



Alumni Newsletter

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SAINT PATRICK'S ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019

Dear St. Patrick Alumni,

One of my favorite days of the year is the first day of school. I like seeing all our teachers hustling to make last-minute photocopies and final preparations for their classrooms as they begin their semester. I like seeing the look of excitement and anticipation on the faces of our school children, as many of them know they are off to a fresh start in a new academic year, with new opportunities to forge friendships and become good learners. I like seeing the efforts of assurance and reassurance that some parents have to make to calm the nerves of those children who are afraid to leave the comfort and security of home that they've grown accustomed to over the summer break in exchange for the initial uncertainty of beginning a new school year. The first day of school is always a sort of rite of passage for every participant: the student, the teacher, the staff member and the principal.

From kindergarten through my high school years and beyond, I've spent a total of 26 years in formal education,. And if I add in the 5 years I spent teaching high school English, I have had a total of 31 first-days-of-school. Of those 31 first days, I'm not sure any were completely free from nervous anticipation or even fear in my younger years. My dad used to always pray with me and my siblings on our first days of school. The prayer was a simple one, lifted right from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Jesus Christ, indeed, is the source of our strength. How? Well, not only is He the Master of the Universe, but He has an unfailing plan for our lives and our world. And if we have plugged our lives into that plan, then we can know that in the end all things will have worked for good. Furthermore, the good He has prepared for us is an indescribable and eternal treasure.

There are many benefits to a Catholic education, and among them is helping our students realize this fact: that God has a plan for all of our lives. We are able to discern that plan more clearly when we develop virtuous habits and abandon our lives to the saving graces that flow from the Sacraments.

Thank you for your support of St. Patrick's Catholic School and Parish. Know of our prayers for each of you. And, remember that you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you!

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. John

Dear Alumni,

We closed another great school year at St. Patrick School. We bid farewell to our 8th grade class of 19 students as they finished their elementary school years and move on to high school. What a great class! We wish them the best in high school!

We bid farewell again to Mrs. Melodie Dobner (Jr. High Algebra) and Mrs. Mary Cagle (1st grade) who graciously came back to teach another year. Actually, Mrs. Dobner came back for two more years. We are truly appreciative of their dedication, passion to teaching, and service to St. Patrick School.

We also bid farewell to Sr. Mercy Ralleca, PAS, who will be moving on to Nebraska later this summer in a new assignment. Her quiet manner and ready smile will surely be missed by all of us. Moving on to new positions as well are Mrs. Lori Dickinson (Kindergarten), Mrs. Cassandra Zidrich (4th grade), and Mrs. Katie Horton (Jr. High English/Language Arts). We wish them well.

We ended the year with our usual events: the Spring Band Concert, Sports Awards Night, Academic Awards Night, 8th Grade Graduation, and Field Day/Field Trips/Class Picnics. Included in our awards week were displays of art and academic activities completed by the students during the year. New this year were projects on display that students made with the new 3-D printer donated to our technology program. On March 3rd our 8th graders received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria. May Crowning was held on May 3rd with St. Patrick School's traditional Living Rosary proceeding the May Crowning service. 7th and 8th graders had their annual party at the Knights of Columbus Hall. On the 8th graders' last day, they were given a special send-off through the gym by the other students in the school. Graduation was held in church with a beautiful Mass on May 17. Grades K-7 enjoyed field day, field trips, and class picnics the following week. They ended the school year on Friday, May 24th with All School Mass, Adoration, and Benediction.

I wish everyone a blessed and safe summer as preparations are being made for the next school year and the annual summer cleaning is completed.

Blessings!
Mrs. Doreen Shipman, Principal

WHO'S WHERE, DOING WHAT NOW?

Katie Petravick, 2004

Fondest Memories: Having an all-girls 4th grade class, track practice & meets, all of the events during Catholic Schools Week, learning a song to sign language in 8th grade for the Christmas program, and going to Brown Bag It for band at the Peoria Courthouse. My favorite hot lunches were crispitos and chicken nuggets and mashed potatoes.

