



THE SHAMROCK

ST. PATRICK PARISH & ALUMNI NEWS

VOL. 28 No. 2 SPRING

Financial Literacy Pays Off for St. Patrick Students

Financial literacy amongst U.S. high school students is at an all-time low while the need for financial literacy is at an all-time high. According to Champions for Financial Literacy, a non-profit group from Colorado, only 25% of Americans feel well informed about managing household finances.

Six years ago, a finance class was added to the St. Patrick high school curriculum as a requirement for graduation. "When we decided to bring the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Class to SPS, we felt that to truly ensure that our students are prepared for life beyond high school, they needed to know and understand personal finance," says Principal Randy Hodge. "If we wanted to continue to be one of the top high schools in the mid-Michigan area, a class on finances needed to be a requirement for graduation. I think it has been a remarkable success."

One section of the class, taught by Mr. Terry Austen as part of the Career Development Class, requires students to research scholarship opportunities. Senior Shannon Wilcox located the H&R Block Finance and Budgeting Challenge, which

would grant \$3 million to the winners. Shannon presented the challenge to her classmates and they decided to

reward Mr. Austen's class with financial gain.

Across the nation, 32,000 students participated in this challenge, which consisted of a computerized simulation that created real life financial situations requiring personal finance decision making and budgeting skills. Students had to answer financial questions, invest in retirement funds, manage expenses, save money and pay bills and taxes.

The challenge lasted several weeks, with the students using class time to work on it.

Mr. Austen stated, "The students worked well as a team and everyone was committed to this scholarship so they were very willing to give advice to one another."

When the winners were announced in January, St. Patrick High School had a lot to be proud of! Of the 32,000 students who participated, Elijah Hoppes, son of Juli and Alan Hoppes, placed 9th; Noah Pung, son of Glen and Eva Pung, placed 14th. They placed in the top 5% of all entrants. Each of the young men won \$20,000. An additional classroom scholarship



Top: Noah Pung and Eli Hoppes hold checks for \$20,000 each, presented by H&R Block. Bottom: Mr. Austen's class holds their own check for \$7,500.

work on it. Little did she know this decision would change the financial outcome for two of her classmates and

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Mail Call

Dear Editors,

I could be wrong but that last unidentified choir boy looks to me like Kevin O'Leary. He was in my class during that time period when the picture was taken. I think it was in the early 1960s when his family moved from Portland.

Seeing 'The Shamrock' in my post office box always puts a smile on my face. Thanks.

Linda (Irrer) Kupferschmid, Class of 1967

Dear Shamrock Editors,

The missing choir member that no one can identify is Bob Vacek. He was in Portland around 1961-1963. He followed after his brother, Tony, who lived here, but died in November 1960. They both worked for the Review and Observer for Mr. Mauren.

Both of the brothers were in the choir, but not at the same time.

Bob now lives in Muskegon. I used to date Tony when he lived at Floyd Rice's home on James Street in Portland. Keep up the good work! I'm always glad when the next issue comes out!

Diane Russell, Class of 1958

How to Stay in Touch!

It's so easy to stay up-to-date with what's happening at St. Patrick School and Parish. We're working hard to provide access through our websites, social media, and our new parish app.

School website: www.portlandstpats.com
Parish website: www.stpatrickportland.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/portlandstpatrick
School Twitter: @PortlandStPats
Mr. Hodge Twitter: @principalhodge

To download our parish app, you'll need a smart phone or tablet. Go to www.myparishapp.com. Click on Get the App, and install. Search for St. Pat's by zipcode (48875). Everything you need to know is at your fingertips!

Meet the Youngest Member of the Shamrock Staff

Hayley Fleischer, the daughter of Shamrock staff member Judy Fleischer, has been helping out on the newsletter since she was a preschooler. When she was little, she helped put on labels, helped carry boxes, or just sat at the table with all of the other staff, patiently listening to them talk.

Now she's 10 years old, and she agreed to write a short column on her reflections of St. Patrick School, particularly Catholic Schools Week. Thanks, Hayley!

We just recently celebrated Catholic Schools Week. We started off with a parish Mass and a parish breakfast. We had fun activities (like bowling) throughout the week. I really enjoyed dressing in my Sunday Best for our school Mass.

I enjoy coming to St. Patrick School, because we can learn about Jesus and it feels like a family. I also like that we can attend Mass during the week with our classmates. I really like our Big Rock/Little Rock program. My Big Rock Tabitha is awesome, we get to do activities throughout the school year together, we sit together at Mass, and she is a good role model.

I am proud that my mom, my grandpa, great-grandpa and many aunts, uncles and cousins attended St. Patrick before me. They also help teach me about Jesus and I hope I can do the same for generations to come.



Fourth grader, Hayley Fleischer, and her Big Rock, Tabitha Barber, who is a junior.

In The **Spotlight**

Doug Carr (1989)



In 1987 Scoutmaster Jim Winslow was approached by the City of Portland about a possible project for the scouts. The City was interested in creating a walking trail along the old railroad bed which ran behind the post office up to Community Lake and beyond. Jim knew exactly the scout to offer this project to. Doug Carr was 17 years old and ready to work on an Eagle Scout project. Needless to say, Doug didn't shy away from the opportunity. He quickly agreed to take it on and began the arduous task of turning a neglected and overgrown area into a pleasant nature trail that could be enjoyed by people of all ages. Doug never dreamt that his 1.1 mile Eagle Scout project would be the catalyst for Portland's Rivertrail system, a trail that is known far and wide and used by thousands of people each year.

Doug's first order of business, after accepting the challenge, was to draw up a plan and have it approved by the City Council. His plan proposed cleaning the track area, removing the old railroad ties, building benches, providing trash receptacles and putting a bridge over the Lookingglass River behind the feed plant.

The City Council approved the entire plan, except for the bridge, which they felt needed to be designed and engineered by professionals.

With the help of family and friends, the young scout began what would be a two-summer-long project. Railroad ties were removed, trash was picked up, overhanging branches were trimmed and hauled away. Doug and his dad, Chuck Carr, rented a bush hog to mow down the weeds and long grass which encompassed the entire trail area. They also built four benches and installed them along the trail with trash barrels nearby, and laid down a bed of wood chips to prevent the trail from becoming muddy and unusable.

"I have to give credit to several people who got involved in this project," said Doug. "The one who helped out the most was my father. He helped me so much, with everything from renting the brush hog, to helping me build and install the benches and trash barrels. My mother and brothers were there, too. Without their help, I never would have been able to do this big project alone."

Looking back at the project now, it was quite an undertaking for a 17-year-old high school student. In addition to all of the work that he did, Doug also needed to approach businesses and individuals for donations to help cover the expenses.

Perhaps the biggest highlight for him was the day that his mother called him while he was working at Lear's Grocery Store to say that Dick Evans from Channel 8 News had called. He wanted to come out and interview Doug for a segment of his "On the Michigan Road" series.

When the trail project was finished, residents of the Portland area could walk all the way from Divine Highway to Rowe Avenue, a distance of 1.1 miles. The trail was embraced immediately, encouraging the Portland Downtown Development Authority to suggest adding a paved trail from the old railroad bridge to Thompson Field the following year.

Rex Wambaugh, City Manager at the time, said in an article in the R & O, "The idea caught on and spread like wildfire."

In the same R & O article, Portland Parks and Recreation Director Mary Scheurer said, "Public participation speaks for itself. We are very pleased that people have taken to the Riverwalk like they have. I hear comments every day that it's the best thing to ever happen to Portland."

The current Rivertrail system loops the city, and has additional legs that go to Portland High School and around Bogue Flats. It's length is over nine miles, and it can truly be called a million-dollar linear park.

Doug graduated from St. Patrick High School in 1989. He worked at GM for a few years, and attended Lansing Community College and Montcalm Community College to pursue a career as an EMT and firefighter. In 2012, Doug went to work for Delta Township as a paramedic/firefighter.

And, yes, Doug still enjoys using the Rivertrail!



Doug Carr and his three children, Dylan, 17, Peyton, 11, and Devin, 14.

What's Happening

If you have information that you would like included in the next issue of The Shamrock, please send it to shamrockeditors@gmail.com

BIRTHS

To Mick (1999) and Anastasia Hamberg of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a daughter Bethany Claire, on October 24, 2014.

To Ryan and Kayla (Hengesbach, 2005) Snellenberger a daughter, Emma Pauline, on January 6, 2015. She joins sister Ava, 18 months.

To Brent (2002) and Ashley (Klein, 2002) Goodwin of Alto, a son, Silas Robert on October 28, 2014. He joins sister, Emersyn, 3.

To Steve (1996) and Stacy Russman a son, Camden Emerson, on May 24, 2014. He joins sister, Maelin Elizabeth.

To Mary (Thelen, 2001) and Jesse Diffin a daughter, Lauren Katherine on January 29, 2015.

