

Mack Messenger

MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS No. 1 - 2023



The Spirit of Volunteering

"Little children, let us not love with word or speech, but in deed and truth."

- 1 John 3:18

INSIDE

- Introducing Little Macks PreK
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
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MCDONELL AREA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Est. 1882

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



Education for Life

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Community | Servant Leadership

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

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Molly Meinen Bushman '98, President
Libby Cyr Leinenkugel '94,
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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
Dcn. Kevin V. DeCook



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

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,
Associate Pastor 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



Very Rev. Jesse Burish
Chippewa Falls Dean

From the Dean

A Need for Eucharistic Revival

Very Reverend Jesse Burish



On April 20, just a couple of weeks following Easter, our Chippewa Falls Catholic parishes hosted speaker Chris Carstens at the new St. Charles Fellowship Hall to speak on his book, *A Devotional Journey Into the Mass*. I hope some of you reading this were able to attend and found Chris' talk helpful in coming to appreciate and entering more fully into the celebration of the Mass.

If you notice greater attention given to the Mass and the Eucharist in preaching or in other avenues in your parish, or in various Catholic communications, it's probably not a coincidence. Last summer, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops initiated a period of Eucharistic Revival that would last for three years. Why? Because we need it! With declining Mass attendance and recent surveys revealing significant lack of faith that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, we need to renew and revive what we as Catholics know to be true. This truth is the source and summit of our Christian life. The Church's public worship in the Mass and reception of the Eucharist is key to what keeps us alive spiritually in His Church as the Lord established. It is the place and time in

which heaven comes down to earth, where Christ's sacrifice on the cross is re-presented at the altar, and we come to offer our whole life, our joys, our pains, and sufferings, in union with Christ on the cross. We then receive Him in return.

Consider how you are being called to grow in this time of Eucharistic Revival. How will you grow in intimacy with God? How will you grow in your understanding and appreciation of the Church's sacred liturgy? How will you cultivate a personal love and amazement for the Eucharistic Jesus? Perhaps it is as simple as getting to confession or recommitting to getting your family to Mass every Sunday. Perhaps it is by signing up for an hour of adoration at the Goldsmith Adoration Chapel, or taking part in adoration when it is offered at your parish. How about doing some good spiritual reading, like Chris Carsten's book, or other resources that help us better understand the Church's liturgy?

Regardless of where you are in your Eucharistic faith, making a step and striving to grow in that faith is making a step for the whole Church. As each of us and our families grow in love for the Lord and His Eucharistic Presence, the whole Church is impacted, and so is the world.



Molly Meinen Bushman '98

Hominibus Bonae Voluntatis

Thank you MACS Volunteers!

President Molly Meinen Bushman '98

The word volunteer comes from the Latin voluntas, which refers to a person's free will. God has given each of us the capacity to choose good or evil in our lives. Volunteers are those who freely choose to do good for others, not for wealth, power, or fame, but rather out of love for God and neighbor. Volunteers add tremendous value to any organization or community, not only by the value of their work, but by setting a joyful example of doing small things with great love.

In this issue, we are proud to highlight some of the volunteers who selflessly share their time and talent with our Catholic schools each year. While we do not have enough space to tell all of their stories, we hope to express our honor and gratitude for the hundreds of generous men, women, and families who pitch in to help in our classrooms and libraries, playgrounds and gymnasiums, offices and boardrooms, community gatherings and fundraising events, and more. To learn more or to volunteer, I invite you to visit

the "Volunteer" section of our website under "Support MACS."

Many guests on our Mack Chat podcast have shared personal stories about what drives them to volunteer and the core value of servant leadership that we try to instill in every MACS student. I am personally inspired by the story of the Rubenzer family as told by Becky Meinen Rubenzer, Ashley Meinen Rubenzer '08, and Blake Rubenzer '33 (see pages 8 & 9). For more inspiring personal stories from the MACS community, you can follow our podcast through Eau Claire Hometown Media, also available on iTunes and Spotify.

As I am writing this column, I have been preparing to sing in the Easter Triduum choir at my parish. This includes the Latin Gloria, an ancient hymn of praise that begins with an angelic line from Sacred Scripture (Lk 2:14): "Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis." Voluntatis is a form of voluntas; thus hominibus bonae voluntatis means "people of goodwill." We pray for every blessing upon our very own hominibus bonae voluntatis: our amazing MACS volunteers. Thank you and thank God for you!

Staff Retirement 2023



Lyle Geissler '70

Lyle Geissler '70 has worked at McDonell Central Catholic High School for the past four years in the custodial and maintenance department. Lyle joined the team part time after retiring from a career in IT. Lyle has ensured the building was clean, safe, organized, and ready for school every morning. He prepared the gym floors for competitions, and came in on weekends and early mornings to prepare for events and games. He has always been willing to tackle a new challenge and his lighthearted personality could easily lift a person's day. He always made sure he was around to greet his granddaughter every morning before school started. Lyle looks forward to his second retirement, and plans to spend more time at his cabin with his wife, children and grandchildren. Thank you Lyle for your dedication to the mission of MACS. You will be missed.

