

St. Mary School News

St. Mary School nurtures the development of the whole child: spiritually, academically, emotionally, and socially. St. Mary School provides a strong, accessible, and rigorous Catholic education to the students of greater Grays Harbor and their families.



A Publication for Alumni, Families, and Friends of St. Mary School

Connect with SMS

One of the goals of this newsletter is to keep our alumni, family, and friends informed about St. Mary School. However, we also would love to hear from you. Here are a few ways you can connect:

- Join our Alumni and Friends Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/stmaryschoolaberdeen
- Send us updates on yourself or other SMS alums, including contact info. or news.
- Share your memorabilia: we'd love to have copies of photos, yearbooks, etc. for our archives.
- Visit the school: we are always happy to give tours and hear your memories about St. Mary School.

To talk about these or any other info., contact advancement director Pete Scroggs: (360) 580-7714 or advancement@saintmaryschool.org



Preschool sparkles after remodel

The Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten students at St. Mary School can bring a smile to any visitor's face with their enthusiasm, curiosity, and boundless energy. Now after an all-summer remodel, their classroom will mirror that happy disposition.



"It's fabulous, I love it!" says teacher Kathy Gwinn of the renovated space on the school's lower level. Contractors started the work as soon as school got out in June, and were putting finishing touches on even as classes started up again in late August. Among the major changes were a drop ceiling with all new lighting, and lots of cabinets and shelving for storage. That storage can be important since the room serves both the Preschool and the Pre-K classes. "It's user-friendly for the kids and stays more organized," says Mrs. Gwinn. "And the lighting is bright and uniform compared to dark and spotty before."

Private donations funded the remodel, and Joel Cole Construction was the general contractor. In fact, owner Joel Cole, who is also a St. Mary School parent, did much of the work himself to ensure everything got done on time.

Anyone wanting a tour of the Preschool/Pre-K room or any other part of the school may contact the school office: 360-532-1230, or office@saintmaryschool.org

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Students cherish Tuesdays with Father Steve

The lunchtime routine at St. Mary School is as dependable as clockwork: at 11:05 the primary grades march in to begin their meal; at 11:40 they head to the playground and the middle school students start their lunch; and every Tuesday students know that Father Stephen Roman will join in to encourage them, tell a few jokes or stories, and even reward them on a special occasion.

“Father Steve” as he’s known by everyone, has been serving parishioners in Grays Harbor for 22 years, and has been a regular school visitor for that entire time. “When I first came to the area, I used to come to the school four out of five days,” said Fr. Steve. Now that he is a “retired” priest, he still makes the 20-mile trip from St. Jerome Church in Ocean Shores to St. Mary School on a weekly basis.



Asked to describe his routine at the school, Fr. Steve shrugs and says, “I walk around and tease them, enjoy their antics, and laugh with them.” He also is happy to lend an ear if a student is sad or something is bothering them. And if a student is having a birthday, they know that Fr. Steve might give them one of the medals that he has blessed and carries with him for special occasions.

“Father Steve is truly an angel here on earth,” says principal Carrie Marlow, “His weekly lunchtime visits provide the children with an amazing example of faith and service in action. Father Steve has the gift of gab and a wonderful way of relating to the students and staff. We all look forward to having him here on Tuesdays!”

St. Mary “families” bring variety of ages together



By Keara Burns, 7th grade

There are many fun activities for our school, including the St Mary School “families.” The families help kids of all ages to get to know one another better and help everyone to become closer as a school. There are eight families in the school, and each family consists of a teacher and one or two students from each grade, K—8th. When families were first formed at the start of the previous school year, the families were assigned colors and then chose names. The results were: (red) firebirds, (orange) firefoxes, (yellow) champion cheetahs, green gators, blue jays, purple wolves, pink panthers, and black panthers.



To encourage kids to get more comfortable with each other they meet with their families for assemblies, Mass, and meetings. At the assemblies, the families play games and compete against each other for fun. During Mass, the older kids partner up with the younger kids in their families so the older kids can help the younger kids with what to do and how to behave. During family meetings, each family gathers together and often makes a specific art project depending on the holiday. This month, the kids’ art will be used on food baskets for families in need. During all of these activities the older kids are partnered with the younger kids to model what they are supposed to do and to help the younger kids if they need it.

Foundations grant SMS a “clean start”

St. Mary School will soon replace its 30+ year-old dishwasher with a state-of-the-art model thanks to contributions from two local foundations. The Grays Harbor Community Foundation and the Seabrook Community Foundation gave a combined \$14,000 in grants to the school to fund acquiring and installing the new dishwasher.

“We are so blessed to receive such generous support from these two foundations.” says principal Carrie Marlow, “Our community is full of so many supporters and we are eternally grateful. Once the new dishwasher is in place, we can begin to look ahead and hopefully expand the food services we provide for our students.”