To Melissa (Thelen, 1998) and Correy Carpenter of South Lyon, twin sons, Logan John and Brady Russell on March 1, 2015. They join sisters, Avery, 5, and Reese, 3.

ENGAGEMENTS

Caitlin Hitchcock (2004) and Nic Chambers will be married on June 6, 2015, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lindsborg, Kansas.

Matt Pline (2009) and Shelby Wilcox (2009) will be married on May 16, 2015, at St. Patrick Church.

Tyler Kramer (2011) and Katie Pung (2011) will be married on August 8, 2015 at Portland St. Patrick Church. They will be married by Fr. Karl Pung, Katie's uncle and Godfather.

Michelle Fox (2010) and Jordan Rademacher will be married on September 26, 2015.

Sarah Gross (2007) and Eric Fluke will be married on June 17, 2016.

Corie Pung (2001) from Grand Rapids and Mike Post from Muskegon will be married this fall at Grandville St. Pius X, where Corie is employed as the Director of Faith Formation.

ANNIVERSARIES

John and Kathy VanHouten were married on October 18, 1964. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a cruise last summer and with a private dinner with their family on their special day.

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Sarah Gross (2007) graduated summa cum laude from Northern University with a degree in emotional impairment/elementary education. She is currently teaching in Evart, Michigan.

Colleen (Schoenherr) Plowman (1996) has published her first children's picture book. The title is "A Mother's Devotion." She received her Diploma for recognition of successful completion of the Writing for Children and Teenagers course of study in 2009 through the Institute of Children's Literature. She continues to write in her home while working as a stylist and achieving her Bachelor's in the Science of Psychology. You can find her book at Schuler Book Stores, www.schulerbooks.com and Amazon.

Annalise Kransz (2008) has been hired as marketing communications coordinator for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Annalise will work with the schools to help them implement a K-12 marketing plan, providing mentoring to school marketing committees and staff; assisting with printed materials, websites and social media; and planning events. Previously, Annalise was a TV news producer at FOX 17 News in Grand Rapids. She holds a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan.

IN MEMORY OF

Theresia Louise Whitman, age 44 of L'Anse, MI, passed away on Tuesday, September 9,

2014 at Marquette General Hospital. Theresia was born April 10, 1970, in L'Anse, MI, to Joseph and Margaret (Spritzley) Mleko. She graduated from Baraga High School in 1988 and attended Michigan Tech University. She married Daniel Whitman on September 3, 1994; they just celebrated their 20th anniversary. Surviving are her husband Daniel Whitman of L'Anse; her daughters, Jacqueline and Jessica Walitalo both of L'Anse; parents, Joseph and Margaret Mleko of Baraga; siblings, Stephen (Debbie) Mleko of Marquette, Thomas Mleko of Pelkie, Kevin Mleko of Pelkie, Jennifer Mleko of Baraga, Paul (Stacey) Mleko of Minocqua, WI; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Edward J. "Bubbles" Bengel, age 73, passed away on Thursday, September 11, 2014. He was born on July 8, 1941, in Westphalia, the son of Edward and Roseanne (Thelen) Bengel. Ed was an avid U of M, Detroit Tiger and Detroit Lion fan. Ed retired from the State of Michigan after many years of service. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers-in-law Justin Thelen and Charles Ray Myers. Surviving are his children Melissa Bengel and Luke (special friend, Beth) Bengel; former wife, Kathy Bengel; siblings Elaine Thelen, Don (Zoah) Bengel, Bill (Carolyn) Bengel, Phyllis Myers, Suzanne (Peter) Lansing, Kathy (Wayne) Brigee, James (Donna) Bengel and John Bengel; many nieces and nephews.

Ernest P. Rivera, age 82, passed away on Monday, September 15, 2014. He was born on November 7, 1931, in Rock Springs, Texas, the son of Ramon and Sapopa (Pruneda) Rivera. Mr. Rivera was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, where he played guitar and was a cantor. He was a veteran of U.S. Air Force, serving in the Korean War. Ernest retired from General Motors after 32 years of service. He enjoyed fixing cars for friends and family, and was also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #2168. Ernest was passionate about his faith, was not only active in his parish, but also in the parishes of Ss. Peter and Paul and St. Edward. He was also very active in the Cursillo Movement and ministry at the prisons. Preceding him in death were his parents; brothers, Tomas, Raymond and Antonio. Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Maria; children, Linda Rivera, Mary Ann (Scott) Schafer, Cynthia Rivera, Dolores Rivera, Ernesto Rivera, Ramon (Kerri) Rivera, and Lucinda (Robert) Gallaway; sister, Diana Rivera; many grandchildren and great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews and extended family members.

Jacquelyn "Jacky" Maynard Strong, age 68, passed away on September 17, 2014, at Hospice of Dayton, Ohio, due to Lyme Disease and cancer. Jacky was born and lived many years in Indianapolis, IN, graduating from St. Mary Academy and the Indiana Business

College. Jacky was preceded in death by her parents Thomas and Zetta Maynard. She is survived by her loving husband of 44 years, Steve Strong; her sister, Janice Maynard Annee (Carl) of Canton, GA; her "second family": sisters-in-law Judy Pung, Gloria Hensley and Agnes Krancich of Portland, MI; Barbara Struble of Anchorage, Alaska; Donna Paquin (Gary) of Dorr, MI; Nancy Strong (Tom Vernich) of Kalamazoo, MI; Mary Lyon (Jim) of Eagle, MI; and brother-in-law, Jim Strong of Lansing, MI; as well as many nieces and nephews. Donations may be given in her name to the Society for Improving Conditions for Stray Animals (SICSA), to lymedisease.org or to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (pancan.org).

Judith "Judy" J. Pung, age 72, passed away on Friday, October 3, 2014. She was born on December 19, 1941, in Lansing the daughter of Bret and Magdalene (Pohl) Strong. Judy was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. She enjoyed bingo, playing cards, an occasional trip to the casino, traveling, and she loved to bake pies. Judy was preceded in death by her parents; husband of 45 years Richard Pung; sister-in-law, Jacqueline Strong and special friend, David Miles. Surviving are her seven sons David (Maureen), Mark (Dianna), Philip, John (Debby), Paul, Michael (Tasha) and Jeffrey (Sara); 13 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; brothers Stephen and James Strong; sisters Barbara Jean Struble, Gloria Hensley, Donna (Gary) Paquin, Agnes Krancich, Nancy (Tom Vernich) Strong and Mary (Jim) Lyon; numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation in memory of Judy.

David E. Spitzley, age 82, of Mulliken, died October 10, 2014. Mr. Spitzley was born January 29, 1932, in Ionia, son of Leo and Theresa (Fox) Spitzley, Sr., and was raised in Portland. He was a lifelong farmer and member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. Dave was an Army veteran of the Korean Conflict, a member of the Portland V.F.W., Post 4090 and a former Michigan National Bank board member. He was preceded in death by his sister Alice Esch and four brothers Jerome, Harold, Leo, and Robert Spitzley. Surviving are his wife of 61 years, JoAnn; children, Sherry (Ron) Kempf of Mulliken, Kimberly Hurt (Ken Merryfield) of Sunfield, Kelli (Wes) Waldo and Scott (Natalie) Spitzley, both of Mulliken; 12 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; brothers, Phil, Roy and Alvin (Rosemary) Spitzley; sisters, Joan (Ed) Schmitz and Wilma Schmitz; sisters-in-law, Laurine Spitzley, Eileen, Jeanette, Germaine and Dorothy Trierweiler; numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Advantage, 801 S. Waverly Rd., Suite 304, Lansing, MI, 48917 or St. Patrick Parish, 140 Church St., Portland, MI 48875.

Karen Sue Adams, age 58, went to be with the Lord on Monday, October 6, 2014. She was born on August 8, 1956, the daughter of Paul and Joan (Rademacher) Schaefer. Mrs. Adams was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, was the proudest "Nana", and had many friends. Karen nurtured and prioritized her relationships with friends and always said, "Nobody has more fun than we do." When faced with a cancer diagnosis, instead of being angry she stated, "I have been so blessed in my life I have no reason to be angry." Preceding her in death was her mother, Joan Schaefer. Surviving are her husband, Donald Adams; children, Nathan (Courtney) Adams, Tana (Chad) Fedewa, and Kristen (Sara McGrath) Adams; three grandchildren; father, Paul Schaefer; seven siblings. Memorial contributions may be made to Eaton Community Palliative Care, 2675 S. Cochran, Charlotte, MI, 48813, in memory of Karen.

Frank Wilhelm Winter, born February 23, 1963, passed away on October 13, 2014, in Rodenbach, Germany. He was the son of Ayp and Gisela Winter. Frank was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his daughter, Jessica, and his siblings Irmtraud (Mike) Fritch of Portland, Irene (Fred) Mader of Muhlheim, Germany, and Rita Fucha of Obertshausen, Germany; many nieces, nephews, cousins and other family members.

