

SMS SCOOP

www.schoolofstmary.org

The School News

Issue One, 2023

MR. DOLAN INTERVIEW

Written By: Donnacha McEwen



Recently I had the chance to interview one of our new teachers, Mr. Dolan, and here is what he said. I asked him what he was doing before he came to teach at St. Mary's. He said he was a teacher in a Special Ed department at Fremd High School for one semester. He loves the opportunity to teach Social Studies and is settling in well with all the teachers. Mr. Dolan was a fan of Social Studies when he was in school. He said his dad used to read him Greek mythologies and got him interested in Social Studies. He studied classical Greek in college and majored in American history. Mr. Dolan used to like Greek history but then he started to prefer American history more. I asked him if the school of St. Mary's was his dream school, he said that it is my first school he's taught in, so no answer. He liked to play board games as a kid, and he liked rock climbing, fencing, and wrestling in high school as well as a pole vaulter. He has no pets and he lives in Glencoe, Illinois.

PEP RALLY & HOMECOMING

Written By: Alex Cook and Andrew Fanning

Everybody had a great time at this year's pep rally! The weather was perfect and the event was held outside in the Green Bay parking lot. Chase Hawkins and Mrs. Pacheco organized some fun games and activities, and the cheerleaders put on an amazing performance!

Alex Cook asked the 4-7 grade football team a variety of questions and he got some great answers. He asked them what inspired them all to play for a football team and most of them answered because of a famous football player but most of them said that Justin Herbert inspired them. They said they started football 4 years ago and they just thought their love for the game grew and grew.

Mrs. Thompson was also interviewed at the Homecoming Pep Rally.

Alex said that interviewing Mrs. Thompson was a great experience and that she was the most enthusiastic and best listener ever. He asked her what inspired her to become principal. She said that watching all the kids grow from a young age to a young adult.

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH

Written By: William Janos

During this trimester each religion class and grade has been planning masses and rosaries to allow prayer to be incorporated in our schedules. Every Tuesday since the beginning of the year, our students have planned masses attended by the entire UGC. We have also started rosaries since the first Friday of the month, because October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The first school mass this year, which was attended by all our students, was hosted by our 8th Grade students and celebrated by Fr. Radley. In each mass the students are required to read and write an introduction for before mass, read the readings for the mass, say the petitions, and say a closing at the end of the mass. The welcome usually includes information about the feast of the day. In addition to this opportunities in the classroom and in other spaces at school have helped students grow in their faith.



Senora Arrieta Interview

BY: DIANE CHANG

I interviewed our new Spanish teacher, Senora Arrieta, to learn more about her and her life. What I learned was very interesting. Below are my questions and her answers.

1. Have you taught at another school other than St. Mary's? Where?

-Yes. I have previously taught at a high school.

1. What are a few things about St. Mary's that made you want to work here?

-It's a Christian school and I went to a Catholic school growing up.

1. Why did you want to teach Spanish?

-I am a native speaker.

1. Have you taught other subjects?

-I have also taught psychology at a high school and have also been a counselor

1. What are your hobbies?

-I like watching football. I garden a lot and I horseback ride a lot. I have 2 horses.

1. Are you married?

-Yes

1. Do you have any children?

-Yes. I have four.

1. Do you have any pets?

-Yes. I have 2 dogs.

MS. MO & MRS. SWANSON INTERVIEW

BY: ANDREW FANNING

I interviewed Ms. Mo and I asked her a variety of questions. I learned that she doesn't have any pets, likes to read, and gets together with her friends. She also likes to do crafts and loves to travel, but can't do that everyday. After asking Ms. Mo about her experience with teaching, I learned what inspired her to come back from retirement and start teaching again. She told me that the reason she came back was because she was talking with her friend, Mrs. Swanson and Mrs. Swanson was telling her about having a great year last year at St. Mary's. Because they were both interested in working here but didn't want to teach full time, they decided it would be great if they could share the job, to which Mrs. Thompson agreed. Previously, Ms. Mo worked at Warren Township High School and had been teaching for 33 years before she decided to come to St. Mary's. The first challenge she encountered was that, having taught high school students, she wasn't accustomed to working with younger students and so had to make the necessary adjustments. When I asked Ms. Mo how she feels when her students are succeeding, she replied that she thinks she only played a small part and that is mostly the result of their hard work. Ms. Mo also noted that all that she has experienced in teaching, she is happy about the impact she has made and wouldn't change anything about her teaching methods.