Moms Tackle Practice



A new social media trend was sweeping the nation earlier in the 2022-23 school year and our Macks Football moms couldn't resist joining the fun. On September 15, 2022, two days before the Homecoming game, the moms of our football team surprised the players by joining them for tackle practice! Per the trend, our begrudged players lined up, and one at a time, they got tackled by their own mothers. It was all in the name of good fun and was a hoot to watch.





Fr. Ethan Hokamp

All Roads Lead to Rome

Reverend Ethan Hokamp, Chaplain

I'm excited to share with you that this summer I will be leading seven students from McDonell on a pilgrimage to Rome with four other adults. The trip will be June 5-16, and it's been something I've had in mind for a while. Although I had my doubts it would ever happen, after my first year here was ended abruptly by the pandemic, things around the world have cleared up, and I'm still here! We'll

be joining up with six students from Newman Catholic High School in Wausau along with their chaplain and three other adults for our travels.

My last four years of seminary before coming to Chippewa Falls were spent studying in Rome, so I'm excited to share the history, art, and culture with these students. The experience of seeing the beauty of Rome's churches, saints, and traditions can be life-changing. I hope that

this encounter with the city where the apostles Peter and Paul gave their lives for Christ and where Peter's successor still resides, will be transformative for these students. We will also take a two-day trip to the little town of Assisi, well-known for its most famous citizen, St. Francis, where we will have Mass at his tomb.



Fr. Hokamp enjoying his previous pilgrimage to Rome.



Scan QR code above with your smart phone to help raise funds for the Rome pilgrimage.

Our trip has mostly been funded by generous benefactors from our community, whose prayers we are taking with us on our travels. I'd like to invite you to pray for us as well and consider making a gift to support our pilgrimage. If you would like to support us, please make a check out to McDonell Area Catholic Schools with "Rome Trip" in the memo line or use our PayPal account found by scanning the QR code to the left. Even if you do not choose to donate, please send any prayer requests you may have to e.hokamp@macs.k12.wi.us. We want to pray for your intentions during this pilgrimage. I assure you that we will!

The Road After Rome

McDonell Students plan a "reverse mission" trip to Casa Hogar

This won't be your typical mission trip. A dozen upperclassmen and adults will be heading to Peru in March 2024 during Holy Week to visit Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II. Casa Hogar is a mission of the Diocese of La Crosse founded by Servant of God Joseph Walijewski and currently led by Msgr. Joseph Hirsch. Visiting Casa Hogar will give our students and adult chaperones the opportunity to experience life with the 64 children living there. This is our first trip to Casa Hogar in more than eight years. As we prepare for the trip, we recall Msgr. Hirsch's visit to McDonell this last Fall where he talked about "reverse mission." The goal of the trip isn't to go and change their lives with a project we will work on. The goal is to go to Casa Hogar to experience life with them, have our own transformation, and bring what we have learned in

how to love and care for others back to our families, school, and community. The students who will be attending went through an application process and shared why they want to go on this mission trip, but also some of their fears. As we prepare for the trip, our group will spend time in prayer and formation so we are more docile to the Holy Spirit working in our lives and hearts and open to what God wants to share with us while we are in Peru. We will also be sharing with our community more about our trip and how others can support us before and during the trip. If you'd like to receive updates on how to donate toward our trip or other ways to support our mission, please contact Ms. Erica Boehm by email at faith@macs.k12.wi.us.

MACKS

**FALL & WINTER
2022-2023**



VOLLEYBALL



VARSIITY

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS
STATE CHAMPIONS

CROSS COUNTRY



BOYS AND GIRLS

BOYS-STATE QUALIFIER (9TH)
CONFERENCE RUNNER-UP
GIRLS-8TH AT CONFERENCE

FOOTBALL



VARSIITY

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS
PLAYOFF QUALIFIER

GIRLS BASKETBALL



VARSIITY

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS
STATE CHAMPIONS

WRESTLING



BOYS AND GIRLS

GIRLS STATE INDIVIDUAL
QUALIFIER (7-7TH)

BOYS BASKETBALL



VARSIITY

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS
STATE RUNNER-UP

MACCS

FALL & WINTER 2022-2023



Cloverbelt Conference Academic Awards

Rebecca Baier



Eva Bushman



Seniors Rebecca Baier and Eva Bushman were chosen by the administration to be honored by the Cloverbelt Conference for their academic achievement. Rebecca chose retired teacher Mr. Steve Roesler '14H and Eva chose Mr. Justin Kuehl as their most influential educators.



