

ALUMNI FEATURE

Mike Singewald

The St. Michael Community has been a part of my life since I was 6 years old when my family moved to Prior Lake. I attended St. Michael School 1st through 8th grade.

St. Michael School has grown considerably since my first day of school in 1972; building and grounds, academically and technologically. These changes, which continue today with the SmartBoards and laptops for 6th thru 8th graders, clearly demonstrates the commitment of the St. Michael Community to the students of St. Michael School. When it was time for our son and later our daughter to start kindergarten, St. Michael School was the only consideration for my wife Rachel and I. Having grown up ourselves with faith based education, we were determined to see that our children were given this excellent, unique opportunity. To say things have changed since I attended St. Michael is an understatement. It was exciting to see the addition of the middle school building, the SmartBoards being installed, as well as the middle school students being assigned their laptops - what's next? Who knows. The one thing that is certain is the continued devotion and commitment of the St. Michael Community to the students of St. Michael School - clearly its highest priority.

Our experience as parents of two St. Michael School students has been nothing short of exceptional. We have experienced genuine, sincere, devotion from all faculty and staff in their commitment to our children (academic and developmental). The decision to send our children to St. Michael School was an easy decision; the value of the education our children are receiving is immeasurable!



S P O R T S

Entertainment and Sports Blues Network

by Will Tinguely and Danny DeGross, 7th Graders

Sports at St. Michael are the "Bees Knees." We are Danny DeGross and Will Tinguely, the hosts of the popular ESBN - Entertainment and Sports Blues Network at St. Michael on our school's BNN. BNN stands for Blues News Network and it is the morning program broadcast daily by Mr. Fox and students. ESBN is a sports show that we have in the mornings here at St. Michael. Our job is to report all of the wins and losses for the Blues. We think that the sports and activities at St. Mike's are the best way you can spend your free time. This year was a great year with many victories! You and your friends can have a great time and get physical activity and/or mind exercise at the same time. The activities you can sign up for are chess, mathmasters, volleyball, softball, robotics (8th grade only), baseball (7th and 8th grade only), golf, and last, but our favorite, basketball. Hope to see you soon! And on a side note please report your wins and losses to Will and Danny in note form, thanks!



Danny DeGross and Will Tinguely sitting in the broadcast room at St. Michael during their ESBN Broadcast.



C O M M U N I T Y

A Drive for Warmth!

St. Michael fourth graders host a Hat, Mitten & Sock Drive and write about it.

by Ben Meyer and DJ. Ruehling,
St. Michael 4th Graders

Hat, Mitten and Sock Drive Warms Hearts: The fourth grade would like to thank you for your generosity to those who donated hat, mittens or socks. We donated the hats, mittens and socks to Mrs. Patti Bond. They will be used by Loaves and Fishes at St. Marks in Shakopee. Whatever is not used will go to Holy Rosary in Minneapolis. The Hat, Mitten and Sock Drive lasted from Feb. 28th to March 4th. The hat, mitten and sock drive started when Mrs. Patti Bond's son, Alex, had the idea of the drive. The fourth grade has been hosting the drive for about 20 years. The hat, mitten and sock drive has been really warming hearts.

by Katie Glaser and Bailee Glass, St. Michael 4th Graders

A Drive for Warmth: The fourth graders at St. Michael Catholic School held a hat, mitten and sock drive from February 28th through March 4th. It was for Loaves and Fishes at St. Mark's in Shakopee. Mrs. Patti Bond is the director of the hat, mitten and sock drive. Did you know Mrs. Patti Bond's son started the drive? All the leftover clothing went to Holy Rosary in Minneapolis. The fourth graders have been doing the hat, mitten and sock drive for about 20 years now! Their cold hands were counting on our warm hearts.



Patti Bond talking to the 4th graders about Loaves and Fishes and how the Hat, Mitten and Sock Drive has impacted the people they serve.

Living Stations of the Cross

by Dave and Lynn Steichen, Parents to One Child at St. Michael

At St. Michael School, our children are blessed to experience holy seasons which are rich in tradition. One of the student's favorite Lenten traditions is the annual performance of the "Living Stations," a reverent and moving reenactment of our Lord's Passion. On Friday, April 8th this tradition continued as our current eighth grade students performed this beautiful and powerful prayer for the entire student body and all St. Michael parishioners.

