

# CHARTED COURSE MARSHFIELD AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 2010

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS - DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE!



*Columbus Catholic senior girls are decked out in Dons' blue at the Homecoming pep rally*

**T**he theme for Catholic Schools Week 2010 is *Catholic Schools - Dividends for Life: Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals*. At Marshfield Area Catholic Schools we focus on the development of the “whole” child, and that’s exactly what this year’s theme is all about. The faculty and staff in our Catholic schools work to foster an environment where each child is able to realize his/her full potential.

Read on and see how Marshfield Area Catholic Schools are creating dividends for life!

### SAVE THE DATE

**27th MACS  
Galleon Party and Auction**  
Friday, April 23rd, 2010

**Food, Entertainment and Fun!**  
Contact [keffer.michelle@mfldacs.net](mailto:keffer.michelle@mfldacs.net)  
to request an invitation!

**Visit our new website at:**

**[www.marshfieldareacatholicschools.org](http://www.marshfieldareacatholicschools.org)!**

### SAVE THE DATE

**Columbus Classic Golf Outing**  
Saturday, August 7th, 2010

*Watch for more information this spring!*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**David Eaton**  
*President*

This year, Catholic schools around the country are celebrating the theme, “Dividends that last a lifetime” during Catholic Schools Week. There certainly are many benefits to a Catholic school education, the first, and foremost of which is faith. It is perhaps not terribly popular these days to stress the importance of faith, but Catholic schools maintain the rich tradition of Catholic teaching and practice. At Marshfield Area Catholic Schools daily prayer, celebration of the Sacraments, praying the Rosary, and advocating for life are alive and well. We strive to nurture in our students a faith that truly lasts a lifetime.

Even those for whom faith is less important, the need for morals, ethics, character, and values are top priorities. These values are all deeply woven into the tapestry of Catholic teaching and are the way of life in Catholic schools. In our Catholic schools we can root these ideas not merely in the notion of good citizenship and civil law, but in the words of Christ who calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. We pray that this dividend of character leads to a lifetime of good works.

While faith and values are important in our Catholic schools, academic excellence is never far from our minds. Our schools strive to instill a depth of knowledge in core

areas that are most vital to success in college and beyond. Our young students continue to perform outstandingly well on national standardized tests. Our Columbus Catholic Middle School team again took first place in the diocesan “Brains” competition. Our juniors again scored highest in our area on the ACT test. Finally, last year’s graduating class all went on to higher education in their selected fields. It is our fervent hope that the dividend of knowledge students gain in our schools leads to a lifetime of opportunity.

## 2009-10 Education Commission Members

### **Brian Gotz**

Chairperson & Representative St. John the Baptist

### **Amy Nystrom**

Representative Our Lady of Peace

### **Mike Heinzen**

Secretary & Representative Our Lady of Peace

### **Jeff Meece**

Representative Our Lady of Peace

### **Debra Langreck**

Representative Corpus Christi

### **Allyson Mayeux**

Representative St. John the Baptist

### **Sandy Studinger**

Representative Sacred Heart

### **Melissa Pittsley**

Representative St. John the Baptist

The MACS Education Commission is a representative group of parish and school members. The commission is a consultative body to the MACS administration who reports to the Dean of the Marshfield Deanery. Principals, other MACS staff, and occasionally committee chairpersons attend the meetings to communicate and/or report information.

## We Remember Our Recently Deceased...

### Columbus Alumni

Raymond Durst -1967  
Virginia Perner Fischer -1960  
Paul Goldbach -1955  
Katy Schlagenhaft Hagman-1968  
Elizabeth Heinzen Humphrey -1952  
Dorothy Weinfurtner Nordbeck-1952  
Susan Walenbach Rudoll -1966

### Friends of MACS

Lugene Bores  
Oakley Eggbrecht  
Willard Geldernick  
Roger Hoefs  
Nels Johnson  
Conrad Kaiser  
Helen Kieffer  
Paul Konrardy  
Chester Lapinski  
Agnes Meyer  
Willard Niehaus  
William Rudoll  
Robert Schiferl  
Dorothy Schreiner  
Ruth Spletter  
Rolland Thomas  
Herb Weigel  
Patricia Weinfurtner  
Irma Wolf



