

Following a day of prayer on Ash Wednesday, MACS requested donations by having a spirit day. All MACS students (K-12) and staff wore the colors of the Ukrainian flag and gathered money to donate to Chalice of Mercy's cause. In that single day, MACS was able to raise over \$8,000.

Soon after came the ask from Chalice of Mercy to use McDonell Central Catholic High School as a collection site for donated goods. With no time to think of logistics and storage space, MACS took a leap of faith and happily accepted the honor to help. Soon truckloads of donations filled the school commons and the Steve and Deb Roesler Gymnasium. Volunteers came in droves to help organize and package the items. By March 17, Chalice of Mercy was able to ship three semi-truck loads full of much needed donations to the people of Ukraine.



Donations for Ukraine are loaded for shipment by volunteers as Chaplain, Fr. Ethan Hokamp blesses each of the 74 pallets filled with greatly needed items.

For more information on how you can donate go to chaliceofmercy.org



Chad Bormann
High School Teacher and
Chalice of Mercy organizer.

McDonnell Hall of Fame 2022

As of April 3, McDonnell Area Catholic Schools has inducted five new members into the Athletic and Service Hall of Fame.



Jeff Hartman '86



Bob Rooney '65



Dennis Sullivan '44

Jeff Hartman is a 1986 grad who was a four-year letterman in track and a two-year letterman in football. Jeff currently holds the McDonnell school record in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. In his senior year, Jeff won individual state titles in the 100-, 200-, and 400-meter dashes while leading McDonnell to a team state championship.

Eric Monarski is a 1992 grad, a three-time All-Conference basketball player and two-time All-Conference pick in football. This sharp shooter scored 1,260 career points and helped McDonnell win its first-ever conference title in boys basketball. In football Eric led the state in receiving yards as the tight end in his junior and senior year. He went on to a successful college basketball career at UW-Barron County and also spent six years as a coach at McDonnell

Bob Rooney has twice earned All-State recognition in basketball. The 1965 grad was an All-American Honorable Mention after scoring an average 25.5 points per game and nabbing 19 rebounds per game as a senior.

Mary Rose Bell Willi is a 1971 grad. Mary Rose is being honored with a service award. She has served on numerous boards and committees in the school and community for several years, serving as the treasurer or chair for most of them.

Brigadier General Dennis B. Sullivan is being recognized for his years of service as a pilot. The 1944 graduate, who served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, is the only person from Chippewa Falls in the Aviation Hall of Fame and was also awarded the prestigious CIA Intelligence Star of Valor.



Eric Monarski '92



Mary Rose Bell Willi '71



LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Planned giving at
McDonnell Area Catholic Schools

Planned giving allows individuals to use their estate plan and other gifts to provide financial support to nonprofit organizations. Additionally, an individual need not be of a particular age or income to make a planned gift and leave a legacy.

Please contact Advancement Director Libby Leinenkugel '94 to learn more and discuss your giving plan.
1+715.723.0538 x3306

advancement@macs.k12.wi.us
www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org

McDonnell Area Catholic Schools deeply appreciates our alumni and supporters who have given prayerful consideration to leaving a legacy for our schools through planned giving. "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (Mt. 6:21) On McDonell!

THANK YOU

from the
Senior Class of 2022



My name is Sydney Flanagan and I am a senior at McDonell Central Catholic High School. I have been part of the MACS system since I was in kindergarten, where my family experience began to flourish.

MACS means so much to me. The system as a whole focuses on the concept of community, which then falls into the family concept. Being able to attend the McDonell system for thirteen years has allowed me to make lifelong relationships. Those relationships date all the way back to the first day of kindergarten, where some were told to go sit by others on the rug and make friends. These people that we've met at such a young age have become second families to us. This quality of MACS makes it different from many other schools.

As a system we are a community, we help lift the ones who have fallen and push the ones who flourish. Philippians 2:4 says "Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others." This verse explains what our schools are all about. We have been lucky enough to have a Student Ambassador program that allows students to pursue the well being of others. This sense of community comes out whether we are on the playing field, the stage, or in the classroom. I've been lucky enough to see this in every shape and

form, from the championship stage in Green Bay to the halls of McDonell, where everyone comes together and celebrates the journey.

In the classroom, everyone brings something new to make it an enjoyable experience. The class size is small, but that doesn't stop the creativity that each person brings. That being said, we figure out what we are passionate about and the teachers are the ones who help us mold that passion into reality. By the time the class is coming to a close you walk out with new relationships that can only grow. You never know who you're going to meet, but they might just be in your life forever.