What I am Doing Now: I taught high school Spanish for five years and just graduated in May of 2019 with my master's degree in Higher Education: Student Affairs from Iowa State.

Parents/Siblings: My parents (Simon & Gail Petravick) both teach at Bradley University and enjoy running many local races. My brother (Mike Petravick) is entering his second year of residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

Did you know...

This year was the 46th year for baby food delivery for the Tazewell County Right to Life Group. The 7th grade class at St. Pat's has been participating in this project since 2001 with coordinator Mrs. Kay Grillot (mother of Sarah-1996, Zachary-1998, Jacob-1998, Kevin-2002, and Patrick-2005). This year's event on January 22 began with an appointment with U.S. Representative Darin LaHood at his Peoria office; and then the class delivered approximately \$5,800.00 worth of baby food and formula to area social service agencies before returning to the school. Most of the donations came from area churches, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and three different local Knights of Columbus Councils.

St. Pat's has two teachers retiring this year—each for the 2nd time! Mrs. Mary Cagle (mother of Chad, 2009) has retired from St. Patrick's.... again. Last year, she retired from teaching at St. Pat's after 17 years (Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grades). Due to a last minute reassignment of a first grade teacher, Mrs. Cagle was contacted and agreed to one more year. Mrs. Melodie Dobner has also retired again from St. Pat's. Mrs. Dobner began in 2009 as the 7th grade homeroom teacher and retired in 2016 only to return as a part-time math teacher. She too has formally retired..... again.

Sister Giustina is celebrating 60 years with her religious order. She professed vows on July 23, 1959, with the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation. She was at St. Margaret's Hospital in Spring Valley, IL, for many years before she came to St. Pat's in 1979 to minister as a cook at the convent and school. She stayed for 26 years. Many remember her lovely smile. Because she was deaf, you may also remember how she communicated with her Magic Erase board. During the 83-84 school year, Mrs. Chris Kapraun introduced a sign language song during the Epiphany Program usually held around January 6th. The program eventually stopped but was restarted in 2003 as the Christmas Program at which time Mrs. Kapraun continued her sign language songs with her homeroom class. Sister Guistina was always overjoyed. The sign language song tradition continues to this day. You can mail Sister a card to Maryvale Convent, 3150 116A Ave SE, Valley City, ND 58072.

Washington will be celebrating its Bicentennial in 2025 and preparations have already begun. John Stromberger (1984) has been instrumental in this campaign. Please check out the Facebook page "Washington White Pages." And check out the St. Patrick's School Alumni, Washington IL, Facebook page. It has some outstanding old photos and memories as well.

One of our kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Lori Dickenson, was awarded a \$995.00 grant from PNC Bank for her project called Letters Alive. This project literally brings letters and words alive. Letters Alive is a reading supplement curriculum but is presented within a 3D-augmented reality world and is proven to boost reading proficiency and knowledge retention.

St. Pat's has had a Lego Robotics team for three years. This is a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego Robotics and was started with the help of Caterpillar and some parents. Mrs. Chris Kapraun is the school sponsor. Although the first year they had no competition, this year the school had three teams representing 4th-5th grades, 6th grade, and 7th-8th grades. The 6th grade team went on to the State competition.

In 2015, the St. Pat's 8th grade graduating class was 25 students. This year those students graduated from high school, and 19 of them were inducted into the National Honor Society. Among the WCHS top ten were Kylie Cassulo and Chloe Armstrong, daughter of Erin Campbell-Armstrong (1987) and granddaughter to Mrs. Deb Campbell (retired St. Pat's teacher). Congratulations to them all!

