

# 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

Dear Friends and Family of Falls City Sacred Heart,

#### **Groundhog Day vs. Resurrection**

The Second Day of February in the United States, as everyone knows, is **Groundhog Day**. This venerable day we wait for the “Seer of Seers” to come out of his hole and look for a shadow. This year the prediction: an early spring. Yeah, right! Since then we’ve still had snow and ice about every third day: trudging along, plowing through, and scraping together enough energy to scrape off our windshields. We know it will pass, but it still can sap the life out of you.

The Second Day of February in the life of the Church is **Candle Mass**, the day Jesus is presented in the temple to Simeon as “a light to reveal you to the Nations, and the glory of your people Israel!” We look to Christ our Light and pray for the grace to courageously live it out; we acknowledge this world is passing away, but the joy of living God’s love will endure unto eternity.

Just in the comparison of the previous two paragraphs, we can see the difference having a Catholic perspective can make on our work and our worldview. We have been working hard these past few months: putting together plans for bathroom renovations, Sub-District, District, and State competitions, academically, athletically and in all manner of activities across the state and nation. Every now and then, we need to take a step back, pick our head up, and get our bearings.

And next week we enter the Holy Season of Lent. Too often, even as Catholics, Lent can be seen as a time of trudging along, plowing through, and scraping together enough energy to get to the end so we can get back to all those things we gave up. The reality is quite the opposite: We are not working **FOR** victory, we are working **FROM** victory! Lent gives us time and space to be **SET FREE** from those habits or sins that have held us back. We don’t just trudge through Lent to end up on the Cross. Our journey is not to the Cross, but through the Cross to the Resurrection.

Recently, I found again a quote from Saint Teresa of Calcutta: “The worst poverty is not knowing Christ. If we would just open our eyes and look around, we would see that people all over the world are hungry for God, who is Love.” In order to be able to see, however, you need to have light. One of the reasons that this school exists is to give our students an opportunity to have that personal encounter with Christ Our Light. We encounter Him in the Mass, we encounter Him in class. **But we also encounter Christ in the many ways we serve each other in love.**

At the National Honor Society Mass, I shared with the students, faculty, and family members how a candle is consumed in the burning, and that if we try to do it all ourselves, we will end up spent and tired. But if we offer our lives through Him, with Him, and in Him, that changes everything we do and we will never be outdone in generosity or grace. I pray that through this Lenten season you will not end up burnt out and just waiting for winter to end, but that united to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, your hearts will burn **all the brighter** with the Love of God!



# Catholic Schools

**Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.**

## Parent & Volunteer Appreciation Day

Families each received a special hand written note card written by their child with the school picture thanking them for sending their children to Sacred Heart School. These postcards were also sent to all Irish Business Booster Club members written by students thanking them for their support.





## Honors Day

Dr. Hecker was a very impactful speaker as he took the National Honor Society standards for membership and applied them to the world after our students leave here and what an impact they can make if they continue to learn and serve as they are now. He also tied all that into the education they are getting at a Catholic school and hopefully made them understand just how important it is.



New members of the Thomas Moore Chapter of the National Honor Society for 2020 are: Lauren Malone, Kailey Peeks, Emma Frederick, Taylor Frederick, Ella Simon, and Maddie Stamper. Second row: Danielle Bippes, Rachel Magdanz, Lainey Ebel, and Emma Littrel. Third row: Derek Schawang, Zachary Keithley, Nicholas Keithley, and Tyler Catlin.

Pam Smith, National Honor Society sponsor for the last 13 years, welcomed priests, students, Dr. Hecker, parents and guests.

Father Jirovsky handed out certificates and pins to the new members.



## Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day



Teachers were treated to a pasta bar for lunch on Wednesday compliments of a special donor and prepared by Jana Anderson of Wooden Spoon Catering.

The National Honor Society presented each staff member with a "Sacred Heart Catholic School" mugs filled with mints and thanking them for their Commit-mint, Involve-mint, and Encourage-mint to our students!

A coffee cart arrived on Monday morning to deliver teachers and staff their choice of coffee, pop, hot tea or water and homemade cinnamon rolls.





## Grandfriends Day

One of the student's favorite days during Catholic Schools Week is the Grandfriends Day. Students and their special guest gather in the commons area for juice, coffee and muffins after attending Mass. This year grandfriends were able to choose to play games, do a craft, or read with their student. Some spent enough time to do all three!





