



St. Eugene SPIRIT

For the family and friends of St. Eugene School

Fall 2014

St. Eugene School Celebrates 55th Anniversary

On September 20, 2014, the school community celebrated the 55th Anniversary and All Alumni Reunion with gratitude and enthusiasm. The 4:30 liturgy overflowed with happy school families, alumni and alumni parents, teachers past and present, and supportive parishioners. A school open house and a party in Mackin Hall followed. Many memories were shared and created throughout the evening. Our sincere appreciation goes out to all of the volunteers and donors who made this celebration possible! Happy 55th to St. Eugene School!

These photos and many more from the celebration can be viewed and purchased online. Go to shop.vipis.com/steugene and enter the password VIP. Next click on the 2014-15 Galleries, click on the 55th Anniversary Candid's or Portraits, and enter the password Panthers. Enjoy!

Photos continued on page 4





A Message from our Principal

St. Eugene School is blessed to celebrate 55 years of Catholic education. This milestone allows us the opportunity to reminisce, celebrate our history, and look to the future with renewed hope and vision.

In preparing for our 55th celebration, I had the opportunity to uncover some fun facts about the early days of our school. We of course need to start with the fact that St.

Eugene Congregation celebrated its first parish Mass on July 14, 1957. Groundbreaking for the church and school took place on June 1, 1958. The school opened its doors in the fall of 1959.

The Sisters of Mercy were the founding sisters of our school. There were four sisters assigned to St. Eugene and they lived in what is now the library and computer lab. The Mercy sisters in the early years were partially cloistered and not allowed to leave the premises. They were separated from the lay faculty during the lunch hour by a sliding door.

The original wing of the school had eight classrooms. Students attended daily Mass. The well-known children's clothing designer, Florence Eiseman, designed the upper level girls' uniform. In the 1960s and 1970s, a full scale library opened, a gifted and talented program began, and a learning disabilities center was established. Enrollment peaked in 1975 with 446 students in grades 1-8. In the 1980s, increased resources and space were devoted to art and science departments, and a technology department began.

Now let's fast forward to St. Eugene School today. With the changing demographics we currently are a school with one class per grade, but we offer K3, K4, and K5 through 8th grade. We serve students from a wider geographic area and our make-up is 27% non-white. Our student body is 92% Catholic.

Students receive iPads starting in 6th grade. Technology is a tool infused throughout the curriculum and throughout the day. We are transforming the way we educate and are proud to have been awarded Exemplary Recognition by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for our innovative 1:1 iPad program.

Our Catholic identity remains central to our school. Students attend weekly liturgies, pray daily, and religion class is taught by the classroom teachers and supported with visits from our priests. Our graduates go on to Catholic and public high schools, are on the honor rolls, and become valedictorians, salutatorians, and college scholarship recipients.

We are continuing the proud legacy that began 55 years ago and we are grateful to stand on the shoulders of all of our alumni. Looking to the future, St. Eugene School is committed to fulfilling its mission in order to provide many more years of educating young Catholic students. Thank you alumni for passing on to us what it means to be St. Eugene School!

Rebecca Jones, Principal

St. Eugene School Mission

Within a Catholic community, St. Eugene School helps children grow in faith, character, and service, builds a foundation of academic excellence, and promotes the development of the whole child.



Check out the St. Eugene School page on Facebook!

Go to our website (www.steugeneschool.com) and look for the Facebook link at the bottom of the page. Then "Like" and follow us to receive future updates and "throwback Thursday" photos.

St. Eugene School Graduation Class of 2014



Back row: Associate Pastor Fr. Jacob Strand, Benjamin Andres, George Wong, Andrew Heidenrich, Michael Vecitis, D'Anna Ferrici, and Pastor Fr. Jerry Herda. Third row: Leah Weiler, Michaela Mickschl, John Hudak, Alex Arisso, Joshua Schaeffer, Jack Riesen, Max Wiberg, and Jane Hudson. Second row: Principal Rebecca Jones, Douglas Gatford, Emmy Wolfe, Anna Boemer, Elizabeth Sullivan, Isabel Ullrich, Caroline Marowski, Nolan Kozinski, and 8th Grade Teacher Karen Prendergast. Front row: Olivia Taylor, Jessica Nsubuga, Kelly LeTart, and Sophia Salvat

Excited graduates, proud teachers, and beaming parents and friends filled the pews for the Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation on June 6, 2014. Following their final Mass as classmates, the graduates received awards and diplomas, and then celebrated with a catered dinner in Mackin Hall. The speeches, class video, and memory books provoked laughter and sentimental tears as all reminisced about their years together at St. Eugene School. The graduates now carry the spirit of St. Eugene with them to their high schools, Divine Savior Holy Angels, Dominican, Marquette, Nathan Hale, and Nicolet.

