Annuciation Catholic School News

Heading into this new school year, we have much to be excited about – welcoming our largest kindergarten class in 8 years, being chosen as a pilot school for the Grove's literacy program to go along with a new literacy curriculum, our second year as an authorized Catholic IB World School, expanding inquiry into our middle school while building on our 1:1 technology program, partnering with Agra Culture for our lunch program and much more. There is much to celebrate!

This year, we will also begin our Self-Study for our MNSAA Accreditation renewal. Annunciation Catholic School is proud to be an accredited school through the Minnesota Non-Public Crediting Association (MNSAA). Accreditation renewal happens every 7 years. The Self-Study is the first step, providing a year to reflect on the school from key areas represented by the seven MNSAA Standards:

- 1. Mission and Philosophy
- 2. Teaching and Learning
- 3. Climate for Learning
- 4. Communications and Community Relations
- 5. Personnel
- 6. Leadership, Administration, and Governance
- 7. School Strategic Plan

This year, our staff will be involved in reflecting on each area, gathering input and data, and creating the narratives for each standard. Throughout the year, we will be engaging parents and stakeholders in the process through surveys and feedback to help us provide a complete picture of our school today in each key area. From each report, we will identify strengths and challenges for each standard.

In 2020-21, we will finalize our Self-Study then engage the community in creating Annunciation's Strategic Plan for the next 7 years. As we did 7 years ago, we will gather stakeholders together to dream, share and begin to develop our plan based on the identified strengths and challenges from the Self-Study. It was through this collaborative process that we created our last Strategic Plan in 2013-14.

As we begin this next phase, it provides an opportunity to reflect on all we have accomplished from our Strategic Plan over the last 6 years. Together, Annunciation Catholic School set its goals high and has achieved much.



Here are some of the accomplishments to date:

- Authorized as an IB World School (PYP), one of the few Catholic IB Schools in the nation
- Campus upgrades including:
 - Security improvements through a buzzer system for access, lighting, cameras, across campus
 - Infrastructure for wireless access throughout the campus
 - Sensory-friendly improvements though new bell system, sensory room
 - New playground, upgraded middle school science lab, renovations in the gym, auditorium and Creative Arts room, and annual classroom updates
- Formed a new development office and fundraising alumni relations efforts
- Established an enrollment coordinator and admissions squad for marketing and enrollment
- Implemented new curriculum through IB units of inquiry, new math program with advanced courses added to middle school, new literacy curriculum, 1:1 tech program, STEM mobile maker space
- Expanded supports for exceptional learners through learning support and enrichment programs
- Revised report cards and began student-led conferences for K-5
- Enhanced technology across the campus and curriculum to support teaching and learning
- Developed strong collaboration among teachers and staff for continued learning and growth
- Initiated an annual retreat for reflection, community building and formation of the whole staff

As you can see, Annunciation has been a busy place over the last 6 years. We feel privileged to carry on the traditions established by the Dominican sisters almost 100 years ago. Through our strategic vision and efforts, we continue to seek excellence in living our vision to "foster each child's potential to create a better world through faith, virtue, knowledge, and service to others." You can be very proud of your school and all who support it.

Sincere thanks for supporting Annunciation Catholic School through your time, talent, treasure and prayers. That is what makes it possible for us to truly live our mission. Stop by and see us first-hand. We would love to share our story.

Blessings, Jennifer Cassidy, Principal

2019 Mary Jo Sterner Volunteer of the Year Award Winners

- Jennifer Campbell
- Jayne Dow Larkin
- Angela Maurer-Green
- Brian Meyer
- Kelly Meyer
- Megan Scherf
- Sheila Steichen
- Karl Wolf

2019 Ministry of the Year Award Winners

- Gayle Fleming
- Judith Kattreh
- Connie Klaers
- Mary LaFontaine
- Jenny Newton
- Kevin & Theresa Orth
- Jason & Jaki Ortmeier
- Art Otto

2019 Youth Ministry Spirit Award Winners

- Isa Baca
- Joe Brezonik
- Louise Koenig

Congratulations to all our wonderful, dynamic and awe-inspiring volunteers in the many areas of our Annunciation family of faith ministries.

All Annunciation volunteers are great and we honor everyone—every volunteer has a key ministry role to play and for this we

Thank You!

Class News & Notes Congratulations Alumni!

Congratulations to the high school students from Annunciation. We are proud to announce the following students for their academic accomplishments.