The new dishwasher has arrived and will be installed during the Christmas break.



Kitchen staff Rafael Baltazar and Alejandra Leon with the new dishwasher.

Bill Reid: “A life lived helping others”

This summer, St. Mary School said goodbye to a friend, a former student, and someone whose family was literally a part of the structure of the school. William “Bill” Reid died Aug. 26, 2018, at the age of 90. Bill was born on Nov. 30, 1927, in Aberdeen, to Catherine (Hanrahan) and Lionel Reid. Bill’s father and uncle operated a construction company that built many well-known area buildings and residences, including, Aberdeen City Hall and the Aberdeen Library. Those structures have since been replaced, but in 1926 they constructed a building that has stood proudly for over 90 years - St. Mary School.

In January of this year, Bill talked with Steven Isaacson about his memories of St. Mary School and his pride in his family’s link to the school. “The fact that the building stands strong today is a testament to their work,” Bill said.

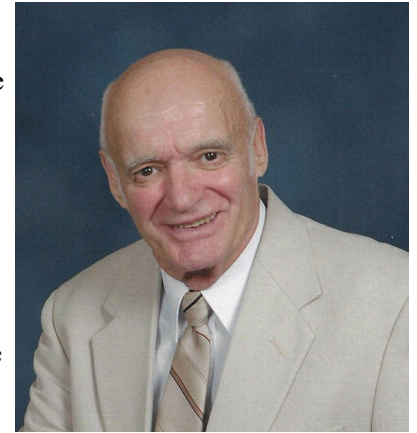
Bill also had fond memories of his time as a student at SMS: “When I attended St. Mary’s, all the teachers were nuns and there were three parish priests. My favorite teacher was Sister Agnes Mary and my favorite subject was English. She was a very good teacher and made English very interesting and memorable.”

Although the exterior of the school stands much the same as it did in 1926, the same cannot be said of the surrounding neighborhood. “In those days, houses lined North G Street surrounding the school,” Bill remembered. “The playground was to the South side of the building and an alley was the borderline; that was it. For overflow, the nuns allowed us to play football in East 5th Street. We wrapped up newspapers, bound them, and that was our football.”

Bill remembered his time at St. Mary School as “faith-filled and fun-filled.” He also said he was fortunate to attend at the same time as kids from a lot of strong families, including the Brennans, the Hulberts, the Hannulas, the Furths and the Strands. He said, “Many of my lifelong friendships began at St. Mary’s.”

Bill graduated from SMS in 1942, but he kept that “faith-filled and

fun-filled” attitude and spent much of his life serving others. He enlisted in the Navy during his senior year at Aberdeen High School and after completing that service, finished high school and studied at Grays Harbor College before being drafted by the Army and serving in Korea. He was rightly proud of his service in two military branches.



Another area of life in which Bill served others was providing support and counseling for those dealing with alcohol addiction. After he successfully completed alcohol addiction treatment himself, Bill worked as a chemical dependency counselor at the Care Unit and successor organizations. He also remained active in Alcoholics Anonymous for over 40 years, helping countless Harborites through their addiction struggles. Bill was also involved with a number of local charities, serving quietly without expectation of acknowledgement.

Throughout his life, St. Mary School seemed to hold a special place in Bill’s heart. Family friend Gail Quigg said, “Bill was a loyal supporter of St. Mary School, never wavering, despite many challenges through the years. Selfless service defined his life; he could always be counted on. And, he voiced his unabashed enthusiasm for the school throughout our faith community and beyond.” Bill supported the school’s recent endowment campaign and inspired many younger alums with his attendance at the campaign’s first fundraising event this past March.

Gail Quigg summed things up this way: “Bill will be so missed. But he left behind a beautiful legacy of a life lived helping others. Rest in Christ’s Peace, dear Bill...”



St. Mary School Class of 1942—Bill Reid is in the center of the front row.

Students serve at Mass

The St. Mary School motto of “Faith, Service, Knowledge” is brought to life each Wednesday at the school Mass. On average, 17 students take part in the Mass as altar servers, ushers, readers, gift bearers, and choir members. By participating in the Mass, students have an opportunity to deepen their *faith*, gain *knowledge* about the elements of the Mass, and provide valuable *service* to the other students, faculty, and community members in attendance.



