



ST. JOSEPH'S

Journal

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Engineering makerspace
now open

A DECADE OF GLOBAL SERVICE

Our special connection
to a remote village
in Guatemala

SPRING 2017

GREETINGS FROM ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL!

I have had a very blessed first year as principal of this vibrant and active school. It has been a privilege for me to help St. Joseph's School students grow in faith and knowledge over these past several months. I have also greatly enjoyed getting to know our school families, faculty and staff, and all of those within the St. Joseph's community.

St. Joseph's School has a long and rich tradition of providing excellence in Catholic education. We continue this tradition today, proudly serving over 380 students in Preschool through 8th Grade. As a graduate, past or current parent, grandparent or parish member, you too are an important part of our history. You are forever a part of our St. Joseph's School family.

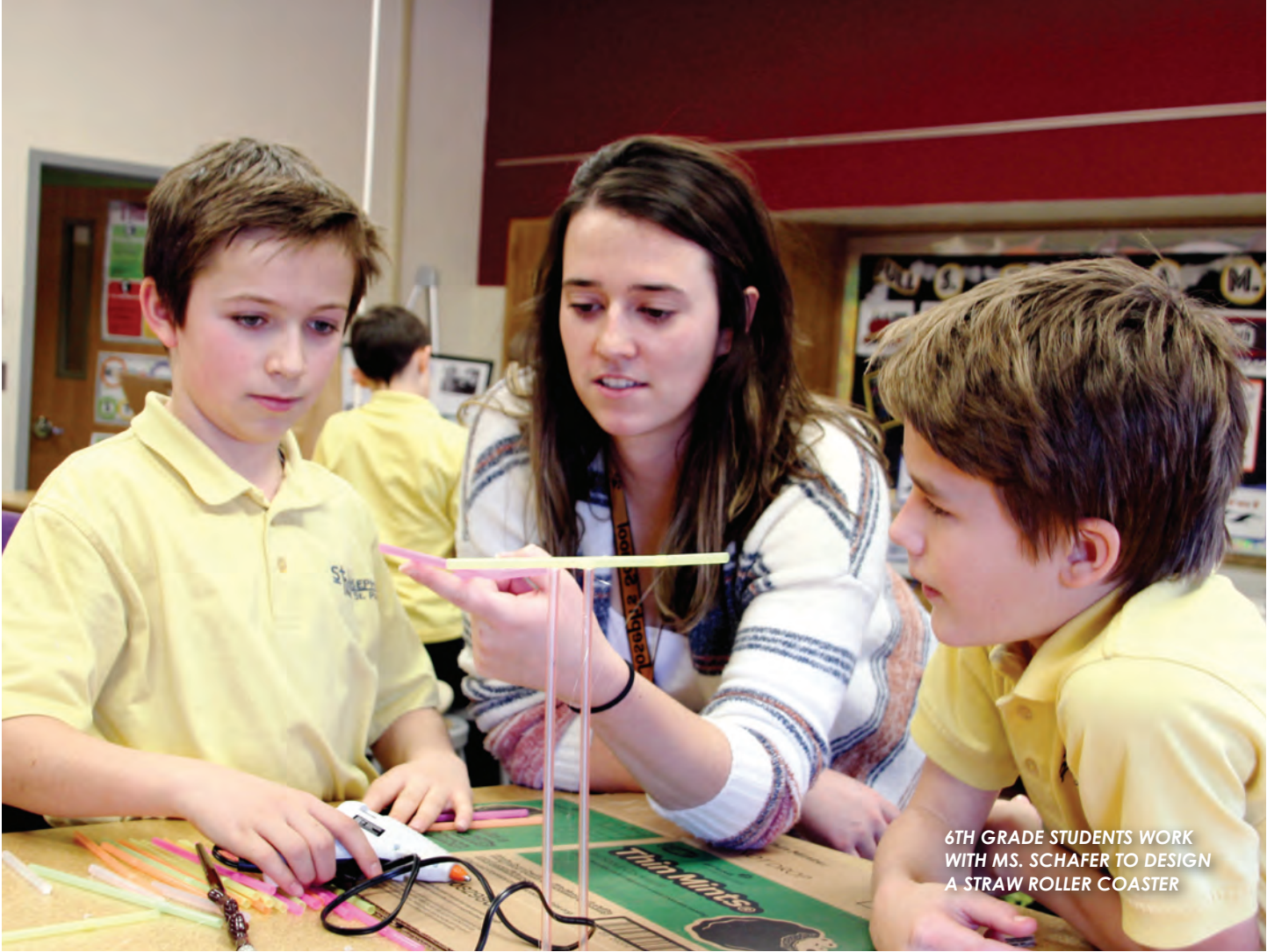
Whether you are still connected to our school or have been away for a while, I encourage you to take a look at this, our first issue of the *St. Joseph's Journal*. We have so much good news to share! I also invite you to stop in for a visit if you are ever in the neighborhood. We'd love to welcome you back, give you a tour, and share our story with you.

