

# NEWSLETTER

IRISH TIMES

## The Irish Times

Welcome to the Irish Times, the monthly Falls City Sacred Heart Catholic School Newsletter for students, parents, alumni, benefactors and community. We welcome your feedback and ideas for articles and updates! For more information, contact us at [fcsacredheart@cdolinc.net](mailto:fcsacredheart@cdolinc.net).

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### From the desk of Fr. Lee Jirovsky

#### From Turnips to Tournaments

To call this time of year “crazy” is a bit of an understatement.

There are so many things that a part of the life of a school that go beyond the classroom and desks. In a larger school, students might find one or two things that they are involved with. I find that at a smaller school, the activities don't decrease, but the involvement increases. Our students are involved in so many different activities, groups, and events that sometimes I can't even keep track of it all.



I got a little taste of what it is like to be in our students' shoes last week in preparation for the Turkey Bazaar. Little did I know that in the fine print for the job description of Chief Administrative Officer at Sacred Heart is the title of Turnip Picker. Tasked with the work, I got milk crates from the kitchen, spades from convent, muck boots from the garage and trucked ten of the Seniors out to Ebel's farm for the adventure. After googling the difference between turnips and radishes, and a brave taste test, we dug into the fun.

In reflecting on the day, and everything that had to get done, I had a bit of a realization: not one of those kids complained or even balked at going out into a field and picking turnips. Some of those seniors were girls on the volleyball team. Earlier that morning they had practice. In classes they took notes, tests, pulled turnips, hauled roasters, set up tables and went back to class as a matter of fact. Later at the pep rally they played in the band, performed with the dance team, jumped through hoops, and laughed and smiled through it all. And this was all the day before going to play in the District Championship volleyball game.

That speaks to a deep level of dedication and a high expectation of participation that I have not encountered in another school. And so I had to ask myself: where did these kids learn all of this? The simple answer is: their parents, grandparents, teachers, and community.

Those are the intangible values that you cannot find on a budget, or a pay scale, or in test scores. They don't come by way of a trophy, but are revealed in the hard work that it takes to get to that game. As we are creating lesson plans, putting dinner on the table,

working in committees and implementing our strategic plan, this is a good thing to keep in mind. That our dollar for dollar investment, and with everything we sacrifice, we are providing an exceptional opportunity for our children to encounter and engage in lifelong virtues that don't just help them be successful in this life, but to win the victory of life eternal in Christ.

This is what we celebrate every Sunday in the Mass, and animates every aspect of our lives in a Catholic School. The Eucharist, is literally our "Thanksgiving", and when we bring our joys and victories, struggles and sufferings before the Lord in prayer, we give Him the ability to bless and multiply the graces bestowed on our families, parishes, and community.

As you spend time with loved ones over your Thanksgiving dinner, join me in giving thanks to God for the gifts that we have received and share in this wonderful endeavor. Know that I will be praying for you all, and that I am grateful that Providence has placed you in my life. The Turkey Bazaar was a little foretaste of Thanksgiving; Thanksgiving is a foretaste of the banquet of Heaven – and for me that will now be with a little touch of turnip.

Fr. Lee Jirovsky  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Falls City Sacred Heart Catholic School

## Senior Paige Stamper is Selected for All-State Chorus



Senior Paige Stamper was selected for the Nebraska Music Education Association's All State Chorus! This is a three day event. She starts rehearsals Thursday evening, and

the concert was held on Saturday afternoon. Paige sent in her audition tape and was selected as a soprano and one of the 440 students selected from the 3000 auditions received from around the state of Nebraska.

Congratulations, Paige!







## Music Program

This year's music concerts were held early to accommodate our band and choir director, Elizabeth Johnson. Mrs. Johnson and her husband, Ryan, are the proud parents of a baby boy born just a few days after the concerts were held.

The high school/junior high program and elementary program were held on the same day. First up for the junior high/high school program was the junior high choir followed by the junior high band. High school choir took the stage for five wintery songs and the program ended with the high school band.