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



**Barbara Billings**  
*Columbus Catholic  
Middle & High Schools*

What is a dividend? Webster's will say it is a bonus, something extra received, usually the result of an initial wise investment. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2010 is "**Dividends for Life: Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals**". These are the bonuses received from a Catholic education and are the result of the initial wise investment in the children's lives of enrolling them in a Catholic school and keeping them there until they are ready to take on the world and meet all its challenges.

If all parents want for their children is a solid education, that can be achieved in just about any school in the state of Wisconsin. We, as a state, have always had bragging rights to producing some of the best and brightest in the United States. But is that all you want for your children- a solid education??? Or do you have higher aspirations for your children? Do you want your child to graduate at age 18 as a well-rounded individual, able to handle all sorts of situations and events as they happen? Do you want your child to have the courage and the knowledge to stand up for what is right? Do you want your child to have the skills needed to make decisions based on that knowledge? These are the dividends of a Catholic education.

Columbus Catholic provides a sound education and our faculty builds a foundation based on the teachings of Jesus Christ of right and wrong, good ethical conduct, and what is morally correct in contrast to much lower standards set by society where just about anything goes. At Columbus Catholic, most students assume leadership positions at some point in their educational career: secretary of a club, captain of a team, editor of a publication, and other nontraditional leadership roles. Everyone's talents and skills are developed. Who knew the scrawny uncoordinated seventh grader was going to be the top scorer of an athletic team as a junior? Good thing she/he was given every chance and opportunity to develop those athletic skills. Each student graduates with confidence in his/her own abilities, having been given the tools to meet the challenges beyond high school.

These are some of the dividends, the bonuses, received by the student body of Columbus Catholic. A small investment now in your children's future will reap more than just a solid academic education. There will be **DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE**.



**Sister Mary Ann  
Wutkowski**  
*St. John Primary &  
Our Lady of Peace  
Intermediate Schools*

As we celebrate another Catholic Schools Week, I cannot help but think of the changes the Catholic School System in America has undergone. Historically, religious sisters and priests staffed all the schools bringing the wealth of their knowledge and religious training to the youth of our country. Around the middle of the twentieth century the first "lay teachers" began teaching in our schools. As the number of religious declined, more and more lay men and women took on the challenge of the moral, physical, and educational development of our youth. Today, these teachers hold Bachelor, Masters, and Ph.D. degrees. In addition, in Wisconsin, the Bishops set up a religion accreditation program for all teachers and administrators teaching in Catholic Schools. This is a continuing educational program in theology, scripture, and morality. As the teachings of the church evolve and new documents and encyclicals are written, our teachers are kept updated so they can better instill in our children the teachings of the Church.

We are fortunate to have dedicated and knowledgeable men and women educating our children. They continue, with love and enthusiasm, the marvelous work begun by religious. To quote Khalil Gibran in The Prophet: Work is love made visible. The work they do in our schools today truly makes the love of Christ visible to our youth.

## Columbus Classic Golf Outing

Start getting your foursomes organized now! The Columbus Classic Golf Outing will be Saturday, August 7th at Marshfield Country Club. Hey CHS alumni, this could be a great addition to your class reunion weekend!

Last year the outing generated \$5,000 for the MACS athletic department. This funding helps offset the costs of uniform purchases, official fees, and busing for our student athletes.

Registration forms will be mailed to WI and MN alumni in June. If you'd like to request a registration form, contact Mary Hartl at [hartl.mary@mfldacs.net](mailto:hartl.mary@mfldacs.net).



*MACS parent, Tina Cleveland, perfects her swing at last summer's Columbus Classic*

## 2009-2010 Annual Appeal Update Goal \$145,000

**T**he MACS Annual Appeal is the most important fundraising effort our school system participates in each year. This fall, each of you received a letter and brochure explaining the Annual Appeal and its importance to our Catholic schools.

