

The SJA Eagle

Volume 21

ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY, JAMESTOWN, NORTH DAKOTA

SPRING 2017

Number 1

Sixth Grade Mission Trip to Minneapolis

St. John's Academy 6th graders went on a mission trip to Minneapolis/St. Paul on April 19-20. They spent a lot of time preparing for this trip from learning about the various places they would visit to

collecting donations and working to raise money to help cover expenses. As a class we talked a great deal about how there are so many people in need all over the world. We often forget how blessed we are, and we begin to take

things for granted. While this trip had some educational elements with the visit to the Science Museum and the Mill City Museum, the best part according to everyone involved was the experience at Feed My

Starving Children and Mary's Caring and Sharing Hands. We were able to work for 1½ hours packing food to help feed starving children in Haiti. We were able to bring a bus load of donations to Mary's Caring and Sharing Hands and



We need to do a big shout out to Farmers Union and Jeff Willer our bus driver.

also help serve a meal to the homeless there. The 6th graders say it best. Here are some of their reflections from the trip:



- "It gave me joy to see the happy faces at Mary's Sharing and Caring Hands when we served food to the people." –*Jonas Cole*
- "This trip makes me feel special and, in some ways, wise." –*Ethan Igl*
- "It gave me a sense of accomplishment. I felt like I made a difference. It felt like we were spreading the love of Jesus." –*Reagan Sortland*
- "What the mission trip meant to me is to see how much people need help in the world and how we can help. I think more people should get out and help someone today!" –*Luke Maulding*



- The trip was amazing. You get this amazing feeling when you're done helping someone; that was one of the best parts." –*Josiah Reimers*
- "Going on the mission trip showed me how really lucky I am." –*Dylan Altringer*
- "I learned to be thankful for what you have." –*Carson Orr*
- "Once I was there I knew I needed to do more. I needed to do something that would change the world, and so do you, so let's follow God's word and help our brothers and sisters." –*Alexis Kirkeby*
- "On the trip it was somewhat emotional because of all the people we helped." –*Easton Romsdal*
- "I really like how we got to learn about all of the people and then help them." –*Max Fronk*
- "The mission trip showed me how lucky some of us are compared to others that don't have food or are homeless and don't have families. That's why we have to love and care for one another, and we have to appreciate all the things we have." –*Teagan Bosche*

26 Years of HOPE - Help Offer Private Education

Each year we come together as a community of faith to support the mission of St. John's Academy which the Sisters of St. Joseph started 125 years ago.

We are truly blessed to have such great community, alumni, family and friends support. Year after year we raise over \$100,000 for our students at St. John's Academy. The HOPE committee as well as the staff and students at St. John's Academy extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all our great VOLUNTEERS and SUPPORTERS. We could not have raised this amount of money without all our great supporters and volunteers!

Again a heartfelt THANK YOU to all our sponsors, auction donors, ORR Auctioneers, and guests, as well as the committee members, who gave of their time and talent to make this another successful dinner and auction. *We are extremely grateful for the continued support of St. John's Academy.*

Mark your calendars for **October 7th, 2017, for St. John's Academy 27th Annual HOPE Dinner and Auction.** If you have a time share or could help financially in any way, please call Peggy at 701-252-0119 or Stacy at SJA 701-252-3397.



HOPE Dinner Sponsors 2016

St. John's Academy and the HOPE Dinner Committee sincerely thank all sponsors for their tremendous support. Their generosity helps over 250 young students at St. John's Academy.

SAINTS - \$1,250

Knights of Columbus Council #1883 (21)
Williams-Lisko Funeral Chapel (16)
Skin Care Doctors, P.A. Dr. Michael Ebertz (11)
Farmers Union Insurance (7)
Midwest Industrial X-Ray, Inc. (7)
Kirk & Janet Lanterman (6)
Mark & Melanie Anderson (5)
Mike & Heidi Williams (5)
Scherbenske Inc. (5)
Les & Gina Horgan Family (4)
Anne Carlsen Center (3)
Erin Lamp State Farm (3)

ANGELS - \$1,000

More From Orr Auction Service (26)
Michael & Marilyn Smyth (17)
Cavendish Farms (15)
Jason & Meghan Braun (7)

PATRONS - \$750

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Wade & April Readel (2)
Paul & LaRissa Wiley (2)

FRIENDS - \$600

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US Bank – Jamestown (23)
Dale & Cheryl Lende (22)
Linden Court Apts. – Reuben & Clarice Liechty (21)
Elks Lodge #995 (20)
Heinrich & Company (20)
Liechty Homes, Inc. (20)
The Medicine Shoppe (18)

Two Rivers Printing (17)
Judy Kulla (11)
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Central Sales (8)
Harty Insurance Inc. (8)
Professional Eyecare Centers, P.C. (7)
Reuben Liechty Realtors (7)
Newman Signs, Inc. (6)
Ottertail Power Company (6)
Schauer & Associates, P.C. (6)
Dick Carpenter (4)
Sjostrom Ag Service, Inc. (4)
Dakota Central Telecommunications (3)
Diversified Wealth Management – Dave Falk (3)
H.H.H. Design Custom Home Const. & Excavation Services & Aggregate (2)
Brian Chandler, CPA (2)
Dacotah Bank (2)
Orn Family Dentistry (1)
Heartland Heating & Cooling (1)
Dwane & Joan Wanzek (1)

(The number in parentheses represents the number of years the business/individual has been a HOPE Dinner sponsor.)

