



SCHOOL MATTERS

ST. MALACHY SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2019

Pedaling Priests Visit St. Malachy School

Pedaling their bicycles right through the front doors of the school and into St. Malachy Hall, Fathers Adam Cesarek, Tom Otto and Michael Pica made their first stop on a five day, 350 mile trek across the length of the Diocese of Peoria on Monday, September 30th. The eager assembly of students, faculty, staff and parishioners cheered and welcomed them with enthusiasm and applause.



Their mission is not to raise money, but rather, is a *prayer raiser* for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Sharing their own personal experiences of God's call in their lives, these energetic young priests impressed upon the crowd that each person has been created by God the Father for a specific purpose. After he encouraged everyone to spend time in daily prayer to discern their own vocations, Father Cesarek led the students in a high intensity cheer, "Lord help me to want to be who You want me to be!" Inspired by the pedaling priests' contagious love for the Lord and desire that all people hear and obey God's plan for their lives, St. Malachy school has adopted this simple prayer as a part of our daily announcement and prayer to begin each and every school day.



Prior to the pedaling priests' visit, St. Malachy students prepared by discussing vocations in their classes and completing a variety of activities. To help welcome the special guests, students and staff traced and decorated their handprints to wave at the assembly. Each student also colored or wrote a prayer on a strip of paper that was attached to the spokes of a bike as part of a display in the narthex. Kindergarteners colored a vocations booklet and fourth grade brainstormed to create an A-Z poster about vocations. In computer class, students created word art in the shape of bicycles crosses and hearts that adorned the lunch tables in the hall.



BOOK FAIR FAMILY FUN NIGHT IS SNOW MUCH FUN!

The Arctic Adventure may be the coolest Scholastic book fair yeti.

Now in her fourth year as librarian at St. Malachy, in addition to teaching P.E., Mrs. Styphanie Palmer brings an unmatched level of creativity and enthusiasm to the book fairs held in the fall and spring.

Mrs. Palmer plans games, snacks, door prizes and guest readers for Family Fun Nights to get kids and their families excited about the book fair and reading. She hopes that parents will see the joy and excitement their children feel about the book fair and that it will inspire them to make reading a bigger part of their family time.

Mrs. Palmer described an especially rewarding moment as she prepared for this year's fall book fair. "I walked into 1st grade the day before book fair and a student shouted that he would be going to book fair and family fun night; and whether he wanted to go to see me dressed up in a crazy costume, or to pick out a book he'll love forever, it works for me."

This year, St. Malachy Hall was transformed into a frozen landscape complete with an igloo! While the Arctic Adventure earned St. Malachy's highest sales totals to date, the enthusiasm for reading generated by the book fair is priceless.



Above: Mrs. Moser, school secretary, shares a favorite book as a guest reader at Family Fun Night.



Dressed in a head to toe yeti costume, Mrs. Palmer, librarian, poses with St. Malachy students at the Arctic Adventure Scholastic Book Fair



Beautiful Benches to Remember a Beautiful Woman

By Marcia Swanson & Mary Beth Farber

Our Mom, Betty Laleman Vroman, was a woman of great faith. St. Malachy Church and school were such an important part of Mom's life. When Mom and our Dad, Fred, moved to Geneseo many years ago, it was decided their children would attend St Malachy School; and even though tuition was a sacrifice for them, they decided a Catholic education was worth the sacrifice. All seven of their children attended St Malachy School.

After our Mom's passing we knew we wanted to use the money gifted by friends and family for Mom's memorial to be split between the church and school she loved so much. What we weren't sure of was how to use the money.

Mary Beth noticed how many people who used the playground had nowhere to sit. She came up with the idea to have benches placed on the playground in Mom's honor. We had enough money for two benches. The benches we purchased are made of completely recycled materials, and are maintenance free.

We have family members with experience in pouring concrete, so it was decided we would do the site prep and bench installation on our own as a family. One day was spent digging out the dirt, making sure everything was level, and installing the forms.

The day we poured the concrete pads, instead of installing a plaque with Mom's name (she would've hated that!) we decided to have grandkids & great-grandkids put their handprints in the concrete. Many hands made for light work. Afterward, we all gathered for a picnic in the shelter. It was a wonderful day!

Presently, there have been 3 generations of our family, twenty six descendants total, that have attended St. Malachy School with more to come in the future!

"They decided a Catholic education was worth the sacrifice."