May God continue to bless you and your family.

St. Joseph, Pray For Us!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Mr. Greg Wesely
Principal



6TH GRADE STUDENTS WORK
WITH MS. SCHAFER TO DESIGN
A STRAW ROLLER COASTER

Full STEAM Ahead Engineering makerspace now open

This past fall, St. Joseph's School opened a brand-new educational makerspace designed to expand students' interest, knowledge, and creativity in integrated Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM).

Funds for the makerspace were obtained by a St. Joseph's School faculty team, led by middle school science teacher Ellen Schafer ('06 alum). In 2016, Schafer and her team, including teachers Wayne Beaman, Diane Baker, Rod Cina and Katy Monahan received donations from current and former school families and were awarded a STEM Innovation Grant by the Minnesota Independent School Forum (MISF). In 2017, the team was awarded two additional grants by MISF, one for sustainability and one for K-5 Innovation.

"We are committed
to the education of the
whole student, inspiring
deeper learning."

The newly constructed STEAM classroom provides an exceptional space for students to enhance their knowledge base in science, mathematics, coding, making, construction, robotics, electronics and more. By combining a STEAM-based curriculum with hands-on activities and technology, including a 3D printer with Afinia software, students are challenged to be better real-world problem solvers.

"We are committed to the education of the whole student, inspiring deeper learning," said Schafer. "Having a dedicated makerspace opens all avenues in the science and math curricula to give students the best educational experience." ✚

★ STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



TEACHER DAVE SCHULTZ WITH ELIZABETH LINK

Elizabeth Link, 8th Grade

8th Grader, Elizabeth Link, recently won first place in the annual essay contest sponsored by the Optimist's Club of West St. Paul. This year's theme was "Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges." Elizabeth's essay rose to the top among many entries, including those from area high school students. She was awarded a gold medallion, a cash prize and will advance to the district level competition with an opportunity to win a \$2,500 college scholarship.

In addition to her family, 8th Grade literature and communication skills teacher, Dave Schultz, was on hand to support Elizabeth as she was presented with her award.

💡 DID YOU KNOW?

22% OF THE STUDENTS
CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT
ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ARE FROM
LEGACY FAMILIES



STUDENTS IN THE PREK 4/5S CLASS
WORK AT THE SENSORY TABLE

St. Joseph's Preschool Announces Extended Day Programs

Flexible options for busy families

Since opening its doors in 2008, St. Joseph's Preschool has provided faith-based Preschool classes, full of discovery and delight, for children ages three to five. Beginning in the fall of 2017, St. Joseph's Preschool will expand to include extended-day programs for families who need more wrap-around care for their preschool-age children.

"We are so excited to offer our families more flexible care options," said Preschool Director, Carolyn (Colon) Pilney ('77). "Both our Preschool classes and our extended day programs will provide a nurturing, faith-based environment that allows each child to grow and develop at his or her own pace."

Extended-day programs will be available to any child who is enrolled in one of the St. Joseph's Preschool classes. Parents can choose from a variety of offerings including Early Bird Drop Off, Lunch Bunch, and Extended Day Morning and Afternoon. Families can customize half or full-day care, depending on their needs. Extended day programs will be offered five days a week and will operate in conjunction with St. Joseph's School (K-8) schedule and hours. +

"Both our Preschool classes and our extended day programs will provide a nurturing, faith-based environment that allows each child to grow and develop at his or her own pace."



TEACHER PROFILE



Beth Bowe, Music Teacher

Mrs. Beth Bowe (formerly Miss Baldus) directed her 27th musical at St. Joseph's School this year. This year's Middle School Production of "Cinderella" featured seventy 6th, 7th and 8th graders in both cast and crew.

Mrs. Bowe's favorite moment of every musical production is just before the last performance, when cast and crew gather together to pray with gratitude for the fun and success they've had. They also pray in thankfulness for the many teachers and parents who have allowed them this opportunity.

"The musical is such a great way to know and appreciate each student I teach," said Bowe. "I love seeing the kids working together and creating a family—6th, 7th and 8th graders, male and female, all working toward one goal in a positive way and appreciating each one's talents."



2017 MIDDLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF "CINDERELLA"



SPORTS CORNER

Congratulations to our CAA Champs!