Giving Hearts Day - February 9, 2017

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to all of you who so generously helped make our Giving Hearts Day a huge success. With your generous donations we have raised over \$25,000 for St. John's Academy. We had a lot of fun as we shared the "GoMatchy Matchy" theme and dressed alike and challenged others to make a gift too! We even won an award for Giving Hearts Day, the "Rising Star Award" another \$500 for St. John's Academy and a donation from Bell State Bank of \$250.



THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for your support!

*Right - Giving Hearts Day Committee!
A heartfelt THANK YOU for your generous heart!*



Left - Staff having fun with the "GoMatchy Matchy" theme for Giving Hearts Day.

Principal's Corner



Lawrie Paulson

We are into our final month of the 2016-2017 school year, and I am left wondering where all of the time went. Each day has brought new challenges and rewarding experiences that are hard to describe unless you are there to live it. As I look back on the year I realize how fortunate we are for this opportunity and all that we have at St. John's.

One of the great joys of the year has been getting into the classrooms to observe the wonderful things that transpire between our students and our teachers. Each classroom is unique, but it is exciting to watch our students grow and learn over the course of the year. Teachers have an awesome responsibility to help children learn, not only in the subject areas, but also as children of God. The example they set for our kids is one of the things that make this school special. To witness this happen each day, along with the tremendous support of parents, volunteers, the Parish, and so many others, is tremendously satisfying.

It is important to continue to look forward, as well. The Long Range Planning Committee continues to make progress in planning for continuing the important work of Catholic education at St. John's. While there are many steps to cover before finalizing plans, it does appear that we are getting closer to consensus in plans for the St. John's Academy building. Thank you to the volunteers on the committee who give their time and expertise to this important project.

There is still much to do before this school year is over and a great deal of planning before the new year commences in the fall. Let me take this opportunity to say thank you to Monsignor Wald, everyone at St. John's, parents, students, and all who care about St. John's for making this a successful school year and for letting me be a part of it.

God Bless,
Lawrie Paulson, Principal

Development Corner



Peggy Etzold
St. John's Academy/
St. James Basilica

In 1890 four Sisters of St. Joseph opened the doors to St. John's Academy serving as a boarding school. According to the records, there were 14 boarders and 52 day students. Since that time our school has grown to nearly 250 students in pre-school through 6th grade. Through the years St. John's Academy families and friends have made voluntary financial support of the school a priority and an important tradition. Such support is critical, as tuition alone does not support the annual operations of the school.

Whether you are a grandparent or parent of an SJA graduate, an SJA graduate yourself, or one of our many special friends, you have seen or experienced the outstanding value of a Christian education — amazing spiritual development, excellence in academics, faith community and lasting memories. We recognize that none of this would have been possible without the generosity of our many supporters, and we are extremely grateful. While we hope that St. John's Academy is one of your top philanthropic priorities, we welcome any gifts you can make.

As we look to the future of St. John's Academy we are so excited to share the excitement of our plans for a possible new addition and remodel parts of our school which is over 100 years old. This has been a part of our long range planning for our academy for the past couple years, and we are excited that we now have some plans in place. We would love to hear from you, and we all know if we all take part in making St. John's Academy the "BEST" Catholic Christian School and giving back to your roots, we will make this vision a reality.

May Christ always be at the center of your life, for Jesus is the Reason and our hope.

God Bless YOU!
Peggy Etzold

In Memoriam

*St. John's Academy remembers our alumni, friends and family in loving prayer.
We apologize for any omissions.*

David Hoss died March 27, 2016 –
St. John's Academy Class of
1959

Jerry Baenen died December 9,
2016 - St. John's Academy
Class of 1950

Mary Pat (Matchie) Keyes died
Jan. 10, 2017 – St. John's
Academy Class of 1948



Marie Ukestad died Jan. 28, 2017 - St. John's Academy
Class of 1934

Robb G. Kaiser died Feb. 28th 2017 – attended St.
John's Academy

Leo (Bill) LeFevre died March 16, 2017 - St. John's
Academy Class of 1941

Betty Hoye died March 16, 2017 – St. John's Academy
Class of 1950

Paul Heer died March 27, 2017 – St. John's Academy
Class of 1966

SJA Alumni Spotlight

Podiatrist Starts New Practice in San Diego and Brings a New Approach to Foot Care

Dr. Jennifer Falk has started up a unique concierge & house-call podiatry practice (**At Your Feet Concierge Podiatry**) with an emphasis on sports and cosmetics



Dr. Jennifer Falk has recently opened a solo podiatry practice in San Diego, but her practice and approach to foot care is like no other. She not only specializes in sports podiatry and cosmetic procedures of the lower extremity, she also does house-calls and makes herself available to her patients 24/7 through video visits, emailing, and text messaging.

Though Dr. Falk is able to see patients in-office, her concierge approach to podiatry allows for her to go to her patients (whether at their home, hotel, or work place) when it is more convenient for them. Because she sees less patients, she is able to spend more time with each one. She also brings with her innovative podiatric techniques. She not only provides custom molded orthotics manufactured

with plaster casts, but a new customized orthotic that uses UV-light technology to cure the orthotic against one's feet. She is only one of a selected group of healthcare professionals that is able to make these Light Orthotics™ for her patients. In addition, the doctor has been trained by the International Aesthetic Foot Society on cosmetic podiatric procedures, including botox for hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating) of the feet, along with foot fillers for fat pad atrophy. She is board qualified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery and plans to take a second board qualification exam by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine in May 2017.