McDonell is a special place, physically and emotionally. This is a place where people grow in a safe environment full of love from our mentors, classmates, and the love of God. Thank you McDonell and supporters for allowing my classmates and me to have an excellent education and for all the amazing memories that we will keep forever. It's been a dream!

Sydney Flanagan



Sydney Flanagan was a guest on the Mack Chat Podcast with Mr. Steve Roesler '14H for "Episode #15: Meeting Steve "Sir" Roesler." In this podcast President Molly Bushman '98 and Sydney talk with Mr. Steve Roesler about his career in education and share stories as he nears retirement.

This was MACS' most engaged podcast. We warn you that it is a tear jerker, but it is worth the listen. You can find this Mack Chat Podcast and more on the MACS website, Eau Claire Hometown Radio, or wherever you find your podcasts (eg. iTunes, Spotify).



Class Notes

1940's

Marjorie "Marge" Pevan Dodge '42

is 98 years old as of April 2022. After a successful career for the state of Nevada, she moved back to Chippewa Falls. She now lives at Our House Assisted Living on Marrs St.

Peter and Marilyn '47 White Dachel

celebrated their 72nd Anniversary with their family at a Mass held at Holy Ghost Church with the Very Rev. Jesse Burish who blessed their marriage. They were married on October 29, 1949 at the Church of Notre Dame.

2010's

Ben Retzlaff '16 completed his Masters in Business Administration in March, 2022. He earned his degree from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana where he was a grad assistant with the Louisiana Tech men's basketball program. He currently is the digital graphics coordinator for the Marquette men's basketball program in Milwaukee, WI.

Garett Retzlaff '18 graduated from UW-Eau Claire in December 2021 with a major in psychology. He was part of the Honors Program and graduated Magna Cum Laude. He has accepted a grad assistant position at Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. He will be pursuing a masters degree in the Psychology-Clinical-Counseling program.

MEMORIAM

Please join the MACS community in prayerful memory of deceased alumn, parents, and friends.

Doris M. Schmidt Gehweiler '39

December 30, 2021, Cedarburg, WI

Robert Kleinheinz '46

January 4, 2022, Chippewa Falls

Jeanette "Ginny" Baier Kelly '47

November 3, 2021, Jim Falls

Joan Erdely Samens '47

February 2, 2022, Bloomer

Mylon "Mig" Hebert '48, 2002 Hall of Fame Inductee

February 5, 2022, Chippewa Falls

Maynard Stoehr '49

December 18, 2021, Oregon, WI

Shirley Smithers Liedl '49

January 10, 2022, Chippewa Falls



Marjorie "Marge" Pevan Dodge
1942 yearbook photo signed
by Marge.



Peter and Marilyn '47 White Dachel



Ben Retzlaff '16

Ben and Garrett's parents are Scott and Michelle Franz '85 Retzlaff.



Garett Retzlaff '18



(Photo from Parker Reed -Chippewa Herald)

Robert Fish and Anneliese Fish '02 are now the new owners of Mary Ann's Root Beer Stand at 12 E. Elm St. in Chippewa Falls. The iconic root beer stand has been dormant since 1994. The Fish family plans to reopen the drive-in stand as Dave's Root Beer Stand (named after Anneliese's late father) in 2023 complete with cheese curds, hot beef sandwiches, and of course root beer on the menu.

