

ALUMNI FEATURE

Brittney Folisi

My experience at St. Michael prepared me to succeed academically, socially, and spiritually at the Academy of Holy Angels. The teachers and other staff urged me to do my best so that I would be ready to start my high school career with confidence and the desire to shine. This year I took three advanced classes, made the 9A volleyball team, participated in the school band, and was on stage crew for the spring musical. Participating in all of these activities at times could be stressful, but St. Michael taught me the organizational skills I needed to be able to balance my homework while taking part in other activities.

Academically, the teachers at St. Michael were so caring and willing to help me whenever I did not understand something, and they taught me many helpful tips and lessons that I still use in my classes. In my Advanced English class, we use different grammar concepts, analyze books, and write papers. Thanks to St. Michael, I was ahead of the other students in these different areas and was able to do extremely well in the class.

St. Michael taught me how to value my spirituality and to practice it every day. At Holy Angels, we express our faith in our theology classes and learn more about the roots of Christianity. St. Michael prepared me for these classes by teaching me some of the history of our faith while also teaching me about the seven sacraments as well. I look back on my years at St. Michael with great appreciation and fondness because they taught the value of being academically successful, socially confident, and spiritually conscious.



S P O R T S

Middle School Track for Serious Runners

by Sara Thibault, St. Michael 6th Grader

Track is a very fun and energetic sport. There are a great variety of events you can do in track. The categories are sprints, distance, shot and jumps. Some of the events are 100 meter hurdles, 100 meter dash, 400 and 200 meter dash, high jump, long jump, shot put, discus and the 1600.

Anyone in 6th grade to 8th grade from any school can do track through the public middle school. Did you know that you can take the bus from St. Michael over to the local neighborhood and walk to the middle school to participate in track? The track program is a real track team. You go to meets, compete and have practices every day right after school. This program is different than PLAY track. PLAY meets once a week for practice and has a meet on Saturday mornings. The middle school track has practice every day after school and has six meets per season. The coaches are very nice and push you so that you can get faster and reach your goal. The track team always welcomes new people. Hope to see you there!



Sara Thibault performing the High Jump



C O M M U N I T Y

Students Organize Collection

Students Collect Gently Used Athletic Equipment for the Needy

by Brighie Kane and Shannon Hockman
St. Michael 6th Graders



Students with some of the donated sports equipment. Front row: Ashley Giles, Ryan O'Connor, Brody Glass, William Hockman. Back row: Brighie Kane and Shannon Hockman

Smack!!! The sound of a home run as the ball flies through the air. You feel victory coming. Everyone loves to win and feel good at something. Kids love the feeling of winning at their sport. Some kids across the world don't have that feeling of happiness and joy. Some kids can't afford to buy sports gear and can't play on a sports team. Brighie Kane had an idea that kids across the world should be able to play sports. She went looking for an organization that you could donate sports gear to. She found Sports Gift. Brighie texted me, Shannon Hockman and said we should do a sports gear drive. I said yes and we started to plan ideas for the drive. We collect donations on Mondays and Fridays from every classroom. We collected through the month of May. So far we have collected sixty items. Our goal is sixty and we have talked to Principal Fox and he said if we did reach that goal we could have an out of uniform on the last day of school. We know that when the kids receive these items they will be happy and we thank all the families that have donated sports gear.

Be a Host Family for An Exchange Student

St. Michael has been hosting exchange students since 2001. We are continuing this tradition and are looking for one more family with a 7th or 8th Grade boy to open their home to an exchange student from Guatemala in Fall of 2011. The program lasts for 11 weeks beginning in late September. The exchange students attend school and bring money to fund their experience, plus the school gets paid too. All that is asked of host families is to open your home and experience life in Minnesota as you would normally. Please consider hosting, it has been a wonderful experience for the many families who have hosted including the following families: Hobart, Warner, Meidl, Cahill, Schmitz, Noterman, Kroyer, Hall and Preslicka. If interested or have questions, please contact Heidi Preslicka 612-875-6630. For more information goto www.feexchange.com.

