

TCCES YEAR IN REVIEW

All TCCES schools participated in the farm-to-school program developed by TCCES Food Service in conjunction with local farmers. Fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits are now served in every TCCES cafeteria.

The TCCES Guidance Department promoted a yearlong theme of personal responsibility at each TCCES elementary school.

The TCCES Celebration of the Arts at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center was a huge success, with student musicians and singers from the elementary, middle and high schools, and a variety of visual arts created by students from all five schools as well.

All TCCES third grade students participated in the Partners in Education program, offered through the Fox Valley Symphony and the Appleton Art Center. Musicians visited each school and each class attended a performance and visual arts exhibit at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center.

TCCES Food Service instituted a "Fuel it Up" program designed to introduce a variety of healthy snack options to students. The organization has also made some changes in menus, moving toward healthier options. Some improvements include serving half-whole wheat spaghetti, turkey dogs, whole grain buns and bread and bountiful choices on the salad bars.

All TCCES fifth graders gathered for a Spiritus retreat at the Mt. Tabor Center in Menasha. The event was an excellent opportunity for students to reflect on their elementary school years and prepare their hearts for the future.

The fifth annual Jumbo Gumbo all-TCCES fundraiser was a great success. The event is held each year at Waverly Beach in Menasha, and offers an evening of casual fun, great food and fabulous raffle items. All proceeds from the evening go directly to tuition assistance and operational expenses.

TCCES has formed the Junior Zephyrs Basketball Club for students in grades 5-8 to participate in competitive, regional basketball tournaments. The program is offered in cooperation with the boys and girls St. Mary Central Zephyr teams.

Each St. Mary Central varsity team offers a Grade and Middle School Night during the season where all elementary and middle school students receive free admission, treats from the concession stand and special seating at the competition.

Responses to both parent satisfaction surveys in 2009-2010 were overwhelmingly positive on average, with an impressive 60% response rate.

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated at all TCCES schools. In addition to activities at individual schools, system-wide events included a pancake breakfast at each parish where a school is located, open houses, an all-TCCES Mass, which was featured in an article in the diocesan newspaper, *The Compass*.



All TCCES athletes were invited to participate at no cost in STEPS, a supervised eight-week summer program designed to nurture a students strength and athletic ability.

Under the direction of Michael Sullivan, a sustainability committee was established to investigate and implement energy cost savings opportunities and incorporate green initiatives into the TCCES curriculum.

TCCES faculty and staff raised more than \$4000 for the United Way campaign.

TCCES President Michael Sullivan presented his State of the Schools address at three locations in January. The events were well attended.

TCCES received multiple grants from the Green Bay Diocese's Catholic Foundation for tuition assistance. Each school received \$500 and TCCES received an additional \$1000.



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

FAITH
ACADEMICS
SERVICE

ST. GABRIEL YEAR IN REVIEW

As guests of the St. Gabriel Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), St. Gabriel students attended the Laura Ingalls Wilder musical at the Weidner Center in Green Bay.

St. Gabriel students worked with a local master gardener to plant hundreds of bulbs around the grounds of St. Gabriel Church and School. They also planted several theme gardens, each of which will be taken care of by a particular grade level.

With financial assistance from the St. Gabriel PTO, three members of the faculty took a graduate-level course in supportive consultation. Several teachers also took a course for graduate-level credits at the Christa McAuliffe Academy, and two teachers took part in a kindergarten teachers' conference.

Each month the fifth graders of St. Gabriel planned a special day for the school. They wrote and read ads over the PA, made posters and arranged activities including forming a human rainbow.

At the annual hayride and social, St. Gabriel families enjoyed chili and desserts, a hayride, games and Shamrock the Clown.

A school supporter gave a new dictionary to every member of the third grade class.

The St. Gabriel fourth graders helped the school community celebrate birthdays throughout the school year. The class set up a special table decorated with streamers and personalized placemats on the 15th of each month for everyone celebrating a birthday that month.

For All Saint's Day, St. Gabriel students wrote the names of deceased relatives and friends on paper candles. The candles were displayed outside the classrooms and the students prayed for the people listed throughout the month of November.

