



Mrs. Molly Bushman
MACS President

Thank you for partnering with McDonell Area Catholic Schools to provide an excellent, faith-based education for your children.

Enrollment for our 2021-22 school year opens on February 1, 2021. (see page 3)

Due to a 9% enrollment increase in 2020-21 and the large number of inquiries we are receiving, we anticipate potential space limitations at several grade levels. We ask that you please enroll your student(s) at your earliest convenience before March 5 so we can plan accordingly. **(Details of all programs found on our website under ADMISSIONS)**

Enrollment opens on February 1

Tuition for the 2021-2022 school year

Grade Level	Average Cost to Educate	Supporting Parish Member Tuition Rate	Non-Supporting Parish Member Tuition Rate
Kindergarten	\$8,400	\$2,990	4,229
1-5	\$8,400	\$3,020	\$4,272
6-8	\$8,500	\$3,050	\$4,314
9-12	\$13,000	\$4,335	\$6,118
Family Cap		3 Students \$8,800 4 + Students \$10,450	2 or 3 Students \$10,900 4 + Students \$12,550
Family Enrollment Fee (per family) - \$100			

1. **Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP/Choice)** This free tuition program requires Wisconsin residency, qualifying income, and qualifying grade level. To apply, MACS students must be entering grades kindergarten, first, or ninth. Current public or home school students are eligible at any grade level.
WPCP application period: February 1 - April 15, 2021.

2. **Guardian Angel Tuition Scholarships.** Funded annually from designated donor funds, these scholarships benefit those families who do not qualify for WPCP but are unable to afford full tuition. **Referral Program** Refer a new family and both families receive a 10% tuition discount for each child referred!

Also available are Referral Program, flexible payment plans through FACTS, a Special Needs Scholarship Program (for students with an IEP/ISP), and the Scrip gift card program. Please contact our central office if you have any questions about enrollment or tuition.

We pray for an awesome 2021-22 school year as a MACS family! May God bless your family and may He continue to bless McDonell Area Catholic Schools to carry on the mission of Christ (Mt. 28:19-20).

Letter mailed to all MACS parents and guardians from: MACS President Molly Bushman, Very Rev. Jesse Burish and Education Commission Chair Timothy Proue.



McDonell Area Catholic Schools have recently been accredited by Wisconsin Religious & Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA). This state recognized accreditation organization is also supported by the Diocese of La Crosse. We look forward to the WRISA team coming to our schools in the spring of 2023 for it's formal external review.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

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



- Jan. 31- Feb 6** Catholic Schools Week (See flyer with some planned activities in this newsletter)
- Feb. 1** MACS re-enrollment begins Applications open for WPCP scholarships on the DPI website. ([view income bracket](#)) BB4C (4K) applications open
- Feb. 2** Diocesan Mass with Bishop Callahan, 9:00 live stream at dioc.org/live or our Facebook page.
- Feb. 8** Music Booster meeting 6:00 p.m. (see page 3) Faith Booster meeting 7:00 p.m. (see page 3)
- Feb. 10** MABC parent meeting 6:00 p.m. (see page 3)
- Feb. 12** No School - Teacher In-service
- Feb. 17** Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 18** Education Commission Meeting 5:30 p.m. virtual
- Feb 19-22 26-28** McD Musical "My Fair Lady" performances (More information to come.)
- Feb. 25** OPEN HOUSE Scheduled times at St. Charles School Early Childhood Center ages (12 months to 12 years, BB4C and Kindergarten - grade 2), 4:00-7:00 p.m. **Refer a family to attend!**

SC/HG Parent-Teacher Conference by request
- Mar. 5** Deadline for current families to re-enroll for 2021-22. Enrollment fee increases to \$150.

Advancement News



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

New Year, new MACS event!
SAVE THE DATE June 12, 2021.
We are up to something fun to replace the income lost from the postponement of Mardi Gras 2021 to 2022.

If you would like a sneak peek of what we are working on for the new event we would love to have you on the committee.

Committee meetings are once a month; no experience required, just a **can do** attitude. If you know of or have experience booking bands and/or arranging card/game tournaments please contact me.



On behalf of the McDonell Alumni Association (MAA) I will also share that the live 2021 alumni tournament has been canceled. The MAA is working on a replacement/virtual event. More information to come from the MAA.

Last a HUGE thank you to those that participated in our most recent ice cream event at Olson's. From this event we raised \$176.50! These dollars will go directly back to our school system. Thank you for your continued support.

Tuition tax deduction for 2020 tax year – file Schedule PS Form

Schedule PS is a form you will need to fill out to send in with your state tax form to receive the credit for the tuition you paid in 2020.

