



SPSL Alumni News

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St. Pius X / St. Leo School
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SPSL ALL SCHOOL REUNION

St. Pius X / St. Leo School Alumni and friends gathered on June 2, 2018 for the first ever SPSL all school reunion. The event was held on the SPSL school campus the evening before the annual St. Pius X Parish Festival.

Alumni were invited to begin the evening with Mass at St. Pius X Church and then gather for an outdoor event featuring live music from the George Heaston Experience. SPSL Alum JJ Aguilar ('87) brought his Prairie Fire Pizza food truck to the event so attendees could enjoy some delicious food while catching up with one another.

There were memory books from many graduating classes along with samples of new and old SPSL Spirit Wear. Several SPSL Alumni took tours of our school to see what has changed and what is the same from when they were in school. Many former students enjoyed reminiscing about their teachers and classmates at SPSL, and some even sang the SPSL school song!



Alumni at the All School Reunion:
Front row - Iona Klug Pavlik ('77), Rob Kemler ('74), and Patty Kemler ('76); Back row - Elsie Klug Moran ('77), Mark Hasenjager ('74), Eileen Klug Baker ('74), Beth Klug McCandless ('75), Jerry Klug ('67), John Kemler ('67), Henry Klug ('71), and Gretchen Klug Oborny ('79)



SPSL Parents of Alumni: Brian Shoemaker, Meg Ursick, Jennifer Walet, Robin Versch, and Susie Shoemaker

A group of SPSL Alumni gathered at the Klug family home on 67th Avenue and then walked together to the SPSL reunion. After the reunion, they walked back to the family home to continue the celebration.

The event was so well received that we plan to have another similar event in 2019. Gather your classmates and plan to attend on Saturday, June 1, 2019! All SPSL Alumni are invited, especially SPSL Alumni classes ending in 4's and 9's which are celebrating milestone reunion years in 2019.

For additional information or to help plan the event, contact SPSL Alumni Director, Michaela Smith at michaela.smith@spsl.net.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI FROM THE CLASS OF 1969

The planning has started for the St. Pius X Class of 1969 50th class reunion. If you are a member of the Class of 1969, please contact Suzy Wurtz at suzywurtz@gmail.com.

ALUMNI TEE OFF TO SUPPORT SPSL

There was a great turn out of SPSL Alumni at the 15th Annual St. Pius X / St. Leo School Golf Tournament. SPSL Alumni and friends hit the links at Knolls Golf Course on May 19, 2018.



Matt Kable (1992), Tim Kable (2004), Pat Jackson (2004), and Mark Kable (1997)

SPSL Alumni Joel Brewster ('83), Darren Goaley ('85), Mark Kable ('97) and Jeff Monzu ('84) volunteered to help plan the event, which included an 18 hole golf scramble, prizes, and dinner from Sgt Pepper's. SPSL Principal, Cory Sepich, was on hand to encourage golfers to partake in the Sepich Surprise second shot advantage game. It was a fun day for all participants!



Class of 2016 Alumni, Ian Johnson and Chris Nubel

Proceeds from the SPSL Golf Tournament were used to fund technology and STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, arts, and math) related improvements at SPSL.

We would love to have additional SPSL Alumni golf in next year's SPSL Golf Tournament on May 18, 2019. For additional information or to help plan the event, contact Kim Ramsey at kim.ramsey@spsl.net.

PANTHER HAPPENINGS



Class of 1964

- Cathy Mendenhall Baugh has published over 150 articles in various Catholic newsletters and websites on a variety of topics including faith, the power of coincidence, and Baptismal names. She was recently interviewed by Spirit Catholic Radio Network in Nebraska. Cathy resides in Portland, OR and works as an insurance agent.
- Major Jeff Fortezzo has retired from his career as a pilot for the United States Air Force and then Southwest Airlines. Jeff and his wife Marilyn reside in Montgomery, TX.

Class of 1973

- Karen (Klein) Matthews recently moved to a new home in west Omaha, and she also welcomed her first grandchild, Calvin James King, on April 13, 2018. Karen is a Senior Installation Processor for Lincoln Financial Group.

Class of 1979

- John Schinker enjoys spending time with his daughters Jessica (26), Kelsey (18) and Katie (7) and his granddaughter Rose who is almost 1 year. Kelsey will graduate high school in the Class of 2019 and Katie is beginning 1st grade. John feels blessed to have strong bonds with his family.

Class of 1984

- Jeff Monzu is Vice President, Senior Project Manager at Leo Daly in Omaha focusing on the planning, programming, design and project management of healthcare facilities. Jeff was recently honored by Healthcare Design magazine because of his dedication to helping smaller communities and populations improve their access to healthcare.



Class of 1987

- Dr. Johnell Ohlinger Brooks was awarded the 2018 SPSL Distinguished Graduate Award at the SPSL Recognition Dinner in April, 2018. Johnell is a



professor at Clemson University where she works in the automobile engineering department. Johnell also gave a fascinating presentation to SPSL students about distracted driving and automobiles of the future.

Class of 1990

- