

# St. Mary's Bellevue Alumni Newsletter

Newsletter January 2013  
Volume 1, Issue 1

Principal: Mrs. Cheryl Castle  
Alumni Chairs: Joanna (Jungers) Lee ('89)  
Janet (Jungers) Yale ('91)



## Principal's News

The school year continues to move along very quickly. As we move forward, students and staff are focused on our Catholic Identity Goal - to provide opportunities for students to serve others by sharing their time, talent, and resources.

Our students are taking the catholic identity to heart. The sixth grade class learned about the need to respect life and collected needed items for mothers and babies served by EPS. The fourth grade class learned about God's plan for people to care for the animals in God's creation. They collected needed items for the Nebraska Humane Society. They also invited Marina and Murphy (an adorable puppy) to share the Humane Society mission with our school. The student council made Halloween candy bags for children in shelters. Classes decorated the Halloween bags and student council filled the bags and delivered them to the shelters.

Students also had the opportunity to honor Veterans and the annual Veteran's Day Assemble. The assembly highlighted the sacrifice and service veterans have given to protect and serve their country.

The teachers at St. Mary's have been dedicated to professional development. In September, teachers spent a day learning about differentiation and autism. Teachers also wrote professional goals for the year.

Teachers are currently participating in the Power Walkthrough program. On a regular basis, teachers and the principal do a 3-5 minute classroom visit. Teachers get the opportunity to see each other in their classrooms and ask students about what they are learning. As data is collected, teachers and the principal will review the data and use the information to guide school improvement decisions.

Recently, several St. Mary's Alumni returned to spend the day assisting teachers in the classroom and serving lunches for the lunch program. It was great seeing the former eighth graders as high school freshman. We enjoyed hearing about their experiences as high school students and greatly appreciated their desire to serve St. Mary's as volunteers.

As we move we continue to focus on service and school improvement as essential elements of a vibrant, excellent Catholic education.

**God Bless,  
Cheryl Castle**  
Principal St. Mary's School

### Contents

Principal's News	1
Benefit Auction	2
Sports and Club News	2
Parent to Parent Dinner	2
Alumni Spotlights	3
Adopt - A - Student	4

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Catholic Schools Week January 27-February 2, 2013
- ◆ 19th Annual Benefit Auction April 6, 2013

## Spring for the Children Benefit & Auction



The 19th Annual Spring for the Children Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday April 6, 2013 at the Livestock Exchange Building in Omaha. This is St. Mary's School's largest fundraiser of the year. The event features a silent auction, dinner, drinks, a live auction and fellowship with friends new and old.

The 2012 event proved to be our most successful auction to date bringing in \$67,044. That total includes the \$16,450 raised in the Fill-A-Need portion of the auction which was used to purchase laptop computers and projectors for the teachers and classrooms.

The 2013 auction is being co-chaired by Craig & Dané (Huck '86) Ames, Karen Medrano, and Ryan & Christina (Hascall '91) Legner. The goal has been set to exceed last year's success by bringing in \$70,000. If you are interested in donating items for the auction they may be dropped off at the school or contact one of the co-chairs to arrange assistance. There are also opportunities for ad space in our auction catalog and corporate sponsorship packages. Contact Christina Legner at [Christina\\_legner@yahoo.com](mailto:Christina_legner@yahoo.com). Volunteers are also needed in many areas of planning and preparation for the event.

Tickets for the event will go on sale February 1, 2013 and are \$45 per person. Or gather a group of 10 and reserve a table for \$500. Contact Ed or Joanna ('89) Lee at [edjolee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edjolee@sbcglobal.net) for more ticket information.

## Spartan Sports and Club News...

*"The mission of St. Mary's Catholic School is to assist parents, the primary educators of their children to educate and nurture students to develop and use their unique gifts to become educated, responsible, community-minded, Catholic adults."*

The 6th Grade Girl's Volleyball Team took home a First Place Trophy in the Holy Ghost Tournament, a great way to end their outstanding volleyball season. Maggie Heltzel was the MVP player! Way to go, girls!

Basketball season is underway. 2nd through 8th grade boys and girls teams have begun their seasons and are having a great time.

Congratulations to 8<sup>th</sup> grader James Goetz and 7<sup>th</sup> grader Jacob Goetz. Both boys participated in the Millard South Chess Tournament on December 15, 2012. James took home 2<sup>nd</sup> place for his division and Jacob took home 3<sup>rd</sup> place for his division. Congratulations Boys!