Dr. Falk grew up playing sports and has been an avid runner for decades. After sustaining multiple foot fractures, she decided to pursue a career in podiatric medicine. She has always had a passion for sports medicine and further specialization, which led her to open her own practice in San Diego, where she did her residency training. Dr. Falk has been actively involved in organizations, multi-disciplinary meetings, and academic sessions, as well as research and lecturing. To learn more about Dr. Falk, her practice, and her services, please visit www.ayfpodiatry.com or contact the doctor at 858.859.8445.

St. John's Academy is a family tradition for the Falk family. Jennifer's grandmother, Darlene Kropp graduated in 1956 from high school as well as her mother Deb in 1973 (6th) Jennifer's sisters Melissa in 1998, and Kristi in 2001.

Trusting in God's Plan

By LCPL Chandler Eugene Haut, SJA Alumni

"Some people wonder all their lives if they've made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem."
- Ronald Reagan



Iwo Jima - November 2016

Joining the military says a lot about a man's character. Personally, I would say that this has always been my passion in life. I have always wanted to serve our Nation...I am the son of Margo and Roger Haut. I was born, the youngest of three children, on March 8, 1997, in Jamestown, North Dakota. My family has always told me that my drive for the military started at a young age.

On September 11, 2001, I stood in front of the TV and watched as the second plane hit the twin towers. My mom tried to change the channel fast enough, but the event impacted my life forever. At the age of 4, I was asking, "Who is going to protect us from the bad people?" and "Will that smoke come here?" My mom stated, "The military protects us; we're going to have faith in them trusting

in God." Following that day, I requested to pray for the men and women serving our country every night. At this time, I was in preschool at St. John's Academy. Growing up, one could see how the military touched my life. Whenever I would get my haircut, I'd request a crew cut. And during little league, "Sarge" was written on the back of my t-shirts.

When it comes to my heroes, there have been many people who have influenced my life. Both of my grandfathers, Eugene N. Haut and James G. Gion, served in WWII. I always loved hearing their stories, as I began picturing myself in their boots. I also have several cousins who served in the National Guard, Air Force and the Marine Corps overseas. These men I'm proud to stand by and share a bloodline with.

My journey didn't come easy. I once told my sister, "In order to achieve one's goals, you must first put yourself through hell." And that's what I did. It was in my junior year of high school, I made the decision to seek a nomination to the US Naval Academy. At the time of applying to the school, I had received competitive nominations from both party's senators. If the application fell through, my plan was to apply for the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps or to enlist with the United States Marine Corps. The application for the academy was quite lengthy and involved physical and mental testing. During my eye exam, I learned that I am color deficient on the yellow to green spectrum. This resulted in the denial of my application.

With our country at war, one might hesitate to do what I did next. I turned to my parents, stating without hesitation, "I'm joining the Marine Corps." I chose the Marines



Boot Camp Graduation - San Diego, California - May 2016 (pictured with brother, Truman and sister, Lexus).

because they are the first ones in and usually the ones on the frontline. They don't think of themselves first, but of the people they are trying to help.

Initiating my enlistment to the Marines, I was informed that I'd need to lose 60 pounds. Going into my senior year, I was more than determined and joined every sport possible, some of which I'd never tried. That year I played football, wrestled and threw in track. I would have to say that wrestling made the biggest impact, I lost 45 pounds that season. Coach Eslick even helped me go on to state. I want to go on record that during my high school years, my football, wrestling and track coaches were extremely supportive and influential. They helped me physically prepare for boot camp, while molding me into the leader I am today.

What else has helped me get to where I am? My family and my faith. My Catholic faith was taught to me during the years spent at St. John's Academy, impacting me for a lifetime. Before I left for boot camp in California, some of my friends didn't want me to join, stressing the fact that I could die - my response, "I could be called home on the highways of North Dakota." At the time I didn't know why I was doing what I was, but I knew it was a calling, and I had faith that I would be just fine.

Boot camp was an experience of determination, sacrifice and accomplishment. It was a three month long training where we could only communicate with family through letters. Because of this distance, I felt myself becoming who I was supposed to be, who they needed me to be. I even went on and volunteered to be the prayer leader for my company.