Mr. Steve Roesler



Mr. Justin Kuehl



Andrew Bauer



Marley Hughes



Cloverbelt Scholar-Athletes, seniors Andrew Bauer and Marley Hughes, were chosen by administration for their outstanding academic and athletic performance. Andrew chose Coach Thane Berg and Marley chose Coach DJ Cooper as their most influential coaches.



Coach Thane Berg



Coach DJ Cooper

CO-OP TEAMS

SWIMMING & DIVING



GIRLS AND BOYS

HOCKEY



BOYS AND GIRLS

SOCCER



BOYS

TENNIS



GIRLS

GYMNASTICS



GIRLS



SCHOOL of ROCK

THE MUSICAL

McDonell Central Catholic High School presented their 42nd consecutive musical production in February 2023.

MAIN CAST

Dewey Finn - Harrison Bullard
 Rosalie Mullins - Eva Bushman
 Ned Schneebly - Paul Tetrault
 Patty DiMarco - Tessa Roach

SUPPORTING CAST

Summer Hathaway - Lily Edison
 Tomika - Maria Herron
 Zack Mooneyham - Zach Hunt
 Freddie Hamilton - Angelo Enderes
 Katie - Alba Pueyo
 Lawrence - Matyas Chovancik
 Marcy - Evelyn Doyle
 Shalome - Ella Rubenzer
 Billy Sandford - Ryan Roach
 Mason Ward - Michael Herron
 James - Gavin Smiskey
 Madison - Elyse Bushman
 Sophie - Kaylee Krueger
 Mrs. Sheinkopf/Security Guard 1 - Aeryn Crisp
 Mr. Noble/Policeman - Sam Kasper
 Ms. Green - Yuzuki Kobayashi
 Gabe Brown - John Herron
 Ms. Sanders - Eve Peterson
 Ms. Gordon/Mrs. Hathaway - Delaney Smiskey
 Ms. Bingham - Jaidyn Brady
 Ms. Janes - Stella Laufenberg
 Ms. Macapugay - Salome Dumon
 Ms. Wagner - Kendall Eslinger
 Mr. Mooneyham - Fred Blair
 Mr. Williams - Robert Schwetz
 Mrs. Spencer - Carlee Chittendon
 Mr. Connor - Carson Sweeney
 Mr. Sandford - Scott Tetrault
 Ms. Hamilton - Kennedy Giza

DIRECTING TEAM

Frank Rineck '16 - Show Director
 Greta Jorgensen - Show Advisor
 Kelsey Jimenez - Assistant Director
 Annette Hunt - Vocal Director
 Laurie Armstrong Francis '79 - Pit Director



MACS Introduces Little Macks PreK

MACS introduced to the Chippewa Valley community a new option for a PreK with a faith-based, whole-child curriculum. The drive behind privatizing our preschool is our belief that God and the young children have a unique relationship with one another. That relationship should be assisted by the adult, but directed by the Spirit of God. St. Charles Little Macks provides children with a place to foster the growth of their relationship with God through tangible, but indirect means.

Little Macks Preschool serves children for 3-year-old-Kindergarten (3K) and 4-year-old-Kindergarten (4K). Both of our Little Macks PreK programs offer focus on early literacy, enrichment activities, outdoor exploration, and spiritual life through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program (see article below).

On January 18, 2023, MACS hosted an open house with a Little Macks information presentation, announcing the new program and inviting people to enroll. Nearly 50 families were welcomed at the door and directed to the St. Charles Gymnasium where MACS President Molly Bushman and Elementary Principal Jerry Smith spoke on the program.

"We have worked hard to ensure this program will not only provide the highest quality faith-based programming in line with our K-12 programs, but will also be affordable," said President Bushman. "The primary reason we are making this change is our mission: we will

be able to bring
Jesus to our
4K classroom
through daily
prayer, bible
stories, and
virtue formation.

We will provide the best possible foundation for our children to grow and thrive."

After the introduction, Monsignor Gorman blessed the 4K and Catechesis

of the Good Shepherd classrooms. Families were then introduced to Catechist Cassandra Klinkhammer with a brief look and explanation of her classroom. The 4K teacher Angie Steinmetz and para Alysia Liddell Steiger '87 were introduced with a tour of the 4K and wrap-around classrooms. The night ended with a Q&A. Please pray for our Little Macks!



**Rev. Msgr. Michael Gorman
blesses the 4K room during the
Little Macks Open House.**



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

New to the MACS team is Cassandra Klinkhammer, the Lead Catechist for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. Recently, Cassandra and her son David joined us for an episode of our Mack Chat Podcast to expand on this great program. This Catechesis of the Good Shepherd parish program started in the basement of the St. Charles Borromeo Church, but was invited to operate from MACS Early Childhood building. This arrangement was one of the driving factors that inspired the privatization of our PreK programs that resulted in the birth of the Little Macks PreK curriculum.