Once again this year, our eighth grade students did themselves, their teachers and their parents proud by demonstrating great poise and maturity during the reenactment. Their dedication and reverence for our Lord's Passion created a moving experience, helping to strengthen the faith of all who attended. The Living Stations is just one of many traditions at St. Michael School which help to ignite within our students a passion for spreading the word of God. Thanks to Gabriel Ross for her creative direction and for the participation of the eighth grade class.



Students Ryan Glaser, Jake Andre, Olivia Ferrer, and Alex Madson in the church enacting the Stations of the Cross

8th Grade Wolf Ridge Trip

by Ryan Glaser, St. Michael 8th Grader

On February 28, the St. Michael eighth graders boarded a bus at 5:30 am to head off to Wolf Ridge, which is about five hours north. The trip got off to a rough start when the bus broke down an hour or so down the road, but once we exchanged buses, the trip went smoothly.

While we were at Wolf Ridge, we attended many different classes, including snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, rock climbing, ropes course, and winter survival. These classes taught us to trust one another because everything that could be done by students during the classes was done by students. Examples include helping each other climb over a tall wall, or belay them on the rock wall. After our

Students during "Survivor Class" Emily Boegeman, Vanessa Failor, Alex Madson, Tyler Bump, and Topper Atwood



classes for the day, we were treated to a Naturalist Presentation. The theme was different each night, such as birds of prey and lumberjacks. One night we also went on a night hike led by Mr. Fox.

Wolf Ridge is a very energy efficient and "green" learning center, and we left with the Conservation Challenge Award, an honor given to a group or school that showed conservative actions done in our dorms and around camp. These would include shutting off all of the lights, or picking up trail trash. After we boarded the bus to leave, we were overjoyed at the thought of going home, but we all knew that it wouldn't be long before we missed this great outdoor experience.

TEACHER FEATURE

Megan Woods

This quarter we feature Mrs. Megan Woods, our 6th grade Language Arts, Religion and Homeroom teacher. Mrs. Woods taught for four years at Our Lady of Grace School in Edina before taking off six years to raise her children. This is her first year at St. Michael. Since she was a child, Megan wanted to be a teacher and loves teaching in a Catholic School so that she can weave her Catholic faith into her teaching. She enjoys teaching Religion because it provides a basis and foundation for helping and guiding her students to be good, solid human beings. Writing has also always been one of her strengths, and she enjoys teaching it to the kids. Mrs. Woods' teaching philosophy is that she is here to teach human beings, not simply curriculum. Her number one goal is to help her students to foster their strengths; each day she strives to make each student feel that he or she is special and important. Megan was the youngest of four children and grew up in Janesville, Wisconsin. She attended Viterbo University in LaCrosse, and majored in Elementary/Middle School Education with a minor in English-Language Arts. Her father was a teacher and a guidance counselor, and she is proud to follow in his footsteps. Megan has been married to her husband Matt for almost eight years. They have two children, Sam who is three and a half and Jacob who is six and a Kindergarten at St. Michael School. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, and thrift/bargain shopping. Her favorite quote is from the book *Walk Two Moons* - "Don't judge a man until you have walked two moons in his moccasins."

The New Girl

Hi! My name is Thao Nguyen. I am from North Vietnam. I have attended St. Michael Catholic School since last fall. I am in the 6th grade. Last summer, a very special person gave me a scholarship to go to St. Michael, but it was my choice to go to Hidden Oaks or St. Mike's. It was a tough choice for me because I wanted to go to Hidden Oaks where my friends are and I did not have to wear a uniform everyday, but then I also wanted to go to a smaller school so I would not have to meet too many new kids. So I decided to go to St. Michael this year and see if I like it or not. If not, then I can go to Hidden Oaks next year. First day of school was never my favorite day to go back to school because I move almost every year and I have to meet new kids and make new friends once again. I made friends very quickly and everyone was very nice, sweet, and respectful.

Here is what I like about St. Michael. I love that everyone is very nice to each other, and the teachers are awesome. Doing fun activities and going to field trips. We learn and experience new things everyday. The only thing about St. Michael that I dislike is getting a lot of homework like almost everyday. I get stressed out and worry about my grades.