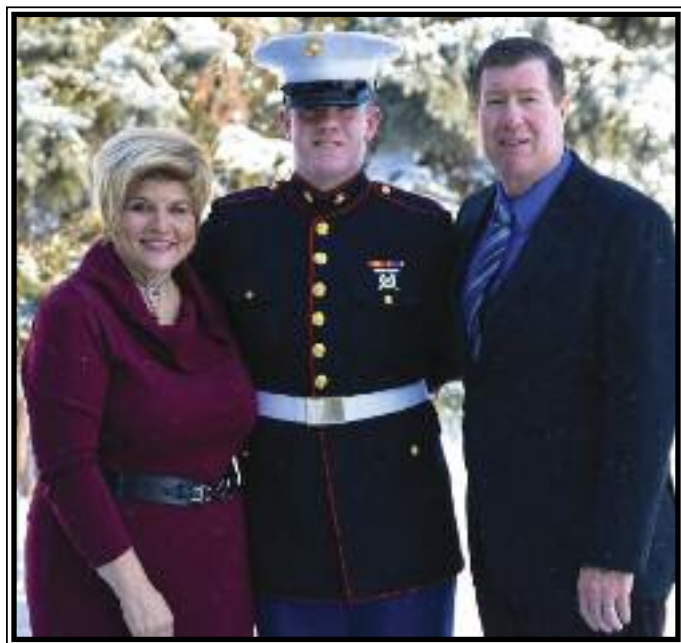
While at boot camp my job of choice was infantry, but again I had to trust in God's plan, because my plan was again quickly changed. Due to other circumstances, I was sent to be an operation specialist. I asked why, as I longed to have my boots on the ground, but I trusted. I was transferred to a school in North Carolina. At graduation in August of 2016, I was informed I would be stationed in

Japan for 24 months.

Currently it is planned that I will be in Japan for another 16 months. While in Japan I've had numerous opportunities that I never even dreamed of. I've experienced the Japanese culture and cuisine, explored the land and stepped foot on Iwo Jima. I also continue to have great achievement, just last month I was promoted to Lance Corporal. Most recently I was invited to attend the presentation by our Vice President Mike Pence aboard the USS Ronald Reagan on the shores of Japan.

I extend tremendous gratitude for the prayers lifted up for me and my family. Without my family's support and sacrifice, I would not be where I am today. Although it's not easy at times to be away from home, I know that what I'm doing matters, and things like FaceTime make it a little easier for all of us.

While being away I also have come to realize how blessed I am. The care packages I've received have been much appreciated by not only me, but my fellow Marines. It goes to show how very fortunate I am, although thousands of miles away - it's my family, friends and faith that give me strength to continue to serve our great nation as a United States Marine.



Home on leave - November 2016 (pictured with parents, Margo and Roger).

FACE Raffle

FACE held its first raffle this spring. Tickets were sold for \$100 each to 250 people. At the drawing on April 5 these were the winners: \$5,000 – Kim Schmit; \$2,000 – Cal Ova; \$1,000 – Jim Ukestad; \$500 – R. D. Brown; \$500 – Darlene Kropp and 10 \$100 winners: Kevin Wanzek, Andrew Kudrna, Craig Middleton, Meghan Braun, Mark Wanzek, Larry Kropp, Tammy Skari, Alyssa Fitzgerald, Jeff Quandt and Alida Sjostrom.

Thanks to all who purchased tickets!

Artist in Residence

The St. John's Academy community was thrilled to have Guillermo Guardia, aka Memo, with us for an artist residency specializing in clay. Throughout the week the students in grades K-6 had the wonderful opportunity to learn from Memo in a hands on environment. The residency concluded with a community event. At that time guests were encouraged to view student work as well as watch demonstrations. Thank you to the Jamestown Arts Center for helping to make this experience a reality for our students. This residency brought yet another STEAM experience to our community; Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Tony Melendez

Composer and musician Tony Melendez shared a message of hope, determination, and faith with the students and staff at St. John's Academy. Tony was born without arms and a clubbed foot. He later had corrective surgery on his foot. He encouraged everyone to treat others the way they want to be treated - use your words to do good in the world. His talent and mission has taken him to every state in the United States and 44 foreign countries. All things are possible through prayer. Go to tonymelendez.com for more information.



Morgan Dale Receives Ag Day Grant

It's no secret St. John's Academy has amazing teachers. This is a fact we are very proud to share. One of our teachers, Miss Dale, recently was taken by surprise when she received an award from the Stutsman County Farm Bureau. Earlier, Mr. Paulson and Mrs. Fix had been informed that Miss Dale had been chosen as the recipient for this award. They decided to surprise her in front of the entire student body along with her parents. Later in the day she had this to say about the experience:

"I've had a lot of exciting things happen in my life, but today was a surprise that pretty much tops them all. This morning the whole school was called to the gymnasium for an event. I was under the impression that it was a gathering to announce our school's raffle ticket winners. Little did I know I had been selected by the Stutsman County Farm Bureau as the one teacher in Stutsman County to receive their AG Day Grant because of some of the things we do in the classroom regarding farming. They presented me with a very generous check, several books and treat bags for everyone. I had absolutely NO idea!!! I feel so grateful, humbled and honored. March 21st is National Ag Day, and I can't wait to buy my kiddos some fun new farm equipment to celebrate!! From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much to everyone that is involved with the North Dakota Farm Bureau! Life is good and God is great."



Pennies for Patients

Jill Mahoney Coordinator

Congratulations to our SJA school family! Together grades 1-6 raised \$2,193.57 in a single week! Over the eleven years SJA has participated in Pennies for Patients, our school has donated over \$19,000! Our donations to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society help children who are fighting blood cancers in Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

I would especially like to recognize the classroom teachers and students for the extra effort you put into our Kick-Off Assembly again this year. It was beyond impressive! Your creativity and thoughtfulness were very much appreciated and noticed! It was very special – I wished ALL parents could have enjoyed that morning with us! Thank you!

Thanks to:

SJA students and families for their generosity
SJA Student Council for working the pep rallies
Students who volunteered for morning announcements
Unison Bank for volunteering to count donations again this year!



