

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

Mary Drake: The Face and Heart of St. Mary School

The St. Mary School community bid farewell recently to Mary Drake, who for many years was the face of SMS and many would say, the heart as well.

Mary passed away on January 20, 2024 at the age of 89. Her funeral Mass was held on February 23, which would have been her 90th birthday. A large cross section of family, parishioners, SMS alumni, and community members came to share memories and prayers. The reception in the parish center featured many photos and memorabilia from Mary's time at SMS as well as balloons and birthday cake.

For over 30 years, students, parents, and staff knew "Mrs. Drake" not just as the school secretary, but as the person who dispensed Band-Aids, words of encouragement, or a smile and a hug, depending on what was needed.

Mary Alviar Drake (Mary May as she was known to her childhood friends) was raised in Aberdeen and graduated from St. Mary School in 1948. While attending St Mary she made many life-long friends including Mary Byrne Amundsen, her brother, Pat Byrne, Jim Brennan, and Pat Hughes, to name a few. One story Mary liked to tell was how she credited her love of reading to her first-grade teacher, Sr. Pauline, who had an extensive library where she was allowed to check out as many books as she could read.

Mary started working for St. Mary School as a teacher's aide in 1965. A few years later she was asked to take over the role of school secretary, a job she loved and where she stayed until her retirement in 1999. Mary's daughter Pamela Drake Baer remembers that "There wasn't a day that went by where Mom didn't say 'I had the best job in

the world!'" We could be at Safeway in Aberdeen or Costco in Olympia, or anywhere really, and we'd frequently run into a former student who remembered Mom, hugged her, showered her with compliments about how much she meant to them, and asked if they could take a photo with her."

Pamela also shared that after Mary passed away, she and her siblings Debra Drake

Windell and Warren Drake Jr. received numerous cards of condolences with heartfelt messages. Some of these included: "She will never be forgotten and will go down in history as St. Mary's mother." "I was so proud to have worked with her at St. Mary's... She was not only the secretary but a good friend. She was one of those angels on earth, now she is an angel in heaven." "Your mom



A front-page photo from The Daily World newspaper shows Mary Drake with students at the time of her retirement from SMS in 1999.

Continued on page 6

Reading Night a “Seusstastical” Success

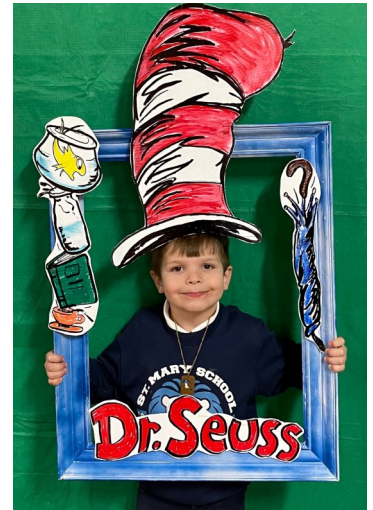
St. Mary School usually welcomes prospective families each spring with an open house held alongside a school event, such as an art or science fair. This year, however, SMS staff decided to elevate the experience with a whimsical Dr. Seuss-themed family event. The “Seusstastical Family Reading Night & Open House” took place on March 5th, transforming the entire school building into a colorful celebration of reading and community.

Teachers throughout the school prepared a variety of engaging art, craft, and STEM activities in their classrooms. The auditorium became a hub of excitement with a “Cat In the Hat” photo booth, treat bag giveaways, and a highly popular ice cream sundae bar. Meanwhile, the school library hosted a Dr. Seuss story time featuring guest readers Katie Waltz from Timberland Regional Library and Sawyer Rhoden from the Aberdeen Police Department.

The event drew dozens of current SMS students, who eagerly participated in as many activities as they could, creating a lively, carnival-like atmosphere. Groups of friends could be seen roaming the halls, enjoying the festive ambiance and each other’s company.

Several prospective families also attended the event, taking the opportunity to tour the school and converse with current families about the benefits of a St. Mary School education. The positive experiences shared during the evening led to many of these families enrolling their children for the 2024-25 school year.

“Our faculty had a constructive conversation about how to hold our annual Open House event without the pressure on teachers and the classroom time to produce student work for display,” said teacher and event chair Lisa Villar. “This resulted in an educationally themed family experience that was fun to plan, prepare, and participate in for all involved. Teachers already have the desire and enthusiasm to do something like this again!”