The funds generated from the Appeal are used to help subsidize the operating expenses of all of our schools. These expenses include curricular purchases like new textbooks, classroom novel sets, elementary work books, new technology, transportation for our athletic teams, and new athletic uniforms and equipment.

**We currently have raised over \$135,000 toward our goal of \$145,000.** If you have not made your donation yet, please enclose it in the envelope provided in this publication. All gifts are tax deductible and, if received by June 30, 2010, will be included in this year's Annual Appeal effort. Contact us at [keffer.michelle@mfldacs.net](mailto:keffer.michelle@mfldacs.net) or 715-387-2444 with questions or to request information about the MACS Annual Appeal.

Let's work together to reach our goal!

## 27th Annual MACS Galleon Party

Friday, April 23rd

**The 27th Annual MACS Galleon Party and Auction is just around the corner, be sure to mark your calendars now. Last year we had our highest attendance yet with over 325 guests!**

**Our goal this year is to raise \$40,000 for the operating budget for our school system.**

**Please contact the MACS development office at [keffer.michelle@mfldacs.net](mailto:keffer.michelle@mfldacs.net) or 715-387-2444 to make sure you're on the invite list!**

**Check out our "Fundraising Events" link on our website at [www.marshfieldareacatholicschools.org](http://www.marshfieldareacatholicschools.org) in April to see an early release of the auction catalog!**



*Joan Frericks rejoices as her name is called as the grand prize winner of the Alpine Holiday 2009 Ford Focus.*

The Columbus HS graduating classes of 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1999 planned their reunion activities around Alpine Holiday this year. This has been a growing trend for our Columbus alumni, in fact, class reunions are already scheduled for the classes of 1990 and 1995 for Alpine Holiday next year. Some of our graduates are so organized that the Alpine Holiday reunion room is booked out to 2013 and 2014!

This year the net profit for the event was \$57,676.00. We are very pleased with this outcome as it surpassed our income from last year. Alpine Holiday continues to be a very important part of meeting the school system's operating needs. All income from this event is used to support curricular needs of MACS academic program as well as non-curricular expenses like facility needs and teacher salaries and benefits.

## Marshfield Community & Columbus Graduates Celebrate MACS at Alpine Holiday

**T**he capacity crowd in the Columbus gym cheered as the name of Joan Frericks was called as the grand prize winner of the 2009 Ford Focus for the Alpine Holiday raffle. It was a wonderful close to the annual weekend of festivities for the MACS school system.

Once again the weekend's highlights included the student lip sync contest and other entertainment. Bands from the Fox Valley area (*Boogie and the YoYoz*) as well as the Twin Cities (*Brat Pack Radio*) took to the stage on Friday and Saturday evenings. The evening entertainment has become a great opportunity to draw people to our event from not only our MACS family but from the Marshfield community in general.



*The Columbus Jazz Band opens the evening entertainment on Saturday night of Alpine Holiday.*

Plans are already underway for Alpine Holiday 2010. The event is scheduled for November 5th and 6th, with *Boogie and the Yo Yoz* slated to perform on Friday, November 5th. The complete schedule for the weekend will be available in June on our website: [www.marshfieldareacatholicschools.org](http://www.marshfieldareacatholicschools.org). Click on "Advancement" and then "Fundraising Events" for more details.

# MACS STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

## MACS Spanish Program Increases students' Religious and Cultural Awareness



*3rd graders Casey McCarthy and Brook Neider work together in Spanish class on their piñata project.*

In December, MACS first through sixth graders studied the importance of the piñata in Mexican history and culture in their Spanish classes. The students also learned the religious symbolism and original religious importance of the piñata. Finally they had the fun of making piñatas!

First and second grade students made piñata ornaments. Spanish students in grades three-five worked in small groups to make colorful, balloon-shaped piñatas. MACS sixth graders were given the project of creating piñatas at home. Those students then brought their projects to school to surprise each other with their creativity.

