



COVID-19 Disruption to our Community keeps MACS focus on goals

As we all navigate the disruption in our lives caused by COVID-19, MACS has two primary goals:

1. Continue to serve our families by forming our students in mind, body, spirit, and community; and
2. Collaborate with community partners to be part of the solution to this crisis.

Message from our Chaplain

Happy Easter!

This is certainly a strange Easter season for all of us. I, for one, would not have expected that my first Easter as a priest would be celebrated with so few people in church! Some people might think it unusual to celebrate Easter in such a situation, but I think there is no better time to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. After all, even on that first Easter, the Church was prevented from assembling publicly due to the high tensions in Jerusalem which led to Jesus' Passion and Death. Yet, although all of them could not assemble together, the Lord's disciples assuredly all heard the incredibly good news that the women brought with them from the empty tomb that Sunday morning: "He is Risen!"

That same good news continues to give the Church joy and hope thousands of years later, even in the midst of this pandemic. Not even death could separate Jesus from us. Why should we think that the joyful news of His Resurrection should be dampened by a pandemic, as widespread and dangerous as this one might be? Our Lord's victory over sin, sickness, and death continues to be the one lasting source of hope that we have in this world.

Even though we are apart, I pray that the joyful news of Our Lord's Resurrection may be a light for you and your family this Easter. May the Resurrection of Jesus show all of us that God has not made us for suffering and death, but that He has made us for eternal life in His own beloved Son. May the news that the women brought with them from the empty tomb resonate in our hearts and increase the hope that our God wants us to have especially during these days: "He is truly Risen!"

With prayers for your health and holiness,
Fr. Ethan Hokamp



Fr. Ethan Hokamp
Chaplain

Thank you to the MACS staff, students, parents, and volunteers for your dedication! We were able to soft launch remote learning on schedule and continue to make adjustments to improve our students' education. It's a hit in my household! Behind the scenes, our MACS pandemic steering committee meets weekly to oversee all aspects of our services and operations which are affected by this pandemic. I also meet weekly with a consortium of community partners led by the local health department.

Eventually, we will enter the Recovery Phase of our MACS Pandemic Plan. This will include mental and emotional health considerations. Resilient Wisconsin's website provides some great advice on self-care, staying connected, and reducing stress. I find a routine which includes daily prayer and physical exercise to be very helpful to myself and my children.

As I write this, it is Holy Week and we are approaching Easter, a perennial reminder that God can bring good out of evil. That is the power of the cross and resurrection of Our Lord.

We will stay the course, hold true to our mission, and place our trust in the Lord to carry us through this crisis.



Student Enrollment

As your enrollment coordinator, please contact me with questions about enrollment for 2020-21, Referral or the Wisconsin Parent Choice whose deadline was extended to May 14, 2020. Kathleen Adams (k.adams@macs.k12.wi.us).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Go to www.McDonellAreaCatholicSchools.org for entire events calendar.

May 4-22	MACS in Motion PreK-5 at Home Activity Submissions
May 14	WI Parental Choice Program extended deadline. Contact Teresa Dachel at t.dachel@macs.k12.wi.us before 4:00 p.m.
May 21	Seniors last day Education Commission Virtual Mtg. - 5:30 p.m.
May 22	Senior Graduation - TBD
May 27	MACS in Motion Finale Live Stream of Submissions
May 29	Last day of school K-11.

**Ms. Kathy Adams****SCRIP Gift Card News**

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

Scrip gift cards ordering is available with the [NEW electronic mobile friendly Scrip form on our website.](#)

While our office is closed we will offer pickup on limited days and hours with these guidelines:

* Follow state mandates with proper distancing (encourage mask wearing).

Education Technology & Media

Val Knobloch, Director of Technology
715.723.0538 x3324 or
v.knoblochatmacs.k12.wi.us

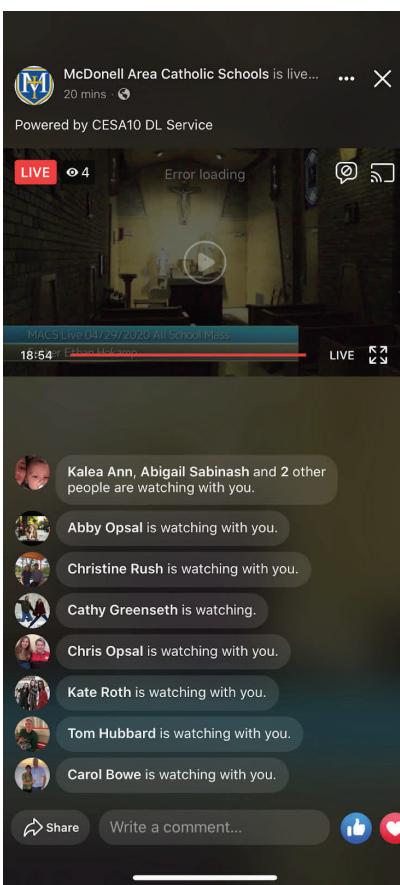
**Mr. Val Knobloch****MACS on the Move**

This Spring has been like no other. All our support has been dealing with software, hardware and school and staff off site. Covid19 will be an historical event that we will all remember and be sharing stories about into the future.

We have over 300 devices out with students and staff and are now preparing for a graceful landing as we bring the 2020 school year to a close.

This has also been the Spring of video conferencing and streaming. This Spring we will have streamed almost as many Masses as we have streamed sporting events for the entire year. We are now preparing for our summer projects: software, hardware, and infrastructure upgrades. The major AV upgrades are nearly complete and will have ripple effects in three buildings..

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to the staff, students, and parents who have worked so hard to make virtual learning work in the face of this pandemic. And while this has certainly messed with our normal routines and celebrations, it has presented us with the opportunity to be resilient. Thanks to the MACS community for all you do. Don't forget to check [MACS TV for Spring Masses and the recognition/graduation events.](#)



- * Order must be sent by 3:00 p.m. on day of pickup to Kathleen Adams (k.adams@macs.k12.wi.us).
- * New electronic form and fillable order form is available on the [MACS website PARENT - SCRIP](#).
- * Payment accepted: check, cash or electronic check.

- * Scrip may be picked up on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- * Exchange will take place in the parking lot at door 13 (central office door).
- * The customer can either call 715-723-0538 x3301 or buzz the door to let us know they are ready for exchange.

Please remember to use Scrip for purchasing graduation, teacher gifts, home and gardening projects, along with birthday and holiday celebrations. Credit a family tuition or local parish.

MACS Meals end May 29

MACS food service will continue a free sack lunch and breakfast meal to all kids under the age of 18, through Friday, May 29, the last day of K-11 school. Pick up is 4:00-6:00 p.m. Monday—Friday at parking lot door 10 of McDonell Central.



All Chippewa Falls Public School buildings have free meals from 11:00-1:00 Monday through Friday and through summer vacation.

Summer Food Service Program for ages under 18

Providing access to summer meals for children in low-income areas is an important priority for USDA. When school is out during the summer months and children are no longer receiving lunch at school, some families may struggle to feed their children nutritious meals each day. Food Nutrition Services summer meal programs work to fill this critical gap.

Nutritious free meals are available for children and teens 18 and under. Please use the following resources to find a location near you: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>, call 211 or text the word FOOD to 877-877.



Follow our school system on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. #TheMackWay

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

The 35th annual Excellence in Education will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 6. Our Valedictorians Abigale Pieper and Kaleigh Ripley will be honored along with their most influential educators Mrs. Mary King and Mr. Tony Reiter.

We would like to thank the sponsor businesses, school administrators, and the host, Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce who make this night of academic recognition a reality.

BISHOP'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



Congratulations to Salutatorian Caleb Thornton recipient of the 2020 Bishop's Medal Award for Excellence.

The award is based on above-average character and academic achievement in general school subjects and school life, academic achievement in study of religion commensurate with his/her God-given talents, visible desire to build a community through concern for others in and participation in community building activities and organizations, and visible evidence of Christian service shown through volunteer service in school, parish/community and Christian leadership in activities in which he/she participates.

CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETES

Thank you to all the student athletes and coaches at all levels at MACS for your hard work and dedication to the programs.



STUDENT AMBASSADOR



Lou Tozer, Ambassador Program Advisor
l.tozer@macs.k12.wi.us
 715.723.9126 ext. 2200

Mrs. Lou Tozer especially helpful to me and I am grateful for all their ideas, advice and guidance.