I also interviewed Mrs. Swanson and asked her a variety of questions. I learned that she always planned on subbing math a few days a semester when she retired. But when she subbed at SOSM, she really wanted to teach there. The thing she enjoys most about being a teacher again. She said that was an easy question, it was the kids, they make her smile everyday. She said she has taught in northern Wisconsin; she refers to it as (god country). She spent most of her time teaching at Gurnee. She shared some of the challenges she has had since she came here, adapting to teaching younger children, because she only taught highschool kids. She also said her kids did a great job adapting to her. Her favorite thing about teaching is that all the parents she met have been very supportive. She also is grateful to teach next to Mrs. Tazioli, Mrs. Hogan, and Mrs. Baniewicz. She said one day she will figure out how to spell her name without looking it up. She has been teaching for 35 years. She says she really enjoys it when all her students are happy and learning well. I asked her if she could go back in time to change anything and she said that she has made some mistakes in her days but she learned from them and is pretty happy with her career.

5TH AND 6TH GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

BY: DIANE CHANG

5th grade volleyball

I interviewed Carson Denninger who is in the 5th grade volleyball team.

She said that it was a fun and an exciting experience to do volleyball this year and she thought she could work on her skills a lot. Their team got all their serves over the net and Mia Baldi and Nina Hefner were really hard core overhand servers. They didn't have any problems except in the beginning of the year when they didn't get all of their serves over. They had 10 players. They have won 7 games and lost 3 games. This was not her first time playing this year. Her coaches were Coach Graham, Coach Baldi, and Coach Reynolds. Their strengths are serving and their weaknesses are getting the ball over the net.

6th grade volleyball

I interviewed Claire Bianco who is in the 6th grade volleyball team. She had a fun experience and challenging experience this year. Her improvements were that she got her serves over the net. Their volleyball team challenges were that they needed to call the ball. They had 10 players on the volleyball team. This is not her first time playing volleyball this year. She had played volleyball in 4th and 5th grade. Their coach is Mrs. Denninger. Their weaknesses are calling the ball and their accomplishments are cheering others and supporting their teammates.

SMS SCOOP

Issue One, Trimester One, 2023

MR. STANWOOD INTERVIEW

BY: OLIVIA WITT

I was able to interview the new science teacher Mr. Stanwood in order to get to know him better. He has taught before at Highland Park High School in the special-ed department, before getting the call to teach here. It was a perfect opportunity for him and he so far likes it as a chance to learn more about the School of St. Mary, since his kids Jack and Charlotte are both in 3rd grade here. His favorite part about the school is getting his class engaged to have a good conversation in class. Mr. Stanwood has many pets, which include a beagle named Duke, a Hermann's tortoise named Tirone, a lizard named Scales, as well as a frog. His favorite activities to do in his free time are golfing, biking, and snowboarding. Over the summer, he traveled to Wyoming with his family, where they found an abandoned hideout. I was glad to meet with him to become familiar with Mr. Stanwood, our new science teacher.

SEL THIS YEAR

BY: WILL JANOS & EMERSON TORNATORE

Earlier this trimester, we had the opportunity to interview Mrs Homan about our SEL program. She gave interesting and insightful answers about the SEL programming for this year. When asked why we do SEL, she responded by telling us that it was created by a group of teachers who wanted to help the student body. According to her, SEL helps with coping skills, resiliency, and emotional regulation, among other things. It has also been credited with improving our sense of safety and our relationships with teachers.