St. Gabriel third, fourth and fifth graders studied the ethnic origins of various Christmas symbols. Each group of combined ages researched traditions, made a sample of the symbol and shared the information with the whole school, enhancing everyone's understanding and enjoyment of our holiday traditions.

White boards were installed in nine St. Gabriel classrooms over the Christmas break. Students and teachers returning to school were surprised and delighted at the new additions, which were a gift from the PTO.

In addition to the system-wide Catholic Schools Week events, St. Gabriel students participated in Career Day, honored veterans by making cards for them, performed a Move to the Groove routine, learned about many saints and enjoyed a roller skating party.

As part of the Souper Bowl on Super Bowl Sunday, The St. Gabriel community collected 831 cans of soup for the St.



Joseph food pantry, nearly doubling their goal.

More than \$1300 was collected during Lent and split between the building fund for the Fox Valley Warming Shelter and rebuilding Haitian homes through Catholic Social Services.

All St. Gabriel fifth grade students participated in forensics. At the Seton meet, all earned first or second place ribbons, and at the SMC meet, every student earned a first place blue ribbon.

The St. Gabriel book club is available to students in grades 3-5. The group meets once a week to discuss a chapter. Upon completion of Winn Dixie the club members hosted a party for their classmates

St. Gabriel used their math, art and social studies skills as they participated in a program based on the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Every St. Gabriel second grader was able to choose the color of the beads for the rosary that was made especially for each of them by a local foundation.

ST. MARGARET MARY YEAR IN REVIEW

Many St. Margaret Mary families participated in National Walk to School Day at the beginning of the school year.

To kick off a week of fun and healthy snacks prepared for each class by parents, St. Margaret Mary hosted a nutrition presentation by a pediatrician and a dietician for all students in grades kindergarten through five.

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, St. Margaret Mary families gathered for a blessing of their pets performed by Pastor Michael Ingold, set up a display of photos of their pets and collected more than 350 pounds and 41 cans of pet food and 23 boxes of pet treats.

During Advent, all St. Margaret Mary students put nickels into a milk carton in their classroom each day. Doing so daily was a reminder of local homeless families unable to afford milk for their children. At the end of the season, the full cartons were offered up in a prayer service and then the total proceeds (more than \$630) were donated to the Fox Valley Warming Shelter.

Modeled after the Mexican tradition of Las Posada, St. Margaret Mary students journeyed from classroom to classroom, reenacting the Holy Family looking for a place to stay. They concluded by processing to the gym for a final prayer service and a piñata-breaking before the beginning of Christmas vacation.

St. Margaret Mary students were treated to a lesson in folk dancing when the grandfather of two students, who is a professional dance instructor, taught them a traditional German dance.

St. Margaret Mary students sang at the parish Mass kicking off Catholic Schools Week and participated in special events all week. Members of the fifth grade class each donated a special item to be auctioned off at the end of the week at an all-school assembly. The \$1,000 earned from the "Raffle for Haiti" was donated to a medical mission group operating in Haiti.

During Catholic Schools Week, students participated in a penny war to raise money for the St. Margaret Mary tuition assistance fund and raised nearly \$2000. They also participated in the Souper Bowl, collecting canned soups for the St. Joseph Food Pantry.

During the season of Lent, the St. Margaret Mary community focused on a different attribute each week: compassion, fasting, prayer, forgiveness, renewal, and love. The Lenten project was to collect school supplies for the Marines in Afghanistan who then distribute them to children they encounter. At the end of the collection, eight boxes totaling 233 pounds of school supplies for needy children were shipped to Afghanistan.

The parent organization FACES sponsored a new event this year—the Father/Daughter Dance. All who attended had a wonderful time.

Following the Haiti earthquake, St. Margaret Mary students were anxious to find some way to help. In addition to the school-sponsored projects, some students worked on individual



projects. One family sold "Hot Chocolate for Haiti" earning over \$100, and one student made and sold bracelets, earning \$175.

In forensics, all St. Margaret Mary fifth grade students received a red or blue ribbon at their first meet.

The members of the fifth grade band participated in the Solo and Ensemble contest. Every St. Margaret Mary student achieved a first place ranking in the program.

