



Seventh and eighth grade ask, “What if you had never been born?”

In the film, “It’s a Wonderful Life” George Bailey learns what life would be like without him. In the end he gains new appreciation for the value of each human life, no matter what happens. On Oct. 28, Saint Mary Magdalen seventh and eighth graders staged a Pro-life Awareness Day, with similar results. The students dressed in all black and remained silent all day to demonstrate the effects of abortion.

The suggestion came from seventh-grader Ruth Dorhauer, who recalled a similar event at her former school. “The point was to show what it would be like if we were to be aborted or murdered by abusive parents. I realized that I should share this idea with my new friends (at Saint Mary Magdalen).”

Had their parents chosen abortion, all these young people could be gone, missing from our school community. A prayer service that afternoon illustrated the point very clearly. Coming forward with a lighted candle, each student dressed in black spoke for the first time that day:

“I could have found a cure for cancer.”

“I could have stopped world poverty and starvation.”

As each made his comment the candle was blown out.

“I could have won gold in the Olympics.”

“I could have been someone’s best friend.”

“I could have been someone’s sister or brother.”

Seventh-grader Ruth Dorhauer lit candles of eighth graders as they read petitions at the prayer service, a symbol of hope.



Eighth-graders hold candles at the prayer service, waiting to read their part.

Ruth Dorhauer has seven brothers and sisters. “I love every single one of them. If any of them would have been aborted, I would have been lonely... My life would be boring and I would have no brother or sister to tell how the day went... This life without them would probably be the worst thing ever.”

After all the candles had been extinguished, students read aloud petitions thanking God for the gift of life. With each petition, Ruth lit the student’s candle as a sign of hope. Mrs. Shroff then led the assembly in prayer. “...Help us to act with peace and justice, and create a world where everyone is welcomed, loved and treated with dignity.”

This quiet yet powerful demonstration provided a pro-life lesson for all, “...With a little child to guide them.” – Isaiah 11:6

First-quarter lessons range from ABCs to zoology

The school year is off to a great start and it is surprising to think that the first quarter has come and gone.

Jr.K-3 Carolyn Buckley is off and running, teaching her JrK3 class their ABCs and 123s. They are also learning all about colors, days of the week and weather. The Brentwood Fire Department made its annual visit to our 3- and 4-year-olds to teach them all about fire safety. The kids especially enjoyed learning "stop, drop and roll" in the event of a fire.

Jr.K-4 The JrK4 class spent September working on ABCs. Casey Lucas is teaching her students "A"pples, our "B"odies and of course "C"olors. They took a fabulous field trip to the pumpkin farm in October. Ms. Lucas stated, "We've all settled in nicely and look forward to a fun year filled with friendship and learning."



Welcome Msgr. Morris! Eighth graders gather round our new pastor at the barbecue this fall. Monsignor graduated from Saint Mary Magdalen School in 1979. Did you attend school with him? We'd love to hear from you. Please email dsorgea@rodgerstownsends.com.

KThe kindergartners, their sixth-grade buddies and several moms visited the St. Louis Zoo on Oct. 1. Tricia Martinez's sixth-graders were very watchful of their buddies, providing comfort when a thunderstorm threatened. Joni King had prepared a scavenger hunt with questions for each group to answer. Although the day was cold and rainy, the group took in nearly all of the zoo attractions. The kindergartners especially enjoyed petting the stingrays at Caribbean Cove.

IKristin McNair's first-grade class did a "Ten Apples Up on Top" project with the Dr. Seuss book. They had a lot of fun with their "All About Me" posters that each student made to share with their classmates. Each week her class does a story map in which every student picks a book to read and then they map out the who, what, where and solution to the story. The maps are

really helping the children grow in their reading.

2Catherine Grindel's second-grade class is preparing for First Communion. They are learning about all the sacraments and will then focus on Reconciliation. First Reconciliation took place on Nov. 23.

3The third grade is working on health in science. The students are learning how some of the systems of the body work and will be making lungs. Sue Greschner's class and the second-grade class made placemats for the annual fall CARE luncheon.

4Marianne Jorcke's fourth-grade class read mysteries as a part of its theme reading unit in October. Her students were then assigned to write a mystery of their own. It made for a very mysterious month in their classroom.

5Katie Koberlein's fifth grade has started work on some Native American projects in social studies. The students are working in groups to investigate the daily life of different American Indian tribes and will then present their findings.

6The sixth-graders are currently putting together their own book of short stories in language arts. After they finish, the collection of their stories they will go on the shelves of Ms. Martinez's classroom library.

7The seventh-grade class has finished reading "The Giver." The students talked about choice and life issues, and they created their own "Utopian Societies" where they worked in groups to create a new society that wouldn't have fear, war or hatred. They also watched "Wall-E" and "The Village," comparing and contrasting the movies to the book.

Both the seventh- and eighth-graders in Elisabeth Collins' class wrote to local citizens, politicians and celebrities to ask them what are the attributes of a good citizen. They have received responses from Dan Fitzgerald (assistant police chief), Steve Disbennett (police chief) and Lillian Collins (a community member). Plus George H. W. Bush wrote a professional letter back and George W. Bush sent a note and a packet of information about the presidential seal, the oath and the Bill of Rights.

8The eighth-graders took an exciting trip to Meramec State Park in September to explore Mushroom Cave. They do this activity every year to encourage team building and to immerse the students in a very different ecosystem to help them learn about our karst topography in Missouri. "The formations of the cave are gorgeous and the end is very fun as we exit through passages filled with knee-deep mud (their favorite part)," says teacher Joan Patton.