We had plans for the end of the year, but so did COVID –19. The ambassadors still found ways to help their community. The students helped their neighbors with childcare, delivered groceries to the elderly and helped homeschooled younger siblings.

I have mixed emotions right now, I am very happy that I had the opportunity to help the ambassador program and work with some amazing kids, but I'm also sad that the school year came to an abrupt halt and we didn't get the chance to do everything we had planned.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Mr. Brian Schulner

I've said to staff many times that I'm going to write a book. I have the title, "The Moon is Always Full on Fridays" the auto biography of a School Principal. Wow, will this quarter make for an interesting chapter. I must apologize to our staff, because I feel I'm somewhat responsible for this. On Monday, March 9, I made the comment it was going to be one of those weeks, time change, full moon and Friday the 13. Who would have imagined that would spiral into decisions to close school and prepare for a remote learning environment. It has been quite a ride.

I've given my "Bricks and Mortar" speech (probably too many times) which focuses on that it's not the buildings that teach students, it's the professionals that we entrust our kids with each day. Give me a teacher who can engage kids and all they need is a spot under a shady oak tree to perform their magic. This situation confirms what I was referring to.

I can't help but be totally grateful to our staff. They have been awesome throughout all of this. They rose to the call. In a matter of two days, they stepped out of their comfort zones and prepared to take on a mission they were really never trained for, remote learning.

While remote learning is for the most part one dimensional and doesn't offer the differentiation of being in a classroom environment, our teachers have made the best of the tools they have and the educational process has continued. It hasn't been perfect. We have had to learn from mistakes and adjust to our new roles, but in the end, it is my opinion we will have all gained from this experience.

Thank you to all of our parents for being supportive and understanding throughout this pandemic. We know you didn't ask for any of this. Many of you have gained a better appreciation for what our teachers do each day. We have appreciated the positive comments and suggestions along the way.

May God see us through this.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

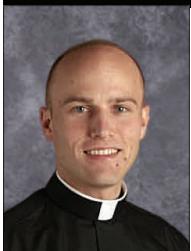


Greta Jorgensen, Student Council Advisor
g.jorgensen@macs.k12.wi.us
 715-723-9126 Ext. 2203

As the year winds to a close, the student council is getting ready to hold elections for next year's student council.

Mrs. Greta Jorgensen We would like to take this time to thank our seniors who served on Student Council this year. We wish the best to the next school year's representatives and officers and are confident that they will continue to lead McDonell to a bright future. Please feel free to contact the McDonell Student Council with questions or concerns.
mcd.s.council@macs.k12.wi.us



CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

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



Erica Boehm Campus Minister
e.boehm@macs.k12.wi.us
715.723.9126 ext. 3319

Fr. Ethan Hokamp**Ms. Erica Boehm**

Summer trip for Steubenville final payments are due May 8. Drop or mail your check at school with Teresa Dachel.

Mass is live streamed from the chapel each Wed. at 11:30 a.m. on the MACS Facebook. Mail your intentions to Father. Also, check out Fr. Hokamp's YouTube channel for words of wisdom and inspiration. <http://bit.ly/fatherschannel>

Follow @macsministry on Instagram for news and events coming up!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

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



Mark Neppl, Choral Director
m.neppl@macs.k12.wi.us
715.723.9126 ext. 2216

Mr. Mark Neppl**Mr. Sean Hanson****Band News**

Congratulations to Mark Buchmann, Kenny Walter, Luke Schemenauer, Ann David, Cynthia Keck, Kate Roth, Helen Bullard, Megan Hanson and Leopold Schulte on a wonderful Dorian Band Concert.

**Choral News**

Congratulations to all students in grades 6-12 for their excellent performances at solo ensemble in Marshfield and Chippewa Falls!

MATH DEPARTMENT NEWS

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



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

Seniors: Continue to check the MACS website for scholarship opportunities. The more applications you complete, the greater your chances of winning scholarship monies. Keep at it and watch those funds come in. As you are notified as a recipient of scholarships, please

share the name and the amount with me so you may be recognized at the awards program.

Most appropriate would be to send a thank you card for any and all scholarships you receive letting them know your appreciation and their generosity in offering the scholarship.

**Mr. Tony Reiter****Soup Can Races**

During physics class students raced their chosen Campbell's Soup down an incline to determine which would be the fastest.