This year, 19 students graduated from St. Patrick's....10 girls and 9 boys. Of these 19, 4 students will go on to Peoria Notre Dame High School. The award winners for the 2019 graduates are as follows: The Scholastic Award (top student)-Mitch Coughlon & TJ Watson, YWCA Award-Reagan Ritter, Spirit Award-Alex Volk (son of Nick Volk, 1987), Male Athlete of the Year-Mitch Coughlon, Female Athlete of the Year-Claire McDougall, Josephine Goebel Female Sportsmanship Award-Darby Geisz & Sophie Kamienski, Mark Burroughs Male Sportsmanship Award-Joey Cave & Alex Volk, Evan Knoblauch Outstanding Track Athlete Award-Alex Volk, Angela Linsley Outstanding Volleyball Athlete Award-Darby Geisz, and the Clarence Linsley Christian Award-Mitch Coughlon, Alex Volk & Maddie McGinnis. Crowning Mary was Maddie McGinnis with attendants Darby Geisz, Sophie Kamienski and Reagan Ritter.

Did you know continued.....

This school year the young athletes at St. Pat's did some pretty remarkable things. In February, it was the first time in our history that both the 7th grade & 8th grade boys basketball teams qualified for the State Basketball Tournament. Some of the teammates were Thomas Mickels, son of Theresa Biagini-Mickels (1980); Ben Gibson, son of Jennifer Ozella-Gibson (1985); Michael Trueblood, son of Mary Jatkowski-Trueblood (1984); Alex Volk, son of Nick Volk (1987); and Bobby Witherell, son of Bobby Witherell (1993). The 8th grade girls basketball team finished their season with a 4th Place in State. This collection of young ladies has been down state 3 consecutive times, participating in over 120 wins from 6th grade to 8th grade and finished 4th in the state twice. Five students qualified for the 2018 Cross Country State Race this past fall. And there were 5 individual qualifiers for the State Track Meet. During this spring's track season, there may have been a few school records broken (100m—11.8 seconds, 200m—24.6 seconds, 400m—54.9 seconds, and the high jump at 5'9"). If you can recall any records, please reach out to St. Pat's via email (alumni@stpatswashington.com) or Facebook (St. Patrick's School Alumni, Washington IL). Many records have been misplaced or lost. On a side note, Alex Volk was part of the 8th grade basketball team, a cross country state qualifier, as well as qualifying for the state track meet, and is also the grandson of Mrs. Judy Volk (now retired but long-time church secretary).

The annual Pot of Gold fundraiser held this past spring was a huge success raising over \$70,000.00. St. Patrick's has partnered with an outside organization to create an environment in order to maintain and update our facilities. The school began construction in 1951 with additions in 1954 (a 2nd floor was added to the first floor), 1962 (the gym, classrooms, offices & restrooms), and 1966 (our current church began construction).

St. Pat's Athletic Committee continues to organize various fundraisers. One way they raise money is through the IESA State Track Meet for 1A schools. Every May with a group of about 100 volunteers, we combine efforts with Riverview Grade School in Spring Bay, IL, and Robein Grade School in East Peoria to help manage practically everything that goes on at the East Peoria Eastside Centre—concessions, gate, parking, clean-up, athletic events and more. IESA doles out some of the proceeds taken in and it's split 3 ways. This has been going on for over 10 years and raises about 1/3 of the annual athletic budget. Many may remember years ago when St. Pat's hosted the State Track Meet at the Washington Community High School track. As always, if you'd like to volunteer for anything, please contact the school at 309-444-4345.

The Venerable Archbishop Fulton John Sheen

After a 3-year legal dispute with the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Peoria has been granted the remains of Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen; and he is now entombed in front of a side altar at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria. He was previously interred in a basement crypt under the main altar of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Many of you may have heard of Archbishop Sheen. He was born in El Paso, IL, May 8, 1895. His family shortly moved to the Peoria area, where, as a youth, he was an altar boy at St. Mary's Cathedral and graduated from Spalding High School in 1913. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sept 20, 1919, given the title Monsignor in 1934, made Bishop in 1951 and Archbishop in 1969. He hosted a radio program for 20 years before moving onto television through the 50's & 60's. In 1953, he won an Emmy Award for Most Outstanding Television Personality and was featured on the cover of Time Magazine. His shows continue to be re-broadcast on EWTN and other Christian cable networks and can be found all over YouTube. Due to his contribution to televised preaching, Archbishop Sheen is often referred to as one of the first televangelists. He also taught for over 20 years at the Catholic University in Washington, DC; served many years in NY as National Director for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith; and later retired as Bishop of Rochester (NY). He was also a renowned author writing over 70 books. He died on December 9, 1979.

