



School Matters

Alumni Newsletter
Spring 2017

We are a family in Christ.

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



Einstein, Queen Elizabeth & JFK Visit St. Malachy School

Who would expect to walk into St. Malachy Hall and hear Albert Einstein expound upon his theory of relativity? Did you ever imagine you could listen to Saint Teresa recount her divine call to serve God's people in India? Imagine Harry Carey broadcasting facts about his life from St. Malachy School! All of these interesting characters, and many more, made an appearance at St. Malachy School!

History came to life during the fifth and sixth grade Wax Museum Character Day during National Catholic Schools Week. A large portion of the students' Reading class during the third quarter centers on the wax museum, a multi step project that requires students to develop their reading, writing and public speaking skills. The most important component is presenting their character live in a wax museum setting.

With the touch of a button, students, parishioners and school families bring each character to life. All throughout the Hall, students emulate their chosen character telling their life story from a first person perspective. Displaying exemplary poise in their public speaking, the students wowed their audience while in character. Join us next year for the Wax Museum during National Catholic Schools Week 2018!

5th Grade (left) and 6th Grade (right) wowed guests at the Wax Museum Character Day during Catholic Schools Week



+ St. Malachy Alumna Creates New Worlds with Words

Kate (Anderson) Ristau, who attended St. Malachy School Kindergarten – 6th grade, is a folklorist and author. Ristau graduated from GHS in 1999. She visited St. Malachy School and spoke to the students sharing her passion for writing. Ristau studied Celtic mythology abroad, then, after volunteering with AmeriCorps, moved to Oregon. She completed her Masters Degree in folklore at the University of Oregon. Along the way, she learned to write her own stories—stories of magic and myth, fairies and folklore.

Ristau used to teach for the University of Oregon, but has put down her red pens to write full-time and has a literary agent representing her. She has written two series – *Clockbreakers* and *Shadow Girl*—along with a grammar primer.

Ristau describes her desire to write for young adults, “I’m a firm believer that kids should see themselves in the books they read, and also experience different perspectives. I write sci-fi / fantasy because I love creating worlds and expanding possibilities. In my books, kids discover the power of magic, possibility and belief. Plus, there are dragons!”



Former St. Malachy student and author, Kate Ristau, shares her most recent book, *Clockbreakers*, with students Keely Roberts, Jaydon Burrage, Keira Disterhoft and Adriana Minnaert.

Learn more and order books at kateristau.com

Kindergarten Letter People

St. Malachy Kindergarteners meet a variety of interesting characters while they learn about each letter of the alphabet throughout the year. Each student chose a letter person, dressed in costume and read a short presentation to the entire school on Letter Person Day!

In the Shadow of the Cross



In observance of the holy season of Lent, Third Grade presents a very moving shadow play depiction of the Way of the Cross.



+ Noteworthy News

Wishing Mrs. Thompson a Delicious Retirement!



St. Malachy School students, faculty and staff wish Mrs. Mary Thompson the very best as she retires from the St. Malachy School staff. Mrs. Thompson has been a part of the St. Malachy community since 1946. She attended St. Malachy School for first through eighth grade (Kindergarten was not offered at the time). She was married in St. Malachy church in 1959 and all four of her children, Chris, Cindy, Carla and Craig attended the school. Five of her grandsons also attended St. Malachy; and with the youngest moving on to the middle school as a seventh grader next year, she has been able to enjoy seeing her family while she works.

Mrs. Thompson joined the staff in 2000 as a playground monitor and serving lunch which was eaten in the classrooms at that time. Over the years she has enjoyed many entertaining comments from the kids as they come through the lunch line. "What is this stuff?" and "Do I have to eat this?" top the list! Mrs. Thompson's personal favorite hot lunch is Pizza Hut pizza!

While she is retiring from her position here at the school, she will continue to keep busy working at the Geneseo Public Library shelving books as a library page and spending time with her family, especially her grandsons.

Thank you, Mrs. Thompson, for your years of dedicated service to the school. Your warmth and kindness touched St. Malachy School and you brightened each day serving lunches with a smile!



Geneseo Mayor, Kathy Carroll-Duda, visits St. Malachy School

A Tasty Twist on Prayer

Dressed in a pretzel apron and wearing dangling pretzel-shaped earrings, Mrs. Nora Taets generously donates her time and talent to St. Malachy School by baking pretzels with the students. Better known as "the Pretzel Lady," Mrs. Taets began this tasty Lenten tradition 35 years ago and volunteers her time baking with both the school and CCD classes.

The pretzel was invented in the 7th century by a monk who wanted to create a treat for children who learned their prayers. The shape symbolizes arms folded across the chest with each hand touching the opposite shoulder.



Above: Mrs. Taets has volunteered her time to make homemade soft pretzels with St. Malachy students for 35 years!

Mayor Kathy Carroll-Duda Leads Faithfully

St. Malachy School welcomed Mayor Kathy Carroll-Duda, a long time St. Malachy parishioner, and mayor of Geneseo, as guest speaker during Catholic Schools Week. The Mayor shared with the student body that her faith and trust in God guide her leadership role in the community. The Mayor stressed that she turns to God in prayer whenever she has a decision to make.

Quoting Scripture, she reminded students that each and every one of them were created by God for a specific purpose. "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago."

Ephesians 2:10

ST. MALACHY FACULTY 2016-2017

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.....*Jack Schlindwein*
 Assistant Principal.*Heather Francque*
 Pastor.....*Father Michael Pakula*
*“Train up a child in the way he should
 go and when he is old he will not depart
 from it.” Proverbs 22:6*

I would like to support St. Malachy School.

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

- Please accept my general donation to the school
- My gift is made in the memory / honor of _____
- Address Change _____
- Email me the newsletter! _____

Please share any prayer requests that you have so that they may be written in the Parish Book of Intentions to be prayed for during parish Masses and weekly school Masses.

Please make checks payable to St. Malachy School and return with this form:

St. Malachy School
595 E Ogden Avenue, Geneseo IL 61254-1145
www.saintmalachy.org

