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News about St. Matthew Parish & School in Oak Creek, Wisconsin

June 2010

THE SMPAA IS BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY

St. Matthew Parish Athletic Association (SMPAA) always seems to have something going on. Whether its soccer, volleyball, basketball or cross-country, our kids can find an activity they can enjoy. And it's the parents that make it happen.

This past school year more than 140 students from our parish participated in athletics through SMPAA. Our teams competed well and with the proper values that guide our mission: to develop self worth, good sportsmanship, discipline, sound judgment, and physical well being in a Catholic manner.

At the core of our student-athletes are their parents who support, transport, pay for, and cheer for them. Without these people, athletics at St. Matthew's would not be possible.

One example of the support parents provide is the concession stand at soccer games. On Saturday's and Sunday's in the fall and spring, as you walk out of church, glance over towards the pavilion and garage area you will see a lot of activity. The buzz is volunteers preparing for the day's soccer games.

St Matt's hosts games of the Bay View Parochial Soccer League on our fields in the spring and fall. In order to raise money for athletics, the SMPAA runs a concession

stand. The stand is worked by parents who have children in athletics at St. Matt's. The money raised at the concession stand goes to pay for uniforms, field improvements, equipment, coaching clinics, gym rentals, and much, much more. The concession stand raises nearly \$6,000 annually and replaces the need for additional fund raisers.

The SMPAA coordinates the scheduling of volunteers so that the Concession Stand is properly staffed. The main people involved in running the stand are: Sue Maurer, Marty Chilson, and Jen Heiges. They work tirelessly to make sure the food is stocked, the fields are ready and the money is counted and deposited. Did I mention Sue's youngest child graduated from St. Matt's last year? If you want to talk about determination and support, Sue IS IT!

The SMPAA also hosts the annual Memorial Soccer Classic. For the past 9 years, St. Matt's has hosted the Soccer Classic that brings in schools from around Milwaukee. It's a 3 day event over Memorial Day weekend and is fun for the whole family.

Similar to our student-athletes, the SMPAA is always striving to be better. Some of the recent things we've done to become a better provider for athletics at St. Matthew's is to reach an agreement with Parkway Apostolic in Oak Creek to host basketball

and volleyball league games. Since we do not have a gym and Parkway's school is no longer operational, we saw the opportunity to utilize their facility. They agreed. Sign up your kids to play volleyball in the fall and basketball in the winter and come out and watch St. Matt's teams compete as the "home team" for the first time ever.

Another project the SMPAA is leading is the building of an outdoor basketball/volleyball court. Working with Building and Grounds, we identified an area south of the pavilion and west of the current playground structure that could house a basketball/volleyball court. This will allow the poles that sit in the parking lot to be moved, freeing up additional parking spots. The kids (and parents) will have a flat court to play on and hone their skills at basketball, volleyball and other sports.

There are many great things about athletics at St. Matt's and I've only named a few in this message. Please come and see for yourself all the great things the SMPAA is doing to support athletics at St. Matt's. Our association is not school only, it is truly parish wide so everyone is invited. Come and attend our next Board meeting—watch the bulletin or call the parish office. We only get better by adding new ideas to the mix.

— Andy Paar, Athletic Director



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART FUNDRAISER

If you drove by St. Matthew on the afternoon of Friday, May 14th, you may have noticed all of the classes of St. Matthew School outside in the parking lot jumping rope. While this might seem like a fun way to spend a sunny afternoon, it was actually part of a major fundraising campaign for the American Heart Association (AHA) called “Jump Rope for Heart”. It works by students getting people to sponsor them for however long they can jump rope for – in this case – it was for between 90 and 120 minutes. The event was partially organized by Shari Reimer and Lisa Reinke. Reimer says, “I am really proud of the students. They were really active when it came to asking people for donations in a number of ways. For example, students did everything from just asking their grandparents to sponsor them... to going as far as setting up web pages to ask for support.”

“Jump Rope for Heart” is now a nationwide fundraising effort by AHA, however, the idea for the event started right here in Southeast Wisconsin. In the late 1970’s, Jean Barkow, of Milwaukee Riverside High School, held the first “rope-a-thon” with her local AHA chapter. Following the event, Jean attended a public relations conference in Chicago where she talked about her event with another colleague. They discussed the potential of that project as a national fundraising event. In 1977, Illinois held the first event as a pilot program. In 1978, the program went national and the American Heart Association officially launched “Jump Rope For Heart”. It has been a major fundraiser now for the last 32 years.

One of the special features of “Jump Rope for Heart” is having a designated “Heart Hero”. That is someone locally who is dealing with heart problems and who can inspire the students in their fundraising efforts. This year’s “Heart Hero” for St. Matthew was 10-month-old Oliver Buena Franco, whose sister Zoe attends the K-4 program at St. Matthew School. Lyann Buena Franco, who is Oliver’s mother, says, “The American Heart Association is really great and it’s a great charity to donate



**IT TAKES HEART
TO BE A HERO!**

to. One in one hundred babies are born with some sort of congenital heart defect... so this is not an uncommon thing. In fact, children are five times more likely to have a heart problem compared to getting cancer.” Martin Buena Franco, who is Oliver’s father says, “Oliver is really a lucky baby. When he was just 8 days old he underwent a 10-hour long heart surgery. He is doing better now, but still needs to take medication three times a day and will likely face more surgeries in the future.”

Students who participated in “Jump Rope for Heart” got together in their Field Day teams for the event. Since the teams were made up of students ranging from K-4 all the way up to 8th Grade, “Jump Rope for Heart” also taught important lessons in teamwork, cooperation, and of course... patience. Students were also eligible for small prizes from the American Heart Association if they reached certain fundraising benchmarks. Even though the money raised is still being counted, it’s estimated that at least \$1,500 was raised here at St. Matthew to help people who are coping with life with a heart defect.