Once the Roh Activity Center cleared, the elementary program began. The program focused mainly on thankful and patriotic songs. The 5th and 6th grade bands played a few songs and did an excellent job for first time band members! The preschool and Kindergarten turkey costumes and songs were a crowd pleaser! Click on the link to see the Kindergarten perform their numbers! [Kindergarten](#)

The first grade "Turkey Tango" was also a highlight! Ask one of the first graders to sing it for you! Other songs included This Land is your Land, God Bless America, America the Beautiful, We Share America and A Song of Peace.





### Rotary Club Donates Dictionaries to Students

The Falls City Rotary Club visited the third grade today and presented students with their own student dictionaries. After talking about the activities and history of Rotary, students practiced looking up the words "service" and "volunteer". Students really enjoy their new books!



### Pioneer Vocal Contest





HTRS hosted the 2019 Pioneer Conference Vocal Concert on Monday, November 11. The schools included were HTRS, Nebraska City Lourdes, Pawnee City, Sacred Heart, Diller Odell, and Lewiston. Sacred Heart had 30 choir students attend. Each choir (school) sang their own piece. Lewiston's choir student joined our choir since she was the only member from Lewiston. The students all joined to sing five songs. Since it was also on Veteran's Day, they chose to honor the Vets by singing the Star Spangled Banner and a medley of all the Armed Forces songs. Those Vets in attendance stood up while those songs was performed.



### Sacred Heart Grad Receives Award in Iowa

Matt Sells ('03) was named the recipient of the Iowa Hospital Association's Young Executive Achievement Award this week in Des Moines. The award — which was established as a memorial to the late James B. Seamann II — recognizes health care executives under 40 who have made significant contributions to health care in the state. Gregg Connell, Executive Vice President of the Shenandoah Chamber and Industry Association said, "Great leaders develop their own personal style of leadership. Matt's leadership style is a combination of being a great listener, a compassionate human being, a solid decision maker and a person with great vision. This leadership style has served Matt well as he has greatly expanded not only the physical structure of Shenandoah Medical Center, but also the medical services for the people of this area."

The award is given each year to an executive who has demonstrated a notable achievement in administration or who has contributed to the broader areas of health care or health policy. Winners are selected by a committee utilizing supporting letters that detail specific achievements.



### Chili Cook-off Raises \$1319.00!

Fifth graders are shown preparing their classroom entry, Cheeseburger soup, for the chili cook-off under the direction of home room helper, Stacie Lewis.

The seventh grade class received the most votes for their Cream Cheese Crack Chicken Chili and were declared the winner of this year's chili cook-off.

Students, parents, grandparents and friends were invited to join us (each received a bowl and spoon for a \$5.00 donation) in sampling classroom soups and voting for their favorite.

Desserts and drinks were also provided in the art room. The Booster Club added \$1319.00 to their yearly fundraising totals due to the overwhelming response.



### 7th & 8th Grade Robotics - Erin Waller

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have currently been working on the First Lego League Robotics program. Jami Ankrom from the UNL Extension office comes once a week to work with them, and they spend some time outside of those visits working on their projects, research, and coding. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders have formed two teams of ten students each. One team chose the name





“Lego Legends” and the other 7<sup>th</sup> grade team is the “Robo Raiders.” The eighth graders formed one team and chose the name “Mighty 9.”

This season’s Lego league theme is City Shapers. Each team has identified a problem with a building or public space in our community. Students are currently completing research to design a solution to their problem. They will be required to share their solution with others and refine it.

On Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, students will attend a competition in Nebraska City. The teams will present their project (including the problem, their solution, and how they shared it), in a five minute presentation. Students will also use their robots to navigate, capture, transport, activate, or deliver objects on the game table. They are given 2.5 minutes to complete as many missions as possible and are awarded point accordingly.





### Sgt. Nicholas S. Nolte



Sacred Heart alumnus, Nicholas Santo Nolte ('98), died in service to his country on November 24, 2004. Please remember Nick and his family in your prayers.

**Veterans Day** (originally known as Armistice **Day**) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military **veterans**, that is, persons who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Sacred Heart elementary students usually walk the Veteran's Day parade and our band marches but this year the weather was uncooperative and too cold for the parade so it was cancelled. The high school were invited to the Veteran's Day program held at Falls City High School where both bands come together to play the national anthem.





