



# *St. Eugene SPIRIT*

*For the family and friends of St. Eugene School*

Fall 2018

## Growing in Faith, Character, and Service

As we begin the Advent season at St. Eugene School, we reflect on our blessings and the first component of our mission – to help children grow in faith, character, and service. Today's multi-faceted approach, while rooted in religion classes, emphasizes putting those lessons into practice.

A tour of the House of Peace helps our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to understand Catholic social teaching about the life and dignity of the human person. They sort and box food donations during their visit. They see how “respectful,” that month's desirable character trait from our Panther Way program, defines how House of Peace staff and volunteers treat their guests.

During Worship Circle, older students memorize and tell Bible stories to younger students. Scripture becomes accessible using songs, wooden figures, and moveable displays. The leaders also volunteer to share the interactive stories with other parish children during Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays. When the 4<sup>th</sup> grade visits the retired School Sisters of St. Francis at their convent, they again spread the joy of the Worship Circle prayer service.



Classroom prayer and discussion come to life during the Living Rosary and Living Stations dramatizations. Led by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes using narration, prayer, song, and costumed actors, these experiences are a gift to our school families and parishioners.

Sensitivity training for 6<sup>th</sup> graders simulates seniors' mobility, balance, vision, and memory. Afterward, students are paired with seniors to get acquainted and assist with journaling the seniors' life stories. Students contribute recyclables to The Pope Project, inspired by Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical regarding care for each other and the earth. Tidying the pews, dusting, and collecting litter teach our kindergartners through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to care for our parish environment. The new Shining Light Service Club involves intermediate grade students in after-school activities such as writing welcome notes for the newly baptized members of our parish.

During Lent, students attend a “world banquet” in Mackin Hall. They are randomly assigned to various countries, with their table settings and meals revealing disparity in economic status. Students also participate in the parish Lenten service project - Piglets Squeal! God is Real! – focused on our twinning parish in Nkonkonjeru, Uganda. Our students are able to connect the world banquet discussion about long term solutions to hunger and poverty with their participation in the sustainable agriculture efforts of the Ugandans.

Throughout the year, visiting 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from China allow our students to embrace another culture while also sharing their own. Pairing younger and older students as “guardian angels” infuses the school with a family spirit.

With these and a wide array of other activities, we strive to apply classroom lessons to real life, helping our students to grow in faith, character, and service.

St. Eugene School

## Open House



**Sunday, January 27, 2019**  
**9:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Serving 3K through 8th grade  
2019-2020 registration begins at this event

Take a tour, meet the teachers,  
learn about St. Eugene School

# Faculty Shine as Kohl Fellows



Mrs. Katie Dewey, Mrs. Sharon Webster, Mrs. Debi Logman, Mrs. Cathy Bartkowski, Ms. Rebecca Jones, Ms. Toni Robaczek, Mrs. Mary Jane Tulley

In March, the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation recognized 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Katie Dewey for excellence in the teaching profession and Principal Rebecca Jones for excellence in leadership. Mrs. Dewey is one of fourteen teachers, and Ms. Jones is one of four principals, among all religious and independent schools in the state of Wisconsin, chosen for these honors. Our school now has seven Kohl Fellowship recipients – a testament to the commitment to excellence of our faculty.

## St. Eugene School Class of 2018



Fourth row: Associate Pastor Fr. Andrew Linn, Zhan (Kevin) Shao, Henry Haverty, Connor Elliott, Brady Coleman, Pastor Fr. Paul Hartmann.  
Third row: Principal Rebecca Jones, Teddy Wong, Myles Melloch, Paul Firsan, 8th Grade Teacher Karen Prendergast  
Second Row: Diego Beisser, Anna Andres, Rose O'Keeffe, Inge Kozinski  
Front Row: Alex Gould, Mary Grace Elliott, Stephen Miceli, Elise Villwock, Nelson Hooker

Excited graduates, proud teachers, and beaming parents and friends filled the pews for the Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation on June 1st, 2018. The graduates now carry the spirit of St. Eugene with them to their high schools: Divine Savior Holy Angels, Dominican, Marquette, Brown Deer, Grafton, Homestead, and Nicolet.

**VALEDICTORIAN AWARD** *Anna Andres*

**SALUTATORIAN AWARD** *Paul Firsan*

Presented to the students with the first and second overall grade point average during 7th and 8th grade.

**MACKIN AWARD** *Anna Andres and Henry Haverty*

Presented to one female graduate and one male graduate in honor of founding pastor Fr. William H. Mackin. The recipients must demonstrate positive attributes in academic effort, athletic skill, and overall attitude.

**FR. KROLL AWARD** *Connor Elliott and Mary Grace Elliott*

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

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP** *Alex Gould*

Council 6646 offers a two year \$250 scholarship to a student who will attend a Catholic high school, with selection based on character, leadership, service, and academics.