Parents interested in promoting health and wellness organized Odyssey Week, which included the third annual Clipper Dash run, students tracking their rate of exercise for the week and healthy snacks. The highlight of Odyssey Week was a visit by Charlie Wittmack, a world-class explorer and adventurer who spoke to the students about his plans for a world triathlon.

St. Margaret Mary School, in partnership with the FACES organization, has written a technology plan to be implemented over the next three to five years. The funds for the initial phase of this plan were raised during the Wines Around the World event.

The fourth grade class was responsible for planning and hosting the spring Anointing Mass—preparing the music and liturgy and serving the breakfast afterwards.

ST. MARY YEAR IN REVIEW

The student council sponsored "Red Ribbon Week" to promote an awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol, in conjunction with which the fifth graders presented a special skit.

The generous donations of the St. Mary POPS parent group and an anonymous school supporter enabled St. Mary Elementary to double the speed of the school computers.

St. Mary Elementary placed third in the small school division of the Healthy Student Challenge as a part of the Community First Fox Cities Marathon in September, based upon the percentage of students who participated. As a result, the school received a \$250 certificate for School Specialty products.

St. Mary Elementary School sponsored "Pull In For A Good Book" reading program, which emphasized a different genre of literature each month. The program culminated with the annual book awards, with students nominating and advocating competing books, and featured celebrity presenters including Menasha's mayor, local TV personalities and Auxiliary Bishop Morneau.

During Advent, St. Mary students ran a post office and raised more than \$540 for Smile Train, an organization that provides surgery to repair children's cleft palates in poverty stricken areas. They also collected two large boxes of socks and underwear to be donated to needy in our area through the Community Clothes Closet.

During Advent, St. Mary Elementary students received a visit from St. Nicholas, who went to each classroom to tell the children how to prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus and to give every student a candy crosier.

To encourage their schoolmates to be good stewards, the St. Mary Elementary student council sponsored a collection for the Humane Society. \$154 was collected and donated to the organization that cares for various animals and strives to place them in homes.

The Sacrament of Baptism became more real for the youngest St. Mary Elementary students when a parish deacon demonstrated the sacrament by "baptizing" Michael Nicholas, the students' chosen baby doll.

St. Mary Elementary families kicked off Catholic Schools Week with a special day of Mass, an open house, breakfast and the opportunity to create "witness wear." In addition to the system-wide events, a special school assembly highlighting respect also took place at the school.

Many St. Mary Elementary families participated in a live Christmas Eve Nativity scene in the church.

St. Mary Elementary families enjoyed a POPS' sponsored sock hop complete with prizes, root beer floats and dancing.

During the season of Lent, St. Mary students and faculty wore WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) bracelets to remind them of Jesus. The results of their almsgiving effort were donated to the effort

to assist the people of Haiti. They also collected some special medical supplies for the children of Haiti and attended the living Stations of the Cross offered by St. Mary Central students.

St. Mary fourth grade students were treated to a special performance on Wisconsin history-- "The Thirtieth Star," a unique blend of storytelling, history, and original music presented by a group of American minstrels from Bayfield, Wisconsin.

The fifth grade created a "living" library in their classroom. Each student wrote a short biography of a famous person in history and then dressed as that person.

Data projection devices and speakers were installed in the homeroom classes. This project was made possible by POPS fundraising events. Each classroom is now able to access the Internet directly and show that information on white boards, which were also purchased by the group.

The National Children's Theatre from Minneapolis presented the program, *Mission: It's Possible* to the students. The program explained important concepts related to conservation.

Students in grades four and five participated in the annual City Track and Field Day at Calder Stadium in field events, sprints and relays.

A special liturgy and luncheon were held at the end of the year to honor students graduating from St. Mary Elementary.



SETON MIDDLE SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW

A new homework policy, ZAP (Zeros Are Preventable) was instituted to ensure that students stay current with their class work and can enjoy homework-free weekends.

To help raise money for the school's technology projects, Seton STAR groups held a penny drive. Nearly \$500 was raised, and the winning group enjoyed a cookout with Ms. Bausom in the spring.