Kassandra explains that the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is "a Montessori based Catechesis for ages 3-5." What this means is

the program uses child-led education that allows the child to “learn to pray, learn to listen for the Good Shepherd’s Voice, and ponder the Mysteries of the Faith deeper.”

This program uses a hands-on approach that immerses children in the Mass and the bible. They are told less and shown more. Students are allowed to wonder about the teachings of the Lord. Teachers are not there to instruct, but to be a “co-wonderer”

Children naturally ask questions, and often these questions are undervalued. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd sees great value in these questions and encourages children to truly explore their wonderings. Thus, learning about Christ and all he has to teach us becomes a joy and an exciting exploration. Learn more at cqsusa.org.





A Generational MACS Family

L to R: Ashley '08, Blake '33, and Becky Rubenzer joined Molly Bushman in the central office to record an episode of the Mack Chat podcast.

A story of a generational MACS family and how they give back to our schools with their time and talent

"Each and every day our schools depend on volunteers, like you, to ensure that we operate efficiently and successfully," reads a line from the introduction of the MACS volunteer handbook. As exciting as a four-page handbook can be, we decided to ask one of our MACS families to elaborate on what donating their time to our schools means to them and how it has, and continues, to affect their time as a part of the MACS community. Recently, three generations of the Rubenzer family, Blake, Ashley, and Becky, joined us for a Mack Chat podcast to tell us their volunteer story.

Blake is a fifth generation MACS student, currently in second grade. Blake's mother, Ashley, is a fourth generation MACS alumna and Becky's late husband, Tom, was a third generation MACS alumnus. Both Becky and Ashley agree that volunteering has played a prominent role in their time in the MACS community. Throughout the generations, being involved in the school beyond the capacity as students and parents, has given them a deep connection and appreciation for MACS, and the family and Catholic values of the school system.

Ashley Meinen Rubenzer '08 began volunteering at MACS as a member of the Home and School Association (HandS). Soon after, she began volunteering in other roles as well. Nowadays she volunteers as a Parent Ambassador, in the St.

Charles school library, as an occasional substitute teacher, and recently as a MAXX basketball club member. "Growing up [at MACS] I saw all the parent involvement and realized that MACS needs parents to step up and volunteer to make everything work. It's been a fun role to step into and I enjoy seeing the friends and the kids at school doing the day to day things that you otherwise wouldn't get to be involved in," said Ashley, volunteer extraordinaire.



Becky Rubenzer operates the Scrip booth at the 2022 Family Fun Night event while having fun with her grandchildren.

When asked about the 30-hour volunteer requirement for all MACS families, Ashley assured us that those 30 hours go by very quickly over the school year. Not only are there many parent clubs to get involved in, but there are many odd jobs that parents can do that add up as well. Making baked goods or crafts for school events and volunteering at the school events, that parents would likely already be attending, are prime examples.

One of the many perks of being a MACS volunteer is undoubtedly getting to know the MACS community. This is especially true and useful for new MACS families who otherwise may not know anyone. Ashley commented that volunteering at MACS has also been helpful in getting to know her children's friends. This helps her feel more connected to her children and understand them better when they recount the school day.

Long time volunteer, Becky Rubenzer, began her MACS volunteer career when her children were young and attended MACS. Through volunteering at MACS, Becky was able to get hands-on experience and learn new life skills. "I began by volunteering in the grade school [working] with my children and that's how I learned how to use a computer."

"I used to volunteer in the [high school] library," Becky told us. Not too long ago while at an event, Becky was recognized by a former MACS student. "She came up to me and said, 'Hey I recognize you. You were our school librarian.' I just thought that it was so cool that there were [alumni] that still



Becky Rubenzer with MACS Executive Administrative Assistant and Scrip Program Coordinator, Kathleen Adams.

remembered me. It made me feel good."

Today Becky can often be found in the Central Office volunteering for the MACS Scrip Program, which she has been volunteering for since its beginning. In a separate conversation, she told us, "I love volunteering [for the Scrip Program] because it feels good to help and I get to see and keep in touch with so many of my friends." Becky volunteers so often, her grandchildren have started asking where her office is. Who knows, maybe Blake Rubenzer will take over the Scrip program when he grows up and may even take over President Molly Bushman's office.

Our Executive Administrative Assistant and Scrip Program Coordinator, Kathleen Adams, had this to say about our MACS volunteers; "We are truly blessed with the ministry of our volunteers that support MACS. We are grateful of the time and commitment they give selflessly to help MACS continue to be a successful school system. A 'thank you' in my mind never seems to be enough; I request that each of you lift all of our volunteers in prayer for their faithful service."