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

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

McDonell Area Catholic Schools, Inc.
1316 Bel Air Blvd.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-1908
School FEIN number: 39-1032800

SCRIP Gift Card News



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

Thank you for making Scrip MACS number one fundraiser! Since July 1, 2020 MACS has earned \$37,973.16 in Scrip rebates. As a reminder, 50% of the rebate goes to MACS and the remaining 50% credits your tuition or credits the local parish of your choice.

Through this school year we offer two nights to pick up your order Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. but of course, you can send with your child any day of the week for a same day turn around. Send in an order today to credit next year's tuition!

Along with being the Scrip Coordinator, I am the Admissions Coordinator. MACS families enroll for 2021-22 through Infinite Campus starting February 1, 2021. Please call me if you have any questions.

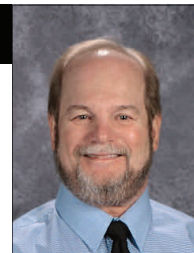
Education Technology & Media

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

MACS on the move

Despite a year of pandemic related changes, we continue to move forward.

Some Updates: While Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is different for us this year, the Bishop still plans on streaming a Mass on February 2. The Musical My Fair Lady is in rehearsal and will be presented the last two weekends of February where students will continue to take advantage of recent auditorium and system AV updates.



Mr. Val Knobloch

IT Staff changes: We welcome IT Specialists Josh McCormick and Logan Mittelstadt to our staff to help serve students and staff. They are becoming familiar with our system, working on our annual technology recycling and standardized testing support. We will take time in the near future to introduce each of them in more detail.

Security: The Emergency and Safety committee and Media & Technology committee will review the camera system next month in their monthly meeting after another year of use.

MACS TV: It has been a busy month for streaming. Between December 27 and January 28 we will have streamed 38 events viewed by thousands.

Important survey: We need your data!. Click [Parents, Community/Business Partners](#) or go to <https://speakup.tomorrow.org> to complete by March 15. We would really like to get over 30 parent participants, our high in 2014. This survey helps McDonell plan for the future!

Free gear: One last thing - Interested in any of the recycled devices mentioned above? Email it@macs.k12.wi.us for details on iPads and other things. **Signup closes 2/15/21.**

Thanks for your ongoing support and allowing us to serve your students

Home and School Association (HandS)

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

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the winter snowflake dance usually held during Catholic Schools Week. Please look for a flyer going home about a sledding party soon! We are hoping the weather will cooperate for a Sunday afternoon of fun! It is always so nice to see our Macs community come together.



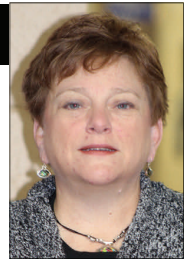
Mrs. Chelsey Lindenberg
President

There will also be more fliers going home about the uniform exchange. Go through your school clothes and let us know what you need for the spring weather! We are hoping to get more gently used clothes into the hands of our families!!

As always, let us know if you have any questions/feedback for us.

MACS Athletic Boosters (MABC)

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



Mrs. Janet Roth
Secretary

Normally, we would be writing about the ongoing basketball & hockey seasons, as well as our upcoming annual fundraisers. Instead we are gathering around the TV or laptop to watch the games being live streamed.

We do want to thank our players, parents, coaches and officials for being so flexible amidst the many changes and for making the best of a very different year. We also want to thank our sponsors and volunteers for your continued support that makes so much of MACS athletics possible.

And of course, a huge shout out to our Athletic & Activities Director, Emily Mallek. Her dedication to keeping the winter sports season going has been outstanding. Thanks, Emily!

As we continue through the winter months, we hope that everyone stays safe & healthy. The **next MABC parent meeting** will take place on **Wednesday, February 10, 2021**. Please check our page on the MACS website for more detailed Information on place & time.

MACS Music Boosters (MMB)

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



Mrs. Megan McChesney
President

MACS Music Boosters has not met since December. We look forward to the performance of "My Fair Lady by Director Greta Jorgensen and her excellent cast of students.

We hope everyone is safe and surviving this most unusual school year. May spring bring blessings for all!

MACS Faith Booster Club

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



Mr. Rolly Enderes
President

COVID has made gatherings for faith ministries difficult this school but we appreciate the efforts of Ms. Boehm for continuously finding ways for students to grow in their faith formations.

We held our first Faith Booster fundraising event, our Winter Carnival, last year around this time of Catholic school's week. Even though we had to cancel this year's event we hope next year we will be bless to hold our second Winter Carnival.

The faith booster would like to thank everyone that participated in purchasing wreaths this year, which we were fortunately to use as our fundraiser for this year. The funds that were raised will go toward the anticipated middle school student retreat planned for later this school year.

