



# SCHOOL MATTERS

ST. MALACHY SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2018

## ST. MALACHY'S GOT SPIRIT!

St. Malachy Parents Club usually sponsors t-shirt and sweatshirt sales every other year. While the apparel sales are not typically large money-makers for the school, the main goal is to showcase school pride. This year's sale, however, was a different story, and generated nearly \$2,000 profit for the school!

When Erin Wyffels' oldest son started Kindergarten at St. Malachy this year, she took the opportunity to get involved with the committee organizing the apparel sales. Inspired by her mother's many years in education, Erin was determined to show her appreciation for teachers once her own children began school. With the help of fellow school moms Jessi Haars and Devon Schaaf, they got to work. She graciously gifted sweatshirts to St. Malachy School staff.

Mrs. Wyffels offered both child and adult options, including t-shirts and hoodies. A total of 203 apparel items were sold, and counting!

Half of the total sales were ordered online, an added convenience for families and friends eager to support St. Malachy School. Erin designed the apparel logo graphic, which artfully depicts our school's strong sense of faith and rich history.

Rural Route Life is the Wyffels' screen-printing business which they operate out of their home. Erin and her husband, Brian, began selling shirts just over a year ago. They are designed, printed, and shipped from their basement in Geneseo. They also have an online store, [www.ruralroutelife.com](http://www.ruralroutelife.com), and their shirts are also sold in 2 retail stores so far: Katsch in Geneseo, IL and The MudbuM Supply Shack in Des Moines, IA. They have plans to expand the number of retail locations to 5 or 6 in 2019.

Because Erin is a busy mom of 3 little boys (Jase, Drew and Luke), there are many weeks when she has to limit the amount of hours dedicated to the business. We are very grateful for her time, talent and treasures. Wearing our heart on our sleeve, we say thank you to the Wyffels family!



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# St. Malachy Cheer

By Hayden Veryzer, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

In December, St. Malachy School has many Christmas traditions. Some of the most popular events are Secret Santa, the Christmas program, and Christmas caroling.

Every year we present a Christmas program that focuses on the real reason for the season. Since the sixth grade class is so small this year, we were assigned many parts. I personally like the parts I was given in the play but it is difficult to memorize the lines.

The songs are really fun to sing, but in my opinion sixth grade's song, *Bethlehem Bound*, is especially amazing. It's very jazzy, it has a solo in it, and it just sounds so good. Joseph is rocking the solo, and really likes it. I also like it, but I would never be able to sing it.

Every year the school has done Secret Santa. Every student and teacher in the school is assigned a person to bring gifts for on different dates. This event occurs the last week before Christmas break. On the first day we deliver a card, then an ornament on the second day.

On the third day we give them a prayer or poem, on the fourth day we deliver them a cookie. Then, on the last day, the whole school gathers together to give the final gift, a candy bar; and we finally find out who our Secret Santa is! When I was in second grade a teacher had me as their Secret Santa and I got a *giant* cookie!

On the last day before Christmas break our school gathers together and we sing carols. We sing lots of songs but my favorite is when the teachers make up their own song. They usually sing about how they are ready for Christmas break and they don't have to grade papers etc. Every year it just gets funnier and funnier.

All the traditions we do at our wonderful school are so fun. Whenever Christmas comes around I always look forward to celebrating with my school. It gives me a warm feeling inside when I find out who had me for Secret Santa. I love going up to the person I have and seeing their face when they receive the gift of the candy bar. All of these traditions are amazing; and I have always loved them since I came to St. Malachy in first grade.



6<sup>th</sup> grade rehearses a scene from *Miracle at Midnight*



## A Recipe for Success

By Joseph Venneberg, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Have you ever thought about how much time, effort, and ability it takes to prepare a meal for over 1000 people? The St. Malachy Parents Club Lasagna Supper has been going on for 41 years. Parent volunteers and their children make the lasagna and set everything up. I've worked at the lasagna supper for four years. I like to bus tables, scrape plates, and help with the drinks.

Mrs. Kanke, the retired fourth grade teacher, told me a lot of information about past years. She started to tell me that parents used to volunteer to watch kids on the playground during recess. Parents then formed a committee and decided to have a lasagna dinner to pay for a playground supervisor. Mrs. Hone, one of the leaders of the Lasagna Supper this year, said that this year's event generated about \$7,000.

About 40 years ago, the supper was held in the basement of the old St. Malachy. Parents would make a pan of lasagna at their own homes and bring it in on the night of the dinner.

After the old St. Malachy was torn down the dinner was moved to the Moose Hall, and then it was held at Geneseo High School. When the new St. Malachy Hall was built, they had it there.

Last year, Parents Club tried something new and they ordered the lasagna from a restaurant. This year, the lasagna was made at St. Malachy, like previous years. I like when the Parents Club makes the lasagna at school; I like that it makes the whole school smell good. My only problem is that it makes me hungry in class.



