



# FOCUS

Faith & Knowledge for a Brighter Future  
North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc.

North Platte Catholic Schools  
Endowment-Trust, Inc.  
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“Catholic schools are to be communities of faith in which the Christian message, the experience of community, worship, and social concern are integrated in the total experience of students, their parents, and members of the faculty.” —*Sharing the Light of Faith, 1979, #9.*

The Catholic School System in North Platte has continuously demonstrated the validity of this quote. Having attended McDaid Elementary beginning my kindergarten year, and recently graduating from St. Patrick High School, I speak from personal experience.

Compared to the public school system, St. Pat's is a very small school. However, I feel that its compactness made learning a more enjoyable experience for me. The small class numbers allow for individual attention with the faculty and engaging class discussions, which I believe help to enhance one's learning capability.

I felt like I was part of a family at St. Pat's.

Everyone knew each other, we grew up together, and we became the best of friends. Year by year, we grew, we were taught our



*Erica Bjorstad '06*

Christian beliefs and our Christian values were instilled in us. Beginning in the 1st grade, we stood up in front of our peers and took part in the liturgy of the Mass. I firmly believe that this was a solid foundation for good public speaking skills.

The Catholic School System stresses the importance of community service. It provided lessons that could not be taught in the classroom. Through volunteering, I witnessed goodness in people from all walks of life. Giving to others has taught me so much.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Congratulations 2006 St. Pat's Grads

- Tiann Allison
- Craig Baxter
- Erica Bjorstad
- Jessica Black
- Jacob Brandl
- Mollie Brittan
- Blake Brown
- Michael Budke
- Dane Carlini
- Evan Collins
- David Deertz
- Mikala Dobesh
- Rick Dolan
- Kayla Faimon
- Adam Greenwood
- Bradley Hall
- Robbie Heinzen
- Meghan Hoefft
- Patrick Jacobson
- Adam Jording
- Ashley Meissner
- Matt Mroczek
- John O'Connor
- Randi O'Connor
- Sean O'Connor
- Haley Parker
- Jay Ross
- Anne Schartz
- Jeffery Small
- Jordan Smith
- Kaitlin Smith
- Katie Thomsen
- Hanna Wid

## Annual Fund Update

I am happy to say that the response has been good. Only two folks opted to give less than before, six have renewed, and everyone else has increased their contribution.

We have a terrific mountain to climb this year. As I wrote to you in the Annual Fund letter, the Endowment is challenged to raise 10% more this year than last. Right now \$580,243 for the school seems a long

way off. If everyone would increase their giving by 10% (or more), there would be a lot less gray hair around here.

We need strong Catholic leadership in our Churches and in the communities we live in. This will happen as long we provide our kids with a Christian based education. St. Pat's and McDaid make it happen. Please send your gift ASAP. Thanks!

# McDaid Students Create Award Winning Technology Project

The students of McDaid Elementary Sixth grade have been working on increasing the use of technology. Teacher Raegan Skillstad said, "We were fortunate to have been part of two amazing grants: Last year's ESU16 Multimedia Toolkit and this year the Nebraska Community Foundation." The grants provided the class with two lap top computers, a digital camcorder, a digital projector, and several other technology tools.

*"The kids are incorporating technology and creating some top quality work. . . I am very proud of them," said Skillstad.*

"It's very rewarding to see students so excited about learning," Skillstad said, "The kids are incorporating technology and creating some top quality work. They have a real sense of pride in their accomplishments. The Educational Service Units of Nebraska and Attorney General, John Brunning, named the McDaid 6th grade class

winners of the statewide competition for Public Service Announcements on Internet Safety.

Winners of the Public Service Announcement competition found the project educational and fun. Sixth grader, Dominic Pasquinely said as a leader of one of the PSA spots, "It is really fun to learn about technology and get to use what we learn to make these projects. I learned a lot of things I can use."

Fellow 6th grader Jenna Campbell adds, "It was important to learn about internet safety and help other kids learn about it too. So many kids are using the web and there are some pretty scary things out there." Skillstad stated, "It's great to see the kids realize their work is valuable.

## Reunion Time

It wasn't perfect attendance but it was "great" attendance at this year's St. Patrick Alumni Association 2006 Reunion. With 252 laughing and chatting classmates, the room rocked.

Early in the evening Martin Cordes was presented with the "Ursuline Sisters of Louisville Stewardship Award 2006" from the Endowment. Martin Cordes is one of the most loved and respected teachers among the St. Pat's alumni. As a long time teacher at St. Pat's, he spends a considerable amount of time working with his students inside and outside, rain or shine, during school and outside of school time. Thank you Mr. Cordes for all you do and for who you are!



Thanks to all of you who gave a gift or pledged your support for the St. Pat's School System expansion. Jeff O'Connor, North Platte Catholic School Endowment-Trust Director and alumnus addressed the crowd regarding the need for starting all day kindergarten. He asked everyone to pledge their support of this expansion for equipment, furnishings, and operational expenses.