SMS student Ben Bold in the Dr. Seuss Photo Booth



SMS faculty members prepare to welcome families at the Seusstastical Reading Night and Open House

School Snapshots



▲ SMS graduating class of 2024. Back row: Angel Vega, Fritz Bold, Brandon Mooney. Middle row: Mani Jimenez, Linnea Brueher, Liv Woodbeck-Hunt. Front row: Rigo Lemus-Garcia, Gabby Orona. Not pictured: Coady Johnson

SMS Boys ►
4th—6th grade
basketball team



◀ Cinco de Mayo dancers with Fr. Marcus Villanueva (see story on page 5)

Help Needed Finding Alumni & Friends for 100 Year Anniversary

In just over two years, we hope to gather hundreds of current and former students, staff, parishioners, and community members to celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Mary School. A steering committee has been meeting regularly to plan this momentous occasion and has laid out a preliminary framework for the event.

When: Saturday, September 19, 2026 (with additional events possibly on September 18 or 20)

Where: St. Mary School and St. Mary Church, both indoors and outdoors

What to Expect: The festivities will begin with a special Mass at St. Mary Church, celebrated by the archbishop and/or one of the auxiliary bishops. Following the Mass, activities will shift to the school, featuring:

Inside: School tours, memorabilia displays, entertainment by current students, a presentation on school history, and "school lunch" in the cafeteria

Outside: kid-friendly games, burgers and hot dogs, and a tent on the playground to ensure fun regardless of the weather.

Additionally, there are discussions about hosting an evening gala dinner at the school, complete with gourmet food and a special program.

While there is ample time to refine our plans, one urgent task is to reconnect with past students, staff members, parishioners, and anyone else associated with St. Mary School. **We are asking anyone connected with the school, even those already on our mailing list, to fill out a short form about your connection to SMS and the time frame.** There are a couple of simple ways to do this:

Scan the QR code at right, or go to <https://tinyurl.com/SMS-100> to complete an online form. Or fill out the form below and mail it to the school. **Please note that your information will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone outside St. Mary School.**



We are also forming committees to help with food, activities, and other aspects of the event. If you're interested in getting involved, please let us know through the form.

St. Mary School 100 Year Anniversary Mailing List

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address _____

City, St, Zip _____

Please list your connection(s) to St. Mary School and (approximate) years if known

☐ Alumnus—Graduation Year: _____ ☐ Family of alumnus—Grad Yr _____

☐ School Faculty/Staff—Position(s) _____ Approx. Years _____

☐ Clergy / Parish Staff—Positions(s) _____ Approx. Years _____

☐ Parishioner / Community Member _____ Approx. Years _____

List any questions you have about the celebration or let us know if you would like to help with planning and/or locating people: _____

Please mail completed form to St. Mary School, 518 North H ST, Aberdeen, WA 98520



A Message From Mrs. Marlow

Greetings St. Mary School Community and Supporters!

“Let all that you do be done in love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14

Each school morning the staff, students, and I gather together in the auditorium for Morning Meeting. This daily gathering brings us together in prayer, purpose and community. The meeting serves as our daily reminder to love Jesus and love one another. Each school year is guaranteed to be filled with many successes and challenges and this year has been no different. However, we have worked together to traverse it all with faith, hope, and, above all, love. As I reflect on the year behind us, I think we were successful. God’s love can be found in even the trials. If we only look for it and lead with it.

This edition of the St. Mary School newsletter is filled with the good news of a school year well spent. We were able to accomplish much, including strong student participation and achievement in academics, service and extra-curricular activities; the offerings of many community-building events for families; and a great deal of time spent on our Accreditation Self Study and new Strategic Plan, reflecting on the current status of the school and intentionally and strategically planning for the future. As we look to the future and our 100th anniversary celebration in 2026, we feel a renewed strength in God’s love and a firmness in the foundation upon which St. Mary School was built.

Thank you for your many prayers. You are our community, and we are grateful for your love and support. St. Mary School exists to serve and make God’s love known; to be a safe and secure haven full of faith-filled learning. Thank you for helping us continue the mission of Catholic education in Grays Harbor!

May you have a blessed Summer!

Together in Christ,

Carrie Marlow

Carrie Marlow
School Principal

Crab Feed Fundraiser a “Clawesome” Time for All

St. Mary School added a new event to its repertoire this February with a lively and successful crab feed fundraiser at the St. Mary Parish Center. The event, which lasted four hours, raised over \$13,000. The funds were earmarked for purchasing new technology items for the school and establishing an enrichment fund to support future activities and events at SMS.

