



SCHOOL MATTERS

ST. MALACHY SCHOOL
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Fall 2017

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We are a family in Christ.

5th & 6th Grade Speech Contest

Just the idea of speaking in public is enough to send some people running for the hills! Not so for the 25 St. Malachy 5th & 6th graders who participated in the IESA Speech competition on Friday, November 3rd at AlWood Middle School in Woodhull, IL.

Practicing before school for weeks before the contest, students worked in small groups to memorize excerpts from plays and develop their characters.

Each of the groups earned a rating of "1," the best score possible, for their performance!

Three groups earned Judge's Choice! Sixth graders Abby Frank, Leah Roemer and Mia Vandemore received Judge's Choice for their performance of *Camp Oomygosha*. Marley Cherry and Beth Mroz, fifth graders, portrayed girls trying to sneak onto the football team in *Hut, Hut, Hut!* while fifth graders Alayna Duckett, Allison Reade and Keely Roberts galloped away with Judge's Choice for their performance of *Hey, Dude!*



5th Grade Speech
Row 1: Beth Mroz, Marley Cherry, Jackson Moore, Joseph Venneberg, Keely Roberts
Row 2: Alayna Duckett, Brennan DeBord, Hayden Veryzer, Cooper Ries
Not Pictured: Allison Reade



6th Grade Speech
Row 1: Nolan Griffith, Celina Peña, Mia Vandemore, Jackson Reade
Row 2: Jacob Rapps, Logan Palmer, Leah Roemer, Ella Pettit, Cole York
Row 3: Braden Boone, Abby Frank, Camden Ball, Jenna Freadhoff, Grace Schilling

Thinking Globally: St. Malachy Prays the World Mission Rosary

Stringing colorful beads that represent different areas of the world, St. Malachy students assembled their own World Mission Rosaries during the month of October. The World Mission Rosary was created by the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen in 1951; and the idea that inspired the design of this rosary is to "embrace the World in prayer!" This beautiful sentiment reflects our call to evangelize by the way that we live our lives—striving to openly share the love of Christ with the whole world.



Beth Mroz, 5th grade, helps 1st grader, Henry Vondra, string beads to complete his rosary.

It's a Dog's Life!



Grogan, the service dog, and his 5th grade buddies.

Tail wagging and wearing a blue vest that designates service dog status, Grogan visits St. Malachy 5th grade once a week for about 45 minutes with his owner, Mr. Bill Menendez. A therapy dog is an animal that visits schools, hospitals, nursing homes, etc. to provide attention, comfort and love. The Menendez's have previous experience working with service dogs. Their dog, Rock, worked for 14 years at Southwest and Millikin schools. Grogan has been a part of the Menendez family for about 3 years. He was a year old when their application was approved and they made the 9 hour trip to Concordia, KS to pick him up from CARES (Canine Assistance Rehabilitation Education Services) where he had been trained. Grogan currently works at the public library, St. Malachy, Southwest and GMS where he spends the entire school day twice a week. Aside from the most obvious benefit of providing companionship and love, Grogan's presence in schools often opens up communication and connection between students, faculty and staff.

Alumni Spotlight:

Brother Nicholas Koenig, O.C.S.O

Answering God's call to the religious life as a Monk at New Melleray Abbey near Dubuque, Iowa, Br. Nicholas Koenig acknowledges that his Catholic education influenced his vocation. "It gave me my first formal introduction to the liturgical life and showed me that liturgy is naturally part of life. That seed would eventually grow into my monastic vocation."

The son of Kevin and Merva Koenig of St. Malachy Church, Br. Nicholas attended St. Malachy School from Kindergarten through sixth grade, and has fond memories of sitting on the playground reading during recess. Graduating from GHS in 2000, he went on to earn his Bachelors Degree in History and Political Science from Northern Illinois University in 2004.

Today he calls 25 Professed Brothers his family and dedicates all of his time and energy to knowing and serving the Lord through prayer, poverty, silence and manual labor within the community of the monastery.