Pope Benedict XVI declared Archbishop Fulton Sheen "venerable" in 2012 meaning it is proven that he practiced a life of heroic virtue. Bishop Sheen has been associated with numerous miracles which have been sent onto the Vatican to be verified. Of those, one has been approved by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and Pope Francis which will allow for the next step toward sainthood.... beatification. The miracle involves one of our own St. Pat's families. James Fulton Engstrom was stillborn, without a pulse for 61 minutes, in September 2010 to Bonnie and Travis Engstrom of Goodfield. The parents watched as lifesaving measures were being attempted for their son. Bonnie and others prayed to Archbishop Fulton Sheen for his intercession. After 61 minutes and just before emergency room personnel were about to pronounce him dead, the newborn baby boy began to breathe; and his heart rate shot up to a normal level. Despite a dire prognoses for his future, the child has thrived and is now a healthy 8-year-old. Pope Francis has approved the miracle, and Sheen will be beatified in Peoria on a date to be determined. If another miracle is approved, he could soon become the first male American-born saint.

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If you have had an address change, please complete and return this form to St. Pat's School, 100 Harvey, Washington, IL 61571.
You may also email the information to: alumni@stpatswashington.com.

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**ALUMNI
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2019**

Following is an excerpt written by Mrs. Bernice Rynell from the November 22, 1998, 30th Anniversary Book for St. Patrick Church:

One year, on the first day of school, the drivers were anxious wondering how the new schedules and routes would work out. When one bus arrived at St. Pat's in the morning, all the children got off except two little girls. The driver, Bob Rynell, told them to "Come on, time to get off". The girls said that they did not go to St. Pats. Bob asked them what school they went to, and they said Beverly Manor. Bob asked them why they got on this bus. They said their mother told them to get on the first bus that pulled into Don's Drive-In. Bob said OK and he would take them to Beverly Manor. When they got to their school, they still didn't want to get off the bus but instead sat there crying. When Bob asked them what was the matter, they asked if he would come in and explain to the principal why they were late and he did.

The next morning, he did not notice the girls getting on the bus, and the girls were again sitting on the bus when all the children got off. Bob told them he would again take them to Beverly Manor; but if they got on his bus again, they would have to go to St. Pat's.

Venerable Sheen cont. from page 3....

The cathedral has posted extended daily open hours for visitors to Archbishop Sheen's tomb. Plus, there are many websites available to read and be informed about Archbishop Sheen and his upcoming beatification. Please check out archbishopsheencause.org; celebratesheen.com; or sheenfilm.org. The Diocese of Peoria has links as well. Its website is cdop.org. There are two museums locally also. The Diocese has the Sheen Museum in Peoria, and the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Centre is located in El Paso, IL.

Please keep in your prayers those who have recently died: ~~Mrs. Doris Karcher, Mr. Robert Gover, Mr. James Otten, Mr. Maurice Yakle, Mr. Bob Gillespie, Mrs. Janet Youngman, Mrs. Mary Murray, Mr. Lester Hall, Mrs. Joan Fry, Mrs. Kathy Parkhurst, Mrs. Mary Ann Keys, Mr. Jim Wireman, Mr. Jack Mosher, Mr. Charlie Hessling, and Mr. Joseph Jacke & Mrs. Mary Jacke~~, as well as alumni Tom Coovert (1964), Patrick McDonough (1963), Ken Salemi (1966), Steven Morris (1956), and spouses Jim Barrick (husband to Charlotte Ravenscraft-1955) and Tom Tennyson (husband to Deborah Smith-1961). May these families find peace in God's grace.