MACK Chat



Hosted by Mrs. Molly Meinen Bushman '98

Episode Sponsor:



EPISODE 30: A Macks Family
Guest: Blake '33, Ashley '08 & Becky '80 Meinen Rubenzer

To listen to the original interview that inspired this article, we welcome you to tune into our Mack Chat podcast, Episode #30 "A Macks Family."



Scan the QR code above with your smartphone camera to listen in to our Mack Chat podcasts.

Advancement

Supporting Growth of Our Schools through Growth in Advancement

Director of Advancement
Libby Cyr Leinenkugel '94



Libby Cyr
Leinenkugel '94

We are so grateful to our donors and supporters for helping us achieve growth in our fundraising efforts this year. Thanks to your support of the A.B. McDonell Vision Fund (our annual fund), as well as the success of our two largest fundraising events (Spaghetti

Spectacular and Mardi Gras), we are finding new ways to advance our mission and vision. To continue supporting the energy for this growth, we will be hiring an Advancement Services Coordinator. This person will primarily be responsible for planning the events that support our fundraising efforts. I will continue as the Advancement Director, focusing on advancement strategy and operations, such as constituent relations, communications, strategic planning, research, and stewardship. A lot of exciting opportunities await!

There is one body in particular that has been instrumental in supporting the growth of MACS since 1977, and that is the McDonell Foundation. Serving as Foundation Officers include President Rolly Enderes '96, Vice President Reggie Geissler '91, and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Stoffel '86. Serving as Directors are Rusty Volk, Jennifer Bowe Willi '95, Kelly Misfeldt, Ryan Stelter '96, Jamie Leibrandt, Jeff Zander, Fr. Jesse Burish, and the late Brian Wogernese '88. I am sure many of these names are familiar to you thanks to their involvement in our local communities. Furthermore,

the members of the McDonell Foundation have chosen to partner with local financial advisors who offer guidance in selecting funds that are true to Catholic beliefs and values.

MACS President Molly Bushman and I are given the opportunity to present to the McDonell Foundation on MACS events, successes, and our areas of opportunity for growth. It is through these conversations that we are able to maintain a strong partnership, as well as hope for the future and sustainability of our schools. Our trust is in their wise fiduciary decisions. We ask for your prayerful consideration of supporting the McDonell Foundation. A simple way to leave your legacy is through Planned Giving practices; please connect with me if you would like to consider naming the McDonell Foundation in your estate plans. Additionally, please use the enclosed envelope to show your financial support of the A.B. McDonell Vision Fund, which supports day-to-day efforts of carrying out our mission. Online donations are also accepted at <https://www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org/support-macs/> or by scanning the QR Code seen below.

Our prayers are with all friends of the McDonell Area Catholic Schools community, near and far. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect with you through the Mack Messenger. Be sure to follow MACS and our affiliated clubs on Facebook to stay up to speed on all the great things happening throughout the year. Blessings to you all for a relaxing and restful summer.



Scan the QR Code with
your smartphone camera to
donate to the
A. B. McDonell Vision Fund



"This school should provide no or low cost tuition to every family who wishes to obtain for their children a Catholic education."



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

MAA President
Nick Martell '05



Greetings from the McDonell Alumni Association

We hope you're having a blessed spring. The McDonell Alumni Association (MAA) has had an exciting start to 2023. We added a couple of new members to the MAA board, hosted McDonell Alumni Weekend, and have been very busy planning more events for the upcoming months.

Alumni Weekend 2023 was a massive success this year. Even though we had to deal with mother nature giving us one final helping of snow that nobody asked for, we were still able to raise over \$2,000 in scholarship funds for McDonell seniors this year. We also made contributions to the McDonell Arts Program fund-a-need through the first

Alumni Association

ever chuck-a-duck fundraiser and made donations to the track and wrestling programs for their help in volunteering at the event. We hope to see all of you up there next year at Alumni Weekend 2024, tentatively on March 22 & 23.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming events. Baccalaureate Mass will be held on May 17, 5:00 p.m. at the Notre Dame Church to welcome the graduating class of 2023 as fellow McDonell Alumni. We are also excited to be bringing back the Alumni & Friends Dance that will be held tentatively on Saturday, September 9, in the McDonell commons, with a Hollywood theme. It is a free event for 21+ alumni, parents, and friends to attend. Come dressed as your favorite celebrity and enjoy some refreshments and good times.

Lastly, we had the great privilege to assist McDonell in honoring super fan Andy Smith with an honorary diploma during Alumni Weekend this year. He has been an outstanding example of the Mack Way to all who know him, and we are proud to have him as a fellow alumnus. Thank you to Andy and to our fellow alumni, parents, and friends for all of your support this year.