{FAMILY}
a legacy of love

New Rosary Garden Graces St. Malachy Grounds

A lovely one decade rosary garden has been added just west of the Mahoney Shelter. Parishioners are welcome to walk and pray a decade of the rosary outdoors in God's beautiful creation!



Many hands make light work.

School parents, alumni and Confirmation students assemble pans of lasagna for this year's supper.

Food & Fellowship on the Menu at Parents Club Lasagna Supper

St. Malachy Parents Club has been serving up delicious lasagna, with a side of fun and fellowship, for 42 years! The annual Lasagna Supper is definitely a labor of love for all of the school families. While the supper has certainly evolved from its original format when families assembled individual pans of lasagna at home, then brought them to the event; the strong sense of school community remains strong. Preparation for the supper is a well-oiled machine of many working parts from sauce making, to lasagna assembly, to baking and serving, to serious pan scrubbing, dish washing and clean up! Parents and students work alongside each other at this family event nurturing the family atmosphere of the school. The simple menu of lasagna, salad, bread, dessert and beverage keeps some school supporters returning year after year after year. Approximately 679 guests chose the dine in option while about 769 people opted for walk-up carry out. Congrats, Parents Club, for another successful Lasagna Supper!

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Several St. Malachy staff members celebrate milestone anniversaries in Catholic education this year.



10 Years: Kristin Wilson

Mrs. Wilson teaches Spanish and Computer.



20 Years: Mary Heiar

Mrs. Heiar inspires creativity as St. Malachy's art teacher.



25 Years: Marcia Swanson

Mrs. Swanson is a teacher aide in second & third grades..

St. Malachy School Enrollment

<u>Class</u>	<u># of Students</u>
Kindergarten	19
First Grade	24
Second Grade	18
Third Grade	12
Fourth Grade	16
Fifth Grade	15
Sixth Grade	10

114 Students

82 Families

57 Boys 57 Girls

*Enrollment as of November 2019

St. Malachy Students Have Success at GMS & GHS

Former St. Malachy students continue to perform well at the middle school and high school level.

During the 2019 Spring semester, 93% of all St. Malachy students at GMS & GHS made the honor roll!

98% of St. Malachy at the high school were on the honor roll, while 87% of the 47 students at the middle school were named to the first or second honor roll.

2019 GHS Totals		
Total # Students	49	
	1st Honor Roll	2nd Honor Roll
# of Students	36	12
% of Class	73%	24%
Total Honor Roll		
98%		

2019 GMS Totals		
Total # Students	47	
	1st Honor Roll	2nd Honor Roll
# of Students	31	10
% of Class	66%	21%
Total Honor Roll		
87%		

Welcome to the St. Malachy Family, Mrs. Schaaf!

St. Malachy School is pleased to welcome Devon Schaaf into our school family as the new 3rd grade teacher.

Devon is very excited to be teaching 3rd grade. She and her husband, Dan, have three children at St. Malachy School. Hayden is in 6th grade, Reese is in 3rd grade, and Connor is in 1st grade. They also have two very special babies in Heaven, Drew, who would be in 4th grade, and Owen, Reese's twin.

After graduating from the University of Iowa, Devon received her first teaching position in Kewanee as a 2nd grade teacher. She went on to teach 2nd grade and 4th grade for the Geneseo School District.

She has been blessed with the opportunity to be at home with her kids as they were growing up, but after spending 11 years out of the classroom, she is happy to be back. A few of Devon's passions include traveling with her family, boating at Oak Run, and spending quiet time with God.

"Shortly after beginning my job as the 3rd grade teacher, I heard the quote, "Lord, help me to be who you want me to be." It was such perfect timing because all along, I felt like he was calling me to this position. Each day, I continue to ask for His guidance as I continue to do His will."

Devon Schaaf



Has St. Malachy School made a difference in your family's life?

Show your appreciation by donating to the Alumni Newsletter Fund.

ST. MALACHY FACULTY & STAFF 2019-20

Kindergarten	Bev Goethals
First Grade	Carol Roemer
Second Grade	Jessi Haars
Third Grade	Devon Schaaf
Fourth Grade	Carrie Schindwein
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
Liturgty Coordinator	Mary Frimml
Principal	Heather Francque
Pastor	Father Michael Pakula

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

Thank you, St. Malachy School, for:

Please accept 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 payable to St. Malachy School. Mail form to:

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