



FOCUS

Faith & Knowledge for a Brighter Future

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What is more important to a child's education than building character and fostering compassion and values? That's why a Catholic education has always gone beyond the basics, to encourage every child to become a faith-filled, productive and generous adult. With a sound spiritual base, our children will develop the core values he or she needs for living a successful and meaningful life.

Catholic Schools
Character. Compassion. Values.



This year's national slogan is "**Catholic**

Schools: Character. Compassion. Values."

Character. A strong character is at the core of every responsible adult, and helps chart a course through life.

Compassion. Understanding others and having the desire to serve and contribute only comes with compassion.

Values. Strong ethics and values are what ultimately guide us. They determine what we choose for ourselves, and influence how we interact with others.

World-Herald, January 29, 2006

St. Pat's & McDaid: Character. Compassion. Values.

And here at home: McDaid and St. Pat's students celebrated Catholic Schools Week beginning Sunday, January 29th with the nation's 7800 Catholic schools.

The schools plans encompass everything from all-school assemblies to philanthropic projects to soup and pie supper for school and parish families, joins students, teachers, parents, parishes, and others across the country in observing Catholic Schools Week, an annual celebration of the benefits of Catholic education.

Festivities began at Holy Spirit and St. Patrick parishes with student testimonials during all weekend Masses: St. Patrick's Elizabeth Waltman, Jacob Brandl, Johnny O'Connor, and Cody Sedlacek; Holy Spirit's Sean O'Neal and Alex Wood. STUCO (Student Council) and NHS (National Honor Society) students hosted coffee and doughnuts at both parishes on Sunday morning. Banners created by McDaid students were on display at St. Pat's, Holy Spirit and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishes in honor of Catholic Schools Week.

The festivities continued over the course of the school week. Day by day, the schools activities focused on its constituents and the wider community around it:

- On Monday / local community and Mayor G.

Keith Richardson read a proclamation and community leaders had lunch with McDaid students.

- On Tuesday, McDaid and St. Pat's students collected money and non-perishable food items for the St. Pat's/Holy Spirit Food Pantry.



Parents Dave Pieper, Jana Greenwood, and Grandparent Jim Schneider enjoying Wednesday's lunch.

• On Wednesday, parents had lunch with McDaid students and McDaid PTO hosted a Soup & Pie Supper during the McDaid Open House that evening.

- On Thursday, McDaid volunteers were invited

Continued on page 3.

Rick Carpenter can always be seen practicing what he preaches -- always going the extra mile to help big and little students with the care of a guardian angel. Lori Aschoff was able to catch up with the McDaid Principal for a few minutes and talk about the changes he has had the pleasure to be a part of since classes opened at the new McDaid Elementary in the fall of 2000.

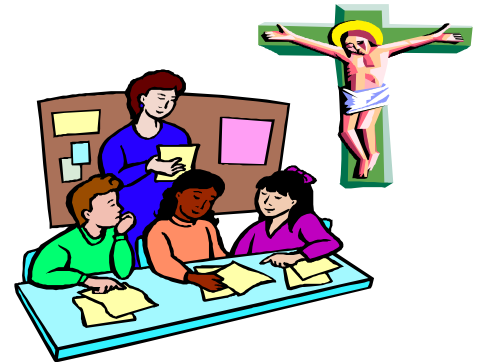
According to Carpenter having simple things like a hot lunch program, space for inside physical education during inclement weather, and a play ground with grass has had profound impacts on students, aides, and teachers. Teachers and parents are very

pleased with the beautiful facility and the space it provides for a library, media center and computer lab. He also shared that the new reading series and the new math series have been a welcome compliment to the curriculum.

Recognizing that increasing enrollment is vitally important, Carpenter is always anxious to talk with prospective parents about McDaid. He shares with them the academic excellence of teachers and expected of students. Most importantly, McDaid offers a strong curriculum based on Catholic/Christian values. The facility offers large classrooms and moderate class size. Additionally, students are directly involved in the weekly liturgy. They do the readings, serve the gifts, plan the music,

and sing with enthusiasm. "This is especially nice when parents join the students at the weekly Mass in the McDaid Chapel," explains Carpenter.

By Lori Aschoff, NP Catholic School System, Public Relations & Recruitment



McDaid Mighty Mites – not once but twice!

For four weeks McDaid students kept reminding their parents to buy SCRIP – a “jean day” was at stake. As it turns out, the littlest were also the mightiest – Mrs. Haman’s kindergarten class collected \$2,406 sales orders for SCRIP. In second place was Mrs. McCarthy-Garth’s Fifth Grade with \$2,383 SCRIP sales. Together all the classes sales came to \$14,683 and at an average of 5%, approximately \$734 was raised.

And a BIG THANK YOU to the third graders in Mrs. Dodson and Mrs. Arensdorf classes. These terrific kids decided that instead of exchanging Christmas gifts in class that they would give their money to the Cents for Hope Campaign that is currently raising money for the Bridge of Hope Child Abuse and Advocacy Center in North Platte. These wonderful children gave over \$140 to this fundraising project.

John Paul II Words to Live By

Saint John Bosco

said that “education is a matter of the heart.” It is precisely in the human heart that the Spirit of truth is made present as consoler and transformer. He unceasingly enters the history of the world through the heart of man.