Germaine P. May, age 80, passed away on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. She was born on April 7, 1934, in Niles, MI, the daughter of Henry and Rose (Schrauben) Fedewa. Mrs. May was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, retired from the Portland Public Schools as head of food service, and was a lifetime member of the Portland V.F.W. Post #4090 Ladies Auxiliary. Germaine enjoyed catering, and loved playing bingo and cards, gardening and baking. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Fred; son, Gary; brother, Gerald Fedewa. Surviving are her children, Linda Sue (Jim) Spring, Debbie (Richard) Cuthbert, Brian (Lisa) May, Connie (Paul) Hengesbach, Scott (Jane) May, and Kevin (Tracy) May; 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; siblings Kathy Bengel, Rosemary (Tom) Pung, and Joe (Alice) Fedewa; in-laws Katie Fedewa, Leon (Jeri) May, Laurine Spitzley, and Germaine May.

William J. Spitzley, age 87, passed away on Tuesday, November 11, 2014. He was born on October 30, 1927, in Portland, MI, the son of William M. and Seraphine (Martin) Spitzley. Mr. Spitzley was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, and a member of the Knights of Columbus Fr. Godez Assembly. William worked for Spitzley Hardware while in high school, then worked for his father-in-law at SJ Brown Livestock Trucking Company before becoming a Manager at Agrico Chemical Company in Portland for 15 years.

He volunteered with the Portland Fire Department, retiring after 34 years of service as the Assistant Fire Chief. Preceding him in death were his wife of 54 years, Gladys; parents; brothers Carl, James and Thomas. Surviving are his children Elizabeth (Douglas) Hart of Middleville, William Spitzley of Portland, and Patricia (Dale Carlson) Spitzley of East Lansing; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sister, Alice L'Huillier. Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinsons Association, or Hometown Health and Hospice, in memory of William.

Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Joseph Brown, age 80, passed away on Thursday, November 27, 2014. He was born on July 18, 1934, in Trenton, New Jersey, the son of Robert and Hannah (Crowley) Brown. Dr. Brown was a member of St. Patrick Church and Fr. Godez Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, served in the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel, and later in the Army Reserve. He graduated from the Kirksville College of Osteopathy Medicine in Kirksville, Missouri, and Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Dr. Brown practiced family medicine in Portland for 45 years, served as a team physician for Portland High School, and served as a M.S.U. Clinical physician for many medical students. Preceding him in death were his parents; in-laws, Herman and Earlene Wright; brother, Robert Brown. Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Mardelee "Tink" Brown of Portland; daughters, Lindy Brown of Portland, Dr. Colleen Brown, D.O. of Portland, and Seanneen Brown of St. Johns; sons, Darrell Brown of Matherton, Dr. Craig (Terry) Brown of Portland, and Kevin (Becke) Brown of Owosso; 11 grandchildren and 2 step grandchildren; brother-in-law Dr. Merle L. (Marie) Wright of Montgomery, AL; several nieces and nephews.

Michael J. Devota, age 49 of Perry, passed away Tuesday evening December 16, 2014, at Hospice House of Mid Michigan, Lansing. Mike was born Jan 23, 1965, in Saginaw. His parents were Larry and Betty (Kopschitz) Devota. They have both passed away. Mike was a member of Class of 1983 at Chesaning High School. He also graduated from Ferris State. He had been employed at Spartan Motors, Charlotte. Mike is survived by his wife Maureen (Eddy) Devota. Their children Taylor and Shane. His 2 brothers: Steve (Patty) Devota, Chesaning. Rob (Teri) Devota, Byron. Grandmother Lucile Kopschitz, Saginaw. Mother in law and father in law: Anne and Bill Eddy, Portland. Brother-in-law: Sean Eddy, Portland. His nieces and nephews: Sam, Charlie, Jacie, Jordan and Jaydn. His nephew Jacob has passed away. Memorials may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. www.misiukfuneralhome.com

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Technology is Alive and Well

by Principal Randy Hodge

Each spring, we survey the school parents to see whether they have any questions or concerns. One of the topics that comes up frequently is concerned with how we're doing in the technology department. Are our kids being exposed to the things that they need to know to survive and thrive in today's world?

The answer to that is a resounding YES! We are constantly and diligently working to upgrade and improve technology so that we can keep up with ever expanding expectations and we are very proud of where we are today.

Within the last three years, we have been able to replace almost all of the computer hardware in the school. Some highlights of the upgrades are as follows:

- Mounted multimedia projectors in every classroom.
- Mounted Smartboards in every elementary classroom and most secondary classrooms.
- New laptop computers for the entire teaching staff.
- New commercial wireless internet network throughout the school, church, and parish office building.
- 60 new desktop computers for our computer labs.
- New desktop computers in our media center and in our school office.

However, having all of this new technology in place is only half the story. We also ensure that teachers are trained

to utilize the technology available on a regular basis. Ways we keep our students involved with technology include the following:

- Required computer classes are part of the curriculum for students in grades 6-10.
- Approximately 70% of the senior class and 75% of junior class are taking an on-line dual enrollment course during the second semester. Students use the new computer labs for their on-line dual enrollment classes.
- Middle and high school students are using Microsoft Office 365 which enables them to access their files online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even from their home computers.
- Students in grades 2-5 are using the "Type to Learn" keyboarding program regularly to work on their typing skills.
- Elementary teachers are constantly using their Smartboards to present lessons to their students and to encourage new, interactive ways to utilize technology within the classroom.

• St. Patrick School has a 'Bring Your Own Device' policy where students are allowed to bring their own devices and log them on to our wireless network. These devices are often used to do research for class projects.

One other question that parents often ask about is a computer teacher. We have 24 computer teachers. In a 21st century classroom, every teacher is essentially a computer teacher. Technology needs to be mainstreamed into the classroom on a regular basis. Among other things, our students type papers using Microsoft Word, present to their classmates using PowerPoint, and log statistics using Excel.

We have a very sound technology infrastructure at St. Patrick School. Technology is constantly being used in all of our classrooms from preschool all the way up to our senior class. The importance of our students learning, understanding, and using these tools is critical to their current and future success in life.

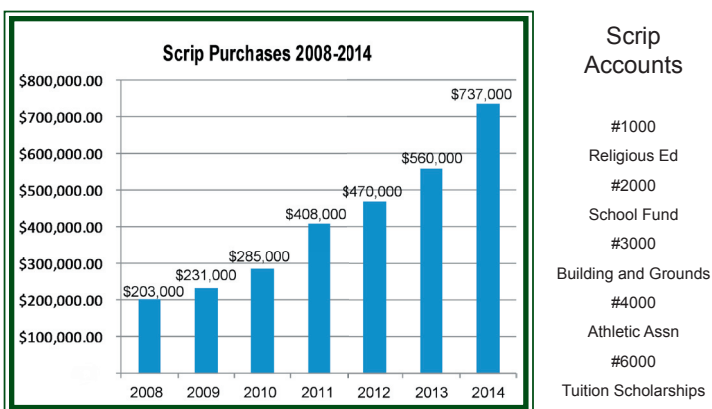


Scrip Sales Continue to Increase

Participation in the scrip program at St. Patrick increased tremendously in 2014 with our overall volume up by \$177,000 over 2013. Our goal has always been to exceed \$1,000,000 in sales volume, and we're getting close to accomplishing it.

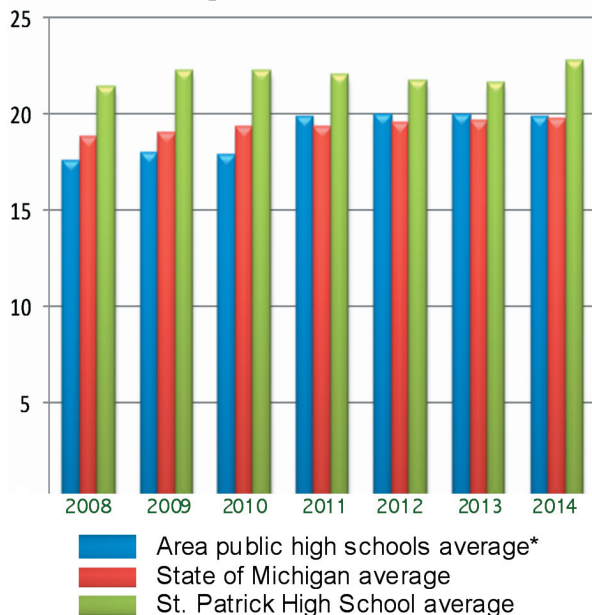
Although our primary participants continue to be school families, we have several alumni and friends who are now purchasing scrip and directing the proceeds into other accounts. Imagine what this parish could do if all Shamrock grandparents or local alumni would buy scrip cards for just their groceries and gas! What a gift that would be!