This spring, students will have fun breaking their piñatas with their CCMS and CCHS Spanish pen pals at the MACS Annual Culture Day.

## MACS Students Reach Out to the Community

In addition to other service projects, MACS Kindergarten-2nd grade students regularly visit area assisted-living facilities to sing, perform short plays, and read to area residents.

During the Christmas season MACS Kindergarten students walked to Angelus Retirement Community and sang Christmas carols. After performing, the students enjoyed cookies made by the residents.



*Some of the Kindergarteners pose for a picture wearing their Christmas themed hats after their performance at the Angelus Retirement Community.*



*Columbus 6th graders proudly show-off their piñata projects.*

Check out our new website at:  
[www.marshfieldareacatholicschools.org](http://www.marshfieldareacatholicschools.org)  
to see more great things happening in our schools!

# MACS STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



*Columbus Middle School students sharpen their critical thinking skills during Chess Club.*

## Columbus Middle School Chess Club Fosters Student Growth

Columbus Catholic Middle School students have the opportunity to enjoy the game of chess during the months of December-April once a week during their Advisor/Advisee class period. CCMS teacher, Mr. Ron Jevaltas, has been encouraging students to learn the game of chess and participate in friendly competition with their classmates for the past 12 years. More than one half of all Columbus Middle School students participate in the annual chess tournament.

The game of chess is an avenue for students to build self esteem, organizational skills, problem solving, and goal achievement strategies.

## Our Lady of Peace *Book Buddies* Teaching Early Leadership Skills

For years the MACS school system has encouraged older students to be role models for the younger children in the school system. The third grade book buddy program is designed so each third grade student is paired with a preschool aged student. These pairs work on art projects together, in addition to spending time reading together throughout the school year.

The third graders are afforded this great opportunity to improve their reading skills by reading aloud to a younger child. Preschool students look up to their older partners knowing that one day they will be in third grade with their own preschool book buddies.



*MACS third graders build mentor relationships with MACS preschool students.*



*Green Bay Packer, Mark Tauscher, visited with 3rd-5th grade students in January.*

## Mark Tauscher Focuses on Importance of Reading Skills for Academic Success

In January, Mark Tauscher spoke to students at Our Lady of Peace about his experience as a student growing up. He told the students about how lucky they are to have smaller class sizes so they can receive more personal attention from their teachers as they are broadening their reading skills. The young students were given an opportunity to ask questions after he was done speaking. Many questions were asked about what it's like to play professional football.

# MACS STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

## March For Life...Teaching Christian Morals

**S**tudents at Columbus Catholic High School had the opportunity to participate in the National March for Life in Washington DC in January. This trip has been offered to the high school students for the past several years and has provided them a venue to publically show their support for the pro-life effort.



*Pro-life marchers converge on the capital.*



*Columbus Catholic students and faculty made the trip to Washington DC for the 2010 March for Life.*

### Columbus Teacher Shares Her Feelings About the March for Life Road Trip

*Thoughts from: Ms. Stephanie Brown*

**I** was very happy and excited to be an adult chaperone on the March for Life trip this year. I had an opportunity to chaperone last year and had a nice experience. This year we had a smaller student group than last year, but this allowed us to really get to know each other and see the little changes happen in everyone. One reason I chose to ride a bus packed with teenagers 22 hours in one direction was the chance to be a real life example of the things we teach at Columbus. The national March for Life is a very public way to show we are against a big injustice that is often hard to see in our everyday lives in Marshfield and in our Catholic community of school and church. It was a powerful experience to see nearly a half million people united in belief. It really makes you feel like you are not alone.

Our Columbus group experienced a very real example of the injustice of abortion on the trip this year. While our group was praying outside of a Planned Parenthood clinic where abortions are regularly performed, we were told by a young college student that just before we arrived a teenage girl was taken inside the clinic by her mother. The young girl was visibly upset. This was extremely moving to the students to hear. Many identified with her age and couldn't imagine how difficult the experience was for that teenage girl. We all offered special prayers that day for this young lady who was going through a very difficult and traumatic time, whether or not she indeed had an abortion.