Catholic Schools Week

Trent Barkus Class of 1998 (6th)

Trent Barkus is a 1998 (6th) graduate of St. John's Academy. He is a graduate of Jamestown High School and College. Trent enlisted in the Navy in 2010. He served at Electronic Attack Squadron 129 and the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Nimitz both in Washington state. Trent is currently a law student at UND, law clerk at Bredahl & Associates and continues to serve in the Navy Reserve as an Intelligence Specialist First Class. Trent is married to Nicole Bredahl, and they have one son named William.



Trent Barkus and Brooke Erstad



Minute To Win It

Brooke Monson Erstad Class of 1994 (6th)

Brooke (Monson) Erstad graduated from 6th grade at SJA in 1994 (I think) and from Jamestown High School in 2000. I attended the University of Mary, Bismarck, ND, and graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Exercise Science in 2003 and a Doctorate of Physical Therapy in 2006. I began my career as a Doctor of Physical Therapy in Breckenridge, ND, for two years before starting my own practice with a business partner in 2008, called Apex Physical Therapy & Wellness Center. In 2012 I took an additional board certification to become one of two Women's Health Certified Specialist in the state of North Dakota. I decided to expand my clinic into Jamestown in April of 2016 to help the community I grew up in with muscle aches and pains, and also to bring my specialty area to this region and help men, women, and children improve their quality of life by helping them with issues of pelvic pain, incontinence, pre and post-natal pain, prostatectomy complications, and even children with constipation and bed wetting. It's a strange area of PT, but very fulfilling! I am married to my high school sweetheart, Bryan Erstad, and we have 3 children, Blake-5, Brogan-4, Bradie-almost 1. I like to run, read, shop, spend time with my family and friends, and I love the sport of gymnastics! It's very fun to be invited back to SJA!



Twin Day



Super Hero Day



Super Hero Day

Classroom Happenings

CHILDCARE NEWS

Courtney Oliver, Director



#1 Day Care In

Jamestown

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14



Childcare is busy from open to close with upwards of 65 kids in and out of our classroom daily! The day starts with school age and preschoolers alike building with Legos and stomping with dinosaurs.

Preschoolers spend the day in Childcare opposite their time in Kid's Kingdom or PreK. They are busy with dramatic play, coloring and painting, sorting and graphing, dancing to GoNoodle, reading books and doing puzzles.



Ty Aldinger gets sized up with apples.

This fall the daytime helper, Mrs. Dunwoody, brought in apples from her tree. Kids measured themselves and friends to see how many apples tall they were! At Halloween, Cody's family donated SO MANY PUMPKINS! Preschool and school age childcare goes got to paint small and large ones. They even got to clean out the guts! In the weeks leading up to Christmas, preschoolers were asked to find a toy

from home and bring it to Childcare. Friends worked together cutting, taping and wrapping the gifts. They then got to ride the school bus and deliver their toys to be donated to the Salvation Army! This spring, Childcare tasted green eggs on Dr. Seuss' birthday. The classroom was visited by a leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day! He left cookies and juice along with a BIG mess. At Easter the preschoolers dyed eggs and had a jelly bean extravaganza.

Once school lets out for the day, the preschoolers are joined with kindergarteners and school agers for snack, gym time and outside play. With the warmer weather, they've been able to enjoy more afternoons together playing MAGIC on the playground and soccer in the parking lot. Students from the University of Jamestown and Jamestown High School join in on the fun as caregivers in the afternoons. They add more excitement to color tag and ball tag, as well as helping with homework, playing card games and reading stories.

This year SJA Childcare was surprised with the award of Best Childcare! It was given out by the Jamestown Sun as part of the Best of Buffalo City Area Reader's Choice awards.



Kinley Nygaard and Vivian Szarkowski are delightfully surprised with the taste of green eggs.

KIDS' KINGDOM NEWS



Kids' Kingdom spent some of the winter answering phones and taking cookie orders in our Christmas Kitchen. All orders were math related as the cookies had numbers and corresponding amounts written on them. The bakers delivered orders directly to classroom customers after solving the math problems.

Banging and pounding could be heard from the KK room as well with the opening of our Word Building Construction Company. Hard hats, tool



Kids K Super Hero Day.

belts full of pencils and paper, and a variety of wood blocks were used to build words in this center. Lower case letters were attached to square blocks for use in the construction of 3 to 5 letter words from the Word Wall. Students then wrote

the word and drew the item they 'constructed' from the blocks. As we wait for warmer days to approach, we continue to work on math concepts and language; sequencing, addition and subtraction, opposites, letter recognition and phonics, rhyming, and conversation skills and etiquette.



Harper examines a coconut during a science experiment.



Treyson leads circle time.

19th Annual Hop-A-Thon!

This was the 19th year the Early Childhood classes of SJA's Child Care, Kids' Kingdom, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten worked together to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society as part of our Friendship Friday program.

On April 7th the bunny-eared students gathered in the gym and hopped to music for their 3 minute pledge.

This year Friendship Friday students collected over \$1,400! Over the past 19 years of HOP-ping, this program has donated a total of more than \$16,500 to LLS.

There were over 70 students involved in Friendship Friday programming this year, and we thank them all for their part in helping families who are fighting blood cancers.



Hop-A-Thon



MRS. NEVILLE'S PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Spring is always a busy time in Pre-K! We are taking everything we have learned this year, and we are getting ourselves ready for kindergarten!