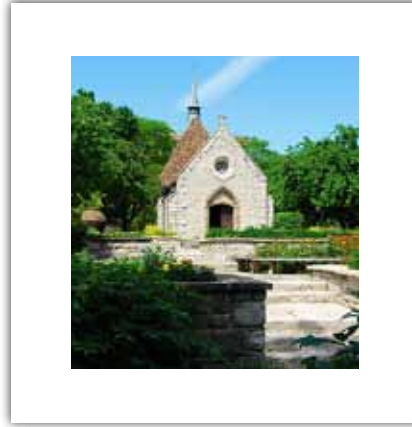
— Robert Tabern



7TH GRADE CLASS TOURS HISTORIC CHAPEL

On Thursday, June 3rd, students in Ms. McDonald's 7th Grade Class got to tour the historic St. Joan of Arc Chapel, located on the campus of Marquette University. St. Joan of Arc Chapel was dedicated to Joan of Arc on May 26, 1966 after it had been moved from its previous location on Long Island, New York. It was originally built in the Rhone River Valley in France. Originally named Chapelle de St. Martin de Sayssuel, the chapel was built over several generations in the French village Chassé, south of Lyon. Estimates are that it was built around the 15th century. The building was abandoned after the French Revolution and fell into ruin. Then after World War I, the young architect Jacques Couëlle rediscovered the chapel and negotiated a transfer to the Jericho, New York home of Gertrude Hill Gavin, the daughter of James J. Hill, best known as the founder of the Great Northern Railway. The chapel was shipped to New York in 1927 where it was reconstructed. John Russell Pope oversaw the reconstruction in New York for Gavin, the new owner. There it was attached to a French Renaissance chateau, which burned

down in 1962; however, the chapel was not damaged in the fire. After Gavin died, her estate passed on to new owners, Marc B. Rojzman and his wife, who decided to present the chapel to Marquette University in 1964.



While touring the chapel, students learned several interesting facts about it. When in New York, the famous Joan of Arc Stone was added to the church. According to legend, Joan of Arc prayed before a statue of Mary, the mother of Jesus, standing on this stone. At the end of her prayer, she would

kiss the stone. Ever since, it has been colder than the stones surrounding it. The tomb of Chevalier de Sautereau, a former Chatelain of Chasse is still located in the sanctuary floor. The chapel features Christian artifacts that predate the original chapel, sometimes by multiple centuries, and which have been collected and displayed at the Chapel for years, including ancient Spanish tapestries, coats of arms, various crucifixes, and even a contemporary rooftop. It is one of the few exhibits of items from antiquity at which visitors are permitted to handle or touch the artifacts. The stained-glass windows are not original. Gertrude Hill Gavin, the owner of the Chapel while on her Long Island estate, commissioned the stained glass windows to be done. They were created by Charles J. Connick, finished and installed in 1929. Connick used the stained-glass windows in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, in New York City, as a model for the colors of the stained-glass windows in St. Joan of Arc Chapel.

— Robert Tabern

EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT PLANNED FOR AUGUST

Parish member Sean Marshall is a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 218 in Oak Creek. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, he must complete a community service project that requires at least 100 hours of volunteer time. After an initial meeting with Mr. Tom Schneider, the Parish Director of Stewardship and Administration, Sean identified a project to rebuild the drainage swale on the Southwest side of the parish grounds. The existing swale is in poor condition and causes drainage problems after heavy rains or snow melts. To receive approval to complete the project, Sean met several times with the Mr. Dan Wachs, Parish Maintenance Supervisor and the members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Over a period of 4 months, a plan was completed to re-excavate the swale. Grasscrete blocks will be installed over the first 50 feet of

the swale to eliminate future erosion. The remaining 85 feet of the swale will be re-graded to improve water flow to the edge of the parish grounds. The four goals of the project are to improve appearance, simplify maintenance, create better drainage and to create a safer environment for the parish. Several parish members have agreed to donate materials and equipment to the project including Don Sievert from Sievert Trucking and Darrell Schaefer from Schaefer Excavating. Other resource development to raise \$2000 and volunteer support will be taking place in June and July. Any one interested in supporting this project can contact Sean Marshall at 414-304-8792. The project is scheduled to take place August 13, 14, 15 and 16.

— Tom Schneider



STUDENTS RECORD CD FOR SCHOOL AUCTION

It's hard to think Christmas songs when it's June and it's 80 degrees outside, but before leaving for their summer vacation, students from every grade level at St. Matthew got together to record a CD that is going to be sold at the School Auction later this fall. The recording sessions took place in the Saints Rooms on April 19th and April 20th. The final product will be available for purchase on November 6th, 2010 during the Auction. One of the organizers of the event is Debbie Sievert who says, "The CD will consist of many songs. Just a few are 'Go Tell it on the Mountain', 'Deck the Halls', 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas', 'O' Come All Ye Faithful' and even some fun songs 'Jingle or Jive', 'Blitzen's Boogie' and 'We Wish you a Swingin Holiday'. The CD will also feature a "bonus track" with Fr. Pat and Lauryn Shadd singing 'O Holy Night'. Sievert says, "Make sure to mark your calendars for November 6th! We hope to see you all at the Auction." Again, you will be able to purchase this wonderful Christmas CD at the School Auction on November 6th. It will also be for sale at several events after the Auction as well. Sievert concludes, "Just think how special it will be to hear our children at St. Matthew singing your favorite Christmas songs!"

— Robert Tabern



St. Matthew Parish Buzz

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