May Crowning

by Kara Steichen and Revae Buckeye
St. Michael 8th Graders



Students gather to take photos after May Crowning. Front row, left to right: Revae Buckeye, Cece Burke, Abby Helberg, Olivia Ferrer, Sam Schmokel Back row: Shannah Carter, Anna Moen, Kara Steichen, Sierra Wise, Maggie Marxen

8th Graders Crown Mary in a Special Mass as a Way to Express their Adoration for Her

On May 11, 2011 the 8th graders were involved in May Crowning. It is a special mass to honor Mary by crowning her with flowers. The students of 8th grade had the honor of crowning Mary as we appreciate her in the month of May. The girls wore beautiful dresses and the boys dressed in formal attire to fit the occasion. Olivia Ferrer had the privilege of crowning Mary with a crown of flowers. As we crowned Mary, the 8th grade stood around the altar singing "Bring Flowers of the rarest." By crowning Mary, we show our adoration for everything Mary did for us. The ceremony went extremely well and the 8th graders did an amazing job during the Crowning of Mary. May Crowning has been a tradition at St. Michael Catholic School for several years and will be happening for many years to come.

Team Attends World Competition

First Year Robotics Team Compete in World Competition with over 50 nations

by Rose Schroeder
St. Michael 8th Grader

St. Michael Catholic School participated this year in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics program. Team #4644, "Robotic Adrenaline," was made up of eight 8th graders. After many hours building, testing and programming our robot, our team showed up at the Prior Lake High School where the State Championship tournament was being held. At the end of the day, we were in first place! We had earned a spot at the World Championship Competition in St. Louis Missouri. This is like the Olympics for robotics! Over 1,800 teams (mostly High School Students), competed across the world, for one of the 128 slots at this competition. At the competition, we set the World Record for the highest score in one match, and ended up ranking the highest of the three teams representing Minnesota! Morgan Freeman was at the tournament, and we also went to a private concert of the Black Eyed Peas and Willow Smith. It was a really awesome team this year, we learned a lot about robotics and did some really fun community service projects to let others know about robotics too. A special thanks to all the people who supported us!



Ryan Glaser, Emily Deis, Haley Sammis, Allie Deis, Elissa Berg, Maggie Marxen, Rose Schroeder and Lindsay Sammis

Next year the St. Michael Robotics Team will be open to both 7th & 8th Graders. It begins in Sept and continues through the school year. If you are interested in becoming a participant contact Lance and Jean Schroeder 952-226-1750 for more information.

TEACHER FEATURE

CLEO KUBES

This month's staff feature is Mrs. Cleo Kubes. She is currently a lunch room assistant at St. Michael Catholic School. She along with two parent volunteers supervise the students and clean tables during lunch. She has been working in various positions at the school since 1985. Her first position was helping out on the play ground.

When Mrs. Kubes saw that Sister Irene had advertised for a position to help out on the playground, she stopped into talk to her. Sister Irene had known Cleo because she had seen her doing a lot of walking around town. Sister Irene asked her to start right away.

Cleo grew up in Jordan, Minnesota. Her mother died when she was very young and she and her nine siblings took on a lot of work at home on the farm. Cleo is the second youngest of 10 children (5 boys and 5 girls).

Cleo ran a farm in Montgomery for 12 years when her children were young and going to school. When she sold the farm she decided to move closer to the Twin Cities and liked down town Prior Lake. Cleo has 2 sons, Roger and Dennis, and four grandchildren.

She enjoys staying active. You will often see Cleo walking around town, but she also does exercises in her home. She will not tell her age and was careful not to share any information that might reveal it.

When she isn't at St. Michael helping out in the lunch room or walking around town, she enjoys spending time at Club Prior playing 500 and Bingo.

Willy Wonka

by Hannah Enck, St. Michael 7th Grader

From tryouts to rehearsal, from building the set to the actual performances, the St. Michael Spring Musical was a great experience. On May 10th and 12th, the 7th and 8th graders performed the magical show of "Willy Wonka Junior" for friends, families and neighbors. This show was more than just a performance. Besides playing a Candy Man Kid in the play, one of my favorite memories was coming in on a Saturday to help build the set. We painted, fixed props and hung curtains. It was neat to see the stage transform into Wonka's chocolate factory. Rehearsals were a lot of work but it all paid off during the performances. In rehearsals we got to know people better and saw a different side of them while they were acting. During the actual performances, it was fun to see the surprise of the audience. In rehearsal there was no one to laugh at the jokes we had heard dozens of times or to be shocked at the excitement of Charlie and Grandpa Joe flying. With the double cast, more students could be on stage and could experience the fun of acting. Being in the play was a great experience and I would recommend it to all students as they enter 7th and 8th grade.



