



# SCHOOL MATTERS

**St. Malachy School Geneseo, IL**

Issue 16 \* 2016-2017

*Live. Love. Learn. Pray. These are the things we do every day.*

## **Students Celebrate St. Teresa of Calcutta**

Students, faculty, staff and parishioners gathered on Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:50 p.m. (in recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Malachy Parish) for a prayer service to honor Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and her upcoming canonization.

Music, prayer and a reading from the Gospel of Matthew highlighted our call as Christians to serve others; but even more powerful were the words of Mother Teresa, herself. As sunshine streamed through the windows, those gathered in St. Malachy Hall listened to a recording of Mother Teresa's voice, the voice of a Saint. In her heavy eastern European accent Mother Teresa described the ripple effect of doing good to others; and how she found that serving people led her to love them, and through her service she was rewarded with joy and peace. She saw Jesus in every human being and treated each of them as she would as if she had encountered the Lord, himself, in need.

An inquisitive Kindergartener wondered if the woman dressed in white and blue was actually Mother Teresa, visiting the school. A generous volunteer dressed as a Sister of Charity and taught the students about Mother Teresa's life and how she answered God's call to serve "the least of His people".



Above: Students listen to an audio recording of Mother Teresa speaking about how service to others leads one to love, joy and peace.



Left: Mrs. Alisande Rapps, St. Malachy parishioner and school parent, dressed as a Sister of Charity to share about the life and work of St. Teresa of Calcutta. Her costume was hand-made by Mrs. Donna Eechaute, a generous parishioner and grandmother of a fifth grade student.

## **St. Malachy School Informational Meeting**

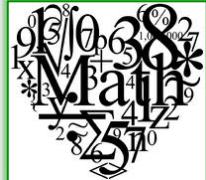
Attention families of preschoolers! Come and learn more about St. Malachy School's Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> Grade program.

**Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

Join us for informal conversation, Q & A, and a tour of the school. Childcare will be provided.

Please RSVP to the school office, 309-944-3230, so that we may plan accordingly.

# ALL SCHOOL PROJECT 2016-2017



All School Projects are a St. Malachy School tradition that began over twenty years ago. Each year students eagerly anticipate All School Project days which afford them the opportunity to collaborate with children of every grade level in an engaging learning environment. Unlike traditional classroom instruction, students travel to various activity stations throughout the day; and most All School Project days include games, crafts, food, guest speakers and presentations related to the theme.

The entire student body is divided into multi-aged groups from each class. The sixth grade students exercise skills in leadership and communication serving leaders of All School Project groups.

This year the school implemented a new multi-media math textbook series, *My Math*. In this blended learning approach, teachers utilize online resources along with traditional workbooks. This, along with the school's continual effort to increase competency in mathematics, led to a math-based All School Project theme:

## For the Love of Math

Are you Smarter than a St. Malachy Sixth Grader? Solve the math problem to the right for a chance to win a \$25 gift card of your choice from the Heaven Sent Scrip program. A winner will be drawn from all correct responses on January 14, 2017.



## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

Thanks, in part, to generous donations through the *School Matters* newsletter St. Malachy School continues to improve and maintain its technology resources. Most recently the school transitioned to a new web-based library management system, updated its network and internet security/filtering system, and implemented remote network monitoring for ongoing technical support. Thank you to all who helped make this possible!

**Colleen Castelein**

**Kurt & Kathy Gramling**

**John & Glenda Kemnitz**

**Rod & Dorothy Remme**

**Jason & Karen Stenzel**

**Nathan Vorac**

**John & Mary Jo (Stocks) Weber**

# FOR THE LOVE OF MATH

Kindergarteners, by nature, come to school eager to learn. Wide-eyed and open-minded, they soak up new information like little sponges. One of the most notable milestones of early education is emerging literacy. Parents and teachers celebrate students' progress as they begin to read. Soon, young readers notice that they are able to decode signs, menus, and printed words everywhere. They quickly realize that reading will be an indispensable life skill--something they will do every day.

But what about *math*? Too often teachers and parents hear "I'm just not good at math," or "I'll never use math like this in real life". Math literacy, however, is just as crucial as being able to read fluently.

*Math literacy is the ability to do, understand, and apply mathematics in school and in everyday life.*

Without a strong and solid foundation in basic skills, students will likely not be able to grasp and apply abstract mathematic concepts in higher education, or in the real world. Students may not recognize it, but just like reading, the need for competency in math is all around us each day: using mental math to count back change, comparing prices to determine the best value at the grocery store, understanding fractions and measuring ingredients while cooking, the need for math goes on and on!

Improving performance in math computation is a goal identified in the school's strategic plan. The first All School Project day focused on math with fun activities including estimating and weighing trail mix, measuring with goldfish crackers, math relay races, tasting and graphing apples, and math games.



## Are You Smarter than a St. Malachy Sixth Grader?

Mail to: St. Malachy School/Alumni Newsletter 595 E Ogden Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Juan is  $1 \frac{1}{4}$  feet shorter than Maria. Maria is  $\frac{1}{3}$  foot taller than Luis. If Luis is 62 inches tall, how tall are Maria and Juan?