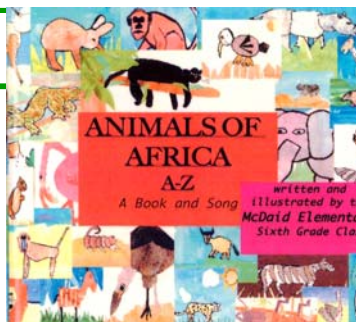
**Apostolic Letter:
On the First Centenary of the
Death of St. John Bosco,
January 31, 1988**

ANIMALS OF AFRICA

If you are looking for a alphabet book with a spiritual twist, “Animals of Africa A-Z” is what you want for your children. This project began as a way to integrate technology into the classroom. An Educational Service Unit 16 educational grant gave Reagan Skillstad, a 6th grade teacher at McDaid, the tools she needed to use computers in the classroom more often. The idea of writing a book quickly grew to a multi-media project.

Soon every child was responsible

for



choosing an animal native to Africa along with a bible verse representing each letter. They drew pictures and arranged each page.

But their work was just beginning.

A-Z A Book and Song

They spent hours scanning the pages, learning how to create a CD-ROM version and finally the inspirational song.

Yes, you can get an interactive CD with this wonderful book and listen to these talented 6th graders.

If you would like to buy a copy, please send \$12.50, with CD \$17.50, to: Reagan Skillstad, McDaid Elementary/PTO, 1102 East E. St. North Platte, NE 69101

All Day Kindergarten

Everyone is excited to learn that next fall McDaid Elementary will have two all day kindergarten classes. Bill McGahan, Superintendent, detailed the plans at the Kindergarten Parent Meeting Wednesday evening, Feb 8th. A new building will be built just southeast of McDaid thanks to the generosity of a donor. It is very likely that both kindergarten classes will be there. Plans are to have two large classrooms plus a large area for play should the weather not allow the children to go out for recess. Mr. McGahan explained that we are very fortunate that the present half-day teachers will teach full time next fall.



Annual St. Pat's Irish Fest



Looking for a great family fun day.

Come to the Annual St. Pat's Irish Fest on Sunday, March 19, 12: Noon to 3:30 in the St. Pat's gym. You have plenty of time to get Raffle Tickets either from a school family (\$2 each or \$20 a book) or call 308-534-5939. You can win 2 tickets to the Kenny Chesney Concert in Omaha on April 6, a La-Z-Boy Rocker/Recliner, One-Year Membership to the Firehouse Gym, or a Hummel Figurine valued at \$200.

The kids will love the mini carnival and for the first time this year there is a jumping room.

Be sure to check out the fantastic Silent Auction with numerous gift and baskets. Don't miss the dinner served

by students from 12: Noon to 2:30 (\$5 for adults, \$2.50 12 and under).

To add an extra twist to Irish Fest, start watching the North Platte Telegraph on Sundays and the North Platte Bulletin on Thursdays for the list of local businesses where you can collect a Green Irish Coin. Collect all **10** and you will be eligible to win **\$1,000** in the **IRISH POT OF GREEN**.



You will have from Feb 19 through March 16 to collect all **10** coins. You must have all **10** coins with you when you register.

You Must Be Present To Win.

SEE YOU MARCH 19

G. R. E. E. N. Report

Generating Resources for Educational Excellence Now, better known as GREEN was another smash hit. The entire evening was punctuated by laughter, anticipation, and everyone had a genuine good time. The room was filled with very attractive auction items. Including three tables were filled with Silent Auction Items.

For the second year, the Super Silent Auction featured a Fontanini Nativity Set, Mr. C's Church Pew, a three stone Diamond Pendant, etc.

After a delightful dinner, guests were entertained by comedian and magician Gayle Becwar from Lincoln.

Then it was on to the Live Auction and the Dream Raffle featured a State of the Art Home Theater System which was won by Fr. Vince Parsons, Pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in North Platte.

The evening generated \$71,502 for the financial needs of the North Platte Catholic School System.

"SEE YOU AT GREEN '06!"

College Credit

St. Pat's High School art instructor Dennis Awtry is now teaching a College Art Appreciation class for St. Pat's seniors. The class is being offered through Mid Plains Community College. Students who take this course will earn three credit hours, which are transferable to all liberal arts institutions, particularly those in the state of Nebraska.

College Art Appreciation is an academic study of the History, Movements and Concepts of the Visual Arts.

Continued: Catholic Schools Week – here at home

to celebrate Mass with the students and received special recognition for their contributions to the school.

- On Friday, the Endowment - Trust Office provided lunch in honor of the faculty and staff.

"We're very proud of what we do, and want to tell the whole world about the benefits of schools with character, compassion, and values," superintendent Bill McGahan explained. "We invite our alumni

and everyone in the community to celebrate with us."

As Pope John Paul II said, "Parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. In comparison with the educational role of all others, their role is primary; it is also irreplaceable and inalienable."

By Lori Aschoff, NP Catholic School System, Public Relations & Recruitment

Congratulations

Congratulations to Reagan Skillstad, 6th grade teacher at McDaid Elementary for receiving a grant from the John Russell Applegate Education Fund.

Recognizing the seriousness that inappropriate programs are easy access for children on the internet, Mrs. Skillstad's project is all about internet safety for children.

The award included a Macintosh I-Book G4 lap top computer, a digital camcorder, and an external mike.

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www.npcset.org

If you would like to receive the
FOCUS by e-mail,
please contact the Endowment
Office at director@npcset.org.

“Faith & Knowledge for a Brighter Future”

Yes, I will help support Catholic Education
in North Platte, Nebraska.

I will give: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100
 \$50 \$25 \$_____ (other)

Make check payable to:
 North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc.

Bill my VISA or Mastercard:
 Account Number _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____

I will make a donation through www.npcset.org.

I will contact my company to match this gift.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

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