# Annual Fund Exceeds Goal in 2017-18

Thank you to all of our 2017-18 Annual Fund donors for so generously helping us to provide an exemplary, Catholic education at St. Eugene School. The 2017-18 Annual Fund raised \$111,694.00 as of June 30, 2018, exceeding our goal of \$95,000.00. Of this total: \$99,070.00 was contributed to the annual school budget; \$2,799.00 was designated for tuition assistance; and \$9,825.00 was added to the school endowment fund.

Congratulations and thank you to our 2017-18 Annual Fund Chairs, current school parents Jim and Kristin Bremenkamp, for guiding our campaign as well as inspiring current school parents to a 25% increase in participation. In addition to current school parents, our Annual Fund donors include St. Eugene parishioners, grandparents of current students, alumni and their parents and grandparents, and friends of families who designate St. Eugene School as the recipient of memorial gifts. We sincerely appreciate the Bremenkamps and all of our donors for being invaluable partners in our mission.

## Thank You St. Eugene School Annual Fund Donors

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St. Eugene Scrip Program

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**The following individuals have been honored or memorialized with a gift to the Annual Fund. These gifts are a remembrance and tribute to those who have had a positive impact on others.**

### **In Honor Of**

The Beisser Family  
The Bremenkamp Brothers  
The Bremenkamp Family  
Charlie & Jack Firer  
Matilda Johnson  
Jarred Manista  
Mary Jo Moody  
Elizabeth Mueller  
The Rossetto Miceli Family

### **In Memory Of**

Katherine Denton Almond  
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Joseph Butscher  
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Tom & Irene Callan  
Gerald & Evangeline Harrington  
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Katherine A. Slattery  
Dick & Zoe Wilson  
Joseph Zappaterreno



**St. Eugene School**  
Guiding hearts, growing minds



## **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.*

## **What's Love Got To Do With It?**

Quite a lot apparently, because a talented group of parishioners and friends, including many school parents, thrilled a standing-room-only crowd three times on June 8, 9, and 10 for the 2018 Arts & Revue. Music spanning decades from the 1920s to the 1990s was showcased with singing, dancing, humor, and tenderness.

A dedicated team revived this St. Eugene musical tradition which began in the 1960s. *What's Love Got to Do with It* is the fourth show that alumni parent Joan Lawless Armbruster has written and directed for St. Eugene. The show's producer, Mary Anne Wawrzyn, is an alumni parent and grandmother of two current students. Her "whatever-is-needed" assistant, Mary Anne Butscher, is also an alumni parent and grandparent. Their love of St. Eugene School definitely has a lot *to do with it!*

New friendships now flourish among the talented cast of 33 performers and musicians, plus more than two dozen volunteers. As a wonderful bonus, we greatly appreciate that profits from the show contributed (drum roll, please) \$11,437.00 to the St. Eugene School Endowment Fund. Bravo! Bravo!



**Keep Up With St. Eugene School News**  
Bookmark [www.steugene.school](http://www.steugene.school) as one of your favorites. Click on "alumni" to read past issues of SPIRIT and other school news.



Saint Eugene School



[www.steugene.school](http://www.steugene.school)



Saint Eugene School





**Mission and Catholic Identity**  
**Academic Excellence**  
**Innovative Programs**  
**Educating the Whole Student**

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee honored our school with another Exemplary Recognition Award at the Catholic Educators' Convention in October. Of the 107 archdiocesan schools, eleven received awards. St. Eugene School was praised for demonstrating innovation and outstanding results in *Educating the Whole Student*.

This award focuses on meeting the needs of each student, differentiating instruction for support and challenge, offering effective extracurricular activities, providing behavior management programs, involving parents, and more, all within the school culture of our Catholic faith.

In recent years, St. Eugene has received Exemplary Recognition in three other categories listed on the logo. These awards are effective for five years...which means St. Eugene School is now *exemplary times four!*

## Creativity and Teamwork Pay Off



Fifteen of our middle school students took 1<sup>st</sup> place at Dominican High School's Challenge in February. They had to research, write, problem solve, create, market, and work as a team. For the second year in a row, St. Eugene topped competitors from Catholic grade schools located from the east side of Milwaukee to Grafton.

## Thank You from St. Eugene School

Nine years ago, Dan and Eileen Meehan, friends of then-pastor Fr. Jerry Herda, set up a scholarship program for St. Eugene School. A tuition assistance program was already in place for families with greater need, but the Meehans recognized the financial challenge that Catholic school education poses for middle-income families as well. When the Class of 2017 was in 1st grade, five students were chosen to receive a scholarship for half of the annual tuition for that year and succeeding years until graduation. This approach was taken with ten additional students in two more classes. As the final group of Meehan Scholars approaches graduation in June of 2019, we wish to share our sincere appreciation for the Meehans' abundant generosity and commitment to St. Eugene School.