Even out of town supporters can buy scrip online and direct the proceeds to one of the existing accounts. For complete information, go to the scrip page, located under the Parent Resources tab on the school website.



Standardized Test Scores: On Top Again!

Average ACT Scores 2008-2014



*Area includes all of Ionia County plus Fowler and PW



Goat Raffle and More!

It's expensive to fund an athletic department! We cut costs wherever we can, and we use volunteers to do most of our work, but it still seems like our budget is always stretched thin.

In light of that fact, our members are quite adept at coming up with ways to earn money, as proved by our latest fundraiser, the St. Patrick Day Celebration which was held on Saturday, March 14 at the KC Hall. The highlights of this celebration, besides the green beer, were a chili cook-off and a goat raffle!

Twelve entrants provided pots of chili, vying for cash prizes. Attendees were each given one vote to determine the Peoples Choice Winner. First prize went to The Goat Herders (Mark and Amy Smith, Mark and Lisa Bartlett, and Jim and Jan Simon), second prize went to Cheech and Chong (Scott and Dave Pline), and third prize went to Portland Party Store. The Knights of Columbus won Honorable Mention for collecting the most cash in their vote-can.

The Goat Raffle gave away a real live goat. People were encouraged to buy tickets for their "friends". Of course, those friends had the opportunity to buy Goat Insurance, so that they didn't run the risk of waking up on Sunday morning with a "Baaaad headache!" The lucky winner of the goat named Shamrock was Jill Scheurer. Jill wasn't present at the celebration, but she was awake and eager to



Jill and Shamrock the Goat

take delivery of her new pet, bright and early on Sunday morning.

You can see a video of the St. Patrick Day Celebration on the school website, or use your smart phone and barcode scanner to go directly to the site.



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Healing of the Body and the Soul

Russ Willemin is well-known to most people in the parish. He graduated from St. Patrick School, as did his three children. He has owned Willemin Chiropractic Center for more than 32 years.

In February 2014, Russ was diagnosed with urothelial carcinoma in his right kidney. On April 21, 2014 he had surgery to remove his right kidney, right ureter and right bladder cuff. The cancer had progressed to Stage IV and was in the lymphatics around his aorta, thus making it inoperable. Russ's prognosis was bleak. At the suggestion of a friend, Russ and his wife Kathy attended a healing service at Westphalia St. Mary, a service that literally changed their lives. Russ talks about his experience with great fervor and great emotion.

Last year was a life-changer for me. After my diagnosis and surgery, I was scheduled to begin a very aggressive chemotherapy on June 9. When I learned about the healing service on June 8, I decided to attend. Little did I know what a life-changer it would be.

Father Mathias Thelen spoke to us about preparing ourselves for whatever might happen. He suggested that we begin by forgiving any and all people against whom we were harboring ill will. What a liberating experience that was!

Then we prepared to go forward to ask for God's healing. As I approached, I prayed with all my heart that God would heal me of this cancer. I told him that I wanted to grow old with Kathy and to enjoy more time with my kids and grandkids. I made a covenant with God, deep in my heart, to do whatever he asked of me.

This was different from the "deals of the head" that I had made with God so many times through the years. In the past, I had asked for his favors, but when the rewards came through, I totally forgot about my end of the deal. This was a "covenant of the heart" and I was coming to him with as much sincerity as I had. But, I had failed so many times in the past, that I thought God had no reason to answer my prayers. I hadn't practiced my faith in years. I didn't pray regularly. In all honesty, I had grown pretty far from living in His presence or following His commandments.

This time felt different. I began to perspire uncontrollably, with my entire focus being on getting to the altar to be

prayed upon. By the time I got to Tom Naemi, I was soaked to the skin from perspiration. After stating to Tom my reason for being there, he put his hands on me and began to pray.

I went down. I couldn't open my eyes or move my body. Tom called four others to put their hands on me and pray. I could hear them all and I could feel their hands, but I couldn't move. I am not sure how long I laid there, but I clearly heard God telling me that I would recover from the cancer. He told me clearly, however, that it wouldn't be without consequence or without pain. I think that I had grown so far away from God that he had to get my attention.

It took a long time for me to be able to get up. My legs were stiff and trembling from spasms; I felt disoriented and couldn't stop crying. Even as I recovered enough to walk out of church, I couldn't fully understand or explain what had just happened to me. I couldn't discuss it for weeks without crying.

The next morning I started a very aggressive chemo plan at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

That first night in Ann Arbor I was startled awake by a grotesque dark figure, right in my face. It was head and shoulders and neck. I bolted upright in bed in the dark, but it was still there. I pushed it away with my hands, then laid back down, breathing hard, trying to figure out what had just happened.

It reappeared again, just as close, and once again I sat up and pushed it away. The third time, as I pushed it away I shouted, "Get out of here!" It never returned again. I know that I faced the

devil and cast him away.

Within days, the nausea was unbelievable and the constipations was worse. I developed sores in my mouth that were so painful I could hardly eat. My immune system bottomed out during weeks two and three. These were the pain and consequences that God had foretold. I was miserable, but I realized that I wasn't afraid. I was okay.

I prayed multiple times each day and I began reading the bible. I was raised Catholic and had said the rosary thousands of times, but for the first time in my life I was praying it, thoughtfully and with conviction. The words I had spoken so many times now had a whole new meaning. My spiritual life had become so rich and so fulfilling that my physical discomforts were almost inconsequential.

By the end of cycle three of my chemotherapy, the CT scan showed the cancer was gone. The doctor was elated and kept telling me how lucky we were that the treatment was so effective. He was surprised by my calm, unexcited demeanor. He didn't realize that I had known for three months that I would hear this news and that I had been thanking God every day.

I strive now to stay in His presence all day every day. I recognize all of the gifts that he gives us and I think about how to best use those gifts. I praise Him every day, and I live without fear or darkness.

I went to Westphalia for a physical healing. I also received a spiritual healing. I thank God every day for this two-for-one.



A Bird's-Eye View

This column was submitted by Father Larry's pet parrot, Reggie. Apparently, Father Larry left the cage open one day while he was carrying in some groceries, and Reggie decided to take a little tour of the parish grounds! He was so excited by some of the things he saw and heard that he couldn't wait to let everyone know!

Hello everyone, my name is Reggie. In case you don't already know it, Reggie comes from the Latin word "regis" which means King. Imagine, two kings living in one household!

WOW! Did I ever learn a lot of things when I was out and about for a few hours! Let me tell you some of what I saw and heard!

First, I overheard a group of parishioners who are planning for a bathroom in the church! Can you believe it after all these years of not having one?! They said it will be handicap accessible and it will be located in a small addition which will be added onto the side of the church just outside the door by the chapel entrance. They're hoping to have it finished this summer.

Second, I spotted another group engaged in plans that seem to be well underway for a new Eucharistic Adoration Chapel which will be located on Church Street just across from the church. I heard them say that some very generous benefactors have stepped forward to purchase the property and pay for any renovations that will be required to make it "worthy" space for the Eucharist to be reposited. I heard that the bishop has already given his approval, and that this building will be handicap accessible and will hold about 20 people when it's finally made ready for use.

Third, as I flew through the Parish Office I overheard that there was a 4th Annual Senior Citizen Appreciation Dinner on March 14 for parishioners and their spouses who have reached age 75 or more. Sounded like a fun time to me. I've heard a lot about the Welcoming and Social Committee that sponsored it. Fr. Larry is always saying how thankful he is for this group because they do so much for community building in the parish. Maybe they will invite me to sing sometime! Well, maybe not...I've been told that I squawk a lot!

Fourth, speaking of squawking a lot, I heard that the church needs a new sound system. As I was flying around I heard one of the parishioners say that the sound system fades in and out and that sometimes Fr. Larry sounds like he's squawking through his microphone.

Fifth, when I flew in through the school gym I could see that the gym floor needs some repairs---or probably even replacing, and so do the bleachers. Someone said that they are over 60 years old! I can't imagine how they've lasted this long! Those floor tiles are so thin that I could almost see through them!

Sixth, I'd been hearing about the new preschool room that is now located in the school just outside the cafeteria, so, I decided to make a fly-by and check it out. Boy does it look sharp! It's attractive, colorful, engaging, well-organized and kid-oriented!!

Well, I guess this report from my Bird's Eye will have to do for now. Maybe I'll get a chance to slip out the door again and I can let you know what else I see and hear.

TECHNOLOGY IS ALIVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

We have other goals for the future. One new option we are actively looking into is the possibility of expanding our technology to include portable Chromebook labs. Through this expansion, our students will have exposure to different programs and devices.

We will continue to monitor and assess the technology tools that are available to our students and how they are used to ensure our students are ready to join the 21st century workforce after graduation.