# SIXTH GRADE PICKS

## Movies & Books by Marley & Beth

### #therealreason

Beth Mroz, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Most people don't believe in the words "accidental heroes," or "coincidental friends." Everyone has their different beliefs, but I think that these words mean everything. Ordinary barn animals never thought they would be friends or heroes, but with accidents and coincidences, they follow a star and become both in an animated movie about the nativity of Jesus.

Last year, an anonymous donor approached St Malachy School principal, Mrs. Francque, and offered to provide money for an all school field trip to see the movie *The Star* at the Central Theater.

This movie is about a donkey named Bo that goes on adventures with his friend Ruth, an adorable sheep, and Dave, an arrogant dove. On another side of the story, the three camels that carry the wise men struggle to find out why they're going to Bethlehem.

*The Star* is a comedy, family and fantasy movie. The budget was estimated at eighteen million dollars, but I think that it was worth every penny. The story had meaning, delight, and fun jokes with a religious message. The movie is one of the best ways to tell the true meaning of Christmas.

Students from our own St. Malachy School say that they loved the movie. Fifth grader, Katy, says, "The movie *The Star* was cute and fun." Personally, I would agree with her. I think the movie was sensational.

Fourth graders, Anna and Ashtyn, say they would change the comedy in the movie to make it a little funnier, but overall it was great. Many people in the school watched the movie again. It seemed like everybody liked this movie.

Accidental heroes and coincidental friends aren't just make believe characters in movies. They can be here in reality too. Just as Bo, the donkey, carried Mary to Bethlehem, we can carry each other to success. These heroes and friends are everywhere. If we don't take the chance to look around, we might just miss them.

## Wonder

By Marley Cherry, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Last year our library teacher, Mrs. Palmer read the book *Wonder* to the 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the time and ended up absolutely loving the book. *Wonder* is about a boy named August (Auggie) Pullman who was born with a facial condition that required a ton of surgeries and left his appearance deformed. His parents homeschool him until one day they told him the big news: that he is going to start 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Beecher Prep! When he goes to school, Auggie is bullied and feels like he's being stared at in every hallway and every room he walks into. He is made fun of, but ends up finding friends along the way.

After reading the book to us, Mrs. Palmer took all of us on a field trip to the movie theater in downtown Geneseo. We were all super excited. We watched the movie and had popcorn.

If I had to decide which I liked more, it would be the book because I like trying to picture what the characters and the setting look like. Yet, I liked the movie because it was actually nice to see what the characters in the book looked like and how they acted.

I can relate to August and how he felt different because I shaved my head for charity in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I felt like people saw me from a different point of view. I can also relate to some of August's friends because I would stand up for my friends as they did for August.

I would rate the book 5 stars and the movie 4.5 stars. I would recommend the book and movie to both kids and adults because it makes you realize how blessed you are to have everything you have. It makes you feel like you just want to go out and do something to help someone or try to be of service to someone. I believe it is something that most kids and adults should read, or at least watch the movie.

It makes you think of people differently.

***It makes you want to choose kindness.***

**I praise you,  
for I am  
fearfully and  
wonderfully  
made.**

**Wonderful are  
your works; I  
know that  
very well.**

**Psalm 139:14**

# The New Kid on the Block

By Joshua Anderson, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

I was living in Tallahassee, Florida where it is almost always burning hot. My school, Conley, was different because it was public instead of private. In my old school there were twenty or more students in every class and each year you had to make different friends because they changed the classmates in every class. There were no Spanish or computer classes and we did not go to church because it was not a Catholic school.

After my father's retirement from the Army we headed for Geneseo. Then I started school with my siblings at St. Malachy, the same school my father and his siblings went to! My father told me that he went to the old St. Malachy School for a little while until the new St. Malachy was built. He always said good things about the school. I was actually surprised when I saw there were only five kids in my sixth grade class. With small class sizes the teachers give me a lot of help all the time. I now have grown connected with the school.

It's almost halfway through the full school year and I have fit in just right here with my new friends. The teachers are amazing because they help when I am struggling. My favorite subjects are math and science. I love math because it really makes you think. On the other hand, I also like science because it is sometimes hands on activities. When I first came to Geneseo I was anxious to start school. However, when I saw there were just five students in my class, I was not as anxious. I love St. Malachy School!

## A New Face in Fourth Grade Meet Mrs. Schlindwein



St. Malachy School welcomes Mrs. Carrie Schlindwein to the St. Malachy faculty as our 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Originally from Kewanee, Mrs. Schlindwein has been a St. Malachy parishioner for twenty-four years. She and her husband, Jack, have five children and two grandchildren. Mrs. Schlindwein roots for the Chicago Cubs and is an avid Marquette Golden Eagles fan.

Along with an abundance of creativity and a flair for decorating her classroom, Mrs. Schlindwein brings to St. Malachy 21 years of teaching experience, mostly in Special Education. Having her own classroom is a new experience and she has created a warm and inviting learning environment sprinkled with antiques reflecting her hobbies.

During this Advent season Mrs. Schlindwein has made it fourth grade's mission to spread joy by doing random acts of kindness. Teachers discovered candy canes on their car door handles, cheerful Christmas decorations appeared in the cafeteria, and homemade bird pinecone feeders dangle from trees in the school yard. While these kind gestures during fourth grade's *12 Days of Christmas* are wonderful, it is certain that Mrs. Schlindwein will continue to bring joy to St. Malachy School throughout the entire year.