## SES Welcomes New Staff Members

**Mrs. Danielle Santori** brings 15 years of teaching experience to her new role as the 5K teacher at St. Eugene School. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree and Masters of Education degree from Vanderbilt University.

**Mrs. Emily Fleisch** recently joined our staff as recruitment and marketing director. She has 14 years of experience in consulting, information technology, and sales. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame.

## Mystery Photo



**Who are these St. Eugene teachers?**  
**What year is it? Answers on page 6.**



## In Memory

St. Eugene School community extends our sympathies to the family and friends of our alumni and teachers...

**Joan Birkholz** SES teacher 1989-1997

**David Hartman** Class of 2000

**Ann Marie Runde** SES teacher 2001-03

## Alumni Updates

**Mary Heyer Reinhart**, SES teacher in the 60s, authored *The Magical Love Box*, a picture book for children. Learn more at [maryreinhartbooks.com](http://maryreinhartbooks.com) and consider purchasing a copy for a child in your life.

**Anne Butscher Rice '73**, alumni manager at Dominican HS, encourages all SES grads who are also DHS grads to find her via [dominicanhighschool.com](http://dominicanhighschool.com).

**Anne Marie Finley '76** is the president of Biotech Policy Group, LLC, a healthcare government relations and regulatory policy consulting firm located in Milwaukee and Washington, D.C. Her daughter Anastasia carries on the family tradition as an energetic SES 6th grader.

**Fr. Rob Kroll '79** returned to Milwaukee this summer to become Director of Spiritual Formation at St. Francis de Sales seminary, following six years at Omaha's Jesuit high school, Creighton Prep.

**Katie Keppeler Heyer '87** has practiced law for 18 years, primarily representing insurance companies. She now works on the other side as an attorney for Sperling Law Offices, a personal injury firm in Milw.

**Cecilia Francis Davis '92** enchanted audiences in the St. Eugene musical revue *What's Love Got To Do With It?* Cecilia works in non-profit fundraising, cantors at St. Eugene, and performs professionally with the Skylight Music Theatre and Milwaukee Opera Theatre.

**Lucas Vebber '99**, in August became deputy counsel and director of regulatory reform and federalism with Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty in Milwaukee.

**Christopher Murphy '02** and wife Christina live in Richmond, VA, and Chis is earning his graduate degree in architecture at the University of Virginia.

**Sarah Ricker Bowersox '03** and her husband are traveling the U.S. in a 1966 Airstream. (Hooray for the ability to work remotely!) They've covered 10,000 miles, visiting nine national parks and 30 states. Next destination: Utah.

**BA. Sillah '04** focuses on biotech investment at Militia Hill Ventures in Philadelphia. He earned M.D. and M.B.A. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania following undergraduate studies at Harvard.

**Joe Murphy '05** and wife Veronica are proud parents of Olivia born in February. Joe is the web designer for Wantables, an online clothing subscription company.

**Haley Carter Gerding '07** is a customer supply chain analyst at Johnson Controls and served three years as alumni rep on the St. Eugene School Committee. Haley and her husband Alex are the proud parents of baby Jane Elizabeth.

**Monica Murphy '07** is a bilingual service representative at Northwestern Mutual in Milwaukee.

**Charlie Firer '08** works as a landscape architect in Bozeman, MT, and spends his free time rock climbing, highlining, and trail running in Big Sky.

**Rachel Hudson '09** graduated from UW-Madison in Dec. of 2017 with a degree in elementary education. She teaches English to young children in Thailand.

**Stephen Slattery '09** earned his degree in engineering mechanics and astronautics from UW-Madison in May of 2018 and is a test automation engineer with SpaceX in Los Angeles.

**Sarah Murphy '10** graduated from UWM in May of 2018 and works in marketing for Oxygen One.

**Margaret Naczek '10** is a sports reporter for USA TODAY Network—Wisconsin. She earned her masters at The Cronkite School of Journalism at ASU.

**Jack Firer '11** is an education major at UW-LaCrosse, studying to be a high school history teacher. In the summer, he leads the field/grounds crew at Glendale Little League.

**Matt Weiler '11** visited our kindergarteners last spring, in costume as a lovable Bigfoot, for a rollicking read-aloud of *The Journey of Sasthesquatch*. This picture book, co-authored by Matt, is available on Amazon.



St. Eugene SPIRIT is seeking alumni updates. Help us locate your siblings and classmates. We are also honored to publish memorials. Please share notices and information with Susie Desmond Nettesheim at [nettesheims@steugene.school](mailto:nettesheims@steugene.school), 414-918-1120, or St. Eugene School, 7600 N. Port Washington Rd, Fox Point, WI 53217