The booster club will continuously be selling car washes that can be used at all Express Marts. You can buy an envelope of five (5) car washes for \$40 and they can be purchased at the high school office.

Thank you for everyone's support and assistance for helping raise funds for our campus faith ministries. We hope to continue to assist our children and our families grow in faith even through these difficult times.

Enroll Through Infinite Campus Parent Portal

Online enrollment for 2021-22 starts by going to Infinite Campus login page is through your Infinite Campus Parent Portal. **Enrollment for 2012-22 opens Monday, February 1.**

1. Go to Infinite Campus login page PARENTS—INFINITE CAMPUS.
2. Sign in and look for the link at the bottom of the left side column.
3. Follow through parts I and II
4. Submit the enrollment fee of \$100 using the online payment option on our website **ADMISSION—ENROLLMENT**.
5. You may also pay by check or cash. **The enrollment fee is nonrefundable.**

Please call the MACS Central Office Admissions Coordinator Kathleen Adams if you have any questions 715.723.0538 x3301.

529 Plan

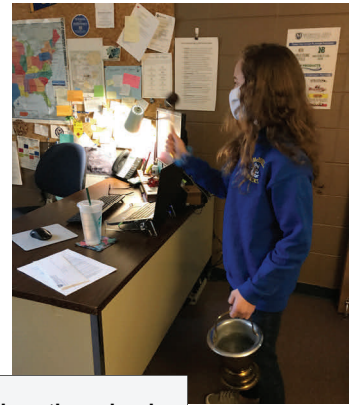
Did you know that 529 college savings plans can now be used to pay for qualifying K-12 private education costs? For more information <https://bit.ly/2LHVZgZ> and check with your tax professional to see whether this could be a helpful strategy for you. Information on Tuition tax deduction for 2020 tax year see page 2.

School Chaplain Father Ethan Hokamp blesses the doorways at the school and Central Office

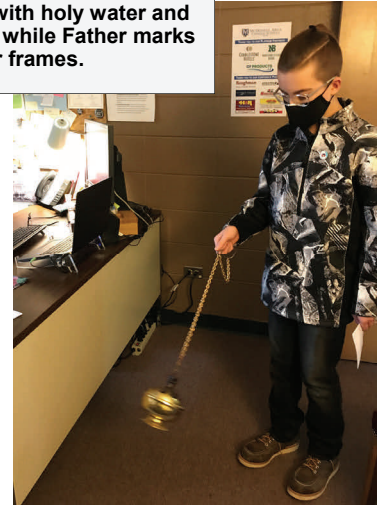
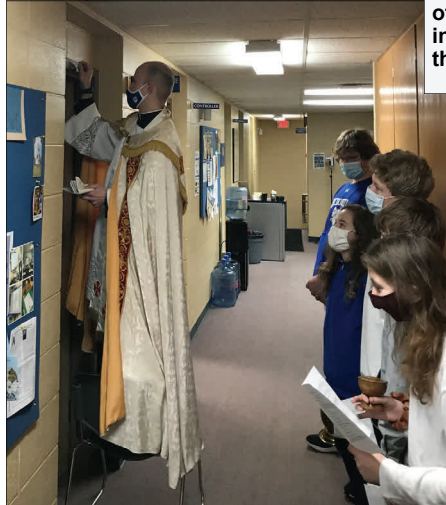
On Friday, January 8, students from Notre Dame Middle School helped Fr. Hokamp bless the school building.

It is Catholic tradition to bless homes around the time of the Epiphany by writing 20 + C + M + B + 21 on the door frame in chalk. The numbers on either end of the blessing signify the current year, and the letters C, M, and B are the initials of the

three wise men who came to visit Jesus in Bethlehem. Their names were Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Fr. Hokamp blessed the school to ask for their intercession and protection for the students during this new year, writing with chalk on the doors of classrooms and offices throughout the school.



Students bless the school offices with holy water and incense while Father marks the door frames.



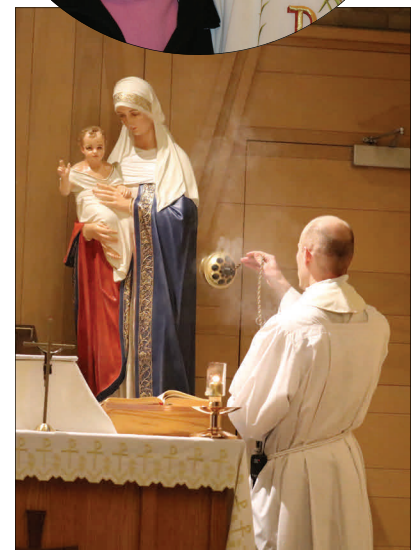
Dedication of new statue in the McDonell Chapel

On Saturday, January 23, Fr. Hokamp celebrated a private Mass with the Zutter family in the McDonell chapel. The Zutter family had generously donated a statue of the Madonna and Child for the chapel in honor of their mother Helen (Anderl) Zutter, an alumna of the class of 1941. Before the Mass, Fr. Hokamp blessed and dedicated the statue, much to the surprise of Helen, who, until that moment, was not aware of the donation which her family made to her alma mater in her honor.