Congratulations to Charlie Erickson, Class of 2016, for scoring a 36 on his ACT.



Congratulations to Grace Bureau, Class of 2015, for graduating Salutatorian from the Academy of Holy Angels.



We are SO PROUD of our alumni Darby Voeks, Class of 2009! He completed a 34 hour double Ironman and raised several thousand dollars for camp scholarships for Richfield Young Life. Unbelievable! Congratulations Darby!

Elizabeth Weber, Class of 2016, has been named a Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Program, putting her in the top 34,000 of the 1.6 million entrants.

Amalia Baca, Class of 2014, received her white coat and blessing of the hands ceremony from Marquette School of Nursing.

Rosa Gerdts, Class of 2016, was just elected Senior Class President for the Class of 2020 at Blake!



Academy of Holy Angels Stars Boys Varsity Soccer team are STATE CHAMPIONS! and is loaded with Annunciation Stars! **Matt Banovetz '16, Charlie Erickson '16, Davey Oslund '16, Conor O'Rourke '16, Porter Ball '16, Aidan Smith '18**, All three Captains of the team are alum.



Congratulations to **Conor O'Rourke**, Class of 2016, on being named Mr. Soccer for Class A at the MSHSSCA Banquet! Conor becomes the first student athlete in AHA soccer history to achieve this very prestigious award.

Engagements:

Patrick Harrington, Class of 2005, is engaged to be married to Jenna Graupmann.

Mary Margaret Kelly, Class of 2008, is engaged to be married to Sterling Fuller.

Lucas Long, Class of 2007, is engaged to be married to Libby Jacoby.

Elliot Moen, Class of 2009, is engaged to Rachael Ambrose.

Tim Posl, Class of 2006, is engaged to be married to Heather Ahnen.

O Marriages:

Peter Frank, Class of 2004, married Lauren Gillen on September 29, 2018 at Annunciation Church.

Casey O'Brien, Class of 2002, married Tricia Tongco on November 10, 2018 in Los Angeles, CA.

Slaine Kelly, Class of 2006, married Jason Houts on November 24, 2018 in Minneapolis, MN.

Sarah Pupkes, Class of 2008, married Andrew Clark on June 1, 2019 at Annunciation Church.

Calvin Pupkes, Class of 2004, married Anna Kokrda on October 19, 2019 at Annunciation Church.

Audrey Posl, Class of 2001, married Tom Schmidt on June 22, 2019 at the Tzabaco Rancho Vineyard in California.

Genevieve Bettin, Class of 2005, married Anthony Brousseau on June 22, 2019 at Annunciation Church.

Emma Woldum, Class of 2006, married Christian on June 22, 2019 in Columbus Ohio.

Births:

Alison (Frank) Dahlman, Class of 1999, and husband Jim, welcomed daughter, Claire Elizabeth, born on September 29, 2019. Proud grandparents are Chris & Mick Frank.

Elizabeth (Bradford) Frederickson, Class of 2004, and husband, welcomed daughter Vivian Mary and son Michael Bradford, born on July 1, 2019.

Reunions:



The Class of 1969 had its 50 year reunion at Annunciation School on August 24, 2019.

The Class of 1953, fourteen women from the class gathered in Rochester on October 17, 2018.

Please share your news with us, WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR ALUMNI!

Fill out the online form: www.annunciationmsp.org/school/ alumni/tell-us-news Email: jknutson@annunciationmsp.org



Rest in Peace

Our heartfelt condolences to those in our community that have lost a loved one. Hold tight to memories for comfort, lean on your friends and family for strength, and always remember how much you are loved. We will keep you in our prayers.

George Borgerding, passed away January 13, 2019; father of parishioner Jean (John) Pupkes; grandfather of Calvin '04 and Sarah '08.

Michael Gordon Breuer, Class of 1984, passed away October 12, 2018.

Meinrad Craighead, passed away April 8, 2019; sister of parishioner Connie Pelner.

Donald Courchane, parishioner, passed away June 5, 2019.

Tom Green, passed away April 11, 2019; father of parishioner Heather (Bill) Zerull; grandfather of Julia '12 and Noah '14.

John Hall Jr, parishioner, passed away November 28, 2018.

Mary Heine, parishioner, passed away June 4, 2019.