On the trip home to Marshfield students openly shared their thoughts about how they felt the presence of God on this trip. Most students spoke about the March and praying outside the Planned Parenthood clinic. It was very evident these experiences had an impact on our students and they will remember this experience throughout their lives. It is my hope that our students never forget this trip and act accordingly with their faith in a very real way. I was honored to be a part of this journey again and experience first-hand the growing faith and morals of our Columbus students.

# MACS STUDENTSPOTLIGHT

## MACS Students and Alumni Learn Through Foreign Exchange



*Current international students studying at Columbus*

Over the past three and a half years the MACS school system has had the privilege of growing its student foreign exchange program. This year 11 students, representing five foreign countries, are now a part of the MACS community.

In May, Columbus will graduate its first foreign exchange students who have been in the school system for more than one year. Columbus currently has five students from Korea who plan to attend and graduate from Columbus Catholic. Their ages range from 15-18. In addition to the high school program, MACS has welcomed a group of Korean elementary aged students for a two month winter exchange program for the past three years.

### Columbus Parent and Alum Reflect on Hosting and Foreign Exchange Experiences

*Thoughts from: Heidi and Dorothy Flees*

Traveling abroad as an exchange student offers the opportunity to practice and strengthen your skills in a foreign language, meet new people, learn a different culture, and broaden your horizons about the greater world around you. I was not only able to learn the German culture, but I also shared my American life experiences. We spoke about politics, school life, friends, night life, religion, gender roles, etc. My eyes and ears were always open to learning something new and hearing others' opinions.

My year in Germany is something I can never replace; I would do it again in a heartbeat. In fact, my family has since had my international friends join us for the holidays and I also returned to Germany last summer for four weeks and will be heading back to Europe this summer as part of a tour with the Wisconsin Ambassadors of Music Choir.

I also can speak from my experiences as a host-sister. My family has hosted multiple students and although sometimes the match isn't always a perfect fit, we all learn a bit from each other. My mother Dorothy says that she has heard the comment "It takes a special family to host an exchange student." Although she says "the comment is appreciated, the truth is, hosting an exchange student only begs the willingness to "share" your love and lifestyle with a young student who has dreamed, often for as long as they can remember, of coming to America to experience the American way of life that otherwise they only understand primarily from the media, especially movies and television or school books." My mother also says that, "Each individual is an ambassador for his/her country - sharing stories, preparing ethnic meals, debating political & religious issues and traditions, perfecting their English-speaking skills, teaching their language, and reshaping their myths into factual understandings - all in the spirit of still being a teenager."



*Heidi Flees with her host family in Germany*



*Dan and Dorothy Flees family with their two current foreign exchange students from China and Spain*

## Columbus Graduate...Giving Back!



*Class of 1973-Columbus Graduate, Wayne Thompson*

**M**arshfield Area Catholic Schools have been in the process of comparing and evaluating the needs of our families and local parishioners with what our Catholic school system provides. Instrumental in this process has been Columbus graduate Wayne Thompson.

Wayne graduated from Columbus High School in 1973 and is currently working as a sociology professor at Carthage College. Along with some of his sociology students, Wayne helped develop two surveys for the MACS system that have been administered to our local Catholic parishioners as well as our current MACS parents. He is now working with his students to compile the results and develop a useful analysis for the school system to use to improve its programs as well as for marketing purposes for the community.

## Reflections on Columbus High School

By Wayne Thompson

When I first came to Columbus High School in September 1969, I felt a little intimidated. Being a freshman was tough enough, but the sophomores looked so big and important. My fears quickly melted when I found out how friendly and sincere everybody was. In physical education class, Coach Kroll had us play touch football where the sophomores crowned me with the nickname “A-Train”.