Candy Man Kids: Front row: Stephanie Smith, Molly Hoghaug, Therese Azinger, Brianna Steighauf. Back row: Sarah Spanier, Allison Keller, Hannah Enck, Rebecca Brinkley, Nicole Kelly, McKenzie Reis

Summer Plans

by Ciera Keough, St. Michael 5th Grader

Over the summer my major plans are to have fun. The first few days I am probably going to relax and not worry about getting this done, studying for tests, or doing homework. Then after the lazy days, I'll continue to play softball through P.L.A.Y. I also hope to spend a lot of time with my friends. We might have parties and sleepovers, or just hang out and talk in the hot summer sun. I'm also looking forward to my family's annual camping trip. This year we are going to Madeline Island. You must go on a ferry to get on the island. You can drive through the town and rent bikes and mopeds. After exploring the town, you drive through many trees until you arrive at your campsite. There are trails and pretty beaches. If you decide to go on the trails, you will see big bluffs which you can jump off. It's called cliff jumping. Last year I did this and can't wait to do so again. I also can't wait to see my family in Illinois for the 4th of July. Every year we get together to see each other, swim, and of course, watch and light off fireworks to celebrate our country's independence. Then, after the camping trip and the 4th of July, I'll celebrate my birthday and soon be getting ready for school once again.

Students Grateful for Lunch Program

by Sierra Wise, St. Michael 8th Grader

The lunch program at St. Michael Catholic School has changed drastically over the years. For example, there are more kids, they eat earlier and in multiple shifts, and they used to eat in the gym. The menu has stayed the same over the years except for the new health conscious changes. We now have whole grain noodles, raisins, and other healthy choices like salads. The students, however, still prefer the food before the changes, but they understand why the changes had to happen and accept them. Their favorite foods are still pizza, pizza burgers, hot ham and cheese, and spaghetti. Deb Holzemer has been here to watch the lunchroom change and develop throughout her many years at St. Michael.

None of this would be possible without Deb Holzemer. Deb has been with us for ten years and she has loved every moment of it. She says if she didn't work here, she would work at either a daycare center, or as a waitress, but always with food or children. You may wonder where such a good person comes from and the answer is right here! Joe Cookie, as she would be known as if she had a pseudonym, went to St. Michael as a child through eighth grade and then went to Vocational School. She learned that you have to take the bad with the good. One of the bad things is she broke the mixer that would provide the famous St. Mike's pudding. One of the good things is she has summers off and there are good hours. Her favorite lunch to serve is Sloppy Joes and her favorite food is chocolate. Though we may not know it now, the St. Michael School lunch program is healthy and a wonderful food choice for all the students.



Debbie Holzemer and her staff Julie Herbst and Kathy Monnens in the school kitchen

VOLUNTEER CORNER

School Thanks Volunteers

by Bonnie Lurquin and Jill Kaczmarek, St. Michael 2nd and 5th Grade Teachers

The Volunteer Appreciation Mass on May 25th and was planned by Mr. Whalton's Fifth Grade Religion Class.

St. Michael Catholic School is very blessed to have so many parents who share their time, talent, and treasure with us daily. Working together as a community of believers we accomplish many wonderful things to help our students grow spiritually, academically, and socially. We are most grateful to all our parents for their continued love and support. The following poem was read at Mass to thank our volunteers.

*Where would we be
without volunteers
Who quickly respond
when a need appears?
This is the way you
have chosen to serve-
What appreciation
you deserve!
There are very many
things to do
And YOUR time can only
be given by YOU!
So without complaint
and without demands
You offer the labor
of your hands.
The world is a better
place to live
When people like you
are so willing to give.
With this attitude of
love and of care
You will find a welcome
anywhere.
You may not always
know when someone
Is especially blessed by a
kindness you've done:
As you freely share your
hours and days,
May you also be blessed
in many ways.*