The fundraiser drew a crowd of approximately 250 attendees over the course of the afternoon, including school families, alumni, and community members. The highlight of the evening was the fresh Dungeness crab, generously donated by Mark and Holly Rydman, and steamed to perfection by a team of parents and students. The meal also included pasta, garlic bread, salad, and an optional dessert of bread pudding, donated by Galway Bay Restaurant.

The idea for the crab feed originated from the community of SMS families involved in the local fishing industry. SMS parents Molly Bold and Erin DenAdel co-chaired the event and brought a fresh batch of ideas to make the event enjoyable, as well as to maximize the money raised.



Fr. Marcos, Fr. Jim, and Fr. Navy enjoy their meal at the SMS Crab Feed

The afternoon featured several special touches that made it memorable for all who attended.

Guests were first treated to a signature drink and shrimp cocktail upon arrival. A 50/50 raffle added excitement to the night, and a technology “fund-an-item” board allowed attendees to contribute directly to specific needs of the school. Throughout the event, several speakers also gave brief remarks about the significance of St. Mary School in their lives.

The success of the event was further amplified by the support of twenty different businesses and individuals who purchased table sponsorships. If there was one challenge during the event, it was that people came early and stayed late, enjoying both the food and the company. This created a bit of a bottleneck for table space at times but guests were patient and volunteers worked hard to accommodate everyone.

In the end, organizers were amazed at how smoothly things went for a first-time event, and began speculating about the possibility of holding the crab feed every year or two.

“The generosity of the donors and the hard work of the volunteers made this a great event for everyone,” said Advancement Director Pete Scroggs, “Hopefully we can do it again in the future.”



SMS students Fritz Bold, Coady Johnson, and Parker Hollingsworth and parent Dustin Johnson prepped hundreds of pounds of fresh crab.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration Returns with Food and Festive Dancing

After a five-year absence, the sound of festive Mexican folk music filled the auditorium at St. Mary School as the school community celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a dinner and dance performance in early May. The joyous event marked the return of a beloved tradition, much to the delight of SMS families.

Approximately 25 student dancers, ranging from kindergarten through 7th grade, took part in the celebration. They performed traditional Mexican folk dances, showcasing their impressive skills and vibrant costumes. The auditorium was filled to capacity as parents, teachers, and community members gathered to enjoy the evening.

“The children put their all into the performances, and the show was fantastic!” said SMS Hospitality Coordinator Maria Boling. “Their faces were beaming with joy after each dance, and it made my heart feel so big!”

In addition to the dancing, the celebration featured an array of delicious food prepared by a host of SMS parent volunteers. Another highlight of the evening was the

appearance of Fr. Marcos Villanueva, the beloved priest of the local Spanish-speaking Catholic community, who donned a traditional black “Charro” suit, adding an authentic touch to the celebration. (see photo on page 2)

Isabel Cisneros and Ted Jimenez, who have been parents at SMS for the past 24 years, served as program coordinators and hosts. They taught the students to dance, ensured the costumes were ready, and oversaw a team of volunteers. The event held special significance for Isabel and Ted, as it marked the graduation year of their youngest son, Mani.

“Isabel and Ted have been a key part of Cinco de Mayo for many years,” said Maria Boling. “It’s great that they were able to have such a successful event for their last hurrah!”



Isabel Cisneros and Ted Jimenez

Remembering Mary Drake (continued from page 1)

was a legend here at St Mary School and her scholarships helped more than you will know.” “Kind, loving, gracious, welcoming, the heartbeat of St. Mary’s.”

When Mary retired in 1999, the Daily World newspaper featured her in a front-page article. They referred to her as the “mom away from home, sliver-puller, wiper of tears, finder of lost lunches.” Pamela recalls that “She shared stories (but never names) of how students would come in to talk with her because she made them feel comfortable and safe.”

SMS alum Robert Harpster said, “Mary Drake’s loving heart and genuine care for each and every student embodied the Catholic values that St. Mary School stands for. And the reason why so many of us past students have such beautiful memories of Mary and our years at SMS!”

Upon Mary’s retirement, St. Mary School created “The Mary Drake Scholarship Fund” as a way to honor Mary’s dedication to the school and its students, and to help future students afford a Catholic education. Every two years since then, at the SMS Spirit Auction, a “paddle raise” has taken place with all donations going to The Mary Drake Scholarship Fund. These donations are then used over the following two years to provide scholarships for students and families who need them. Although records are not precise, it’s estimated that since its inception, the fund has distributed close to a million

dollars in scholarship money .