Brother Nicholas Koenig is a Trappist Monk at New Melleray Abbey in Peosta, Iowa.

Share Your Story!

We want to know where our St. Malachy alumni are today! Send us your alumni update to be included on the website and/or newsletter.

Please include your:

- *Name
- *Years/grades attended St. Malachy
- *High school/year of graduation
- *College degree/year of graduation
- *Currently living in
- *Family
- *How St. Malachy influenced you
- *Favorite memory of St. Malachy
- *Current picture, if possible

Email updates to
marketing@stmalgeneseo.org

Mail your information to
595 E Ogden Ave, Geneseo, IL 61254



Brother Nicholas is pictured above with his monastic brother, Walter, and some of his extended family.

St. Malachy School Adopts a Seminarian

In conjunction with the Office of Priestly Vocations, the Office of Catholic Schools requests that each Catholic School within the Diocese of Peoria “adopt” a seminarian. This year St. Malachy is praying for Ryan Mann who is studying at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, MN. Students pray for him and write cards and letters and will send a Christmas care package. Please join us in praying for Ryan Mann and all seminarians as well as an increase in vocations.

A Prayer for Vocations



Father, You call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you.

Bless your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons, and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us as we grow to know you, and open our hearts to hear your call.

We ask all this in Jesus' name.
Amen

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

With your help...

Donations to the school through the Alumni Newsletter will be used to update and maintain our classrooms. Our goal is to replace all classroom chalkboards with whiteboards.

One hundred \$25 donations would cover the cost of new whiteboards!

Please consider a donation to the school...what a great Christmas gift idea! Donate in honor of your student!

Any gift is greatly appreciated and may be made in memory of a loved one, in honor of a current student or in honor of your favorite teacher!

Donors will be acknowledged on the Alumni page of the school website.



St. Malachy School will enjoy a Marionette School Assembly by The Stevens Puppets during Catholic Schools Week 2018. This special program was funded, in part, by generous donations to the Alumni Newsletter!

A Day in the Life of St. Malachy Students...



6th Grade Earthworm lab



Kindergarten Morning Routine



All School Project fun with Fr. Freehill



3rd Grade has a dab of Fun in P.E.



1st Grade circle prayer



4th grade spots U.S. state shapes in unusual places



5th grade marshmallow & spaghetti towers



2nd grade robots

Pack the Parking Lot!

#TheRealReason

St. Malachy School

Thursday, December 14, 2017

12-1 p.m.



Join us at noon as we gather outside around the Nativity crèche for student-led prayer and song. St. Malachy School students (K-6) and staff would like to take a moment and focus on the real reason for the season!



Please stop in the Hall for lunch afterwards.

All families, parishioners, and community members are invited.

ST. MALACHY FACULTY 2017-2018

- Kindergarten.....*Bev Goethals*
- First Grade.....*Carol Roemer*
- Second Grade.....*Jessi Haars*
- Third Grade.....*Erin Hofer*
- Fourth Grade.....*Judy Kanke*
- Fifth Grade.....*Ellen Nelson*
- Sixth Grade.....*Janel Vandemore*
- Art.....*Mary Heiar*
- Computer & Spanish....*Kristin Wilson*
- Library & P.E.....*Styphanie Palmer*
- Music.....*Elizabeth Hulsbrink*
- Teacher Aides.....*Marcia Swanson*
Lori Turpin
Vicky Wyffels
- Principal.....*Heather Francque*
- Pastor.....*Father Michael Pakula*

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...as you teach.”
Colossians 3:16*

I would like to support St. Malachy School!

Enclosed is my gift: \$25___ \$50___ \$100___ \$500___ other \$___

Name _____

My gift is made in memory /in honor of _____

Mailing Address _____

Email me the newsletter! _____

Please share any prayer requests that you have to be included in the Parish Book of Intentions.

Please make checks to St. Malachy School and return with this form to
St. Malachy School
595 E Ogden Avenue Geneseo, IL 61254-1145