Seton students are encouraged to donate to the charitable collection at each weekly prayer service or liturgy. The money is used to support projects such as school families in need, local food pantries and shelters and international relief efforts.

Seton's FIRST Lego League team competed in the regional tournament where they won the Teamwork Award and earned the opportunity to compete at the state meet. They competed very well at the state tournament in Osseo.

The Seton community collected more than 400 non-perishable food items and \$400 in cash during the Thanksgiving season. The sixth graders delivered the food and money to the Double Portions food pantry during their retreat.

Seton seventh and eighth graders participated in a program called Project ALERT, an age-appropriate substance abuse prevention curriculum; sixth graders did the Too Good For Drugs program.

Each week during Advent students participated in a special prayer service in the school chapel during their religion classes.

Seton's weekly church collections during November and December went to the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign and the Double Portions food pantry. January efforts were focused on St. Joe's food pantry.

During Lent, each STAR group made a commitment to collect money to purchase livestock for the needy through Heifer International. The combined efforts of students and their families raised more than \$3600 for this organization!

After Easter, all money gathered through the weekly collections went to disaster aid in Haiti.

In addition to the system-wide Catholic Schools Week events, Seton students enjoyed staging musical presentations for the elementary schools, playing Catholic trivia, attending a vocations awareness presentation and decorating their STAR teachers' doors with Biblical themes.

Seton's jazz band was awarded a \$500 grant from the Madison Jazz Society for the purchase of new music.

Of the eight Seton students who participated in the Mathcounts competition in Sheboygan, two advanced to the state competition in Madison; and one student tied for first place and one for second for their grade levels in the eight-county region in the Math League competition.

Nearly 100% of parents and students attended the student-led conferences held during the first quarter of school.



Seton Junior Optimist club held an "Everything's \$1.00" bake sale to raise \$215.00 for the people of Haiti.

Seton encourages students to think about their futures by sponsoring participating in the online WisCareers program, Junior Achievement and the eighth grade Career Connections fair in Appleton.

A team of Seton eighth graders competed with 32 high school teams from three states in the 2010 VEX Robotics Wisconsin championship tournament, and did very well.

The Seton forensics program had a successful season, winning first place in two of the three competitions (no awards were given in the third). At one of those tournaments, every Seton team and individual received a first place rating.

Seton's math team dominated the competition held at the Catholic high school in Appleton, winning three out of four divisions, placing numerous individuals and teams.

On Holy Thursday, all students, faculty and staff participated in an all-day retreat focusing on Holy Week. The day involved watching and discussing the imagery and analogies in C.S. Lewis's The Chronicles of Narnia, rotating between five centers focusing on the elements of the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary and participating in a reflection called "The Five Wounds of Christ."

At the end of the school year all Seton students participate in a daylong retreat with their classmates. The sixth grade theme focused on peacemaking and included small group interactions, reflections and hands-on fun. The seventh grade retreat, "Taking Off Our Masks", was led by the St. Mary Central retreat team. The eighth graders prepared for their transition to high school with "Packing for the Journey, Don't Forget Jesus," a time of both reflection and looking forward.

Seton's collections for charitable causes throughout the year added up to more than \$5600.00. What a wonderful testimony to how Seton students respond to our call to stewardship and the importance of giving to those who have less.

ST. MARY CENTRAL YEAR IN REVIEW

In an effort spearheaded by generous and enthusiastic benefactors, the St. Mary Central community was able to raise the \$175,000 needed to successfully launch the new One-to-One Laptop Program. The funds are being used for infrastructure improvements and the purchase of hardware and software, as well as extensive teacher training to prepare faculty for the transition to digital learning.

On the Friday of homecoming week St. Mary Central students traditionally dedicate the day to serving the community, visiting places like nursing homes, libraries, food pantries, schools and community service agencies.

With 100% of students testing, St. Mary Central performed well above the state average in all areas of the ACT college entrance evaluation and was among the leading averages in the Fox Cities.

Under the leadership of Activities Director Mike Heideman, a dinner and discussion session was shared by the school faculty/staff and athletic coaches to foster partnership between the two groups of adults who impact students most during their school days and after.