To see a few of the online resources that are used in our classrooms, go to our website and look at the Educational Links page, located under the Students tab.

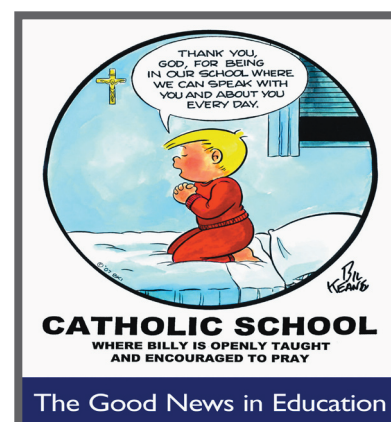
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Put these dates on your calendar and come join the fun! As always, **Thank You** for your support!

Scrap Metal Drive. March 28, 2015. This semi-annual drive (October and March) provides funds towards the eventual purchase of a new bus and any major bus repairs.

Detroit Tigers Bus Trip. The date is Saturday night July 18th, Detroit versus Baltimore Orioles. The bus trip and ticket to the game are included in the cost. If we have over 30 participants, money will come back to the Athletic Association.

Comedy Night. At the Wagon Wheel, Saturday, September 19.



New Coordinator Revitalizes Youth Program

God works in mysterious ways. When one door closes, another opens. Opportunity knocks at the strangest times.

All of these sayings can be applied to George Rutherford's path to his newest title, Coordinator of Youth Ministry at St. Pat's.

The Rutherfords became members of St. Patrick parish in 1993 and have been volunteering on school and parish events almost from day one. Twelve years ago, George began working with the youth ministry program, quickly developing an enthusiasm for the program.

When George decided to retire from healthcare after 33+ years, he didn't spend a lot of time wondering, "What now?" Instead, he became even busier with his volunteer work and also became a substitute teacher at St. Pat's. Last fall he was hired to be the Coordinator of Youth Ministry.

Since stepping into the lead role in the program, George has made it his mission to increase participation, while remembering that the focus of the program is to encourage and assist the young people on their own faith journeys.

The group has a new meeting space in the former day-care building, and the teens helped him fix it up to be an inviting and comfortable place for them to gather.

George has lunch with middle and high school students at St. Pat's and the public school each week and he continues as the eighth grade religious education teacher on Monday nights.

Attendance at the meetings is creeping upward as the youth from Portland discover Mr. George. He's goofy, he's zany, he's serious and thoughtful. Most of all, he has a passion for leading them in the right direction.

High school youth ministry meets on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. 7th/8th graders meet on Friday afternoons after school.

Both groups meet at the Christ in Action (C.I.A.) Headquarters, located in the Annex Building, corner of West and Center Streets.

Service! Service! Service!

The Faith Formation students have been busy this year learning about service---and putting that service into action!

Among other things, the students have donated food to the Portland Food Bank, collected and donated enough items to fill 500 gift bags to the Prison/Jail Ministry through the Diocese of Grand Rapids, made cards for homebound parishioners, and worked at the KAHC event (see separate article on page 11) to combat hunger.

In addition, they have also worked at the Monday night Community Suppers at the First Congregational Church and sponsored and worked at a Soup Supper and Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Lori Thelen, Director of Children's Faith Formation, is

(continued on page 17)

Students March for Life



St. Patrick high school students Matt Jandernoa, Bekah Guild, Riley Pline, Savannah Hodge, Shannon Wilcox, and Shelby Miller travelled to Washington DC in January, representing St. Patrick Parish at the March for Life. The teens were accompanied by chaperones Tina Miller and George Rutherford.

The Power

by Mike Cook

Imagine yourself starring in a movie. You are an agent, appearing to live a normal life, but regularly retreating to a secret room where you access power that affects people's lives in amazing ways, including your own. More amazing is that this power you tap into has the purpose and capability of causing profound change in the country and even the entire world. Your mission is engaging this power against evil everywhere, to employ it for the well-being of people throughout your city, nation and world.

Now, are you visualizing a room housing some futuristic computer or devise that generates superhuman abilities? Are you wishing that such a movie could be reality? Well, it is a reality. The room that houses such staggering power is not the one I just contrived, nor is it the Oval Office or UN Headquarters. It's any Catholic Church or chapel where the Blessed Sacrament resides in the tabernacle.

The truly amazing thing is that each of us has personal access to this amazing power. We are allowed to

place ourselves in the real presence of Jesus, the Son of the living God.

St. Patrick parish will soon be establishing a dedicated Eucharistic Adoration chapel in the small building on Church Street, across from the church's east entrance. It has been acquired through generous, individual donations for the sake of increasing access to Eucharistic Adoration for everyone, and also to create an Adoration chapel that is fully accessible to the handicapped.

It's fascinating to read what many saints through the centuries have said about the power of spending quiet time in the real, personal presence of Jesus. According to them, it's not only truly transformative for our individual lives but can literally rock the world. Consider just one quote from a recently canonized saint that may be familiar.

"People ask me: 'What will convert America and save the world?' My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in holy hours of prayer."

-- Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Stewardship: Opportunities Abound!

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." --Winston Churchill

"Being a good steward has brought me great joy and has helped me grow spiritually." --A St. Patrick Parishioner

All of us have special gifts that God intended for us to share. Stewardship is about embracing and sharing these gifts through the use of our time, talent and treasure. It's about revitalizing our commitment to our faith and encouraging those around us to do the same.

Opportunities for Stewardship:

- Become an altar server, lector, greeter or usher at Church
- Volunteer to help with the Children's Liturgy of the Word or assist at the Children's Faith Formation classes
- Participate in Eucharistic Adoration
- Join a music group or sing with the children's Christmas choir
- Join one of the many ministries listed in the Ministry Book, for example:
- Participate in the Youth Groups and mission trips
- Work at coffee and donuts after Sunday Masses
- Volunteer at Summer Fest and Fall Fest
- Volunteer at the food drives, clothing drives, or at the community dinners at the Congregational Church
- Participate in Pay-It-Forward Day
- Sign up for Prayer Line ministry
- Become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC).

There are so many more opportunities to become involved in a ministry that caters to your talent. Please faithfully consider all you have to offer and how you can better become an engaged member of St. Patrick and the community.

The Stewardship Committee is in need of additional members. The goal is to recruit three new members to the committee each year, to serve a three-year term. If you would like to join the Stewardship Group, please contact Lisa Lehnert (lehnerla@yahoo.com) or Dan Arwood (daniel.arwood@att.net).

Joint Effort Provides 20,000 Meals



In a beautiful display of ecumenism, seven Portland area churches worked together on November 22, 2014 to put together 20,000 meals for the hungry.

The event, sponsored by Kids Against Hunger Coalition (KAHC), was funded through \$5500 in donations collected by the churches. More than 260 volunteers signed up to work.

Thank you to the congregations from Believers Church of Eagle, Epic Community Church, First Congregational Church, Mount Hope Assembly of God, Nazarene Church, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, and St. Patrick Catholic Church.

Use your smart phone and barcode scanner app to see a video of the KAHC event in Portland.



KING'S KOLUMN

by Father Larry King

Good Fathers Make Good Families

Pope Francis has declared this to be the Year of the Family, a proclamation that is most timely because the family, as it has been defined since the early days of humanity, is under attack.

In his weekly talk on January 28, 2015 Pope Francis called on fathers to be present in the lives of their children, pointing out that the absence of a father figure can have grave consequences. Sadly, he said, our modern societies are experiencing a crisis of fatherhood.

In the past it was common practice to perceive the father as authoritarian and at times even repressive. Today, he said, we sense uncertainty and confusion about the role of the father.

Pope Francis noted that without father figures, young people often feel orphaned and left adrift at a critical time of growth and development. Calling on fathers to be responsible, he said that fathers are necessary—to serve as good examples, and to guide their children in wisdom and virtue.

Society itself, he continued, has a similar responsibility to our youth. We cannot leave them as orphans, but need to provide them with ideals, sound values, hopes, and authentic spiritual fulfillment.

Pope Francis concluded in his address, that just as Jesus promised that he would not leave us orphans, we need to ask him in prayer to deepen and renew our appreciation of fatherhood and to raise up good fathers for the benefit of our families, our Church and our world.

Let us pray for the welfare of the family, as a unit consisting of a father, mother, and children, just as it is modeled for us by the Holy Family - Joseph, Mary, and the Child Jesus.

Let us work to make our families holy too.