## Coming Soon ... Parent to Parent Dinner

On Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 current St. Mary's School parents will be hosting prospective Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families. The event is from 6:00p - 7:15p and will be held at St. Mary's gym.

This is an informative evening for new families to meet current families and a way to learn more about our school. Childcare and dinner will be provided for children along with parents. If you have additional questions or would like to attend please contact Ted and Cindy Menzel [tcmenzel5@gmail.com](mailto:tcmenzel5@gmail.com) or call the school office 402-291-1694.

## Alumni Spotlights

### Ben Petr ('06)

"I attended St. Mary's school from kindergarten through 8th Grade and enjoyed every moment of it. The teachers I had were smart, kind and helpful and did everything they could to help students learn and have fun simultaneously. I created friendships that have lasted, as I have gotten older. The things I learned, both from books and experiences, have prepared me for the challenges ahead of me. I graduated as valedictorian of my 2010 class from Bellevue East high school and am currently attending college at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a Jesuit institution that is one of the top 100 schools in the nation and now have and an amazing internship with Northwestern Mutual. I can attribute these accomplishments to the things I learned while I attended St. Mary's. St. Mary's gave me the strong basis I needed to have to start high school right so I could be valedictorian and I choose the Jesuit institution because of the amazing education, both spiritually and academically, I had received at St. Mary's and I wanted to continue that style of learning. St. Mary's provided the basis I needed to succeed in all the things I have achieved to this point and I thank the school and my teachers greatly for helping me strive to be excellent."

Ben was Bellevue Youth Volunteer of the Year 2010. He is now on the Dean's list at Marquette and is double majoring in Finance and Economics. He has also received the following scholarships:

The Ignatius scholarship, which is a merit scholarship awarded from Marquette  
 The Knights of Columbus Scholarship  
 The Bellevue Public Schools Scholarship  
 The Wall Street Journal Scholarship  
 A scholarship this year from Marquette University

### Alan Swiecicki ('89)

Alan Swiecicki ('89) has chosen to carry on the St. Mary's academic tradition by sending his sons Christian (1<sup>st</sup> grade) and Nicholas (who will be going into Kindergarten next fall) to our school.

"My wife and I chose to send both our boys to St. Mary's to allow our children to learn in a faith-based environment. St. Mary's School is dedicated to teaching children respect for others in a spiritual rich environment. In addition, the curriculum consists of great self-directed academics and academic diversity. St. Mary's has numerous electives and after school clubs, for a smaller school, that allow children to be enriched. The younger children benefit from having a mentoring buddy, from the older grades, to guide them in their learning and increasing their level of comfort in the school setting. My wife and I have been thrilled with the curriculum and the teachers that teach it."



*St. Mary's School won a Smartboard from Hy-vee and Proctor & Gamble. This is the fourth year of the contest and St. Mary's 4th consecutive win! Success was achieved with outstanding support from the school and parish community.*

## 2012 Alumni Scholarship Recipients

*Jeremiah Connealy - Mt. Michael*

*Bryan Prewitt - Daniel J. Gross*

*Mikaelya Schmitz - Daniel J. Gross*

*Erika Bennett from the Knights of Columbus*

*Emily Summers from the Catholic Daughters*

## Let us know ...

We want to know what is going on in the lives of St. Mary's Alumni. Please send any news information, weddings, births, etc. to [alumni@stmarysbellevue.com](mailto:alumni@stmarysbellevue.com).

We also appreciate you keeping us updated of address or contact info changes for future mailings.

St. Mary's School is on Facebook. Like St. Mary's School Bellevue to follow us.

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## Adopt - A - Student

This is the fourth year with the Adopt-A-Student Program and there has been great response to the needs of families who can not send their children to St. Mary's without financial support. This year 21 students from nine families need your help. That is 11% of the student population.

*Make a Difference ... Help Educate Our Tomorrow.* Your response will help ensure St. Mary's School will continue preparing Christian leaders of the future as they continue as they continue their education in a Christ centered environment. Please consider helping the parish financially by Adopting-A-Student. Your generosity will forever impact a child's life for the better as well as their community. You can make a difference! For more information please call Cheryl Castle at 402-291-1694 or email [Cheryl.castle@stmarysbellevue.com](mailto:Cheryl.castle@stmarysbellevue.com)

Thank you to *Jackie Ortega* for contributing to this newsletter. If you have any news ideas, please contact us at [alumni@stmarysbellevue.com](mailto:alumni@stmarysbellevue.com)

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