And the winner is

Pi Day Eve at McDonell Central Catholic

McDonell High School celebrated π day on Friday, March 13. Congratulations to the winner of this year's McDonell High π day competition, senior Caleb Thornton, he memorized 34 digits.

Notre Dame Middle School winner pictured right memorized 38 digits.

Thanks to Senior Abi Pieper for bringing in the pie!

**ACT Registration**

The two remaining ACT test dates:

June 13 (register by May 8). Late deadline is May 22.

July 18 (register by June 14). Late deadline is June 26.

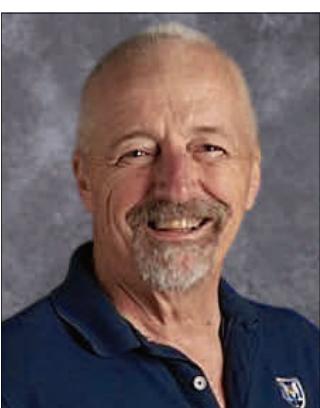
Juniors should take the ACT at least one time this school year. Choose at least three schools to receive your score. Register at

<http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html>.

2020-21 Class Schedules

Parents - This is the time to review the course schedules that were sent out in an email to you a few weeks ago. If you would like to make any changes, please email Mrs. Proue and she will contact you. Thank you for understanding if it takes a day or two for her to reply.

Stay healthy. God's peace to you all.

MCDONELL CLASS of 2020 VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTORIAN**Valedictorian****C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S****Valedictorian****Valedictorian****Salutatorian**

Valedictorians Abigale Pieper and Kaleigh Ripley have been chosen by the administration for their outstanding academic performance. Abigale chose Mrs. Mary King and Kaleigh chose Mr. Tony Reiter as their most influential educators.

Their efforts are being honored at a virtual Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education recognition program on May 6.



Valedictorian Andrew Herron and Salutatorian Caleb Thornton have been chosen by the administration for their outstanding academic performance. Andrew chose Mrs. Greta Jorgensen and Caleb chose Mr. Tony Reiter as their most influential educator. Their efforts were honored at the Cloverbelt Scholar recognition program.

CLOVERBELT SCHOLAR - ATHLETES

Seniors Rachel Smiskey and Joseph Thaler were chosen by the administration for their outstanding academic and athletic performance. Rachel chose Volleyball Coach Mrs. Kat Hanson and Joseph chose Cross Country / Track and Field Coach Mr. Marty Bushland as their most influential coach educator.

Open Hearts and Open Doors: Welcoming a Global Outreach Catholic Exchange Student

Hosting an exchange student is an amazing experience for you and for the student. McDonell Central Catholic High School would like to welcome two Global Outreach exchange students for the 2020-21 academic year.

Global Outreach is Catholic exchange program with a mission of building a civilization of love by forming young dynamic Catholic servant leaders for the 21st century. Placement of students becomes a reality when a household opens the door to their heart and home and says "yes" to hosting a student.

Currently, potential Global Outreach students are waiting for their "Good News! We have a host family for you" letter. The students are from Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine. Might God be calling you to give a fine young person this opportunity of a lifetime?

If you believe so, please contact

Barbara Tota-Boryczka, Executive Director
barbara.tota-boryczka@globaloutreachprogram.com

920.540.3085 or

Fr. Larry Seidl, Spiritual Director
ljseidl1949@gmail.com

920.412.0320 for further information.

Here is more information on two of the fine young students who could be placed at McDonell:

Rokas is 17 years old and lives in Kaunas, the second largest city in Lithuania. His favorite sport is soccer, and he also likes volleyball and basketball. Music is an important part of his life—he attended a music school for 9 years, plays the tuba and piano, and has started a band with his brother. He also enjoys cooking. Last year, Rokas was both the youngest leader and was honored as the outstanding leader of a youth summer camp. He describes himself as emotional and sensitive and believes in giving God the best, not what's left over at the end of the day.

Marek is 17 years old and lives in a small town near Brno, the second largest city in the Czech Republic. He is an outgoing and friendly person. Marek is musically oriented and plays the piano, organ and violin. He regards himself as an independent person who is able to take care of his personal needs such as cooking, laundry and groceries. His main sports are mountain climbing and hiking. He absolutely loves mountains and wandering in nature. In his parish, he leads an altar server group and helps people with summer camps.