According to Mrs Homan, "SEL makes us better, as we all want to be seen, heard, respected, and to feel safe in our school environments. This can be linked to a decrease in depression and other mental health problems. When asked about the theme for SEL she said that the acronym is COURAGE. COURAGE stands for Courage, Opportunity, Understanding, Respect, Appreciation, Gratitude, and Excellence. These all help us understand the different parts of the emotional spectrum and how to be better people in our society. When asked about the frequency of our meetings, she informed us that students will have a meeting on the last Wednesday of each month, beginning in September and ending in April.

Finally, when we inquired about why our groups are so small, she stated that we try to keep the groups limited to 8-10 people, so as to develop a better learning environment for our students. Each grade level has about 4 groups and leaders. It is our goal to change the leader each year so all our students can have a different opportunity and experience to learn. Our end goal for SEL is to improve student relations and emotional wellness.

HALLOWEEN PARTIES AT SOSM

BY: AVA LEONTIEV

This year for Halloween at SOSM, we had lots of fun at our Halloween parties! First, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade had a costume parade inside because of the snow, and afterwards had a party and got food and candy. For 7th grade, they got to dress in orange, black, and purple, and got to go into the cafeteria for games, pizza, treats, and candy! Last but not least, 8th grade dressed up as cowboys and cowgirls and went into the gym to do a square dance. Halloween was a lot of fun for the students, and even the teachers! The teachers dressed up as the decade they were born in like the 70's or 80's. Overall, Halloween at the UGC was a great success!



MRS. ANTRIM INTERVIEW

BY: AVA LEONTIEV

How long have you been teaching?
"39 years"

How do you like SOSM so far?
"I love it, I have been at the School of St Mary all my life, even in 1st grade"

Which college did you go to?
"Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, and National Louis University, Evanston, IL"

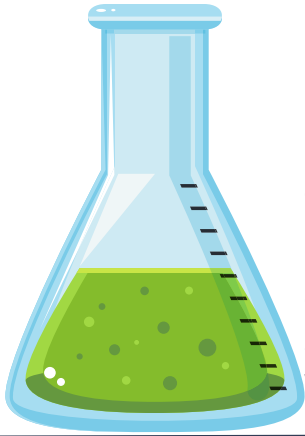
Do you have a passion for drawing and painting?

"I love all art and on Tuesdays, when I'm not at school, I'm in a watercolor painting group. I do ceramics and am excited to do it with my classes"

How do you like to spend your free time?
"I like to paint, garden, read, and watch my boys play baseball."

Do you have any children?
"I have twin boys. They go to Carleton College and play for the baseball team there. One is majoring in statistics and the other is majoring in economics."

Do you have any pets?
"We have fish."



Crusaders have

Courage

Optimism

Uniqueness

Respect

Appreciation

Gratitude

Excellence



SMS SCOOP

Issue One, Trimester One, 2023

BERNIES BOOK BANK

BY: WILLIAM MELSHEIEMER AND JOEY BIANCO

On November 3rd, the 8th grade boys did their Confirmation project at Bernie's Book Bank. This was a very fulfilling experience and it really was a good reminder of how lucky we are. While doing the project, we had to sort through thousands of books to find ones that can be useful for kids. Even before the project, we started collecting books to be able to donate to Bernie's Book Bank. It is estimated that we donated around 1000 of our own books from families, teachers, and kids from our school. All of the books that we donated were given to kids grade Pre-K to sixth grade. The books donated will help these kids to develop good reading skills and give them a topic to learn about. All of the 8th grade boys gave it their all to sort through and donate books for the kids that needed them.



8TH GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

BY: JOEY BIANCO, WILLIAM MELSHIMER, AND ALEENA PUTHENVEETIL

We interviewed Hannah Kreutz regarding this year's 8th grade Girls Volleyball season. She told us that the team has been playing well and everyone has grown dramatically in their skill set throughout the season. She told us how much her team means to her and what they need to get better at is their three point touches. The team's mentality is based on using losses as an opportunity to improve. Overall, it was a fun and action packed season for the 8th grade girls volleyball team, and we are excited to see what they will do with volleyball in high school.