However, we always make time for a little (or a lot) of fun! One of our highlights was Career Day. All the students dressed up like the occupation we want to be when we grow up. In our classroom we had everything from doctors to teachers, and cowgirls to construction workers. We shared why we want to have that career and enjoyed each other's stories! We've also spent a lot of time the past few months exploring some various methods of painting during art time. A couple of our favorite projects were painting a tooth using a toothbrush, and rolling marbles through paint to make our shamrocks different shades of green.

It's hard to believe the year is almost over, but what a great year it's been! All the children have grown and changed so much, and they bring abundant joy to everyone around them; especially me!



er for activities, and we continually pray for each other throughout the school year. This is a great opportunity for the older students to interact with and be role models for the younger students. We have enjoyed Friendship Friday, Fitness Friday and Walking Wednesdays. Friendship Friday is a themed day that occurs once a month. The Early Childhood students travel throughout several classrooms completing various activities based on a specific theme. Fitness Friday is one Friday a month when the whole school meets in the gym to dance and exercise together as a school family. Every Wednesday morning Walking Wednesday occurs in the gym. This gives students that arrive early to school the opportunity to wake up and be active. Our students have grown not only taller, but also grown spiritually, academically and socially.



MRS. SMITH'S FIRST GRADE NEWS



From leaping frogs to wolves and fairies, this has been quite an exciting year for the first graders. We were busy with Frog Races in September, decorating our Gingerbread Houses for Christmas, performing our Fairy Tales in January and reading, reading, reading for our African Safari (over 800 books in just two weeks!).

• My favorite part about first grade was doing our Fairy Tales because most of my family came to school to watch me. *-Conner Aldinger*

• My favorite part about first grade was gym because you run around. *-Brady Anderson*

• My favorite part about first grade was decorating the gingerbread houses because my mom came and helped. I also liked the fairy tales because I wore rubber gloves on my feet and they kept falling off! I also enjoyed the Artist in Residence. *-Layla Becker*

• My favorite part about first grade was making our gingerbread houses because our parents came to help. *-Ione Cole*

• My favorite part about first grade was Pet Day because I got to see my puppy, Jewel. *-Kenny Dobson*

• My favorite part about first grade was decorating the gingerbread houses because it was tasty. *-Ginger Gasal*

• My favorite part about first grade was Friday Fun



MRS. LeFEVRE AND MS. DALE'S KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Wow! This year has flown by and our students have been a pleasure to teach this year. We started out the year with a beach theme that went perfectly with the warm weather outside. Then we continued the year with several exciting units learning about apples, pumpkins, fire safety, dental health, and community helpers. We will finish out the school year investigating lady bugs and the students will have the opportunity to watch their very own plant grow. This year Kindergarten paired up with Ms. Mutschler's 5th grade students as their prayer partners. Prayer partners get together





because our awesome teacher lets us play games.

—Catherine Hunt

- My favorite part about first grade was our African Safari because you got to come up in front of the parents and read your report.

—Megan Jarrett

- My favorite part about first grade was decorating the gingerbread houses because we got to decorate with candy.

—Katelyn Monson

- My favorite part about first grade was decorating the gingerbread houses because I liked making them.

—Morgan Scott

- My favorite part about first grade was the African Safari because I got to read a lot, and I like reading!

—Jessie Senyoni

- My favorite part about first grade was making the gingerbread houses because I got to see Grandpa Ralph.

—Tylea Sortland

- My favorite part about first grade was P.E. because I like playing color tag, and I liked winning the Spelling Bee.

—Logan Syverson

- My favorite part about first grade was decorating the gingerbread houses because I got to see my dad since he came to help me.

—Graisynt Traut

- My favorite part about first grade was gingerbread houses because we got to spend time with our family and friends.

—Eric Van Berkom

- My favorite part about first grade was our gingerbread houses because I got to spend time with my dad.

—Klaire Vollrath

- My favorite part about first grade was the frog races because a bunch of people cheered for my team.

—Bella Woiwode

- My favorite part about first grade was my students. Every day was a joy to see these beautiful smiles. This class was full of eager learners which made my job easier. I will miss this group once I pass them onto second grade to continue their learning journey.

—Mrs. Schafer



MRS. FOX'S FIRST GRADE NEWS

Frogs, frogs, frogs, and more frogs,—the first grade room has been jumping with excitement! Racing frogs, fairy tales, and safari—what fun!

We've traveled the world from the gingerbread houses of Germany, the fairy tales of many countries, to an African Safari. We've studied and created an under the sea world of



many animals, and we got to bring our pets to school. It's been a year filled with lots of learning and excitement. Below are some of their favorites:

My favorite memory in first grade is the fairy

tales. I liked it because I got to go in the castle! I also liked the gingerbread houses. The fun part was to decorate them. I don't want to leave first grade!

—Claire Marker

My favorite memory in first grade is Pet Day and the Halloween party. I liked Pet Day because we got to see everybody's stuff. The Halloween party because we got to dress up in Halloween costumes, and we got candy. First grade is fabulous!

—Cecilia Romsdal

My favorite memory in first grade is Pet Day because you got to see all the pets. My second favorite memory is the gingerbread houses because I made it with my mom and dad and I got to eat it. First grade is fun!