Remodeling begins May 18 at McDonell High

Remodeling of the main entrance to McDonell Central Catholic High School will begin Monday, May 18. We are excited for this project and several other facilities improvements, which include restoration of the gym bleachers and upgrades to the audio system. Stay tuned for more updates. Thank you to the donors from the Witness the Difference Campaign and the Fund-A-Need held at the 12th Annual Mardi Gras.



12th Annual Mardi Gras

PRAY, HOPE, AND DON'T WORRY. WORRY IS USELESS. GOD IS MERCIFUL AND WILL HEAR YOUR PRAYER.

SAINT PIO OF PETRELCINA



A quote from Pope Francis

"Illness, above all grave illness, always places human existence in crisis and brings with it questions that dig deep. Our first response may at times be one of rebellion: why has this happened to me? We can feel desperate, thinking that all is lost, that things no longer have meaning."

In these situations, faith in God is on the one hand tested, yet at the same time can reveal all of its positive resources. Not because faith makes illness, pain, or the questions which they raise, disappear, but because it offers a key by which we can discover the deepest meaning of what we are experiencing; a key that helps us to see how illness can be the way to draw nearer to Jesus who walks at our side, weighed down by the Cross. And this key is given to us by Mary, our Mother, who has known this way at first hand."

Message from the 24th World Day of the Sick, Sept. 15, 2015



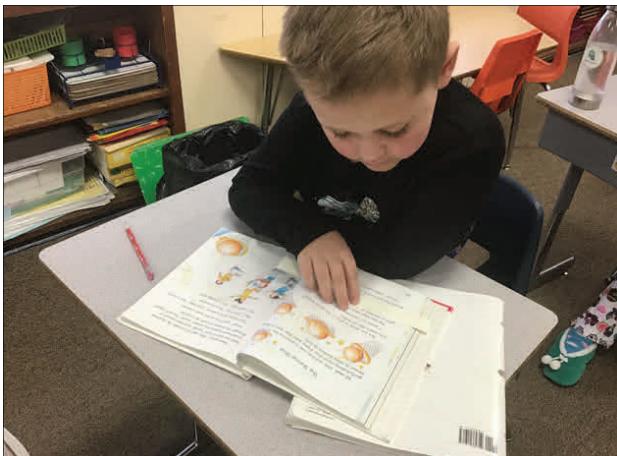
Principal's Corner

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

These longer days have pushed me to pause and reflect on the school year that we have had to this point. Everyday, I witness the dedication by our teachers and staff and I am truly humbled by their effectiveness. I know their efforts are directly related to the growth of our students. I urge all of our families to please take a moment to thank our MACS staff for everything they do for our students. Teaching can be a thankless job sometimes, but I think it's important to give the ones who offer so much to our kids the gratitude that they deserve.

Springtime offers many exciting things to our MACS community. As we inch closer to Easter, we continue to pray and offer our sacrifices to God as a way to remember and honor the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for all of us. With that in mind, we are entering an unprecedented time in our schools. Distance learning offers a challenge to all of us, but I know our teachers and families are willing to accept it. We all are aware that this change in our daily routines will not roll as smoothly as we hope. Entering this time, please join me with an attitude of patience and understanding. Our teachers will work hard to make sure things are as easy for our families as possible. With every difficult situation there comes an opportunity for all of us to grow together. Stay safe!

Reading is F-U-N-damental!



This second grade boy (above) discovers that reading a book can be educational and fun!

Fifth Grade Girls Capture Trophy



Congratulations to our 2020 fifth grade girls basketball team who took top honors at the recent 20th Annual Wisconsin State Invitational Championship Tournament. Their team consists of seven girls from Holy Ghost (pictured above with their trophy), two from St. Peter's, and one who is homeschooled. Way to go, girls!

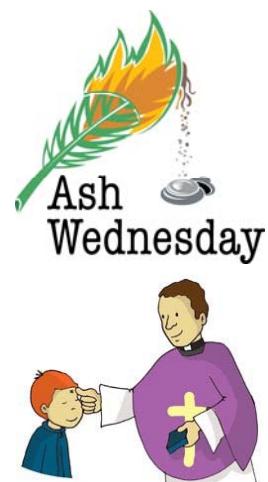


Puppet show teaches about Lent



There's more than one way to learn about the season of Lent. These students (above) from Mrs. Bridget Erickson's class find out all about Lent by putting on a creative puppet show.