Here are some things I like to do. I like to listen to music. I love dancing, singing, shopping, and texting. I love cleaning I don't know why. My favorite songs are A Year Without Rain and Who Says by Selena Gomez. My favorite instruments are piano, xylophone, and guitar. My favorite sport is soccer. My favorite foods are tacos, beefsteaks, spaghetti, pizza, Arby's roast beef sandwich, seafood, and fried

by Thao Nguyen, St. Michael 6th Grader

chicken. I like to hang out with my friends and party all night. I speak 2 different languages. English is my second language. I am learning Spanish right now it's a little bit hard. But I hope to speak it more fluently. I love my family and friends. I love Justin Bieber and I have Bieber Fever too. LOL! I saw his movie 3 times already. I am not afraid to say that I love JB and I am a Belieber.

I enjoy hiking, skiing, and drawing. I am sweet, nice, kind, friendly, caring, funny, crazy, weird, and wild. If you really know me I can drive you nuts and I can make you laugh all day. I make wishes and I have dreams. I want to be an artist, scientist, or a clothes designer when I grow up. I want to be an artist because I love drawing and painting and I am talented at it. I want to be a scientist because I think the universe is very interesting and beautiful and I want to study about the black hole. I want to be a clothes designer because I am good at drawing clothes and I love fashions. I am a fashionista. This is all about me for now. If you have any questions for me please ask, thanks. **Never Say Never, Dream Big, and Reach For the Stars!!!**

Thao Nguyen has had challenges like no other 6th grader at St. Michael. At a very young age she was severely burned and has been in the U.S. for several years receiving cosmetic surgery for her burns. She brings a light hearted nature and spunk to the school and we are proud of her excellent attitude while she undergoes her medical procedures. Thanks Thao for teaching us all a lesson on positive attitude and happiness.

Much More Than a Fundraiser!

by Grace Meidl, St. Michael 7th Grader

Why do we host book fairs at St. Michael Catholic School? Hosting a Book Fair is one of the best ways to support our school's reading efforts. Students, parents and teachers love Book Fairs for a number of reasons, including:

- A Book Fair connects kids with books they want to read.
- They feature a terrific assortment of books.
- Book Fairs help build school, classroom, parish and home libraries.
- They create community involvement and get kids involved with a fun project.
- A Fair is one of the easiest ways to raise funds for the school.

This year, our 5th-8th grade students have become involved through our, "Scholastic Junior Crew and Crew" program. They helped plan, organize, and work at the Book Fair. Through our Scholastic Book Fairs, in the last six years, we have donated over \$60,324.00 in books to our Classroom Libraries, Parish Library and Media Center and we have donated over \$9,434.00 in cash to St. Michael. Since 2006 we have been able to update our Media Center by 27 years. As a special thank you to our families and to kick off summer reading, we will have our Buy One Get One Book Fair, Monday, May 16-Wednesday, May 18. Watch for details regarding "To The Book Fair And Beyond! Reading is out of This World!"



Aiden DiTommaso, Ryan Glaser, Anna Moen, Cece Burke, & Curt Murphy in front of the school promoting the book fair.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Art Adventure

by Lisa O'Brien, Parent to two children at St. Michael and Art Adventure Volunteer

Discover the diversity of art, learn techniques to represent art to children in their classroom - join the Art Adventure Team at St. Michael! The Art Adventure Program introduces K-5 grade students to works of art from a variety of cultures. Every volunteer is trained at the Minneapolis Institute of Art in picture person training. The training takes place in the galleries with original works of art. A small group of volunteers is led by a trained museum volunteer where you learn about the works of art and how to transfer your museum experience into a classroom presentation.

The trained school volunteers visit classrooms with posters and utilize the SmartBoards to present art related to a common theme, such as animals, celebrations, or relations. Each of the ten Art Adventure themes feature eight works of art. This year the theme we chose is called Family, Friends and Foes. The students really enjoy this program. It gives them the opportunity to see real works of art in their classroom and discuss what they think the artist was trying to convey through art.

If you would like to volunteer for Art Adventure next year please contact Molly Quach or Lisa O'Brien. molly@scraptime.com or lisa.obrien@optumhealth.com

Lisa O'Brien teaches Art Adventure to Mrs. Gillham's 2nd Grade Class.