WHATS HAPPENING IN 8TH GRADE

BY: WILLIAM MELSHEIEMER

This school year in 8th grade, we are learning about the Civil War and how it started. It was interesting to learn that it began at Fort Sumter when the Confederate army attacked and fired upon the Union Army. In our Science class, Mr. Stanwood is teaching us about the structure of molecules and how they bond. Understanding this helps us better understand how certain substances are created, such as water. Currently, we are writing a theme essay for our novel To Kill A Mockingbird in Reading. We were able to choose our theme from a list of possibilities. We were then asked to pick a character from the story who exemplified this theme through their words and actions. This has helped us see characters and themes through another perspective. We are also working on an essay in our English. It is an essay for the Daughters of American Revolution and is about John Philip Sousa. He was a famous composer who wrote the famous song The Stars and Stripes Forever. In Religion, we are working on our Confirmation Saint projects. We are making prayers and writing down facts about our saints. We will also be painting an icon portrait of our chosen saint in Art class. Looking at our saint helps us to gain a better understanding of our saint and the lives they lived. In music the 8th grade is learning about music theory and many important people in music. Along with this, our theater class is studying the songs for the play we will be presenting, High School Musical. Finally, in Algebra 1, students are learning about addition of nomials, and in Algebra 2 the functions of polynomials is the focus. It has been very interesting, as well as challenging.

8TH GRADE CHICAGO FIELD TRIP

BY: WILLIAM MELSHIMER



On September 29, the 8th graders went on a field trip to Chicago. We boarded the bus at 9:00, and drove to the Willis Tower where we rode the elevator to the sky deck. It was a long ride up. When we got to the top, we looked down and we were 1,353 feet above the ground. There were small glass boxes hanging from the tower that we walked on. We took lots of pictures of us in the boxes. It was scary at first, but we got used to it. After all the pictures we rode back down and got back on the bus to drive to the boat tour. We boarded the boat and took a scenic tour on the Chicago river. We saw many buildings such as the North Riverside Building and the Tribune Tower. The tour was 90 minutes long, and the weather was perfect. After the tour we drove back to the school and had Chicago style deep dish pizza.