8th Grade Girls Volleyball

FRONT ROW: Manager Hayley Rich, Claire Bettenburg, Catherine Tracy, Elizabeth Link

MIDDLE ROW: JoAnn Stodolka, Brooke Foley, Julia Masica

BACK ROW: Coach John Rich, Ellie Wicklund, Nyah Rich, Josie VanDiver, Izzy Griffin, Coach Jackie VanDiver

8th Grade Boys Basketball

FRONT ROW: Kekoa Taylor, Luke Wicklund, Luke Krukowski, Ryan Creamer, Miguel O'Neill

BACK ROW: Jack Plum, Dylan Macke, Joey Hazzard, Ryan Chamberlain, Brady Lawler, Coach Jen Hazzard

MISSING: Nolan Tierney

Celebrating a Decade of Global Service

Our special connection to a remote village in Guatemala

For the past ten years, St. Joseph's students have developed a special relationship with students from the Buen Pastor school in the remote village of San Jose Nacahuil, Guatemala.

The relationship began when St. Joseph's School alumna, Lorilee (Lambrecht) Petrangelo ('80), was working as a volunteer in Guatemala and met Padre Mario Ochoa, who is now the pastor of the Buen Pastor parish and school community. Recognizing the value of an intercultural exchange for the children of this community, Petrangelo approached St. Joseph's School Spanish teacher, Katy Monahan, and together they launched a pen pal program between the students in West St. Paul and Guatemala.

Since then, the program has grown beyond just exchanging letters. Now St. Joe's students, in collaboration with the Grace Centre in St. Paul, raise money to help fund clean water, health education, medical equipment and school supplies in Padre Mario's village. The highlight each spring is Padre Mario's visit to St. Joseph's School. He meets with our students, celebrates Mass, and accepts the student's donations, often totaling more than \$7,000 a year.

"...But more important is the friendship. It gives the students in Guatemala a hope for a better future."

"Money for computers, water and dental equipment, those things are important," says Ochoa. "But more important is the friendship. It gives the students in Guatemala hope for a better future." ✚



PADRE MARIO GREETS A GROUP OF 2ND GRADERS AFTER CELEBRATING MASS WITH OUR STUDENTS.
PHOTO BY ROBERT CUNNINGHAM



CAROL DAY NANCY GAGLIARDI DIANA OSTROWSKI

Three Long Time Faculty Members Retiring in 2017

Special reception on April 27th

At the end of this school year we will say goodbye to three beloved faculty members. Carol (McGill) Day, 2nd grade teacher, and Nancy Gagliardi and Diana (Kulis) Ostrowski, Learning Specialists, will retire from St. Joseph's School this June.

Nancy and Diana joined our school as a part of the first, all-day faculty in the early 1970s. Nancy was a 3rd grade teacher until 1990 when she began working as a Learning Specialist in the upper elementary grades. Diana has worked her entire tenure as our school's Learning Specialist in the areas of reading and mathematics.

Carol joined the St. Joseph's School faculty in 1977. She taught 1st grade for 31 years and has spent the last eight years teaching 2nd grade.

We are so grateful for the talents and contributions of these three outstanding educators. They will be greatly missed by their teaching colleagues, parents and students.

All are welcome and invited to join us as we celebrate these special faculty members at their retirement reception on April 27th from 5:00 to 6:45 pm in the Church of St. Joseph Great Room. ✚

GIVE TODAY

Visit

www.StJosephWSP.org/make-a-gift

Save the Date

ST. JOSEPH'S
ALL SCHOOL REUNION &
75TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION

JUNE 10, 2017

Join the fun as we celebrate St. Joseph's School!
All graduates, students, families, and friends from 1949 to today, are invited to attend. Please spread the word!

Invitations will be mailed out soon. Please update your contact information online at www.StJosephWSP.org/Alumni

Do you have photos of St. Joseph's School to share?



JIM & KATHY GESKE FAMILY
ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL MARATHON, EARLY 90's

We're always looking for great memories!
Please email photos to www.StJosephWSP.org/Alumni



UPCOMING EVENTS

Retirement Reception—Carol Day, Nancy Gagliardi & Diana Ostrowski

April 27th | 5–6:45 pm
Church of St. Joseph Great Room

Night of the Arts

April 27th | 6–8 pm
A celebration of literacy and the arts. Featuring artwork
by all students in Preschool through 8th Grade. Grades 3-5
Spring Concert at 7 pm.

Band & Choir Concert

May 11th | 7–8:30 pm
School Gym

All School Reunion & 75th Jubilee Celebration

June 10th | 4:30 pm
Please update your contact information online at
www.StJosephWSP.org/Alumni.

\$30,000 MATCHING GRANT!

A generous alumnus wants to inspire support
of St. Joseph's School

Any gifts made before June 30, 2017 will be matched
dollar for dollar. Your gift of \$25 becomes \$50, \$100
becomes \$200, and all gifts totaling \$30,000 become
\$60,000 for tuition assistance and the annual fund.

Match your gift by visiting
www.StJosephWSP.org/make-a-gift



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