Congratulations to our 2023 Honorary Alumnus!

Andy Smith '23H

McDonell," said Misfeldt '18H. "They are at [MACS] events all year long. This guy has been at everything. He loves cheering [the students] on, he loves seeing [the students] win, and he loves seeing [the students] find success."

The announcement closed with all the Macks athletes, present and past, coming down from the bleachers to take a photo (seen above) with the man who has made it his passion to cheer them on.

The 2023 Honorary Alumni announcement was made during the 37th Annual Alumni Weekend. The announcement was met with many cheers and tears for Andy Smith '23H. Greg Misfeldt '18H set the stage for the announcement with a heartfelt speech.

"This year, the honoree that has been chosen bleeds

A Look Inside Our Schools

Pi Day

Celebrating Pi with Pie

This year's Pi day, March 14, was celebrated with a pie baking contest amongst the students. Our judges, President Molly Bushman '98 and Fr. Ethan Hokamp, had to vote to determine the top three pies out of over ten different pies, all handmade by our students.

The decision was a difficult, but delicious one, that took much contemplation from the two judges. The winners were Notre Dame Middle School students, Caroline, in first place with her beautiful blueberry pie, Robert, in second place with his cinnamon-y pumpkin pie, and Addison, in third place with her delectable strawberry cream cheese pie.

After the competition, all of the pies were sold at \$1 per slice. The proceeds of the pie sale were then donated to Feed My People Food Bank.



#TheMackWay Day

John 13:12-17

Another successful #TheMackWay Community Day was celebrated and carried out on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023. MACS students of every age worked on projects to share their faith through service and bring smiles to the local Chippewa Falls community.

Following a community breakfast and prayer, our McDonell students spent their morning helping organizations in the community with their spring cleaning projects. Our Notre Dame students helped the janitorial staff with their spring cleaning projects around the McDonell campus and then went to read to the St. Charles Primary students. Our Holy Ghost Elementary and St. Charles Primary students decorated coffee sleeves and takeout boxes with words of kindness for the customers at the Whirlybird and Wild Flour Cafes to enjoy. These were only a handful of community service projects our students did this day.



Scan the QR code above with your smart phone camera to watch #TheMackWay Day video.



Left: Notre Dame Middle School students join a St. Charles Borromeo Primary student for storytime.

Right: Whirlybird Coffee Co. commented on a Facebook post: "Big thanks to our friends at Holy Ghost Elementary for brightening up our to-go items!! We can't tell you how many days have been brightened by these sweet gestures! They bring smiles to our faces all day long!"



2023 Senior Class Trip



McDonell Campus Ministry

Ministry and Mission Director
Erica Boehm

Our seniors were joined by an awesome team of chaperones; Christian Ruf, Mary Jacobson, Shelly Retzlaff, Kelsey Jimenez, and Matthew Rider, who were ready to jump into experiences, climb steps of monuments, hand out fun awards each morning, and do nightly room checks.

Seniors Carry on Class Trip Tradition

Something I love about McDonell are all of the traditions you come across throughout the school year. One tradition that I've had the privilege of helping continue for the last two years is the senior class trip.

Last year we came back after not having the class trip due to the pandemic and took 18 seniors to Gettysburg and Washington, D.C. This year we doubled that number and took 36 of our 51 seniors to Gettysburg, Washington, D.C. and New York City. The tradition has changed slightly as we flew there and back making it the first time being on a plane for some of our seniors.

Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg brought a lot of diving into history and a slower paced environment, which was liked by some of our students in comparison to the large amounts of people everywhere we went in New York City (NYC). While in NYC we all got to watch "The Lion King" on Broadway and some of our students had a change of heart about musicals and came to enjoy it by the end. Overall, it was a great trip and a great continuation of a McDonell tradition.



Left: Students at the Einstein statue, Washington, D.C.



Above: Students visiting the Statue of Liberty.
Left: Students and Chaperones after a visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.



Celebrating Catholic Schools Week



Holy Ghost Elementary Students, Jolie (Left) and Danielle (Right), present gifts to the Bishop and Chippewa Falls Deanery Priests.



Two members of the MACS staff, Clare Nelson (Left) and Shannon Jaeger (Right), shared the same due dates for their pregnancies. The Bishop's Mass was an opportunity for them to introduce their babies to the MACS community. Getting their little ones blessed by the Bishop was an added treat!

"The crowd is getting bigger and bigger."

We were once again blessed to welcome all Catholic schools from Tilden, Bloomer, Boyd, Thorp, and Chippewa Falls to join us for our Catholic Schools Week Mass on February 1, 2023. The Mass was led by the Most Reverend Bishop William Patrick Callahan, who made the trip from La Crosse, WI. Also in attendance at this Mass were most of the Chippewa Falls Deanery priests and deacons.