—Natalie Szarkowski

My favorite memory in first grade is the Under the Sea World party. I liked making the animals. My second greatest memory is the Pet Day because I got to bring my dog. I had fun in first grade!

—Morgan Baldwin

My favorite memory in first grade is the gingerbread house because I made it with my mom and dad and grandma. I had the best time ever! My second favorite is the fairy tales. I was Prince Philip, and I had the best time ever! My third favorite is the African Safari. I got to see African animals. This is the best year ever! First grade is the best year I ever had!

—Nolan Maulding

My favorite memory in first grade is the gingerbread houses. I did it with my dad.

My second favorite memory in first grade is the Under the Sea World. I got to see my mom and dad and I was the Great White Shark. My third favorite memory in first grade is the fairy tales. My mom was a really good helper and everyone that

helped. I was Robin Hood, it ends like Little Red Riding Hood. I had a lot of fun in my class room!

—Henry Wolff

My favorite memory in first grade is Pet Day. I like Pet Day because I wanted to see my dog and dad. My second favorite memory in first grade is the Under the Sea World. I liked it because my animal was the jellyfish. I liked it because I like jelly. First grade is cool!!!

—Grace Allmaras

My favorite memory in first grade is Pet Day. Why? because of the pets. I liked fairy tales because of the posters, frog races because of the hopping and hopping,

—Grace Allmaras



gingerbread houses because of the candy, Halloween because of the costumes, Under the Sea World because of the fish, Valentine's Day because we have sweet candy, and the African Safari because of the reading. First grade was fun!!! –*Jeremiah Romans*

My favorite memory in first grade is the Under the Sea World . We got to watch a movie. My second favorite is the Valentine's Day party. We got candy. My third favorite is the African Safari. I saw a lion! I love first grade!! –*Chase Traut*



My favorite memory in first grade is the fairy tales because we made posters and dressed in our favorite fairy tale. My second favorite is Pet Day. We got to bring our pets to school. My third favorite was the African Safari. We got to play the drums. I love first grade!!! –*Cassidy Sova*

My favorite memory in first grade is Pet Day. I liked Pet Day because I got to see all the animals! My second favorite is the gingerbread house making. I liked it because I got to have two people help me. I loved first grade!!!! –*Lilja Thorlakson*

My favorite memory in first grade is Pet Day because I got to bring my dog, Zeeka, and see the great danes that were really big. Pet Day was fun. My second favorite is the frog races because I brought the most frogs. I loved the frog races! First grade is awesome!!! –*Bella Clark*

My favorite memory in first grade is Pet Day because I got to bring my dog. I liked the Halloween party, too, because we got candy. I had an awesome time in first grade! –*Leo Williams*

My favorite memory in first grade is Pet Day. I liked Pet Day because I like pets. It was fun to see all the pets. I liked the Halloween party, too. I liked Halloween because I got to dress up like a skeleton and eat candy. I like Mrs. Fox! I'll miss first grade! –*Taylor Eckroth*



MS. HOURNBUCKLE AND MR. HENDRICKSON'S SECOND GRADE NEWS

Second grade is full of discovery! The year kicked off to a great start with enthusiastic students ready to tackle 2nd grade with Miss Hournbuckle and Mr.



Hendrickson. From the start we have had a lot of hands-on learning. The 2nd graders have been working extremely hard! Our 2nd graders were the star of the show during the HOPE Dinner, professing our faith. It was a precious sight watching them sing the songs with enthusiasm and confidence. The aroma of chocolate chip cookies filled our halls at school during December. We baked about 500 cookies and sold them for 10 cents each. That is a LOT of baking! It was great practice measuring and making change. We have wonderful bakers in the making! We participated in a STEM activity where we were all engineers and built a structure out of spaghetti to hold a marshmallow. We learned a lot of important strategies in order to help make something strong. It has been exciting to see many children turning into avid readers! As the year comes to a close, we look back and feel blessed to have many wonderful memories of 2nd grade!



MRS. GAPINSKI'S THIRD GRADE NEWS



Top Ten Third-Grade Events

(We had many more... we figured we'd narrow it down.)

1. Celebrating/ Learning about the Sacraments of Confirmation/Holy Eucharist

*3rd Graders received these Holy Sacraments!

2. Guillermo Guardia, aka Memo

*We were blessed with a grant that allowed our classroom to be one of the focus classrooms for Memo. We learned about how to sculpt clay, how to work on a pottery wheel, and how art can tell a story.

3. The Witches by Roald Dahl

*We read many books this year – this was a class favorite!

4. Our Class/Teacher

*What do you get when you cross 19 fantastic 3rd grade humans with one curious teacher? A year full of learning, growing, and challenging each other to be better every day!

5. Science – measuring our shadows at different times of day

*We learned how the time of day affects the length of our shadows!

6. Miss Spitfire by Sarah Miller

*We learned about Helen Keller's early life with her teacher Annie Sullivan... what an amazing history/life lesson!

7. Black History Month Report

*We learned about different leaders throughout our history, past and present. We also took some time to learn what it



Using pottery wheel with Memo.

felt like to be discriminated against just because we were different. The end result: empathy, compassion, understanding.

8. Visitors/Special Events

*We've been blessed with people volunteering or making a special impact on our classroom through their donations of time, talent, and treasure!