Our Goals--Our Needs

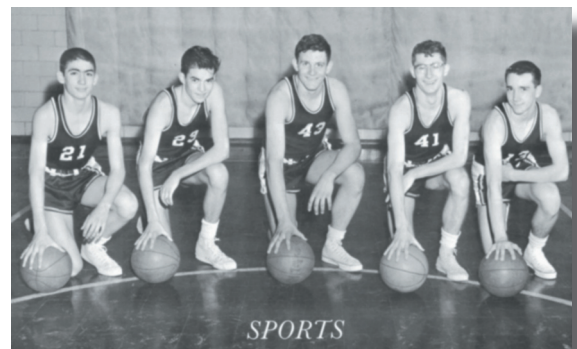
One of the goals of the Athletic Association is to continue improving our facilities in both appearance and function. This goal boosts the image of the school and the athletic department, enhances the athletic experience, and provides a safe environment for the children of St. Patrick School.

With that said, in a recent basketball game in "The Pit" while a player was dribbling down the court, one of the floor tiles came loose and broke. The athletic director and custodial staff have been doing patch work on the floor for several years now. It is to the point where this 60+ year old floor is completely worn out and needs to be replaced.

Additionally, if the floor is replaced, the bleachers will need to be moved. These are also the original 60+ year old bleachers. The bleachers have been inspected each year, so they are safe to sit on and not in danger of collapse. But, they lack a lot of amenities that newer bleachers are required to have. We have only been permitted to continue using them because of a "grandfather clause." If they are moved, then it is likely the grandfather clause will no longer be in effect.

An even more important factor in this discussion is the consideration of our fans, especially the very young and the seniors. It is very difficult to attend games at "The Pit" because of the large step up, the open foot design and no handrails.

Please prayerfully consider donating to the school for this important project. Contact the school administrators if you have any questions or to make a donation.



As a reminder of how old the floor and bleachers are, take a look at these two photos. The top one was taken in 1963 when the floor was ten years old. The bottom one was taken in 1970 when the bleachers were 17 years old. Do you recognize any of the faces? These boys are in their 60's and 70's now!



Thank You

On behalf of the Father Flohe Foundation, I would like to extend our sincere thank you to those who contributed to the Foundation over the past year, to those who remembered the Foundation as part of their memorial services, and to those who remembered the Foundation in their estate planning. Because of your generosity, the Foundation was again able to provide significant financial support to the School (\$90,000 for the 2014/2015 school). This was the 6th year in a row that we were able to provide at least \$75,000. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and goes a long way to ensure the continuation of Catholic education at St. Patrick.

FFF President, Tony Thelen (1980)

Bell Award Nominations Needed

The Foundation is looking for nominations for the annually presented Education Bell Award. Nominees should be past students from St. Patrick (either eighth grade or high school graduates, can be living or deceased), who by their life and achievements exemplify the high goals that our alumni can attain.

Write a brief description about your nominee, including the year they graduated and submit to the Father Flohe Foundation, 140 Church Street, Portland MI. 48875 by July 1, 2015. Nomination forms are also available on the FFF website that can be accessed through the school website at www.portlandstpats.com. All nominations are evaluated and considered for the current year award, as well as maintained for future year award consideration.

2015 Education Bell Award Winner

The Father Flohe Foundation presented the 2015 Education Bell Award to Sue Fox at the 4:30 mass on March 21, 2015. The presentation took place too late to make our print deadline, so the story and photo will appear in the fall issue.

Contributions Update

- Since 1989 over \$1,100,000 has been provided to the School. In the last 5 years alone, the FFF has provided almost \$415,000 to the school.
- Since 1988, the FFF has received donor-gifts of approximately \$2,120,000.
- The fiscal year ending fund balance of \$2,380,200 marks the first time that the fund has exceeded 2 million dollars.
- The FFF is a 501(c) 3 organization (contributions to Foundation are tax deductible).
- The FFF annually awards the Fr. Flohe Education Bell Award, the Marie Leik Slowinski Scholarship, the Msgr. Zervas Scholarship, and the Lajoy/Pung Scholarship. Information about each of these scholarships can be found on the school website.
- The FFF provides funding for the Shamrock Newsletter.
- Since 2003, the FFF has coordinated and provided a celebration for each of the graduating high school classes in honor of their 50th Reunion.

Planned Giving - Tax Advantages

Planned giving not only benefits the school, it also provides substantial tax benefits to the giver. There are many ways to contribute to St. Patrick School through the Father Flohe Foundation including the following:

- Gifts of cash
- Securities and Real Estate
- Life Insurance
- Other Appreciated Assets

For more information on any of these options or additional gift plans, contact your tax advisor, CPA, insurance agent, or legal consultant.

Reunion News

Reunion Alerts

The *Class of 1970* will hold their 45-year class reunion on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at the home of Ken and Karen Schneider. Preliminary plans include attending the 4:30 Mass together followed by dinner. Invitations and complete information will go out later in the summer.

The *Class of 1968* will be getting together at the Wagon Wheel in Portland on May 16, 2015 at 5:00 for a night of fun and reminiscing (food and beverage of your choice). Any one who was a part of the class of 1968 is welcome! This will be your only notice, so mark your calendars.

The *Class of 1980* is planning a 35-year class reunion at the Wagon Wheel on Sept 26, 2015. Please keep the date open on your schedule. Additional information will be mailed. If you have questions, you can contact Deb Miros at 517-526-4179 or Tony Thelen at 517-743-1075



Reunion Reports

The *Class of 1968* held an informal get-together on October 18, 2014 in celebration of their 46-year class reunion. Eleven classmates and their spouses gathered at the home of Charlie and Kathy Schrauben for a potluck dinner, followed by a campfire where they reminisced and shared stories of grandchildren along with other cherished memories.



Be sure to send information about upcoming reunions or ones already held to shamrockeditors@gmail.com. Make sure to send a photo, too!

The *Class of 1974* celebrated their 40-year class reunion on Saturday, September 27, at the Wagon Wheel. The evening started with 4:30 Mass at St. Patrick Church, followed by cocktails at the Wagon Wheel, and then dinner at 7:00. Eighteen classmates (out of 34) and one teacher (Barry Horne) attended, with special guest, Frieda Van de Voorde, from Belgium. Everyone enjoyed reminiscing, which included trying to remember teachers names and class officers. It was an evening filled with lots of laughs, good food, and great company.

There is one mystery that is waiting to be solved. Larry Fox used to have a poster of our graduating class, taken outside on the gym steps. Larry brought it to the first couple of reunions and had the attendees sign it. He gave it to one of the classmates for safe keeping to bring to the next reunion, but it seems to have disappeared. If anyone remembers who has this poster, please email Ann Lantzy at glantzy3@comcast.net with that information. The classmates are looking forward to seeing everyone again in 2019!



The *Class of 1994* celebrated their 20-year reunion on Saturday, October 18, 2014. The party was held at the Portland VFW hall. Entertainment included pool, shuffleboard, and lots of storytelling. Catering was done by Pete and Mike Thelen. Twenty-three classmates attended the reunion, coming from as far away as Texas and Georgia. The classmates continue to be a tight-knit group, who have been very successful in life. Among their numbers are teachers, coaches, mechanics, administrators, a doctor, engineers, managers, and even a Secret Service Agent.

During their years at St. Pat's, the Class of 1994 was one of the more successful classes in athletics. In football, they won a state championship, and compiled an astonishing

four-year record of 36-4. They were also state runners-up in baseball and made the semi-finals their senior year. In addition, they won the state championship in golf.

The tradition continues with many of these alumni sending their own children to St. Patrick's School to be a part of the Shamrock Nation. They are proud of the educational, athletic, religious, and social opportunities at St. Pat's and are very appreciative of the wonderful people who continue to make it available to their children.



Class of 1994

50-Year Reunion Planned for Class of 1965

Get ready, St. Patrick graduating Class of 1965! The Father Flohe Foundation is in the midst of planning a celebration in honor of your 50-year reunion.

The celebration will be held on Saturday September 12, 2015. Ask any graduates who have attended previous celebrations and they can tell you what a great time it is.

Hope to see all of the 1965 classmates there. Members of the FFF will continue to be in touch with you to update you and your classmates about the specific plans.

Two Longtime Employees Announce Retirement

Two longtime school employees have announced retirement plans.

Jan Trimmer retired from her full-time position as St. Patrick school secretary a few years ago, but stayed on as a part-time employee. Now, she has fully retired and is ready to enjoy her leisure time.

Jan began working at St. Patrick school office in May of 1985, under the leadership of Principal Ron D'Aust. Needless to say, she saw many changes during her tenure and she worked with many administrators.

To put into perspective the length of Jan's service, Ronald Reagan was president, Father Richard Van Lente was the pastor, of St. Patrick Church, and current principal Randy Hodge was a sophomore in high school when she began.

Jan says that she will miss seeing the school families and the students; she always enjoyed working with them. When contacted for this article, she was sitting in the sun in Florida--glad to be away from the snow and wind of Michigan.

Retirement cards can be mailed to 6872 E. Grand River, Portland, MI 48875.



Preschool teacher, Carol Kahn, also has announced that she will retire at the end of this school year.