Due to the size of the crowd, Mass was held in the Deb and Steve Roesler Gymnasium. Bishop Callahan was impressed by the turnout for Mass. "When I see all of you, it makes me think I should come to schools a lot more often," Bishop Callahan said. "It's so nice to be here. The crowd is getting bigger and bigger." Bishop Callahan went on to remark how important Catholic schools are, as they serve as a place for people to come together and learn about their faith.

After Mass, the MACS student body welcomed the visiting schools to join them in the Catholic Schools Week Rally. There were fun activities and treats for everyone to enjoy.



Above: First grade St. Charles Borromeo Primary students take a picture with Bishop Callahan.

Below: Chippewa Falls Deanery Pastors, Associate Pastors, and Deacons celebrating Mass.



What Does The B Stand For!?



Editorial Column

Marketing & Communications
Coordinator
Clare Nelson

Recently, during the celebration of Alexander B. McDonell's birthday, the question came up, "What does the B stand for?" This question has been met with many speculations, but no definite answers. So, as to remedy this conundrum, I set out on a personal mission to find the answer.

Unfortunately as I write this, I am still unable to provide an answer with any proof. Upon my inquiries to self-made history buff, Kip Rubenzer '98, and his teammate Tiff Rox, both creators and operators of the Old Town Chippewa Falls Facebook page, I was provided with the name Beatrice. However, no proof to back the name was able to be provided.

My search then lead me to the genealogy department at the new Chippewa Area History Center at the base of Irvine Park. They had put together a nice folder of information on A. B. McDonell for me in anticipation of my arrival. However, once I looked through it, I realized I still could not find the answer to the burning question, "What does the B stand for?" "Oh, this won't do," I said to the two staff members. "It doesn't list his middle name anywhere in any of these documents. I need to find out what the B stands for." Before I knew it, the two staff members, two students who happened to walk in to work on a school project, and myself, with my four month

old on my hip, were rifling through books, documents, and records throughout the genealogy department. After a good chunk of the afternoon spent searching, I was finally able to leave with directions to go to the Chippewa Falls Courthouse to see if I could have better luck getting Alexander B. McDonell's death certificate and finding out what the B stands for there.

Unfortunately, with so much to do and so little time, I have not yet been able to retrieve Alexander McDonell's death certificate. So as any good millennial were to do I took to Facebook and asked the MACS community if anyone knew the answer. Still no luck. Finally, as a last ditch effort I am writing this article challenging anyone who reads this to find what the B stands for and report it back to me with proof of their findings.

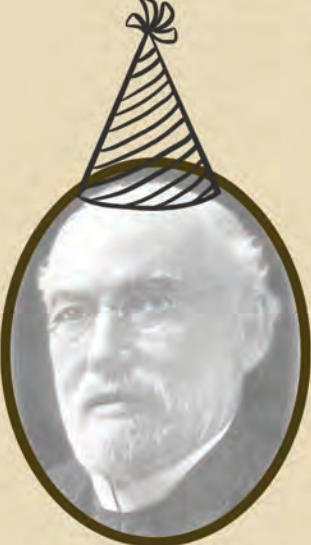
Good luck dear readers! I am excited to see the answers you find.

Clare Nelson

mackmessenger@macs.k12.wi.us




The new Chippewa Area History Center is home to the Chippewa County Historical Society and the Chippewa County Genealogical Society. The two organizations work together to provide a glimpse of the area's history and its impact on past and current generations. The MACS archives are now housed at this location.



HAPPY Birthday
Sir A. B. McDonell
APRIL 17
Trivia Question:
What Does the "B" stand for in A.B. McDonell?

Sponsored by the A.B. McDonell Vision Fund

Please consider donating to help us support A.B. McDonell's vision of providing a "no or low cost tuition to every family who wishes to obtain for their child a Catholic Education." -Sir A.B. McDonell



Class Notes

1940's

Henry Korger Jr. '44

is alive and well and will be 97 years old on June 14. Happy Birthday Henry! His wife Betty is 95 years old. On June 29 they will be married 75 years! Happy anniversary to this incredible power couple! Thank you Henry for reaching out and giving us your update. We love getting your letters at the Mack Messenger office.

1980's

Mike Howard '89

was recently featured in the Chippewa Herald newspaper for his achievements in photography. Mike stumbled into photography in 2016 as a hobby and since then, it has taken off into a full blown career. Mike now enjoys his career making people feel good and seen with his photos. He does everything from landscape photography to weddings and graduation photos. You can inquire about Mike's photography services and see his work at his website mikehowardphotography.net.

2010's

Brianna Krause Rider '11

and her husband, John Rider '10, welcomed their baby girl, Clara Rider, into the world on November 7, 2022. Congratulations and many blessings, Brianna and John, to your continuously growing family!