Thank you

Your generosity makes it possible for us to provide a quality education for our students. By participating in fund-raisers, Market Day, buying SHOP certificates, and attending school events, you keep us going strong. We appreciate your contributions to Saint Mary Magdalen School.

ALUMNI NEWS

Saint Mary Magdalen alumni garner awards, recognition

2000s

'09 Maggie Miller
- received one of three renewable scholarships for incoming Rosati-Kain top-performing freshman
- earned First Honors for 1st Quarter, Rosati-Kain High School

Allison Nickrent
- earned First Honors for 1st Quarter, Rosati-Kain High School

'08 Michael Asleson
Michael is enjoying DeSmet High School. He is on the JV Basketball team and made the honor roll.

'07 Molly Mansfield
-is enjoying life at Nerinx Hall High School

'07 Kate Albrecht, Cor Jesu Academy, has been named to National Honor Society.

'06 Chandler Coleman
- is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Varsity Cheerleading and is the Assistant Editor of Year Book at Incarnate Word High School

'03 Jenna Rinck
-is working on a degree in Communication at Mizzou and is a member of Chi Omega

'02 Natalie Rinck
-attends Mizzou and is earning a master's degree in Speech Pathology and is a member of Chi Omega

'01 Tom Adams
-currently performing in the show "Improviser the Musical" in Chicago and has won a coveted internship with the Second City Theatre Company

'99 Lauren Rinck
-raised \$10,000 for leukemia/cancer research in her triathlon this summer in Hawaii and is featured on the cover of the current Triathlon Life Magazine. See her cover---<http://www.facebook.com/USATriathlon>
Click on the USA Triathlon Wall Photos Album

If you have Alumni News to share, please send it to: Sam Nickrent at sjrain@swbell.net

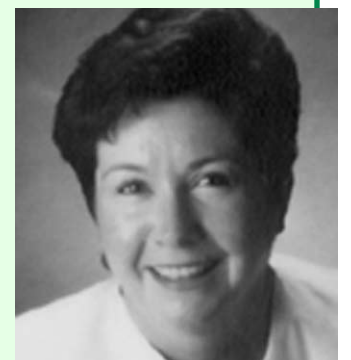
School News is published with the help of Saint Mary Magdalen School parents and faculty. For more news visit the school Web site: stmmlab.com

Congratulations to the following Saint Mary Magdalen graduates who play Brentwood High Eagles football. The 12-1 team went to the Show-Me Bowl Nov. 27 at the Edward Jones Dome to compete for the 2009 MSHSAA Class 2 Football Championship.

Nick Featherston '09
Tommy Lynch '06
Danny Lynch '08
Joe Howard '06

Lynn Refstech Krause named Humanitarian of the Year by American Culinary Foundation

Chef Lynn Refstech Krause, Saint Mary Magdalen Class of 1968, — who for many years ran Lynn Krause Catering and who has taught culinary classes at Southeast Missouri State University, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, East Central College and The Viking Cooking School — has been named this year's recipient of the American Culinary Foundation's Humanitarian of the Year Award.



Lynn Krause
2009 Humanitarian of the Year
American Culinary Foundation

Krause is a member of the foundation's disaster relief team, and as such has extensively participated on-site in relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike as well as the flooding in the upper Midwest.

Krause, the only woman Certified Executive Pastry Chef, American Academy of Chefs, in St. Louis is a culinary instructor at the Viking Culinary Arts Institute in Brentwood. Formerly Viking's Cooking School Coordinator, she has moved to part-time to focus more energy on her family, sons Matt, 17, and Phil, 16 and her husband of 30 years, Terry Krause.

John Kinsella, President of the American Culinary Foundation, presented the award to Krause at the group's 2009 National Conference.



Saint Mary Magdalen uses new interactive technology to make lessons come alive

Saint Mary Magdalen teachers are now using an interactive whiteboard to engage students with vivid images, video and audio. An interactive whiteboard is a large interactive display that combines the simplicity of a whiteboard, power of a computer and front projection.

The Promethean interactive whiteboard enables anything that can be seen or done on a computer screen to be projected onto an interactive whiteboard – bringing the classroom to life.

Teachers Elisabeth Collins (seventh grade), Catherine Grindel (second grade) and Laura Bergman (learning consultant) are currently using the new technology.

“What the kids are really amazed at is how you can write on the screen and it shows up on the computer screen! They were thrilled just to write their names on the board and watch as they appeared on the laptop,” said Grindel.

“I am still learning about the many things the Promethean Board can do,” added Bergman.

“I have used it several times with my fifth-grade language arts class and have found that it is a great medium for interactive and highly motivating lessons. The students absolutely love it!”

Collins added, “Using the Promethean Board makes teaching so much more enjoyable because you can do so many things with it! It also helps the kids focus because it's something that they can interact with in a whole new way!”



Interactive spelling lesson: Teacher Laura Bergman observes as fifth-graders use a stylus to arrange words from the bottom of the screen into the proper columns based on their spelling of the "long e" sound.

Mark your calendar

Monday, Jan. 4: School resumes

Sunday, Jan. 31, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Open House and Pancake Breakfast

Jan. 31- Feb.5: Catholic Schools Week

Wednesday, Feb 3, 8 a.m.: Alumni Appreciation Mass followed by a short reception in honor of this year's Distinguished Graduate. Who will it be?

Feb.17 Ash Wednesday AND Every Friday in Lent, beginning Feb. 19: Fish Fries in the gym
Join the parish community for the best fish dinner in town-God's Cod!

April 5-9: Spring Break

Saturday, April 24: First Communion

Saint Mary Magdalen School
8750 Magdalen Avenue
Brentwood, MO 63144

“For unto you this day is born a Savior...”
Luke 2:11
Merry Christmas