VALEDICTORIAN AWARD *Ben Andres*

Presented to the student with the best overall GPA from the seventh and eighth grade years.

MACKIN AWARD *Leah Weiler and Michael Vecitis*

Presented in honor of Fr. Mackin, founding pastor of St. Eugene. The recipients best demonstrate positive attributes in academic effort, athletic skill, and overall attitude.

FR. KROLL AWARD *Nolan Kozinski*

Presented in honor of Fr. Robert Kroll, SJ, a 1979 graduate of St. Eugene School. Presented to the student who best exhibits respect for our Catholic heritage, takes an active role in the parish through service to others, and exemplifies Christian values.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP *Michael Vecitis*

Provided to a graduate attending a Catholic high school, and recognizing service to the grade school, leadership, character, and academic achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK TO THE ST. EUGENE CLASS OF 2014!

55th Anniversary Celebration and All Alumni Reunion



2013-2014 Saint Eugene School Annual Fund Appeal

Thank you to the generous parishioners, alumni and their parents, and friends who made the 2013-14 Annual Fund Appeal a success. Thank you to the current parents, 82% of whom contributed this year, setting a new record! Thank you to our dedicated co-chairs, Barbara & Harry Desmond and Daniel & Marybeth Gabler. Every gift matters! **The 2013-14 Annual Fund raised \$91,666 for operating expenses, financial aid, and the endowment.**

MACKIN SOCIETY \$5,000 and above

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John Kraniak III

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Seeking Alumni Updates!

We are updating our records. Please send us your email address. And can you share email and home addresses for your siblings or other alums? Are you interested in reunion planning? Will you send news about your life, work, family, education, travel, awards, and activities for sharing in future issues of SPIRIT? Please reply to Susie Desmond Nettesheim at nettesheims@archmil.org, or 414-918-1120, or 7600 N. Port Washington Rd, Fox Point, WI 53217.



In Memory...

St. Eugene School community extends sympathy to the family and friends of ...

Jeffrey Brier, former St. Eugene School student during the 1960s and '70s, brother of Dennis '74, Kim, and Randy, and father of Desi, student during the 1990s

Margaret Anne "Panne" Casper, mother of John '70, Joseph '75, and Philip '76

Michael Cavaluzzi, father of Nicholas, Mark, Melinda '71, Peter '73, Andrew '75, and Lisa '78

Sr. Mary Catherine Daly, formerly Sr. Mary Devota, R.S.M., second principal of St. Eugene School, 1965-1967

George Dolan, father of Catherine '71, Michael, Margaret '74, Matthew, James, and Mary; grandfather of David '00, John '06, and Michael

Nancy Gaus, mother of William '75, Mary '77, and Julie '81

Patricia Ann Gebhardt, mother of Ellen '66, Georgia '68, Patty '69, Peter '69, Sarah '71, Joseph '74 (deceased), and Mary '77

Azizeh Kashou, mother of Noel '62, Heyam '63, John '65, George '65, and Robert '73

Robert D. Lewis, Sr., father of Robert '68, Jane '70, Sue '74, David '75, and Glenn '77

Nancy McElhone, middle school social studies teacher 2005-2009

John D. McGourthy, Sr., father of John '78, Bryan '82, Kathryn '86, Thomas '88, and Edward

John Mullahy, father of Brian '75, Nancy '77, Mark '79, and Maureen

Mary Anne Sadler, mother of Mary Beth, Barbara '64, and Jeff '67

Ernst "Ernie" von Schledorn, father of Arthur '68, Mark '70, and Eric '72

Larry V. Tylke, father of former St. Eugene teacher Suzanne Riesen; grandfather of Jack '14 and current students Brady and Henry Riesen

St. Eugene SPIRIT is honored to publish memorials. Please send notices to nettesheims@archmil.org or St. Eugene School SPIRIT, 7600 N. Port Washington Rd, Fox Point, WI 53217



St. Eugene School
Guiding hearts, growing minds

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