Elizabeth "Betty" Mandell Heymans, passed away December 1, 2018; mother of parishioner Greg (Mary) Heymans; grandmother of Ryan, Beth '19 and James. **LaVonne Iverson**, parishioner, passed away February 5, 2019; wife of Alfred.

Mary B. Johnson, Class of 1976, passed away August 31, 2017.

Phyllis Johnson, parishioner, passed away January 31, 2019.

Bishop John Francis Kinney, Class of 1951, passed away Sept. 27, 2019.

Leander Konz, passed away January 2, 2019; father of staff member Tom Konz; grandfather to Carter '09 and Eleanor '12.

Julie Margaret Krieger, Class of 1973, passed away on January 20, 2019; sister of Teresa '66, Michael '71 and Steve '76.

Fr. Paul LaFontaine, class of 1960, passed away December 12, 2019; brother-in-law of Mary LaFontaine '49; uncle of Susan '81, Michael '83, Gregory '85, Eileen '87 and Catherine '89.

Glen Lingren, Class of 1969, passed away September 16, 2017.

Tom Lockhart, parishioner, passed away April 26, 2019; husband of Mary; father of Siobhan '79, Fiona '81, Patrick, and Sean.

Selma Joann Malmer, passed away on January 26, 2019; mother-in-law of staff member Julie (Mike) Loney; grandmother of Brendan '12 and Nathan '14.

Joseph Martorano, passed away February 8, 2019; father of parishioner Jenny (Kevin) Newton..

Donna Masterman, parishioner, passed away October 20, 2018.

James McGuire, parishioner, passed away March 21, 2019.

Nancy McNamer, parishioner, passed away on September 14, 2019; preceded in death by daughter, Kathleen and son, Timothy; survived by loving husband of 66 years, Richard; children, Kevin '70, Gregory '72, Patrick '75, Michael '77, Molly '81, Mark '84 and Matthew '84.

If we have missed any loved ones, please let us know.

Lawrence "Larry" Meskan,

Class of 1945, passed away January 21, 2019; father of parishoner Diane Meskan Schwecke.

Thomas Monahan, Class of 1941, passed away March 31, 2018.

Geraldine Musil, parishioner, passed away August 25, 2019.

Bob Nehotte, parishioner, passed away November 14, 2019.

Paul M. Nesvig, passed away March 12, 2019; husband of staff member Sandy; father of Lara and Tanya.

Roger Niemann, parishioner, passed away August 16, 2019.

Delores Pearson, parishioner, passed away October 21, 2019.

Sophie Prince, parishioner, passed away May 18, 2019; mother of Kathleen (Rodger), Robert (Jenifer), Carol, Cindy, Bill and Kris.

Sister Elaine (Genevieve) Robbins, OP, former teacher at Annunciation, passed away April 5, 2019

Thomas Sheahan Jr, parishioner, passed away April 26, 2019.

Raymond W. Scallen, M.D.,

Class of 1939, passed away on February 25, 2019. Survived by wife, Mary Hamel Scallen; daughters Mary Scallen Hagen '66, Ann and Catherine; brother Stephen '46. Preceded in death by his brothers, Terence '49 and Thomas '39.

Carolyn Skala, parishioner, passed away May 22, 2019; daughter of Carol; sister of Jacob '83.

Peter Sovell, son of parishioner Don Sovell, passed away October 2018.

Joseph Straub, passed away January 17, 2019, father of parishioner Emily (Scott) Guilliatt; grandfather of Jude '19, Finn and Sam. Nicolas E Struble, Class of 1978, passed away May 13, 2019.

Jo Anne Toonen, Class of 1969, passed away June 14, 2016.

Alice Weides, parishioner, passed way September 28, 2019; mother of Gregory, Christoper and Daniel (deceased); sister-in-law of Helen.

Denny Wiltgen, passed away March 5, 2019; father of parishioner Angie (Corey) Swan; grandfather of Eli and Nola.



Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {Matthew 11:28}



In Loving Memory of Leslie Smith

A beloved member of our Annunciation family, mother, grandmother, former teacher, school parent, and parishioner.



I first met Leslie in 1982, my first year teaching at Annunciation. She was every teacher's dream parent – always ready to volunteer, and totally supportive. I got to know Leslie better a few years later when she was hired as a long-term substitute teacher in the middle school. Leslie was great to work with, full of ideas and eager to collaborate. Leslie continued to act as a substitute teacher, both long term and short term, until she found her true calling – fifth grade teacher extraordinaire. She and Margaret Warnemunde worked together for years – making fifth grade – the open classroom – hum with learning and excitement. They were a team who were always ready and willing to take on challenges and develop interesting projects.