Right top: Helen Anderl Zutter '41 is surprised by her family to have a statue dedicated in honor of her at McDonell Central.

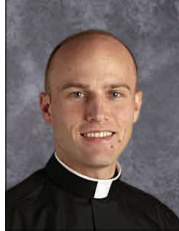
Thank you to the family for this beautiful addition to the chapel now home of the Holy Family.



CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS



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



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

Miss Erica Boehm

Fr. Ethan Hokamp

For middle school and high school youth and their families:

Exalt: an evening of Adoration and worship music (led by Aly Aleigha) at St. Charles Church February 2, 7-8:30pm

Parents: if you'd like to lead a small Faith-sharing group with your child and their peers, there is training and resources available.

Please email faith@macs.k12.wi.us for more info.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



McDonell Musical

We would like to thank the directors, cast, stage crew, lighting, pit and sound boards who have all been working very hard on the 40th consecutive musical at the high school, "My Fair Lady" production.



We are hopefully optimistic that we will be able to put tickets on sale for this wonderful production. Please keep an eye out for that announcement.

Look for pictures of the musical in March after the show at macs.202021.shutterfly.com password: 202021 and in the March newsletter.



STUDENT AMBASSADORS



Mary Jacobson
 Ambassador Program Advisor
 l.tozer@macs.k12.wi.us
 715-723-9126

Mrs. Mary Jacobson

It is hard to believe that we have hit the half-way point in the school year. The ambassadors continue with their monthly newsletters "Connections" to the people in the long-term care facilities. We try to be creative while connecting in this way. The January newsletter is focusing on hobbies. January is National Hobby Month. How many people have learned a hobby from their grandparent, or shared in a tradition with their grandparents? Hunting, fishing, card-playing, baking, and knitting come to mind. We find that there are probably more things we have in common with these folks than not. It is great to recognize the gifts that we have received from our older generation that provide knowledge and memories for the rest of our lives.

The ambassador leader group is working on an "essential workers" appreciation plan. I will provide an update next month. We may feel out of sorts not being able to do our normal activities, but we find that we can still be creative, supportive, and compassionate.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



Mr. Mark Neppel



Mr. Sean Hanson

Mark Neppel Choral Director
 m.neppel@macs.k12.wi.us
 715.723.9126 ext. 2216

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

Congratulations to our McDonell and Notre Dame music department for completing their first ever virtual Christmas concert!

Many honor choir concerts and extra performances have been canceled, but music teachers in the conference recognize students for their hard work in band and choir.

We are unable to put on a performance, but thank you to these band and choir students for their hard work and leadership:

Kelly Cushman, Helen Bullard, Samantha Wirtz, Drew Hunt, Ezekiel Murphy and Ben Prissel.



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Mr. Brian Schulner

Brian Schulner Principal
b.schulner@macs.k12.wi.us
715.723.9126 ext. 3309

Well I don't know about everyone else, but I want to be back to normal and chasing kids around the building all day. It has been a long year with adjustments and changes that have all been initiated for the health and safety of our students, staff and community. It has been different for everyone and I can't thank our staff enough for their resilience and patience with the multitude of interruptions and changes that have affected their planning and delivery of material to our students.

I see light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccinations process has begun and the word is that our teachers as front line workers may begin getting vaccinated in mid to late March. While there are many who would like that process to move faster, we are thankful and need to be patient as we wait for our turn.

As of January 25 we went back to five days a week. We still require masks, distancing and routines will not be back to normal for a while. The good thing is we will have teachers in front of students face to face.

We are optimistic that as spring approaches we will be able to loosen some of the restrictions. We are planning for a normal prom and a normal graduation. That of course remains to be seen.

Thank you again to everyone for your patience and efforts over the past months.

God's speed in our journey.

Mr. Schulner

SCHOOL COUNSELOR NEWS



Mrs. Ruthann Proue

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

Seniors - Those planning on living in university dorms you should be submitting your housing forms at this time. Placement tests for the UW system schools are scheduled throughout the next three months. In the coming weeks, you should receive information on these as well as on registration for classes. It is very important to pay attention to the details in these letters. Be sure to stay ahead of deadlines and take care of any paperwork they are requesting in a timely manner.