Pamela said of her mom, “When the school decided to start the Mary Drake Scholarship Fund, she never dreamed in a million years how much money would be donated to this fund. She attended every auction (we watched online during the pandemic), she always received a standing ovation, and was always so humbled, and often teary-eyed. Teary-eyed at the realization of how many students might be a recipient of a Catholic education in her name.”

Current SMS Principal Carrie Marlow summed up many people’s feelings: “Mary was an incredible person and the light of Christ shone through her smile.”



Mary Drake last year with the Christmas wreath she received from St. Mary School.

Donations and memorial gifts, December 1, 2023 to June 15, 2024

In Memory of Mary Drake

Jennifer and Robert Allen
Richard and Belen Alviar
John and Pat Ancich
Anne Arnold
Colleen Harpster Atwood
Virginia Aube
Pamela Drake Baer
Suzanne Billings-Ryan
Barbara Bogdanovich
Jeannine Bramstedt
Gretchen Brennan
Theresa and Dick Brumley
Kay and David Busz
Jim and Tammy Celich
Paul and Donna Cook
Patricia Cornelius
Debra Cotter
Rosanne and Carl Cundari
George and Suzy Donovan
Jason Driver and Anne Estabrook Driver
Michael Dudley

Barbara and Ray Ericks
Sandra Felton
Norman and Bette Fosburg
Karmen Franko
Rena Gegen
Jody Gerber
Jeff and Sharon Guddat
Theresa Hartsoch
Michael Hatley
deCourcy Hoder
Ron and Sherry Hulscher
Peter and Jennifer Isaacson
Tom & Linda Isaacson
Charles Isaacson
Patricia King
Charles & Barbara Laier
Oliver and J'Neil Mackey
Cheryl Melville
Angela Messmer
Gary Morean
Darlene Norkoski
Joseph Novak

Deanne Pascoe
Mike and Mary Ann Quigg
John & Gail Quigg
Mike & Susan Randich
Nancy and David Rathbun
Joanne and Greg Reynvaan
Pam and Jerry Ritter
Charlene Salmi
Bob and Skooter Scherieble
Sherry Schmalz
Pete and Kristin Scroggs
Ann Scroggs
Susan Sliva
Leslie and Bruce Stephens
Vicki Turner
Mary and Peter Wikstrom
Donald & Sandra Windell
Ken Windell
Rise Windell
Robert Windell
Bruce and Bette Worth
Joanna Young

Donations and memorial gifts (continued from page 6)

In Memory/Honor

In Honor of Mike Cundari

Rosanne and Carl Cundari

In Honor of Sister Angela McCarthy

Bill Hundley and Kay Purcell

In Honor of Gail Quigg

Joanne and David Burdick

Joseph Berardino

In Memory of Linda Arthur

Tom & Linda Isaacson

Sherry Schmalz

In Memory of Fern Backholm

John & Gail Quigg

In Memory of Stephanie Shaw Barusso

Charles Isaacson

In Memory of Kaye Bickford

John & Gail Quigg

In Memory of Ted Bruener III

Jody Gerber

Debra Cotter

In Memory of Jim Butler

Steven Isaacson

In Memory of Tony and

Marianne Cemelich

Julie Cemelich

In Memory of Betty Courcy

Angela Messmer

In Memory of Betty and Philip Courcy

Kathi Hoder

In Memory of Frank Cundari

Mike and Gilda Cundari

Carl Cundari

In Memory of Michael Descher

John & Patsy Hughes

John & Gail Quigg

In Memory of Victor and Elizabeth Druzianich

Druzianich Family Foundation

In Memory of Don and Ruth Fisher

Donna Fisher

In Memory of Jeff Gehrke

Pat and Kitty O'Connor

In Memory of Mary Ellen Hughes

Ann Scroggs

John & Gail Quigg

Mike and Mary Ann Quigg

Pete and Kristin Scroggs

In Memory of Tim Hubble

Terry & Patricia Hubble

In Memory of Mary D Isaacson

Rosemarie Majeski

Gary Morean

Paul McCarthy

Al and Patty Halverson

George and Suzy Donovan

Michael and Janet Erickson

John and Jean Larson

Jim and Glenda Donovan

Diana Franich

Helen Donovan

Fred Hulbert

Oliver and J'Neil Mackey

In Memory of Mary D Isaacson (cont'd)