Preparing for Lent: Last year's palm branches become this year's ashes



Msgr. Michael Gorman led a prayer service for the St. Charles staff and students before last year's branches from Palm Sunday were burned to produce the ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday Masses. Faith Formation Coordinator Greg Gilbertson (left and above) lights the fire and keeps an eye on it while the group watches the ceremony in awe.

Holy Week
April 5-11



Easter
April 12



Starlab lands at Holy Ghost School

On March 4, Holy Ghost grades 3-5 students and St. Charles grade 2 students visited Starlab, the portable CESA 10 planetarium. The Starlab dome was set up in the Holy Ghost gym and astronomy lessons were taught by Joan Neumann, CESA 10's Starlab consultant. Each grade level explored different stars and constellations in the Milky Way Galaxy. The classes focused on these four topics: **Seasonal Constellations and a Bear Tale** (Grade 2), **Native American Myths** (Grade 3), **Latitude/Longitude** (Grade 4) and **The Night Sky and a Tour of the Solar System** (Grade 5). The Starlab program provides a wonderful educational experience that our students look forward to every year!

Ms. Joan Neumann (left) helps third grade boys and girls crawl into Starlab, CESA 10's traveling planetarium.



Holy Ghost School is alive with the sound of music



Hot Cross Buns

Trad.

Hot Cross Buns!

One a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns!

The halls of Holy Ghost School are alive with music! A quartet of fourth graders strum their guitars (above left) while two third grade students learn to play the recorder (above right). The song? It's "Hot Cross Buns", a traditional nursery rhyme sang at Easter time that is used to teach children how to play the recorder.



Penny War declared at Holy Ghost School

One, two, thee, four, we declare a PENNY WAR!

To raise money for "Feed My People" during Lent, students at Holy Ghost are holding a Penny War. Each grade (3, 4 and 5) collects pennies for their class jar. If another grade puts larger coins or bills into their jar, it deducts points from their total. The students are having fun collecting pennies for their own jars while sabotaging the other grades. In the end, it results in more money being raised for "Feed My People". Who knew that a fundraiser could be so much fun!



Two fourth grade boys (top left) and a pair of third grade girls (bottom left) have fun making donations to the different grade level jars. Who will win?

Think . . .

SPRING

"HEY HARRY!"

by Thomas Ebert



"Aren't you happy, Mom?
Spring is finally here!"

LITTLE MACK MESSENGER

APRIL/MAY 2020

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD?

Our early childhood classrooms and office received a fresh coat of paint! We can't wait for you to see it. Early Childhood remains open for children of essential workers. Contact the office for availability! Our 2s and 3s room are practicing for a virtual concert coming up on May 15. More information will be available soon. Please send sunscreen for your child to use when needed!



WHAT IS HAPPENING IN BB4C?

Our BB4C class has transitioned to virtual learning in the comfort of their homes. Students are working hard! BB4C online enrollment is still open for the 20-21 school year for students who turn 4 before September 1, 2020!

Contact the Early Childhood office for an enrollment code. We hope you are all staying safe and healthy!

May 15: Virtual spring concert

May 25: Center Closed (Memorial Day)



**28th Annual
Joseph and Olivia Bischel Teacher Scholarship
Teacher Nomination Form**

The McDonell Area Catholic Schools are now accepting nominations for the twenty-eighth recipient of the "Joseph and Olivia Bischel Teacher Scholarship."

The scholarship, established by the family and friends of the Bischel family, will be given annually to a teacher that best exemplifies what Catholic education is, both in and out of the classroom. The recipient of the award will receive a cash scholarship to be used at his or her discretion.

The Joseph and Olivia Bischel Scholarship also recognize the contributions made by the total staff of the McDonell Area Catholic Schools. The Joseph and Olivia Bischel Scholarship will be presented during the Staff Appreciation Breakfast. Last year's recipients were Maria Hagan (ND/McD Choir) and Shannon Jaeger (2nd grade).

To nominate a teacher for this award, complete the nomination form and return to the MACS Central Office attention: Kathleen Adams or email k.adams@macs.k12.wi.us no later than Friday, May 4, 2020.

Name of Teacher Nominee: _____

How does this teacher exemplify the essence of Catholic education?

Name

Date