Scholarships - The list of available scholarships on the MACS website is updated on a regular basis. Seniors may also get paper application forms in the counseling and high school office. Seniors should also contact the colleges to find out about specific scholarships at each campus.

Juniors and Sophomores - Thank you for returning your registration materials. Submitting your requests online and returning your color coded form will speed up and improve the accuracy of the registration process. If you have not completed the form or entering in your requests please take care of this immediately. Sophomore planning meetings will take place the week of February 1-5, meeting times will be 11:00a.m.-6:00p.m. Please email Mrs. Hughes to help schedule your meeting.

Parents of 8th grade students- You will receive an email invite for you and your student to come in for a meeting regarding high school planning and registration. During this meeting I will be sharing the many opportunities available here at McDonell Central High School. You will be receiving materials for registration and we may have time to do the online registration.

Parents - Feel free to contact me anytime you have any questions or concerns.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS



Mrs. Greta Jorgensen

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

McDonell Central Catholic High School Student Council is on hold right now, but is busy planning events for the spring.

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

We still have 6" magnets in inventory. Cost is \$5.00 each. (see image at right)



Magnets for sale.



Notre Dame students pictured are showing the proper way to perform CPR and save a life during their certification.

Students learn life saving skills

Students in Mrs. Stepp's Health classes demonstrate their skills for multiple emergency situations. All students become certified in Adult, Child, and Infant CPR/First Aid/AED training. By offering free CPR training and certification for our students, they are learning so many life saving skills. This training gives students the preparation to save a life, the confidence to act quickly, to a family member or complete stranger.



Winners of the "I See God" Poetry Contest

The Notre Dame Religion Department held a "I See God" poetry contest for students in grades 6-8. The poems were judged by the McDonell and Notre Dame Staff. Out of the top four poems chosen, eighth grader Sophia Schmidgall's poem was chosen as the overall winner of the contest. Congratulations to all the winners!

Sixth Grade

Violet Mcllquham and Anabelle Willi

Seventh Grade

Zoie Geissler and Delaney Smiskey

Eighth Grade

Sophia Schmidgall and Lauren Misfeldt

I See God

I see God when the sun shines through the clouds on a dark, gloomy day.
 I see God when someone lends their shoulder to cry on, even when they don't have to.
 I see God when I am finally able to smile on a bad day.
 I see God when people agree, even though they have different beliefs.
 I see God in my mother's ocean blue eyes when she listens to me when I am troubled.
 I see God in my family when they laugh at the kitchen table,
 But most of all, I WILL see God when the people of earth can come together for a moment, and love each other, even though they don't have to.
 By Sophia Schmidgall



Principal's Corner



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

Advent and Christmas seasons are over, and our thoughts move towards the celebration of our Catholic Schools during the first week of February. Even though our school year is taking on a much different look this year, we still have a full week of fun activities scheduled. I know our students look forward to this week and I think it is so important that we dedicate that time to celebrate the existence and opportunity for a Catholic education for anyone who desires one. The schedule of the activities will be presented soon.

As we move through the third quarter, please keep a close eye on the calendar as there are several important dates and events coming up. For example, enrollment begins on Monday, February 1. The 2021-22 online enrollment will be active on February 1 for new families on our MACS website home page (www.McDonellAreaCatholicSchools.org).

Current families can re-enroll in their Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Contact our Admission Coordinator Kathleen Adams at 715.723.0538 x3301 for any questions. Please note that there are some changes to our Referral program. These changes can also be found under the Admissions tab on the MACS website homepage.

We have not seen the snow amounts that we typically see this time of year. However, remember to send snow pants, boots, hats and gloves with your children so that they can enjoy their time out on our playgrounds during recess breaks.

Thank you!

Mr. Eric Wedemeyer

GO, PACK, GO!



Is it a cheer squad ready to jump into action? No, the five first grade students shown above are all decked out in green and gold Packer gear to support their favorite team. St. Charles and Holy Ghost students could wear Packer apparel on January 15 and 21 to back Green Bay on their road to the Super Bowl.

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Charles and Holy Ghost Schools – February 2021

January 31 – February 6 Catholic Schools Week

- Feb. 1** Enrollment for 2021-22 Begins
- Feb. 3** SC Mass at 8:30 a.m.
HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 4/5)
- Feb. 4** HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grade 3)
- Feb. 8** MACS Music Boosters Meeting (see page 3)
MACS Faith Boosters Meeting (see page 3)
- Feb. 10** 100th Day of School
SC Mass at 8:30 a.m.
HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 4/5)
MACS Athletic Booster Meeting (see page 3)
- Feb. 11** HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 3)
- Feb. 12** **NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-Service**
- Feb. 13** ND Parish First Reconciliation – 8 a.m.
- Feb. 17** Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 18** MACS Education Commission Meeting
- Feb. 19-21 and 26-28** McDonell Musical “My Fair Lady”
- Feb. 24** SC Mass at 8:30 a.m.
HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grades 3/4)
- Feb. 25** HG Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Grade 5)
SC/HG Parent-Teacher Conferences – 3-7 p.m.
– *By Request Only*
SC Open House for EC-K and New Students
– 4-7 p.m.