## State Robotics Competition

Two years into our Robotics programs (sponsored by Ames Companies), Sacred Heart sent two teams to FIRST Lego League State Robotics competition held in Ashland, NE. on February 22. Sacred Heart had three of the 48 teams that competed in the district competition held in Nebraska City, The teams are coached by Erin Waller and UNL extension agent, Jami Ankrom. The teams did very well for their first state competition. Team members are already planning for next year's state competition! Click the link to see some of the action! [State Robotics video](#)



## 2020 Speech Team



The first meet of the year was the MUDECAS Speech Contest. Sacred Heart students placed in the following categories and as a team, they placed 3rd.

- 3rd Persuasive- Mackensie Nelson
- 5th Poetry- Mackensie Nelson
- 6th Serious Prose- Tyler Catlin
- 2nd Entertainment- Derek Schawang

7th Extemporaneous- Peyton Doerr  
6th Extemporaneous- Luke Schawang  
4th Humorous Prose- Del Casteel  
2nd Humorous Prose- Lauren Malone  
6th Humorous Impromptu- Luke Schawang  
5th Humorous Impromptu- Derek Schawang  
3rd Humorous Impromptu- Del Casteel  
5th Gym Teacher OID- Del Casteel, Derek Schawang, Claire Niemeyer, Evi Schock, and Jamie Stice  
6th Cat Reaper OID- Ella Simon, Taylor Frederick, Lauren Malone, Jack Fiegenger and Kyle Bauman

Team members are: Jamie Stice, Jake Hoy, Claire Niemeyer, Taylor Frederick, Emma Frederick, Mackensie Nelson, Lauren Malone, Kailey Peeks, Evi Schock, and Maddie Littrel. Second row: Jack Fiegenger, Kyle Bauman, Del Casteel, Tyler Catlin, Luke Schawang, Zachary Keithley, Peyton Doerr, Derek Schawang, Ella Simon, Nicholas Keithley, Chloe Knobbe, and Emma Littrel.

## Fifth Grade Flex Seating

Flexible seating is quite a buzz-word in education right now and all it means is providing different options for students other than the traditional desk in which to do their work. In the fifth grade classroom, we are using the flexible seating option during our day to enhance our learning experience.

Research has shown that students will do better work when they are provided opportunities to move around frequently during the school day. Sometimes that looks like the entire class taking a brain-break and doing a few jumping jacks or taking a walk down the hall to get a drink. Other times it may be moving to another part of the room to share an idea with a classmate. Finally, it may mean moving to a rocker, bean bag or standing desk to do an assignment.

Pam Smith, 5th Grade Teacher



## Grade School CSW Events

### PAJAMA DAY



Grades K-5 celebrated Monday of Catholic Schools Week with pajama day.



DRESS LIKE A NERD DAY



Tuesday's Nerd Day was a hit with students and faculty alike!

## COLOR DAY



## Pioneer Conference Band

The Nebraska Pioneer Conference Honors Band was held January 27 at Pawnee City High School with student musicians representing Pawnee City, HTRS, Johnson-Brock, Nebraska City Lourdes, and Falls City Sacred Heart. Students came together throughout the day for practice and held a concert at 7 p.m. The guest conductor was Mrs. Emiley Bond from Lincoln Christian School. The band opened the concert with the "Star-Spangled Banner" and then continued with a selection of music including "Captain America March" and selections from "The Lion King." Representing Falls

City Sacred Heart were: Back Row: Matthew Neddenriep, Emily Wertenberg, Jena Reeves, Rachel Magdanz, Lexi Pokorny, Lauren Malone, Emma Frederick, Elle Froeschl, Mackensie Nelson, and Evi Schock. Middle Row: Tyler Catlin, Jarrot Simon, Claire Niemeyer, Taylor Frederick, and Luke Schawang. Front Row: Kailey Peeks, Del Casteel, Jack Fiegenger, and Jamie Stice.



## Kindergarten Roundup Held

Kindergarten roundup was held this month with 16 students and their parents attending a one-hour session. Mrs. Ebel, Kindergarten Teacher, Principal Goltz, Cathy O'Grady and Fr. Jirovsky gave pertinent information to the families and answered questions.





## #BeTheChange

Student Council sold 840 suckers for Valentine's Day. It was their way of helping others share the love. All students in K-12 received a sucker. If a student didn't receive one, they got one from Student Council.

Student Council hosted a Valentine's Day Dance in Tiehen Gym with 44 students attending.

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STAY CONNECTED