Carol purchased Miss Laura's Wee People in 1994, and one year later, moved the preschool into St. Patrick Annex Building. In 2007 Miss Laura's ceased to exist and was transformed into St. Patrick Preschool. Much of the curriculum remained, Carol was still the program director, and the children ages 3 to 5 kept coming to learn in the play-based learning environment.

In 2014 the preschool was given the opportunity to move into the main school building. Carol and crew spent the entire summer prepping the new space for fall classes.

"With the help of many, including a very talented art teacher, we now have a spectacular preschool classroom in what used to be the multi-purpose room," said Carol. "As I walked the hall of the main school building, I realized I was back, teaching in the same building where I had taught 5th/6th grade in 1970-71. My journey in education had come full circle."

She continued, "I look back on the first years of teaching, the years I spent



(continued on page 17)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Richard "Dick" L. Sines, age 72, passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2014. He was born on July 23, 1942, in Portland, MI, the son of William and Doris (Reed) Sines. Dick greatly loved his family, especially his grandchildren, was all about family, friends, sports, and making people laugh. He was a captain of the 1959 undefeated and unscored upon football team at Portland High School. He earned 12 varsity letters throughout high school, and his 1959 football team was inducted into the Greater Lansing Sports Hall of Fame, and both he and his team were inducted into the Portland High School Athletic Hall of Fame as well. Preceding him in death were his parents and brother, Bill Sines. Surviving are his loving wife of 52 years, Donna Sines; children, Mike (Tracy) Sines, Stephanie Sines, Terry (Kim) Sines, and Shari (Don) Burland; seven grandchildren; siblings, Jack (LaVonne) Sines, Sally (Lee) Francis and Linda (Bob) Egan; sister-in-law, Barb Sines; many nieces and nephews.

Jack Dean Gilbert, age 87, passed away on Thursday, January 8, 2015. He was born on May 19, 1927, in Lansing, the son of Owen and Vernie Gilbert. Jack was a member of St. Patrick Church, Knights of Columbus #2168 and the V.F.W. Post #4090. He enlisted at the age of 16 in the U.S. Navy and served in the Pacific Theater during WWII. Jack loved fishing and reading. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers Wendell and Robert. Surviving are his wife of 67 years, Eloise; children Steve (Kathy) Gilbert of Drummond Island, Terry (Phyllis) Gilbert of Portland, Jeff (Jean) Gilbert of South Haven and Scott (Shawn) Gilbert of DeWitt; 10 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; 2 step great grandchildren; four brothers and two sisters. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association or to the V.F.W. Post #4090 in memory of Jack.

Raymond G. Chartrand, age 90, passed away on Sunday, January 18, 2015. He was born on April 12, 1924, in Clifford, MI, the son of Archie and Anna (Olzeum) Chartrand. Mr. Chartrand was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, was a veteran of the U.S. Armed Services, proudly serving during World War II from 1941-1945 in the Pacific Theater, and was a member of the Portland V.F.W. Post #4090. He retired from General Tire in Ionia in 1986. Preceding him in death were his wife of 64 years, Catherine; granddaughters, LeeAnn Platte and Lori Platte Newman; great granddaughter, Alyssa Cassel; great grandson, Ryker Larson; many brothers and sisters. Surviving are his children, Gary (Marlene) Chartrand, Sandy (Hilary) Platte, Tim (Karen Parker) Chartrand, Cathy (Dan) Shat-

tuck, Becky (Nick) Henry, Mary (Dave) Dotsuk, Shelly Chartrand, Lisa (Terry) Morris, and Marty Chartrand; 20 grandchildren; 29 great grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Marilyn (Bob) Eliser and Marge Smith; special friend, John West.

Charles Lewis VanDerWoude, age 72, loving husband, father and grandfather passed away on Monday, January 19, 2015. He was born on August 19, 1942, the son of Thomas and Lilly (Hotchkiss) VanDerWoude. Mr. VanDerWoude was a Vietnam veteran, serving in the U.S. Army. Charles worked for 33 years at General Motors. He loved the U.P., and enjoyed spending time at his cabins. Preceding him in death were his parents; children, Christopher and Jennifer; brothers, William and George. Surviving are his wife, Geraldine "Gerry" VanDerWoude; children, Samantha (Berlis) Ortiz, Sarah (Tom) Kiebach, Donald (Karen) Meyers, and Jeanine Meyers; 11 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; sister, Ellen Mosher; many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cardiac Care Unit-Sparrow Hospital, or the Portland E.M.S., in memory of Charles.

Henry "Hank" E. Knoop, age 67, loving husband, father, and pop pop, passed away peacefully from surgery complications on Monday, January 19, 2015. He was born on April 9, 1947, in Portland, MI, the son of Albert and Clara (Thelen) Knoop. Hank graduated from Pewamo-Westphalia High School in 1965 and in 1969 earned a bachelors degree in chemical engineering from Michigan State University. He worked for over 30 years in Ohio and Michigan as a chemical engineer and retired as a global director of safety. In his retirement, he thoroughly enjoyed working as a substitute teacher, especially in the areas of math and science. He was active in his community his entire life. Preceding him in death were his parents, Albert and Clara (Thelen) Knoop; sisters, Jane Knoop and Judy Fedewa; nephews, Herb Platte and Tim and Bruce Rowell; granddaughter, Josie Whitmore. Surviving are his loving wife of 42 years, Doni; children, Brenda Knoop (Sean) Whitmore, Doug (Carrie) Knoop, Rachel Knoop (Tom) Brownridge, and Vicky Knoop; eight grandchildren; siblings, Catherine (Ray) Rowell, and Ann Marie (Larry) Pung, Rita (Wayne) Thelen, John (Cyndi) Knoop and Dennis Knoop; brother-in-law, Ray Fedewa; many beloved nieces, nephews and friends. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ionia County Historical Society, or SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church Capital Campaign, in memory of Hank.

Jule Ann Huhn, age 63, passed away on Sunday, January 25, 2015. She was born on August 25, 1951, in Ionia, MI, the daughter of Henry and Dolores (Hampshire) Visser. Jule enjoyed many hobbies but the thing that she

enjoyed the most were her grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her parents, Dolores and Henry Visser and her Father-in-law Gerald E. Huhn. Surviving are her husband of 44 years Melvin H. Huhn. Daughters Melissa and John Brandt, Amanda and George Rowe; six grandchildren; sisters Lorie (Randy) Hummel of Clarksville, and Tina (Charles) Larsen of Saranac; brother Allan (Lori) Visser of Saranac; 13 brothers and sisters-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

Marcelene "Marcie" Eva May, age 91, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. She was born on November 15, 1923, in Lyons, MI, the daughter of Floyd and Bessie (Lowry) Keefer. Mrs. May was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, an original member of the Fr. Flohe Fund planning council, the Altar Society, and of the V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary #4090. Marcie retired in 1984 from the Michigan Department of Transportation, after 25 years of service. Preceding her in death were her parents; brothers, Gerald and Bud Keefer. Surviving are her husband of 70 years, Donald; children, Sharon (Bernard) Platte of Pentwater, James (Patty) May of Dale, TX, Kenneth (Deb Tomasek) May of Portland, and Daniel (Lori) May of Portland; ten grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; brother, Albert Wayne (Betty) Keefer; several nieces and nephews; sister-in-law, Charlene Keefer. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Flohe Foundation, or St. Patrick Church, in memory of Marcie.

Elizabeth A. Huhn, age 94, passed away on Tuesday, February 3, 2015. She was born on May 30, 1920, in Portland, MI, the daughter of Peter and Helen (Fernholz) Gensterblum. Mrs. Huhn was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Portland. Elizabeth loved flowers and bingo. She also enjoyed playing cards, watching the Detroit Tigers, and bird-watching. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family. Preceding her in death were her parents; husband, Gerald; son-in-law, Leon Hengesbach; daughter-in-law, Jule Huhn; grandchildren, Keith Graft, Liza Huhn and Kyle Huhn. Surviving are her children, Charlene (Gordon) Graft of Portland, Janet (John) Hengesbach of Portland, Carol Wells of New London, Wisconsin, Yvonne (Gene) Smith of Haslett, Gerald (Linda) Huhn of Portland, Melvin Huhn of Portland, Peter (Sue) Huhn of Portland, Dennis (Terry) Huhn of Grand Ledge, Claude (Donna) Huhn of Portland, Claudia Hengesbach of Westphalia, Sandy (Mark) Ackerson of Portland, Debbie (Steve) Kissane of Grand Rapids, Theresa (Dave) Maccagnone of Rochester Hills, and Laurie (Randy) Laramy of Howard City; 32 grandchildren; 55 great grandchildren; 5 great great grandchildren; siblings, SSJ Bernita Marie Gensterblum, Mary Louise (William) Hanses, Eleanor (Bud) Peake, Robert (Mary) Gensterblum, Delores Hauser, Bar-

bara (Leon) Densmore, and James (Louise) Gensterblum; several in-laws.