Fifth graders discover what basic needs plants must have to grow



Fifth grade science students recently started their module on Ecosystems. They began by trying to discover the answer to this big question: “**What types of matter do plants need to grow?**” The boys and girls decided as a class that plants need sunlight, water, air and soil. After dividing into groups, each team chose one of these variables. They were instructed to deny their plant this basic need to see how well it would grow without it. Three teams opted to withhold air from their plant while one group decided to see how their plant would do without soil. The students will measure their plant’s growth each day for about a week to find out the results.

This fifth grade girl (left) scoops soil into a plastic bottle to prepare a spot for her plant to grow. After the plant is embedded in the soil, she will cap the bottle, cutting off its air supply. What do you think will happen to this plant?



KC Christmas Poster Contest

Once again this year, St. Charles and Holy Ghost Students entered the Knights of Columbus Christmas Poster Contest. The theme was “The True Meaning of Christmas”. Students who placed from our schools are listed below. The winning posters in grades 1-4 were mailed to the diocesan competition. Congratulations to these students and to everyone who participated!

<p>Grade 1: 1st Place: Nora Ruf 3rd Place: Duncan Proue</p>	<p>Grade 2: 1st Place: Aubrey Willkom</p>
<p>Grade 3: 1st Place: Avery Rush 2nd Place: Camilla Doyle 3rd Place: Eleanore Freerks</p>	<p>Grade 4: 2nd Place: Eleanor Doyle 3rd Place: Landon Cooley</p>
<p>Grade 5: 2nd Place: Jenna Proue</p>	<p><i>Congratulations!</i></p>

Students navigate the world with maps



During their maps skills unit in Social Studies, Mrs. Yohnk’s first grade students explored different kinds of maps – physical maps (drawings of land and water), political maps (showing cities and towns), a 2010 United States census map, world maps, Wisconsin maps, county maps, and even a map of Chippewa Falls. The boys and girls learned to look for a key/legend as well as a compass rose to help decipher the maps.

This pair of first graders (left) study a map of the United States. Hmm...now just where was Chippewa Falls again?

Fourth grade students study energy in its various forms

The fourth grade students are in the middle of a module focusing on ENERGY. Trying out six different stations, the boys and girls performed several experiments to discover the definition of energy. After each experiment, they developed a one sentence summary. Eventually, they came up with the following definition/statement about energy: "Energy is present when we observe something happening (moving objects, light, temperature change, sound) or when something helps make something happen (electricity, batteries)." The pictures below include their one sentence summaries. Besides these four areas, they also had stations for a portable radio with batteries (sound) and a wood block and sandpaper (temperature).



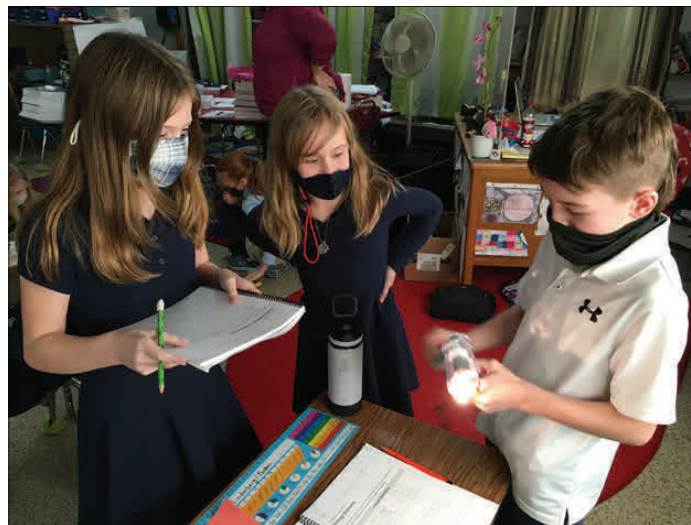
Station: Heat lamp – "When I plugged in the heat lamp, the air around it got warmer."



Station: Pull back cars – "When I pulled back on the car, it moved and made a sound."



Station: Windmill model – "When I blew on the windmill blades, the light turned on."



Station: Hand-crank flashlight – "When I turned the handle on the flashlight, the light turned on."



CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

January 31 -
February 6
#CSW21



Fifth grade boys and girls completed canvas paintings during the month of December that focused on various application techniques, fine details, and color theory. One example is shown above.



Fourth grade students recently learned about the artist known as Grandma Moses. Using her folk style of painting students created their very own winter landscapes utilizing the art elements of space and form as well as the concepts of perspective and balance.



Third grade students are learning the process of using doodling as an aid to notetaking. By employing the use of Zentangles, students are creating sectioned hearts to display during the St. Valentine's Day feast.

A medley of styles, media, patterns, elements . . .

Mrs. Bekka Beaufeaux introduces students to a variety of art concepts



Second grade students designed "ugly" Christmas sweater patterns during our virtual Community day. They used the design principle of pattern while learning about the history of seasonal textile patterns.



First grade students learned about Arctic foxes and their habitats in art class. They studied the elements of line, space, and shape while learning about the concepts of contrast and camouflage.



Kindergarten students came up with unique snowman drawings utilizing the art element of space. These soft, snowy images were created with chalk, charcoal, and soft pastels.

LITTLE MACK MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2021

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD?

In January we learned about arctic animals and how they live. With the colder weather, our classrooms talked about snow and ice and all things winter! Our students have been making a lot of fun projects that you can see in the hallways at St. Charles! Coming up this month, our classrooms will celebrate Valentine's Day. If you would like to send in a treat for the class you are more than welcome but please do not feel obligated!

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN BB4C?

Our classes started learning about syllables and how to count syllables in different words. We talked about nursery rhymes and listened to many nursery rhyme stories over the last couple of weeks. We invite our current 4K families to schedule a tour of the MACS kindergarten classrooms at this link (bit.ly/3rQJAfr). MACS will be hosting an open house on February 25 from 4-7pm **by appointment only!**



Looking Forward

February 11
BB4C Valentine's
Day Party

February 25
Kindergarten
Open House 4-
7pm





MCDONELL AREA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Est. 1882

Catholic Schools Week 2021

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook for posts of events and classroom activities throughout the week!

Facebook:

@McDonellAreaCatholicSchools

Instagram:

@themackway

Twitter:

@McDonell_HS

Share your photos:

#MACSCSW2021

Share the posts with your friends, family, and community to help us celebrate our Catholic Schools!

Tuesday, February 2:

7-8:30pm at St. Charles Church:

Exalt: Adoration and

worship with Aly Aleigha

(open to all local MS/HS students & their families)

Come for quesadillas beforehand starting at 6:30pm

Dress Up Days:

Monday, February 1:

K-12: Spirit Day
(MACS Apparel, Jeans/Sweats)

Tuesday, February 2:

K-12: Future Career/Vocation Day:
(Dress up as what you want to be when you grow up)

Wednesday, February 3:

K-2, 4-5, 9-12:
Fancy/Red, White, & Blue
3: Pajama Day
6-8: Sweats Day

Thursday, February 4:

K-2, 4-5: Pajama Day
9-12 Sweats Day
3, 6-8: Fancy

Friday, February 5:

K-12: Decades Day
(Dress like a teacher did when they were in school)



City of Chippewa Falls

30 WEST CENTRAL STREET, CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the **MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL** was founded in 1881 by Reverend Charles F.X. Goldsmith; and


WHEREAS, 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."; and

WHEREAS, the core values of faith, honor, academic excellence, healthy living, community and servant leadership are virtues that all staff and students in the **MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** strive for daily; and

WHEREAS, the **MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** celebrate and honor their Catholic heritage and accomplishments;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Hoffman, Mayor of the City of Chippewa Falls, do hereby proclaim January 31, 2021 through February 6, 2021 as "Catholic Schools Week" in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and urge all citizens to pay tribute to honoring this outstanding school system.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and signed this on the 28th day of January, 2021.

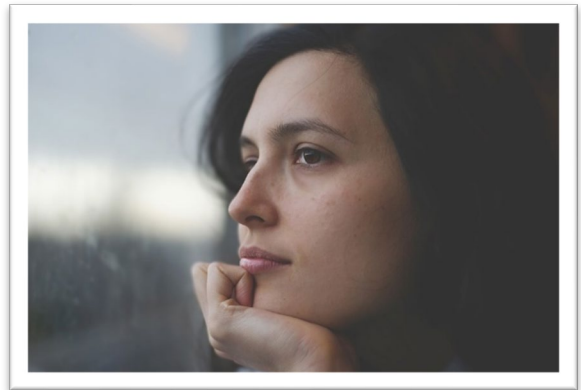
Signed 

Greg Hoffman, Mayor
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin



A friend and I were discussing the fallout from last year. I admitted to him that I caught myself saying, “I don’t know what or who to believe anymore,” nearly every week. He agreed that discerning the truth was a daunting task made more difficult because people seemed to make decisions based on how they felt about an issue rather than on the facts or merits presented.