Alumni & Friends Gathering

Class Notes

Russell Kazda '49

January 16, 2022, Altoona

James P. Paquette '49

January 18, 2022, Chippewa Falls

David Hancock '50

February 15, 2022, Chippewa Falls

Dorothy Revor Geissler '50

February 22, 2022, Chippewa Falls

**Merlyn "Minnow" Gingras '51, 2007
Hall of Fame Inductee**

December 1, 2021, Chippewa Falls

James Goettl '53

December 22, 2022, Chippewa Falls

Robert R. Maloney '58

October 22, 2021, Bloomer

David "Smokey" Frenette '59

September 14, 2021, Fullerton, CA

Richard Blomlie '59

October 17, 2021, Chippewa Falls

Carole M. Gettler Marsolek '60

January 15, 2022, Rochester, MN

Kevin Salmon '68

January 25, 2022, Strum, WI

Sue M. Kreiling Simet '69

November 26, 2021, Chippewa Falls

Heidi Haley '70

August 13, 2021, Lac Du Flambeau, WI

Nick Larson '76

January 31, 2022, Brookfield, WI

Charlotte Sullivan Bowe '78

October 28, 2021, Chippewa Falls

Thomas "Tom" J. Rubenzer '80

January 9, 2022, Chippewa Falls

Jeanne Pecka Eckert '84

March 31, 2022, Chippewa Falls

Peter Stoffel '17

October 25, 2021, Brookings, SD

Isaac Bohaty '18

March 19, 2022, Mandan, ND

MEMORIAL FRIENDS

Richard "Trigger" Solie, Retired Maintenance Supervisor at McDonell. Athletic/Academic Scholarship in his memory.

January 17, 2022, Chippewa Falls

Ann M. Thornton Grenz

Attended McDonell Central.

February 23, 2022, Chippewa Falls



The MACS Advancement Director and President take the opportunity when possible to meet with Alumni and friends, both near and far! We are looking to host additional gatherings in 2022 and 2023 so give us a call to help us plan!



Top left photo was taken in November of 2021 in Fox Cities, WI.

Middle photo was taken in February of 2022 in Cape Coral, FL.

Bottom photo was taken in February of 2022 in The Villages, FL.



Class Reunions

Right: McDonell Class of 1955

gathered for their 66th year reunion on September 12, 2021. The day began at Notre Dame Catholic Church where the 10:00 a.m. Mass was celebrated for the living and deceased members of the class. After, the group was photographed outside of the church. They spent the afternoon at the Paquette home on Lake Wissota. After a chicken dinner, everyone enjoyed renewing old friendships and reminiscing.

**Left: McDonell Class of 1965**

held their 56th year reunion a year late on October 6, 2021 due to COVID-19. The reunion was at Tony's bar in Spooner, WI. Pizza and drinks were enjoyed by all. Many stories and memories were shared once again.



Education for Life



Our Mission

Committed to the formation of **community**, **academic excellence** and the **spiritual** and **physical** well-being of each student in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

We are the school of choice for an excellent Catholic faith based education within the Chippewa Falls area. We welcome all families to be a part of our school community no matter their faith or financial means. In partnership with our parents, we form the whole child in support of our values and mission.

Our vision of the whole child consists of a lifelong learner, who upon graduation, is academically prepared for post-secondary education and career, grounded in relationship with Jesus Christ, balanced physically and emotionally, and actively engages as servant leaders in family, parish, and civic communities.

Our Core Values

Faith

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3)

Honor

"My Father will honor the one who serves me." (John 12:26)

Academic Excellence

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Philippians 4:8)

Healthy Living

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You are not your own." (1 Corinthians 6:19)

Community

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

Servant Leadership

"The Son of Man has come not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for the many." (Matthew 20:28)

McDonnell Area Catholic Schools

St. Charles Borromeo Primary School
Holy Ghost Elementary School
Notre Dame Middle School
McDonnell Central Catholic High School



We are happy to report the success of the 14th annual Spaghetti Spectacular, on November 14, 2021. This most recent rendition of the event showed us a 25% increase in profit since the fall of 2018 event. The contributions from the Monday, November 15 business deliveries played a huge part in this success. The raffle sales were also a valuable component for our fundraising efforts. The participation of everyone who made this Spaghetti Spectacular possible is tremendously appreciated!

PARENTS: IF THIS ISSUE IS ADDRESSED TO YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER WHO NO LONGER LIVES AT HOME, PLEASE CALL THE ALUMNI OFFICE WITH CORRECT ADDRESS: 715.723.0538 OR GO ONLINE: www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org/alumni/

If you have updated contact information or would prefer to receive the Mack Messenger in a different form (digital or physical) please contact the Advancement office at 715.723.0538 x3306 or advancement@macs.k12.wi.us

WITNESS THE DIFFERENCE

Building on the Past, Believing in the Future

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Gift Amount: I/We pledge \$ _____ to the Witness the Difference Campaign for McDonell Area Catholic Schools to be paid over the next (circle one) **THREE** or **FIVE** years.

☐ Please send annual pledge payment reminders. ☐ One time payment enclosed.

I/We will begin making payments: (month) _____ (year) _____

Please make checks out to: **MACS** (please note Witness the Difference in the memo line)

If you wish to pay by credit card or with securities transfers, please contact Libby Leinenkugel, Director of Advancement at 715.723.0538 ext. 3306

Thank you for your contribution.