Andrew and Maureen Ancich

Robert Erickson

Sally and Michael Barnes

Charles Isaacson

Bill and Carol Quigg

Ron and Sherry Hulscher

Robert and Susan Peck

Carl Rohsenberger

Bob and Patty Ruecker

Tom & Linda Isaacson

Jody Gerber

Debra Cotter

Kathy Quigg Ewen

Peter and Jennifer Isaacson

In Memory of Dee Kirkwood

Kitty O'Connor

In Memory of Catherine Mackey

Oliver and J'Neil Mackey

In Memory of Frances Malinowski

Jeffrey Hawes and Lisa Reynvaan-Hawes

In Memory of Walter and

June Meldrich

Patrick Meldrich

In Memory of Charles Nichols

Angela Messmer

In Memory of Anna Belle Pavletich

Mardella Lower

In Memory of Deanne Pascoe and

Sally Jo Pascoe

Mike and Jay Kilwein

Rosemarie Majeski

In Memory of Deanne Pascoe

Gary Piercey

Carol Beyer

Timothy and Melinda Larson

Dawn and Timothy Kuhn

Kay and Terry Soddors

Joanne and Greg Reynvaan

Michael Shevham and Mary Jo Ward

Carrie Snell

Pamela Drake Baer

Kim, Larry, and Jake Reese

In Memory of Jack Richardson

Jane McCrimmon

Glenn Potts

Mary and Peter Wikstrom

In Memory of Marian Russell

Theresa Hartsoch

Charles & Barbara Laier

Helen Russell Teague

Colleen Harpster Atwood

Swanson's Foods, Inc.

Ron Giuntoli

Joe and Beth Pavletich

Richard & Connie Rosentangle

Donn & Annette Pinckney

Connie Chicano

Steven Isaacson

Pam and Jerry Ritter

Peter and Jennifer Isaacson

Bruno and Debi Pieraccini

In Memory of Marian Russell (cont'd)

Oliver and J'Neil Mackey

Rosalie Teague

David and Cheryl Scure

Leslie and Bruce Stephens

Sharon Agard

Suzanne Billings-Ryan

Mary Ann Halvarson

In Memory of Lois Schulte

John & Gail Quigg

In Memory of Richard Scroggs

Sally Palmer

In Memory of JoAnn Zawislak Shaffner

Mary Ann Halvarson

In Memory of Irene Stipic

Sherry Crocker

In Memory of Larry Villa

Greg and Norma Miller

In Memory of Marilyn Wiggins

Bill and Carol Quigg

In Memory of Steve Woodland

The O'Connor Family

Designated Donations

Mary Drake Scholarship Fund

Austin Hanson

Gretchen Brennan

St. Mary Scholarship Fund

Kathryn Postma

Patrick and Kathleen Quigg

St. Mary Teacher Fund

Pete and Kristin Scroggs

SMS Summer School Program

Patrick and Kathleen Quigg

Unrestricted Donations

Angel Allas

Sally and Michael Barnes

Anita Basich

Suzanne Billings-Ryan

Tom and Beverly Brown

Kathleen Brown

Joe and Kathy Budde

Mike and Gilda Cundari

Erin DenAdel

Barbara Dewees Dobbin

George and Suzy Donovan

Dominick and Aurora Driano

Eaton Charitable Fund

Kathy Quigg Ewen

Catherine Foster

Jody Gerber

Alan and Gail Gozart

Mary Isaacson Green

Al and Patty Halverson

Suzanne and Stephen Hierholzer

Interstate Honda

Ron and Sherry Hulscher

Mary Ann & Hans Ingold

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We apologize for any errors in names and/or addresses. Please send corrections or unsubscribe requests to the address above.

Donations and memorial gifts (continued from page 7)

Unrestricted Donations (cont'd)

Peter and Jennifer Isaacson
Dick and Judy Isaacson
Charles Isaacson
Elizabeth Isaacson
Tom LaForest
Paul and Karin Larson
Ralph and Susan Larson
Logue's Lodgings
Mary Maclean
Tim Martin
Daniel Mayr
Fr. Jim Mylet
Kitty O'Connor
Glenn Potts
Tom Quigg and Pat Oleachea
John & Gail Quigg
Bruce & Teresa Sherman
Mike and Bebe Silvey
Eddie and Roma Smith
David Soike
Sharon Swift

Gerald Thompson
Sandra Tometich
Barbara Trohimovich
Martha Vaughan
Jacqueline Veneziani
James Vosper
Mike and Lorrie Walsh
Carol & Don Waxman
Robert Wiggins
Jill and Patrick Wilson
Dr. Greg May and
Dr. Anne Marie Wong

Considering a gift? St. Mary School has gift opportunities to support student scholarships, technology, teacher compensation, our endowment, and more. For more info. contact Pete Scroggs: 360-580-7714 or advancement@saintmaryschool.org



St. Mary School 1st grade class of 1947



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