Leslie was probably at her strongest teaching science. She was able to coax her students to discover new ideas and create hypotheses to solve the experiments that was the basis of her science curriculum. Another love of Leslie's was social studies. Her students will remember the numerous projects she assigned, and the many state fair ribbons those projects received.

Anyone who knew Leslie will recall her unique wit. She kept her colleagues laughing, as well as anyone who came into contact with her. There are so many things we miss about Leslie. She loved her family, her friends, and Annunciation School. In turn, we loved her and continue to feel a great loss at her passing.

- Sandy Nesvig

A butterfly garden has also been planted in her name and is right outside the first grade classrooms, on the path to the church. Watch for it to come back in the spring!



We are blessed to have a daily reminder of Leslie with our newly installed Prayer Stone Memorial in the Spirit Center.

After offering a prayer, we invite you to take a prayer stone. A prayer stone is a tangible way of carrying your prayer and the spirit of Mrs. Smith with you throughout your day.

Honor Roll of School Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the alumni, parents of current students, parents of alumni, grandparents, faculty, staff, parishioners and friends of the school who provided financial support for important needs during the past fiscal year.

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THANK YOU 2019 Leadership & Chairs!

Dancing with Annunciation Stars Brian & Meggie Meyer

> Flashback to the 80's Live & Silent Auction Sara Nuahn & Karin Smith

School Advisory Council Co-Chairs Allison O'Brien & Alison Golla

APO Co-Presidents Christine Headrick & Maren Christenson

THANK YOU For Your Support!

Donations from school, parish, friends, corporations and volunteers help to sustain programs, activities and capital improvements, not covered by tuition. This past year, Annunciation School fundraising efforts helped many students attend Annunciation that would not have been able to without your support. Thank you!

V

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

- Helen Keller

Staff Updates

We are very prayerful and intentional about finding people who share our vision and mission, who believe in what Annunciation stands for. God has sent us amazing people to join us in our mission. We are blessed with the new staff joining us and look forward to the coming year.



Emily Fuller Middle School Literature Teacher



Christy McFadden Enrollment Coordinator



Sandy Nesvig Middle School Literature Teacher



Helen Corkran Director of Pastoral Care



Mikayla Pellegrene 5th Grade Teacher



Bernie Gauthé Director of Youth Ministry



Ashley Salvo Middle School Math Teacher

Goodbye & We Wish You the Best!

Annunciation has been blessed with amazing staff. As we say farewell to several staff members; we are grateful for all you have done for our students, families and staff. **We wish you happiness and blessings** in the next chapter of your lives. Your legacy will live on forever!

Emily Guilliatt Anne LaLonde Laux Andrew LeTellier Rachel Morin Alisa Rogers

2020 Calendar of Church & School Events:

lanuary

- 1: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, 10am Mass
- 25: Dancing with Annunciation Stars
- 26-31: Catholic Schools Week

February

- 25: School Carnaval
- 26: Ash Wednesday, 8:15am & 6pm Mass

March

- 13-15: Awakening Retreat
- 18-19: School Conferences
- 20: Fish Fry
- 30 & 31: School Spring Break

April

- 1-5: Spring Break
- 9: Holy Thursday, 7pm Mass 13: Easter Monday
- 10: Good Friday, 3pm Mass
- 11: Easter Vigil, 8pm Mass
- 12: Easter Sunday, 8:30am & 10:30am Mass
- 25: Confirmation, 1:30pm Cathedral of Saint Paul
- 26: First Communition, 9:30am Mass

May

- 2: School Live & Silent Auction
- 26: 8th Grade Graduation, 9:30am Mass, 7pm Ceremony
- 26: Kindergarten Graduation, 8:30am
- 28: Last Day of School

June

• 4-6: Rummage Sale

August

- 2: Ice Cream Social, 10:30am
- 24: First Day of School

September

• 18-20: SeptemberFest

October

14-16: School MEA Break

November

- 1: All Saints Day
- 2: All Souls Day
- 26: Thanksgiving

December

- 8: Immaculate Conception
- 16 & 17: School Christmas Program
- 24: Christmas Eve, 4pm & 10pm Mass
- 25: Christmas Day, 10am Mass