### Husker/Irish Fundraiser Is Ongoing



Under the direction of Tony Ahern and Scott Magdanz, Sacred Heart volunteers will be traveling to Nebraska home games to help sell stadium seats. For each home Husker football game, the Irish volunteers will sell seats in the North Stadium. We will have 5 sections to service with each volunteer earning \$55.00 for the day

with the check being sent to school. Bus will leave school in time so that we can be at stadium 2.5 hours before game starts. The volunteers sell seats, then are able to watch game from any available seat and return to pick up seats and deliver back to stadium storage when game is over. We encourage you to ask your friends and neighbors to join us and this is an excellent opportunity for Lincoln or Omaha alumni to help out! Photo ID is required for each volunteer. Volunteers must be 6th grade or older. If you would like more information, please contact Tony Ahern at (402.245.7883) or Scott Magdanz at (402.245.7823).

If you would like to volunteer, please use the following link to sign up:

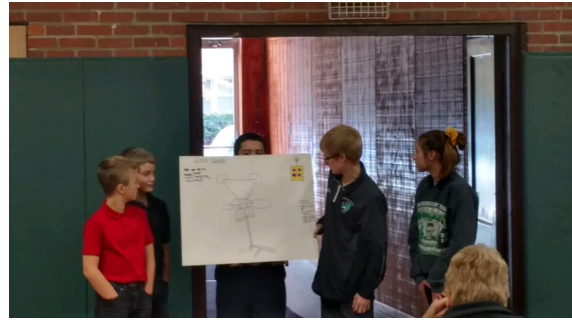
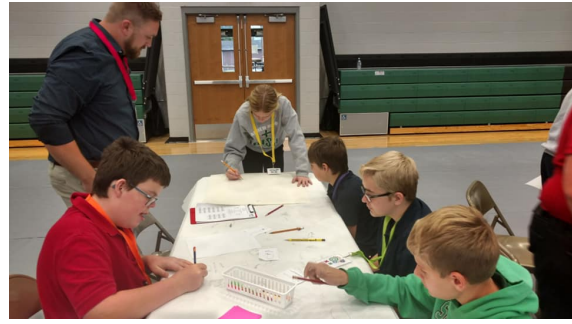
[Husker/Irish Fundraiser](#)

**Funds to date from this fundraiser total \$16,170.00 and will be used to remodel elementary bathrooms next summer.**

### Inventure Day held in the RAC

Sacred Heart hosted HTRS and Falls City Middle School in the RAC for this year's Inventure Day. Using innovation and creation, youth form teams to develop a unique business around a given product. Teams move through the INVENTURE Factory, completing challenges that work to develop their business idea. At the end of the assembly line, teams present their ideas to local business mentors. For each INVENTURE Day, a winning team is chosen and awarded a trip to the University of

## Nebraska, Lincoln's Innovation Campus.



## Volleyball and Football

Sacred Heart Volleyball team made it to the state volleyball tournament by winning their district game against #8 ranked Wauneta Palisades in Hastings. Their state tournament game was played against #2 Wynot. Girls had great sets and played extremely well, but in the end, Wynot came out on top with scores of 27-25, 13-25, 25-22, 17-25 and 15-11.







The road to Memorial Stadium for the Sacred Heart football team came to a halt against #1 ranked Humphey St. Francis. #2 Sacred Heart was charging down the field in the final seconds only to run out of time to tie the game and go into overtime. Our boys showed such class during and after the game. Other teams played along the way were: Diller Odell (60-6), Clarkson-Leigh, (56-6) and Bloomfied (36-0).

### **Maddie Littrel is finalist for Artsonia "Artist of the Week"**

Senior Madison Littrel has been selected as a finalist for "Artist of the Week" award for the 10th-12th age group on Artsonia. Artsonia is the World's Largest Student Art Museum. Yet it's so much more than that! It's a free, safe, educational program designed to connect parents and families with their child's creative activities at school. Although Maddie didn't gather enough votes to win, she is still a winner in our eyes. This is the first art student from Sacred Heart who has made the finals! Congratulations Maddie!



**#BETHECHANGE**

Sacred Heart's #BETHECHANGE for November is a coat drive. Students, parents, friends are all invited to bring in used coats, in good condition, to be given to those who need them.



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