Maria \_\_\_\_\_ Juan \_\_\_\_\_

## St. Malachy Students are On a Roll...

### The Honor Roll

The numbers speak for themselves: St. Malachy students excel at Geneseo Middle School and High School!

During the 2015-2016 academic year, 78% of St. Malachy students at Geneseo High School were on the Honor Roll. Of 64 students, 55% achieved first honor roll, and 23% achieved second honor roll.

At Geneseo Middle School 94% of St. Malachy Students made the Honor Roll. Of the 35 St. Malachy students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, 86% achieved first honor roll and 9% achieved second honor roll.

Altogether, of the 99 St. Malachy students at GMS and GHS, 89% achieved first or second honor roll for the 2015-2016 academic year!

### Oh, the Places You'll Go, Mrs. Carton!



After 24 years at St. Malachy School, Mrs. Ninette Carton retired from teaching Computer and Library. Mrs. Carton plans to continue to serve as Director of the Atkinson Public Library and devote her free time to hobbies and travel.

Mrs. Carton shares that more than anything else she will miss her students and coworkers; and retirement is bittersweet because "St. Malachy feels like home." Thank you, Mrs. Carton! May you be blessed in your retirement!

### Welcome Back, Mrs. Roemer!



Mrs. Carol Roemer returns to the St. Malachy faculty to teach First Grade for the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Roemer taught First Grade for four years at St. Malachy before choosing to stay home with her young children. She then taught Fourth Grade for two years in the Quad Cities.

A former St. Malachy student herself, her favorite aspect of teaching at the school is the warm, family-like atmosphere. Mrs. Roemer and her husband, Mike, are St. Malachy parishioners. They have two daughters Miranda and Leah, and two sons Colin and Justin.

### "A Walk Down Memory Lane" Car Party a Success!

Thank you to all who supported the 2016 Car Party! This incredible event was a huge success thanks to all who are dedicated to the mission of St. Malachy School. Thank you to the Committee, volunteers, donors, all who purchased a ticket and to everyone who generously bid on items in the silent or live auctions.

**Nearly \$80,000 was generated for our school! THANK YOU!**

\*The goal for the 2017 Car Party is to raise the funds needed to repaint the school!\*

## Students Shine in Speech!

Public speaking often tops the list of American's biggest fears. However intimidating, St. Malachy School recognizes the importance of this crucial life skill and provides opportunities for students to practice and refine the art of public speaking.

This year, all 21 fifth graders and the majority of the sixth grade class participated in the annual Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) Speech Contest on November 4, 2016 at Cambridge Junior High School. Hundreds of students from 12 schools in the region prepare and present a short play or improv in pairs or small groups. In Geneseo, St. Malachy is the only school whose fifth graders participate in the contest.

Participation requires a strong commitment by the students who devoted extra time to practice before school and during recess. Fifth and sixth grade teachers, Mrs. Ellen Nelson and Mrs. Janel Vandemore, dedicated countless additional hours of their time to insure that all groups were confident and well-prepared for the contest.

Every St. Malachy Speech Team earned a "1," which is the best score possible. Four teams were awarded Judge's Choice for their performances. Congratulations, St. Malachy Speech Teams!



5<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech teams presented 5 plays by Ken Bradbury.



6<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech teams presented 4 plays by Ken Bradbury, and one duet performed improv.

### Cruising with Chromebooks

St. Malachy School now has 1:1 Chromebooks at every grade level, Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup>. Students utilize Chromebooks for everything from practicing spelling words, to looking up Bible verses, to conducting research for projects and completing assignments within Google Classroom which will prepare them to transition to the middle school. Chromebooks are charged and stored in carts in each classroom so that they are available for student use at any time. Mr. Clark Brookens, IT specialist, has been instrumental in the set up and maintenance of the Chromebooks.

# ST. MALACHY FACULTY

2016-2017

Kindergarten.....	<i>Bev Goethals</i>
First Grade.....	<i>Carol Roemer</i>
Second Grade.....	<i>Jessi Haars</i>
Third Grade.....	<i>Erin Hofer</i>
Fourth Grade.....	<i>Judy Kanke</i>
Fifth Grade.....	<i>Ellen Nelson</i>
Sixth Grade.....	<i>Janel Vandemore</i>
Art.....	<i>Mary Heiar</i>
Computer & Spanish....	<i>Kristin Wilson</i>
Library & P.E.....	<i>Styphanie Palmer</i>
Music.....	<i>Elizabeth Hulsbrink</i>
Teacher Aides.....	<i>Marcia Swanson Lori Turpin Vicky Wyffels</i>
Principal.....	<i>Jack Schlindwein</i>
Assistant Principal.	<i>Heather Francque</i>
Pastor.....	<i>Father Michael Pakula</i>
<i>"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...as you teach."</i>	
<i>Colossians 3:16</i>	

## 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.**

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

**St. Malachy School, 595 E Ogden Avenue, Geneseo IL 61254-1145**

**[www.saintmalachy.org](http://www.saintmalachy.org)**

Please enjoy this copy of our newsletter, School Matters.

# What Is The World Is Like This Year?

These are the things we do everyday.