Thomas Otto Cook, age 89, was reunited on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2015, with the love of his life Marie after almost 27 years apart. He was born on September 3, 1925, in Pewamo, MI, the son of Edward and Elizabeth (Wohlsheid) Cook. Mr. Cook was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving in World War II, a member of the Portland V.F.W. Post #4090, as well as a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Council #2168. Tom worked for Portland Public Schools in maintenance, retiring after 33 years of service. He was a hard worker, even driving school buses and managing apartments to help put his 6 daughters through St. Patrick Catholic School. Pre-

ceding him in death were his parents; wife, Marie; and six siblings. Surviving are his six daughters, Nancy (John) Costello, Barbara (Rick) Davison, Donna Cook, Diane (Tom) Hoban, Denise (Pete) Weeks, and Sharon Cook; 17 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; "special daughter," Laura (Doug) Willem. Memorial contributions may be made to the Portland V.F.W. Post #4090, in memory of Thomas.

Dennis James Leik, age 36, of Lyons, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, February 22, 2015. He was born on December 12, 1978, in Ionia, MI, the son of Daniel and Sally (Breimayer) Leik. Denny was a life long farmer, which he made his life's passion, and also worked for Goose Creek Foundation. He enjoyed hunting, spending time in the woods,

especially cutting wood. Denny's girls meant the world to him. Preceding him in death were his brother, Danny David; grandparents, Jerry and Hilda Leik, and Andrew and Esther Breimayer. Surviving are his wife of 10 years, Amanda; daughters, Kelsey, Emily and Elaine; parents; Daniel and Sally Leik; siblings, Patty (Rich) Luttman, Christina (Darin) Roll, Tonya Leik, John (Lynn) Leik, and Janet (Tim) Richardson; several nieces and nephews; father and mother-in-law, John (Mary) Peckins; in-laws, Michael (April) Peckins, Shelly (Craig) Corbeil, and Melissa (Cory) Ackerson. In Lieu of Flowers, an Education Fund has been established for Denny's daughters at Independent Bank. Memorial contributions may be made directly to the bank or through the funeral home, in memory of Dennis Leik.

RETIREMENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

"teaching" at home and providing day care for a number of families, and my years of teaching preschool which I hold dear to my heart. I began my teaching career, thinking I wanted to teach middle school, and I worked my way down the ages until I found the 3-5 year old group was the one I loved the most. I have been teaching preschool now for over 20 years, and I estimate I have taught over 1000 children in total."

Speaking for those 1000 children and their families, Thank You, Miss Carol.

CHILDRENS FAITH FORMATION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

very proud of the students. "I believe they now have a better understanding of what it takes to help the community. Volunteering makes them thankful for the things in their life God has granted to them," she said. "Doing these services really gives the students a sense of awe and reminds them what makes us the good Christians God wants us to be."



Above left: Students and their families worked at the KAHC event on November 22. Above right: Catholic Faith Formation students filled gift bags to be taken to jails and prisons through a program sponsored by the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

FINANCIAL LITERACY PAYS OFF

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

of \$7500 went to Mr. Austen's class. The school is using \$2,500 to update the materials for the personal finance class. The remaining \$5000 was split into scholarship money among the remaining classmates.

Congratulations to Shannon Wilcox for locating the scholarship opportunity. Congratulations to Eli and Noah for doing so well in the competition. And, congratulations to St. Patrick High School for recognizing the need to make our students financially literate.

As a footnote, because Mr. Austen's class won during the first semester of the competition, they are not eligible to compete as a class in the second. Individual students in Mr. Austen's class are, however, competing for individual scholarships.

Mrs. Kaye Sandborn's Personal Finance Class began competing in the H & R Block Challenge this semester. In the first round, they finished in fourth place and have won \$2,500. As The Shamrock went to press, Mrs. Sandborn's class is still competing to win an additional \$5,000.





How many of you remember the days when we memorized, memorized, memorized? Let's test those memories to see if you can remember the Seven Virtues, the Seven Deadly Sins, the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy, and the Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy. When you've found all 31 words, the leftover letters will spell out a quote that you're sure to recognize! Good luck!

N O W I S A Y P A T I E N C E H S
R E T L E H S E V I G E Y T V T G
Y R G N U H D E E F Y C T G I A N
T S U L H O Y O U A E N I I G R O
I N S T R U C T R T N E R V R W R
H I A T Y O M P U A V G A E O E W
R S A D M O N I S H Y I H D F C R
C O U N S E L E L P E L C R T N A
D E N O S I R P M I T I S I V A E
K C I S T I S I V K T D E N P R B
Y N O T T U L G R A I Y N K R E D
D E K A N E H T O L C N U P I P O
Y T I T S A H C N T H I D H D M S
D A E D Y R U B R O C K T N E E I
L A R O P R O C O M F O R T E T W
D E E R G I L L B U L I L D M S Y
L A U T I R I P S S C H U R C H S

ENTRY FORM AND RULES

Send this entry form by any of the means described on page 19, or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked SHAMROCK CONTEST. Entries must be received by May 1, 2015. Cash prize of \$50 will be awarded to the winner who will be chosen by random drawing from all correct entries. You must be 18 or older to enter. Limit of one entry per person.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ANSWER: _____

ADMONISH
BEAR WRONGS
BURY DEAD
CHARITY
CHASTITY
CLOTHE NAKED
COMFORT
CORPORAL

COUNSEL
DILIGENCE
ENVY
FEED HUNGRY
FORGIVE
GIVE DRINK
GIVE SHELTER
GLUTTONY

GREED
HUMILITY
INSTRUCT
KINDNESS
LUST
PATIENCE
PRAY
PRIDE

SINS
SLOTH
SPIRITUAL
TEMPERANCE
VISIT IMPRISONED
VISIT SICK
WRATH



The fall puzzle in *The Shamrock* was all about the sixties, and the quote was by a key figure from those times, Maya Angelou. "**Count your age by friends not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears.**" The winner, drawn randomly from all correct entries was Marlene (Schrauben) Lefke, who received \$50 for her efforts. Thank you to everyone who entered the contest, and keep on entering! One of these times, YOU might be the winner!

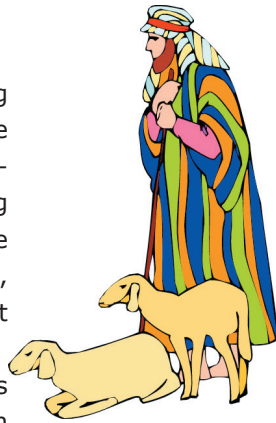
LOST SHEEP

Our Lost Sheep list is quite long this time, due to many factors. The postal service is very fussy about address errors, and they are sending back mail that has gone through in the past. So, even if you haven't moved, your newsletters and other mail might not be reaching you.

In addition, our parish office is working hard to get all of information from three separate data bases transferred into one master list. This has been a huge task and it has resulted in several more people being added to the Lost Sheep list.

For this issue only, we don't have space to print all of the names. But, we still need your help. The complete list is available on the school website. Please go there and see if you can help us with any of the remaining Lost Sheep.

Go to www.portlandstpats.com and click on the Alumni tab, or use your smart phone and barcode scanner to go directly to the site. Send information via any of the means listed on this page.



Please use this form to let us know of any address changes, or to submit information for the newsletter.

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

If you are a graduate of St. Pat's, please list your maiden name and year of graduation: _____

News to include in the next issue, information about class reunions, ideas for articles (use separate sheet if necessary)

Send to The Shamrock, 140 Church Street, Portland, MI, 48875; fax to (517-647-7807; e-mail to shamrockeditors@gmail.com; or drop in the collection basket in an envelope clearly marked Shamrock Newsletter.

www.portlandstpats.com

Upcoming EVENTS

Shamrock Auction! April 18, 2015

First Communion May 3, 2015

Graduation May 17 2015

Parish Festival June 27-28, 2015

Class of 1965 50-Year Reunion Sept 12, 2015

Fall issue of The Shamrock—Early October

The Good News in Education



To explore the possibility of a Catholic education for your child, please call Randy Hodge.

Prospective students and their families are invited to visit the school to see what a good thing we have going!

The Shamrock

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E-mail: shamrockeditors@gmail.com

Website: www.portlandstpats.com

(Click on Alumni Information)

The Shamrock is published two times annually and mailed free of charge to all St. Patrick's alumni, St. Patrick's parishioners, donors to the Father Flohe Foundation, and upon request. The members of the editorial staff are as follows:

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- ♦ Wine Tasting
- ♦ Refreshment Tent
- ♦ Live Entertainment
- ♦ Sports contests for all ages!



Use your smart phone and
 barcode scanner app to see a
 video of last year's Summerfest!



Complete information including entry forms: www.stpatsummerfest.com