Secure the Future



St. Mary School Endowment Campaign

Endowment campaign successful

“A wonderful start” is how organizers are describing the effort to create a permanent endowment fund for St. Mary School. In just over a year’s time, donors made pledges of approximately \$4.5 million. As the pledges are paid, the funds will be invested and approximately 4% - 5% in earnings per year will be available to help balance the school’s budget. With “Secure the Future” as the campaign motto, a committee of

volunteers set out to educate alumni, parishioners, and other school supporters about the need for a stable income source as the cost to provide a faith-based education increases and local families’ ability to afford tuition struggles to keep up. The initial income will help provide scholarships and tuition assistance. Eventually, supporters hope to build the endowment up to the \$8-\$10 million range, which will help maintain the 90+ year-old school building, allow for competitive teacher salaries, and new programs. A celebration of the endowment campaign’s success is planned for the school’s SPIRIT Auction in April. Anyone seeking information on the endowment can contact advancement director Pete Scroggs at 360-580-7714, or advancement@saintmaryschool.org



Teacher Feature

SMS welcomes Richard Villar to middle school faculty

Longtime North Beach educator Richard Villar joined the St. Mary School family this Fall as one of three middle school teachers. He replaces Carrie Marlow who is the new school principal. We asked Mr. Villar to share his background and goals.

Tell us about yourself both as a teacher and a person.

I was born almost fifty years ago in San Francisco, California. I'm the oldest child, having two younger brothers and a sister. Soon after completing high school I joined the U.S. Coast Guard and was very lucky to get stationed on the polar class icebreaker *Polar Star*. To my delight I've visited numerous countries all over the world and have been to the Arctic and Antarctic several times. After the Coast Guard, I earned my Associates Degree from Grays Harbor College and then transferred to Western Washington University. While there, I met my future wife Lisa, now my bride of twenty-one years. I graduated from college with a Bachelors in Fine Art and my K-8 Teaching Certificate.

After college, Lisa and I began teaching in the North Beach School District. During our long tenure at North Beach, Lisa and I became the proud parents of our two boys, Vincent and Trino. Our sons are our pride and joy! We built a new house in Pacific Beach, coached numerous sports and have attended Copalis Community Church for over twenty-three years. Currently, I'm an elder on our church board. Some of my hobbies include fishing and crabbing in the ocean on a kayak, riding motorcycles, target shooting, drawing and painting. I'm currently working on supplementing my income creating art with motorcycles in mind. With all the above being said, my absolute favorite time is just sitting on the porch with my wife, drinking a hot cup of coffee watching the boys shoot basketball on a lazy Saturday morning. It's the simple pleasures that are the best!

What brought you to SMS and what is your impression so far?

After teaching for sixteen years at North Beach, Lisa and I began exploring the idea of making a career change. Vincent was getting ready to enter middle school and it was a priority to find a school that would challenge both of our boys academically and behaviorally. We visited

the Saint Mary School Science Fair night and were very impressed by what we observed. I also asked a few random Saint Mary students how they liked their school. The replies I received were very encouraging. Soon after Lisa applied for a job and God answered our prayers. Lisa took the job (as Kindergarten teacher) and we enrolled both our boys in Saint Mary School and have never looked back. God continued to answer prayer by the sale of our house which allowed us to move closer to Saint Mary School. A year later another position opened up and I applied. The rest is history. The boys, Lisa and I couldn't be happier to be here. To know that my children are receiving a quality, well-rounded, faith-based education makes me sleep good at night.

What are your goals for this year and beyond?

Some short-term goals are getting up to speed with the "ins and outs" of working at a new school with a new staff. I'm the "new guy" and have to start from scratch building relationships and earning the students', parents' and staff's respect. I'm having to acquaint myself with new curriculum and familiarize myself with many new systems. Long-term I will continue to focus on my job as a husband and father. I will continue to be active at my church and community as well as build a new house for my family to live in. Professionally, I'll be looking for ways to improve our school's ability to service our community.

God calls Christians to spread His light, something Grays Harbor and Aberdeen could use in abundance during these very trying times. I would like to help SMS come up with some new and creative ways to continue our tradition of being a light in this community. Jesus calls on His people to look different than the rest of the world. In other words, we are commanded to be a light or a lamp for God: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Mathew 5:14-16)

Go Lions & God Bless!

*The Jimenez-Cisneros family***Longtime SMS family helps others feel welcome**

One of the challenges new families face at any school, including SMS, is getting familiar with a new environment. For students, this can mean making new friends and adapting to school day routines. For parents, it can be trying to deal with paperwork, financial hurdles, and even a language barrier. SMS parents Isabel Cisneros and her husband Teodoro “Ted” Jimenez remember when they were the newcomers and now go out of their way to help families learn the ropes and feel like part of the St. Mary School family.

Thinking back to when their oldest child Jacqueline started at SMS in 2001, Isabel says, “I didn’t know much English yet, so it was a little difficult the first couple of years. “Now I see many new families and I wish I could be here every day to help them.” In reality, Isabel already devotes much of her time to helping families adapt, both as a parent volunteer at the school and in her full-time job as Pastoral Assistant for Hispanic Ministry at St. Mary Church. She and Ted are a resource for both the Hispanic and Anglo communities at the church and school, not only because of their bilingual abilities but because they are involved with both groups and often help bridge the cultural gap.