He had observed many people reacting emotionally to the news or their social media feeds rather than thinking through the stories that reported the latest on viruses, politics, and social unrest. He concluded that people lacked the virtue of solertia and that resulted in their increased anxiety and anger about 2020.



What in the world is solertia? To be honest, I had no idea. He explained that it is a building block of Prudence that helps you quickly size up a situation, pick up on subtle clues, and come to a right decision. (Refresher: prudence is your ability to know what is really good and then to make a plan to get it.) Solertia, he said, helps you determine if something is believable and true in the moment.

Solertia can also be called shrewdness. A shrewd person deals with issues rationally rather than with spontaneous reactions. He or she is NOT tossed about in a sea of emotions when they hear or see something that is difficult or novel. Rather, they STOP and THINK about the topic before ACTING. They rarely react with emotion or make a snap judgment or speak irrationally.

It occurred to me that most of us could benefit from cultivating solertia during the coming year. Here are a few suggestions on how to improve your shrewdness and quickly size up a situation to find the underlying truth.

STOP The most important step to becoming shrewd is to hit the pause button. Give yourself time to assess the situation. Developing this habit will prevent you from entering a rabbit hole or jumping off an emotional cliff that looms right in front of you.

CONSIDER Think about what biases or motivations may be at play. How are your thoughts or those of the other impacting the situation? Consider if these biases are revealing the truth or covering it up.

RESERVE JUDGEMENT Matthew 10:16 tells us to be *shrewd as serpents and simple as doves*. Be precautious and maintain a holy outlook when you aren't sure what is ahead or true. Never inflame the issue on one hand or overlook it on the other. Sometimes the best and quickest assessment is to admit that you need to think about it for a while before coming to a decision.

PRAY In January of 2014, Pope Francis observed how the Three Wise Men needed to be shrewd and discerning in the face of Herod's deception. He referred to their need as spiritual shrewdness. He commented on how important it was for them to ask God to help them discern Herod's comments and motivations. Praying to God, like the Wise Men did, helps you to avoid falling prey to the world's deceit or be sidetracked by its false attraction. Here is a prayer that can help you to just that.

Good and gracious God,

Teach us how to see your true light in the world around us.

Help us avoid the snares of darkness and the shadows which seek to envelop our life.

Help us safeguard your truth with holy shrewdness and guard it against deceit which, many times, is also disguised as light.

Instruct us never to be content with a life of mediocrity, of playing it safe, but to draw close to what is good, true, and beautiful.

Defend us against evil distractions that confuse us from taking the right path and guarding our faith with prayer, with hope, and with charity. We ask this in the Name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

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



Teaching the Way of Love



**Get weekly parent
Scripture reflections
delivered to your inbox.**





MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Est. 1882

Notre Dame Middle School

1316 Bel Air Blvd, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 715.723.4777

2nd Quarter 2020-2021 School Year

Honor Roll

6th Grade High Honors: Kelsey Bremness, Evelyn Doyle, Korynn Grunwald, Miranda Johnson, Kherington Mosack, Lucia Pries, Claire Ruf, Miles Schmidgall, Annabelle Willi

6th Grade Honors: Luke Andersen, Nathan Boggess, Johnathan Brady, Samuel Bresina, Elianna Eddy, Sophia Empey, Emily Hartman, Olivia Herr, Violet McIlquham, Nneomam Odenigbo, Anne Siegenthaler, Erin Siegenthaler, Grant Sokup, Carson Sweeney

7th Grade High Honors: Jaidyn Brady, Lauren Buescher, Elyse Bushman, Chloe Flanagan, Delaney Smiskey

7th Grade Honors: Brooke Bach, Mason Busse, Owen Clark, Angelo Enderes, Soren Endrud, Kennedy Giza, Paiton Grunwald, Jack Hanson, Callan Laux, Dawson Moulton, Riella Rubenzer, Ryan Wagner, Keagan Winger

8th Grade High Honors: David Andersen, Sarah Buchmann, Lauren Misfeldt, Sean Rasmus, Sophia Schmidgall, Eva Van Den Huevel

8th Grade Honors: Gavin Bowe, Karley Ferguson, Alexander Fischer, Kidiest Freerks, Daniel Fritz, Kiara Leinenkugel, Grant Smiskey

Congratulations!

High Honor Roll Eligibility: 3.75 – and above Grade Point Average

Honor Roll Eligibility: 3.0 – 3.74 Grade Point Average