It soon felt like I was part of a big family where everybody seemed to care about everybody else. Sister Kieran Sawyer decided I needed to be a more voracious reader, so she started me on books about hobbits and then prodded me on to read Shakespeare’s plays. I would wash blackboards and clean classrooms after school for \$0.75/hour to work off my tuition. Sister Mary Vincent taught me to carry myself with dignity, although she always wanted me to cut my hair shorter. Senior year (1973) I was humbled yet again when Father Larry Berger paid some of my tuition out of his own meager resources because my family was going through rough financial times.

Most of all I remember my classmates who taught me to care about others and the well-being of those who felt shut out or excluded. Karl Baltus and Ron Swenson were chums, and we had some great times driving Father Grevatch’s car to and from the Baltus Car Wash. One time I drove Father Grevatch’s very impressive Buick Wildcat to LaCrosse with Sister Rose to see the play “Faust” at Viterbo College. Sister Rose told me to drive slower or she would tell my mother on me...which she did and I had to learn my lesson to behave myself with Sister Rose.

As singer Todd Rundgren puts it in a song, “A million tomorrows will fade away but a dream lives on forever.” Columbus gave me a dream that I will carry in my heart forever. The teachers taught me to cultivate my intellect and respect God for putting me on this planet. The priests inspired me to have a heart and clarify what gifts I had to help make the world a better place, not just for my own benefit. The janitor taught me to go through life, as Walt put it, “with both barrels

(Continued page 11)

*(Reflections on Columbus)*  
continued from pg 10

blasting.” My wonderful classmates taught me to enjoy life, have fun, and never be cruel or indifferent to anyone or any suffering. These lessons have stayed with me the rest of my life and keep revealing how wonderful life can be when you are surrounded by the right people. Now I am a sociology professor at Carthage College in Kenosha. My wife, Gladys, is a physician, and we have two great daughters, ages four and ten. My life is richer because I met some special people at a special high school...Columbus High School.



## Columbus Middle School Parents Go Back to High School

**I**n January, parents of 8th grade Columbus Catholic Middle School students were invited to attend an evening at Columbus learning about what their 8th graders can expect next year as they enter Columbus Catholic as new freshmen. The evening was organized in a way that allowed all parents to go through a typical day of freshmen classes.

The evening began as all school days do with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Parents participated in small activities in classes ranging from Geometry to Literature/Composition I. Phy Ed classes got the parents moving with a game of “blind volleyball” and later a student panel answered parents’ questions about student life and academics, Advanced Placement and college level classes.



*Middle School parents are very attentive as they learn about what Columbus High School has to offer.*



*8th grade parents, Cindy Puent, Dave DeSmet, and Tim Studinger, work on a project in Mrs. Fleischmann’s class.*

The purpose of this new annual event was to provide parents an opportunity to see what course offerings are available for incoming freshmen at Columbus and personally meet the teachers who will guide their children through their high school years.

The high school years are a very formative time in a child’s life, and at Columbus Catholic the administration works closely with each student to make sure he/she is on track to move on to college or technical education after graduating.

The 8th grade parent night was a success in helping parents get their children off on the right foot as they enter high school and plan for their future.

Check out our new website at [www.marshfieldareacatholicschools.org](http://www.marshfieldareacatholicschools.org).

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# CHARTED COURSE

## MARSHFIELD AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



Columbus alumni and parents! Please share your good news with us. If you have any personal (marriages, births, adoptions, etc.) or professional updates you'd like to share with our readers in our next issue of the Charted Course, please complete the form below and return it to the MACS Development Office, 710 S. Columbus Ave. Marshfield, WI 54449 or email us at [keffer.michelle@mfldacs.net](mailto:keffer.michelle@mfldacs.net).

*\*\*If your Columbus graduate no longer is living at your address, please send us his/her new mailing address so he/she can stay up to date with what's happening at Columbus!\*\**

Name (maiden name if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation from Columbus: \_\_\_\_\_

Information you'd like to share: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*Please feel free to email your news, photos and/or address changes to [keffer.michelle@mfldacs.net](mailto:keffer.michelle@mfldacs.net)\*\**