After 17 years at St. Mary School (and with six more still to come), Ted and Isabel have more longevity with SMS than most of the teaching staff, not to mention other families. They have guided two students through SMS and have two “in-progress.” Jacqueline is

now 22 and working in the health insurance industry; Dante graduated from SMS last spring and is a freshman at Aberdeen High School; Brandon is in 5th grade; and Emmanuel is a 3rd grader.

Although they have seen many changes during their tenure at St. Mary School, Isabel and Ted are clear about the reasons that they chose SMS for their children’s education. “I want them to learn the Catholic way, I want them to be good Christians, and I know they will receive a better education here,” Ted says. Asked what benefits they have seen from their two oldest children’s experience at SMS, Isabel says, “Jackie grew up at this school being confident, with good values. I saw Dante growing up here being able to be himself. He could be the kid that would embrace everyone as a group during tough times.” She adds that she



already is noticing Brandon and Mani developing that same confidence. One of the specific activities both parents cite in their kids’ development is the Drama Club. Jackie, Dante, and Brandon have all been involved in the annual drama productions, and Mani will start this year.

Both Ted and Isabel are quick to mention the teaching staff as another big reason students have success at SMS. “They’re involved with parents more.” Ted says, “We don’t have to wait for conferences to know how our kids are doing.” Isabel adds with a smile, “They work hard for each student, even if the kid is giving them headaches.”

Even with good teachers, all parents know there will be bumps in the road. Isabel remembers that when Jackie was in 7th grade she wanted to move to public school. They convinced her to stay at SMS but the request came again before her 8th grade year. “I told her ‘you have been at St. Mary your whole life, you need to stay and harvest what you have planted.’ She stayed and was Student Council president and graduated with high honors.”

Another potential roadblock for some families considering Catholic school is the cost of tuition. Ted and Isabel say that when they hear this concern, they try to explain to families that SMS has multiple sources of tuition assistance and that the school will work with them to overcome the challenge. Ted says that when Jackie was their only child, they paid full tuition. Then he adds, “But when we needed scholarships, we always received the help we needed.”

In summing up their experience at St. Mary School, Isabel remembers a conversation she had with someone from outside Grays Harbor. When the subject of SMS came up, the person said they had heard of the school, and said its reputation was that of a tight-knit community. As a confirmation of this, Isabel smiles and says, “We’re all family.”



A Message From Mrs. Marlow

Dear St. Mary School Community and Supporters,

The 2018-2019 school year is off to a fantastic start! Our school community dove into the new year with much to celebrate and feel thankful for. Over the course of the summer we successfully completed the Capital Campaign and secured the future of St. Mary School for generations to come, and thanks to generous donors, we were able to remodel the Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten classroom and update the one to one technology for our middle schoolers. In addition, we added two new staff members, Richard Villar, middle school teacher, and Rachel Bowen, 2nd/3rd grade instructional aide.

At Move in Night we welcomed 159 students and 106 families into St. Mary School. There was much excitement in the air and many parents were gathered around the parent volunteer tables as the children sought out their classrooms, teachers, and friends. New families were orientated to our school and our 49 middle schoolers chose lockers and received their class schedules. The first day of school brought crisp, new uniforms, many smiles, and 20 pre-kindergarteners with buckets in hand. We thanked God for the opportunity to be St. Mary Lions and asked Mary to pray for us as we embarked on a new school year.

Now, at ten weeks into the school year, the energy is still high and St. Mary Lion spirit fills the halls. Students are enjoying programs and activities, such as Robotics Club, the community garden, Rosary Club, Sea Lions, Spanish classes, and new middle school electives. As I make my daily walks through the classrooms, I see students engaging in partner work in Kindergarten, making predictions in science class, practicing meditation in Religion class, and utilizing math skills through the use of games and technology.

As we continue our way through the school year and work to cultivate Christian role models, life-long learners, and responsible citizens, I thank you for your support and prayers. I feel blessed to work with an amazingly dedicated staff, to partner in student education with wonderful parents and families, and to have been given the gift of St. Mary School in my life. May God be with us as we navigate the many celebrations and challenges that a school year can bring and may God bless us all abundantly.

Together in Christ,

Carrie Marlow

St. Mary School Principal

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Donations and memorial gifts, June 1 - October 15, 2018

Donations below do not include those to the "Secure the Future" endowment campaign, which will be acknowledged at a later date.

Memorials

In Memory of Catherine Mackey

Oliver and J'Neil Mackey

In Memory of William Reid

Patricia Brown

George and Suzanne Donovan

Thomas and Donna Galvin

Mary Halverson

Charles and Mary Isaacson

Thomas and Linda Isaacson

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