## St. Malachy School Enrollment

<u>Class</u>	<u># of Students</u>
Kindergarten	24
First Grade	19
Second Grade	12
Third Grade	17
Fourth Grade	16
Fifth Grade	15
Sixth Grade	5

107 Students

79 Families

56 Boys 51 Girls

\*Enrollment as of December 2018

# An Untapped Resource: The Heaven Sent SCRIP Program

You could earn free money for the church and school by making your routine purchases of groceries and gas using SCRIP gift cards. The Heaven Sent Scrip Program sells gift cards at face value and each participating retailer donates a percentage to the program. Profit is split between the church and the school.

Many people utilize Scrip for gift giving and Christmas shopping which is wonderful; however, we have the potential to truly make the program a reliable source of income if parish and school families would establish a regular habit of utilizing Scrip for routine purchases.

*A family spending \$500 a month on groceries and gas through Scrip would earn \$180 for the program!*  
**100 families spending \$500 a month would generate \$18,000 in a year!**

This is FREE MONEY for the church and school!

While many fundraisers require countless hours of volunteer time and energy, Scrip only requires that you purchase gift cards to take care of your family's regular shopping needs!

What a great New Year's resolution! Make 2019 the year that your family commits to buying Scrip for your gas and grocery purchases. Your participation will make a difference! Purchase Scrip after Masses or submit your order to the parish office during their regular business hours.

*Does your family grocery shop?  
Will you fill your tank with gas this month?*

**Choose from hundreds of retailers!**

- Fareway
- Save-a-Lot
- Walmart
- Target
- Beck's
- BP
- Casey's
- Amazon
- Kohl's
- McDonald's
- The Cellar
- Even airlines and hotels!



## Parish & School Scrip Challenge!

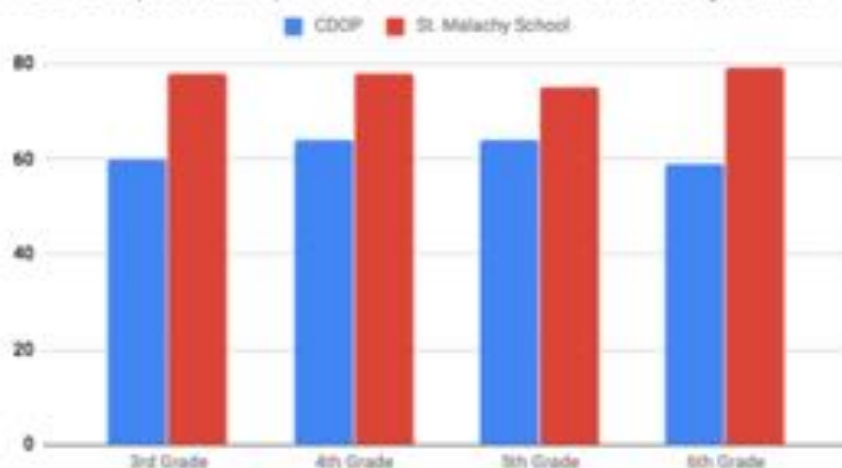
If combined parish & school family Scrip sales reach \$150,000 by May 15<sup>th</sup> all youth in the school and any area of faith formation in the parish will be rewarded with a fun experience!

**Support St. Malachy! Buy Scrip today!**

## St. Malachy's Tests Impress

Schools within the Catholic Diocese of Peoria administer the Iowa Assessments in the fall of each school year. St. Malachy students performed higher than the diocesan averages.

ITBS Complete Composite Score: CDOP & St. Malachy School



## St. Malachy Success at GMS & GHS

Former St. Malachy students continue to perform well at the middle school and high school level. In the 2018 Spring semester 93% of St. Malachy students at GMS & GHS were on the Honor Roll.

90% of St. Malachy students were on the honor roll at the high school, while 97% of the 35 students at the middle school were on the first or second honor roll!



# St. Malachy School: We are a family in Christ.



## St. Malachy Sixth Grade 2018-2019

Joshua Anderson  
Joseph Venneberg  
Hayden Veryzer  
Beth Mroz  
Marley Cherry

### ST. MALACHY FACULTY & STAFF 2018-19

Kindergarten	Bev Goethals
First Grade	Carol Roemer
Second Grade	Jessi Haars
Third Grade	Erin Hofer
Fourth Grade	Carrie Schlindwein
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
Secretary	Tamara Moser
Office Assistant	Mary-Margaret Herstedt
Maintenance	Theresa Mariman
Playground	Kathy VerCautren
Principal	Heather Francque
Pastor	Father Michael Pakula

I would like to support St. Malachy School with a gift.

I would like to offer my gift in memory / in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\$10\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ \$500\_\_\_ other \$\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer requests to be included in the Parish Book of Intentions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks to St. Malachy School. Mail form to:

St. Malachy School, 595 E Ogden Avenue, Geneseo, IL 61254