9. Dissecting Owl Pellets

*Owls are interesting consumers...we were grateful for how they can leave us clues in their owl pellets to find out what they had for dinner, or lunch, or breakfast!

10. Crazy Maniac Readers – reaching Accelerated Reading Goals throughout the year – over 7 million words read (just in AR tests).

*SO. MUCH. READING! This group of third-graders surpassed their cumulative 1,000-point goal in February (PLUS, they reached MANY personal goals each month!). You will find many noses in books during free-time! Wow!

What about 3rd grade has made you smile or has impacted your life?

Evan: "The thing I like the most this year is that we got to have a nice teacher, and we did experiments with owl pellets."

Brooklyn: "The adventures in third grade have made me unbreakable because they make me believe in myself."

Gradin: What made me smile is doing the Macarena dance – the Macarena dance is a song using linking verbs."

Zach: "What made me smile was making clay with Memo because it was fantabulous and making bowls."

Hudson: "Gym is fun to me because we play games like color tag."

Mia: "What makes me smile is that when we get to go to different trips and dissecting owl pellets because I get to work with friends."

Braelon: "Something that makes me smile is I like to play with my friends, and I like to read, and I like my teacher to be funny a lot."

Gavyn: "Art is very good because you get to cut, draw, color, and you get to glue. Don't forget to stay for Mrs. Gapinski's class because it is awesome!!"

Luke: "One thing that brought a smile to my face in third grade was when we got to look inside the owl pellets, and I also really like gym because you get to play with all your friends."

Miles: "When my teacher told me I did my times 4 wrap-up in 9 seconds, I felt excited, and I would tell my mom!"

Mari: "The thing I enjoyed about third grade was watching the movies we had in our classroom, especially the Bad Beginning and the book was really long, it took like a month."



Dissecting owl pellets.

Kendra: "I felt happy when Memo came to visit us for a week, and we made the pottery with him."

Jared: "I like gym because we play games, and we always get sweaty."

Gus: "What made me smile in third grade was looking at the owl pellets because we got to find a skeleton."

Shane: "Well, it's like you're learning, you know...It makes me smile because I know a lot of stuff now."

Belle: "Memo was a fun experience for me because he taught us how to make stuff with clay."

Alexander: "I enjoyed when we did the parties and stuff because it's fun (and also the Witches movie)!"

Liam: "The amazing class because they've changed my life by helping me."

Haley: "Something that makes me smile is helping my classmates because I feel happy when I know I am helping somebody."

Mrs. Gapinski: "I have 19 reasons why my life will never be the same...ALL of my students have taught me something new and made me a better person and teacher."

3rd graders comments on "What does St. John's Academy mean to you?"

"It means joy, it just feels like joy and happiness because I learn how to read, how to do math, how to spell, and how many times you can take Holy Eucharist in a day." –*Evan Lureen*

"It means to me, it's a great Catholic school and I learn a lot of religion things. It makes me happy because there are a lot of kids that know what religion is." –*Mia Kaiser*

"St. John's Academy means a lot to me because of all the great teachers and classmates we have." –*Liam Frey*

"St. John's Academy means to me that it's Catholic (Christian) and we talk about Jesus Christ." –*Mari Anderson*



MRS. ECKROTH & MR. GANGE'S FOURTH GRADE NEWS

We have been busy in fourth grade this year. We began with our annual tradition of celebrating All Saints Day. Each student chose a saint special to them, researched that individual, and created a costume to represent him/her. The stu-



Reading Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing and completing activities.



STEM activity



Msgr. teaching the Sacraments.



Saints Day projects

dents did an amazing job sharing the lives of these important people of faith. We have also spent a lot of time reading many different types of books this year. Each month the students choose a book to read and share with the class. The students have also been studying the United States and their own state, North Dakota, this year. After learning about their own state, we will celebrate with a trip to Bismarck to tour many of the amazing places we've learned about.



MS. MUTSCHLER'S FIFTH GRADE NEWS

#best class ever

Follow us on instagram @sja.ms.mutschler



Fifth graders stop to pose for a picture with Bishop Folda during Catholic School Week!



As part of a service project during Catholic School Week, Ms. Mutschler and the fifth graders volunteered at the humane society!



Fifth grade boys attempt to create the tallest structure using marshmallows and noodles during the school wide STEAM activity.



What a great week we had creating with clay! With the help of Artist in Residence Memo, we created pinch pots, clay figures, and even got to use the pottery wheel!



Kevine and Dominick construct a circuit during science class.



Fifth graders pose for a picture with our super cool super grumpy yet super cute class pet, Waffles the Hedge Hog!



Dominick, Regan, Jesse and Olivia test out their board game they created while learning about Spanish explorers in social studies.



MRS. YATSKIS' SIXTH GRADE NEWS

Sixth grade continues to be a classroom of hands on learning and incredible life experiences. This spring we were able to visit the

University of Jamestown twice for science. We also conduct many experiments in the classroom. The favorite is the cell models of the stages of mitosis using Oreos and sprinkles; there is nothing better than conducting a science experiment that we can eat! Our monthly visits to Ave Maria for Mass and games with the residents has helped form close relationships. The joy created during these visits has touched the students, the residents, the employees at the nursing home, and the teacher! The sixth grade year is a busy one and goes



much too quickly. The students will leave SJA with lifelong memories of learning about and living the message of Christ.





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 Building Spiritual Community.*

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