John Plendl '12

and his wife, Clare Nelson, welcomed their firstborn, Hogan F. Plendl, to the world on December 3, 2022. Hogan was born at 12:28 a.m. at 8lb 1oz and 20.5" long. He continues to top the growth charts in the 96th percentile for length.

Thomas Longbella '16

has qualified to make his PGA Tour debut at the Corales Punta Cana Championship in the Dominican Republic. Thomas secured his first start in pro golf's top league by winning a tournament qualifier in West Palm Beach, Florida, as he shot a 6-under 66 at the event.

John Francis '18

is a new seminarian for the Diocese of La Crosse and will begin Discipleship studying Philosophy at St. Francis de Sales Seminary in the Fall.



Henry '44 and his wife Betty last reached out to the Mack Messenger in 2021.



Mike Howard can often be spotted in Chippewa Falls working on his passion. (Photo found in the Chippewa Herald)



Brianna and John Rider, along with their two boys Liam and Elijah, welcome baby Clara to the Catholic community.



John Plendl '12 and Clare Nelson welcome Baby Hogan to the Catholic community with the help of godparents Delanie Wanek (most left) and Paul DeCook (most right)



Thomas Longbella from his days on the McDonell boys golf team.



John Francis '18

MEMORIAM

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

Lucille Boos Korger '42

April 20, 2023, Chippewa Falls

Gladys Gagnon Lompa '46

April 26, 2023, Chippewa Falls

Pat Perrenoud Hebert '48

April 13, 2023, Chippewa Falls

Leon E. Guite '49

December 25, 2022, Chippewa Falls

Irvin "Irv" Kressin '52

April 6, 2023, Chippewa Falls

Lorenz 'Larry' Schreier '52

October 7, 2022, Eau Claire

Joanne Dachel Van Den Heuvel '60

January 21, 2023, Cadott, WI

Thomas M. McCarthy '67

November 10, 2022, Chippewa Falls

Mary Margaret Cinquegrana '68

March 10, 2023, Chippewa Falls

Fred Crosby '69

March 28, 2023, Chippewa Falls

Nancy Bloczynski '70

May 23, 2022, Anchorage, AK

Diane Kleinheinz Nauman '72

December 21, 2022, Chippewa Falls

Brian James Wogernese '88

October 18, 2022, Orlando, FL

MEMORIAL FRIENDS

Gerald Naiberg

April 10, 2023, Chippewa Falls

We want to hear about YOU

From the womb to the tomb and life's blessings in between, we want to know what's new with you. Send us your life updates so we can add your story to the Class Notes and keep the MACS community in the loop.

All updates and stories can be sent to mackmessenger@macs.k12.wi.us.

Class Reunions & Gatherings

Class of 1972

Left: McDonell Class of 1972

gathered for their 50th class reunion on July 30, 2022, at Lake Wissota High Shores. The class celebrated with food, drinks, live music, and camaraderie.



Above: Bob Borman and Jon O'Connell.



Above: Cicely Dineen, Judy Hurt, Ted Knopp, Sally S Erickson, and Mary R Friedech.

Class of 1973 and 2023 Gathering

Right: Members of the McDonell Class of 1973

gathered to share fellowship with the graduating class of 2023 on May 2, 2023. They joined together for Mass in the McDonell auditorium, had lunch at the McDonell commons, and then had the opportunity to tour the McDonell Central Catholic High School building.



Save the Date!

Save the Date for Class of 1983

The Class of 1983 will be holding a reunion for their 40th year on Saturday, June 24, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Leinie Lodge in Chippewa Falls, WI. Soda and water will be provided with a food truck to order food from. Credit or debit is preferred for the purchase of any Leinie's beer. There are no registration fees for this event.

Save the Date for Class of 1958

The Class of 1958 will be celebrating their 65th reunion on Friday, August 11, 2023, at the Fill Inn Station in Chippewa Falls, WI. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m.



THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM PARTNERS



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



THANK YOU TO OUR PROMOTERS



THANK YOU TO OUR BACKERS



PARENTS: IF THIS ISSUE IS ADDRESSED TO YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER WHO NO LONGER LIVES AT HOME, PLEASE CALL THE ADVANCEMENT 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 or fill out the online form with your updated information by scanning the QR Code below.



BECOME ONE OF THE
500

THAT HELPS US REACH OUR GOAL!

Donate to our 2022-23 Annual Fund today. Help us provide our students with an excellent Catholic education including a state-of-the-art learning environment, passionate teachers, and a vibrant student life.



MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

Send a check in the enclosed envelope or make an electronic payment on our website.

To learn more, contact Advancement Director Libby Leinenkugel at P. 1+715.723.0538 x3306

E. advancement@macs.k12.wi.us

Or scan the QR code