2 On behalf of the 2006/07 Kindergarteners —  
THANK YOU!

## Bjornstad, *Continued Page 1*



Community service always been a part of the curriculum, and I plan to make it a part of my future.

The small school environment of St. Pat's enabled me to participate in several different activities from Student Council to Swing Choir to sports. Being involved taught me good time-management skills. I learned how vital it was to use my free time in school and out of school wisely. Self-motivation and discipline are two important characteristics that help to ensure academic success at St. Pat's. Classes at St. Pat's are definitely challenging, but the faculty helps you to develop to your full potential. I feel equipped and confident for my college classes in the coming fall.

The school pride and parent support at St. Pat's is phenomenal. At all of the athletic events, our parents, families, and friends were all our #1 fans. It was such an indescribable feeling walking past the boys and girls that attend McDaid, screaming your name at an athletic event, just so that you'll wave at them. I realized how much they look up to the upper classmen, and dream to be just like them someday. I realized how important it was to be a good leader while in high school. We left lasting impressions with the elementary school children. Soon, it will be their time to lead. They are future of St. Pat's, our community, and our country.

# St. Pat's Music Department Hosts "The Western Nebraska Junior High Honor Band Concert"

On Friday, April 28th 30 schools from across western Nebraska sent 139 7th graders and 142 8th graders to a day filled with music and fun. The students were accompanied by their band directors. Rock Skinner and Dave Rischling served as the 2006 Clinicians.

Rod Skinner retired after 41 years as a music/band instructor and is presently teaching half time at Revere High School in Ovid, Colorado.

Dave Rischling began his music career in 199 and is the

middle school band director for Alliance Public Schools.

After meeting for the first time, 313 music students prepared nine selections for the evening concert. The 7th graders selected *Appalachian Suite*, *Astro Overture*, *Kronos*, and *A Sailor's Odyssey*. The 8th graders selected *Agincourt*, *1415*, *Blue Ridge Saga*, *Hogan's Heroes March*, *Kentucky Pride*, and *Minuet*.



Mike Knake, Band Director for St. Pat's and McDaid was very pleased with the entire day. Knake joined the music staff last fall. He is very appreciative of the donations and assistance from community businesses, Council 1211 Knights of Columbus and the Endowment that made this day exceptional. "We had 313 musicians making music—what a wonderful day," said Knake.

## SCRIP for Tuition & Kindergarten

SCRIP has successfully generated \$853.34 for families to use toward tuition expenses for the coming school year. You have until July 31st to get 2% on your purchases of SCRIP be used towards tuition costs this coming school year. In addition the SCRIP sales will also go to help purchase tables and chairs

for the new kindergarten classroom.

Last year SCRIP sales generated a \$5,000 gift for St. Pat's and McDaid. SCRIP gift cards are purchased at a discount and then sold at face value. The difference is profit.

You can buy SCRIP after all

weekend Masses at St. Patrick's and Holy Spirit parishes in North Platte, Endowment Office during the summer and on the Endowment web site, [www.npcset.org](http://www.npcset.org) then click Funding Catholic Education.

This is a secure site for credit card use.

## What Have You Decided?

Your options to include the Endowment in your will or estate plan will vary depending upon your financial situation. At this point legal advise is important.

Your attorney will depend on full disclosure by you so the right options can be determined to carry out your wishes, meet your beneficiaries' needs, protect your estate, and keep your estate taxes as low as possible.

You can save your time and money if you have organized the

needed information and analyzed your estate.

Some of the questions you will need to consider:

- How do you want your estate divided?
- What will happen to your business interest?
- What powers should you give your trustee?
- What charity have you decided upon for a gift?

If you are considering a gift to support Catholic education in North Platte, there are several possibilities: a cash bequest, a gift of property, a share of the residue, insurance policy, or the remainder of a trust after the lifetime of a family member. Let us help you develop a plan best suited to satisfy both your desires for your family and your philanthropic goals.

Call the Endowment Office, 308-534-5939.

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**If you think  
education is  
expensive, try  
ignorance!**

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## The Future is Now

I / We want to help support St. Pat's and McDaid Catholic Schools in North Platte because it is important that young people get an education based on strong Christian Values.

To spread the good news of Catholic Education, I / We are giving:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000    \_\_\_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_\_\_ \$250    \_\_\_\_\_ \$200  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$Other

\_\_\_\_\_ I / We will send this amount each month.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me a EFT (electronic fund transfer) form.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will contact my company for a matching gift.

\_\_\_\_\_ I work for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Visit [www.npcset.org](http://www.npcset.org) and make your donation electronically.

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fr. Vince Parsons to Grand Island and Fr. Jim Golka to North Platte

To the surprise of many at St. Patrick's Catholic Parish, Fr. Vince Parsons has been transferred to St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island. As a member of the North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust Board of Directors his insight and thoughtfulness will be missed. Our prayers and best wishes go with him.

At the same time we look forward to getting to know Fr. Jim Golka and his participation as a member of the Board of Directors.

**Jesus we trust in you!**