SMS SCOOP

Issue One, Trimester One, 2023

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

BY: EMERSON TORNATORE

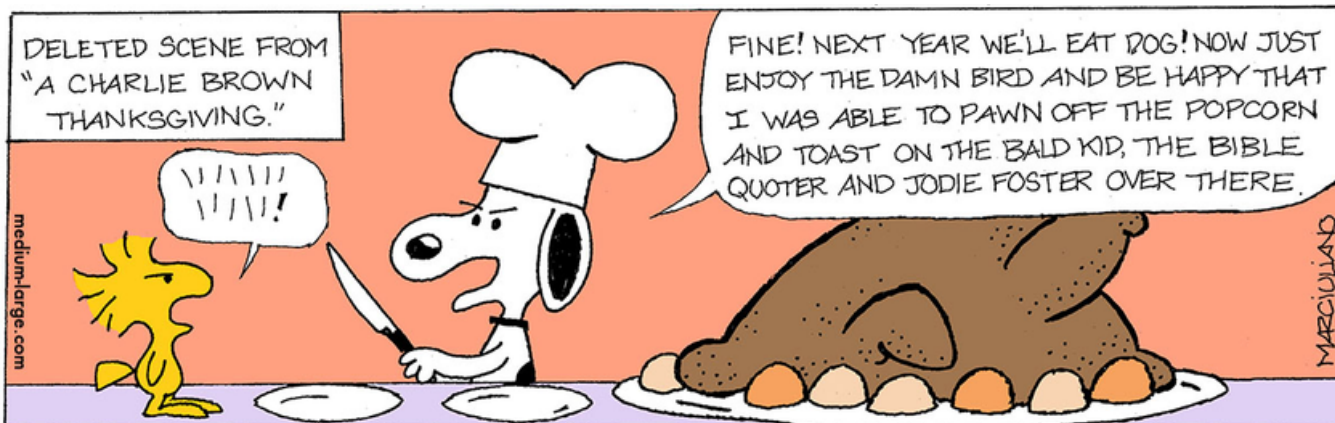
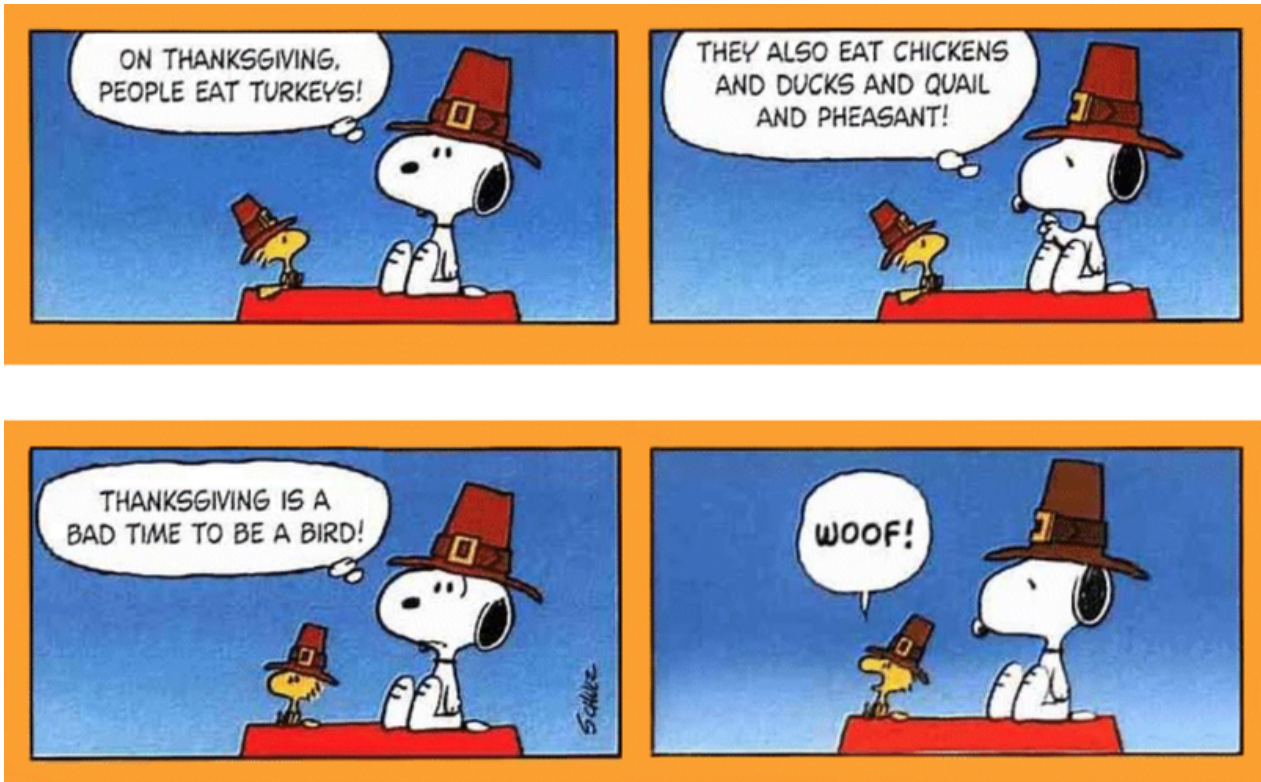


The Ice Cream Social occurred on August 17th 2023 at the Primary Grade Center in the back of the school in the parking lot. The kids could play on the playground and in the grass.

We had new teachers and students and returning students and teachers along with some sponsors who were there. It was a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed it.

Ms. Villacis and Ms. Castle organized the whole thing. They got Dippity Dawg ice cream to come - which everyone enjoyed!

FUN AND GAMES



Name: _____ Date: _____

Thanksgiving Day

Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

AMERICA
CANOE
COLONY
CORNUCOPIA
ENGLAND
FALL
FAMILY
FEAST
FREEDOM
GRATITUDE
HARVEST
HOLIDAY
INDIANS
MAIZE
MAYFLOWER
MILES STANDISH
NEW WORLD
NOVEMBER
PILGRIMS
PLYMOUTH
PUMPKIN PIE
PURITANS
SQUASH
STUFFING
THANKSGIVING
TURKEY
YAMS