St. Mary Central students enjoyed a faith-filled, inspirational and entertaining presentation by nationally known Catholic speaker and worship leader Chris Padgett.

Nine St. Mary Central students traveled to Kansas City for the bi-annual National Catholic Youth Convention. The event involved more than 20,000 youth from around the country and was an awesome experience of fellowship and faith.

St. Mary Central High School hosted the National Collegiate Scouting Association's (NCSA) "College Recruiting Simplified" presentation for student-athletes who have a desire to participate in collegiate athletics while pursuing a college degree.

Homecoming Week 2009 offered a variety of activities for SMC supporters and fans. Students enjoyed a week of in-school special events and the whole community enjoyed the parade and football game on Saturday night. The weekend was full of alumni activities including an alumni tailgate before the game, a social gathering and an alumni soccer match and cookout.

St. Mary Central offered an early enrollment opportunity for the 2010-2011 incoming freshman class. Enthusiasm surrounding the new laptop program led to projected enrollment that exceeded expectations.

At a competition in Illinois, St. Mary Central's Syntax Error robotics team won the regional championship and qualified for the World Championship Match and won the Excellence Award-the highest honor possible.

The state champion banner was presented to the 2009 Zephyr girls state championship basketball team during half time of a



varsity game with members of the 1998 Zephyr girls state championship team present.

The St. Mary Central Jazz Band was featured on a CD along with several other high school's jazz bands. The CDs were sold at "Jazz Night," a live concert at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. The design of an SMC student was chosen for the cover of the CD.

Six St. Mary Central musicians were chosen to perform as part of the Olympian Conference Honors Band.

As part of a Lenten focus on stewardship, after reflecting on the parable of the talents at an all-school assembly, eight students and two faculty members were given \$100 each. They were directed to do something during the Season of Lent to benefit others, to be responsible for managing another's money (perhaps increasing it) and to donate it to those in need. The \$1000 that was distributed among the ten was ultimately turned into \$4320.00. Many local and international people and charitable organizations benefited from their efforts.

The St. Mary Central forensic team earned second place at the conference competition, at which only three conference medals were earned between all nine competing teams, one of which went to an SMC team member.

At the state forensic meet in Madison, every St. Mary Central participant earned a medal, and half of them were gold, first place awards.

For the third year, St. Mary Central hosted by the Wisconsin VEX Robotics Regional Tournament, in which thirty-two high school and middle school tournaments from three states participated.

Zephyrfest, St. Mary Central's premier dinner and auction, celebrated 25 years of successfully raising funds to support the school. Special recognition of past volunteers was part of the evening's festivities.

ST. MARY CENTRAL YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUED

An alumni family generously donated a new trophy case so that all of the recent WIAA state championship and runner-up trophies are now displayed in one location, near the entrance of the McClone Gymnasium.

Forty-two St. Mary Central students were awarded with academic letters, medals and plaques in recognition of their continuing academic excellence. At the same ceremony, nineteen new members of the National Honor Society were inducted, having demonstrated excellence in the areas of character, scholarship, leadership and service.

St. Mary Central's mock trial team took second at a regional competition and ninth among the 110 teams competing at the state competition in Madison.

Five St. Mary Central students traveled to the Czech Republic over the summer as part of the Global Outreach exchange program. GO brings students from Eastern Europe to the United States and sponsors this summer camp to promote faith and leadership skills among Catholic youth.

Ten St. Mary Central students traveled to Minneapolis for a weeklong Catholic Heart workcamp, where they joined with other Catholic youth to participate in a variety of service projects.

A St. Mary Central junior was selected by the Diocese of Green Bay to participate in the weeklong VISION Leadership Conference at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

St. Mary Central now has a formal program that trains students to act as ambassadors to the variety of people who visit the school each year. From visiting alumni to potential students, these ambassadors are able to give guided tours and answer questions about the school.

Attendees at the SMC Scholarship Donor Breakfast enjoyed hearing about the happenings at the school and were touched by the heartfelt testimonials of two scholarship assistance recipients.

Six students at St. Mary Central have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on Advanced Placement (AP) exams. The program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18% of the nearly 1.8 million students who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

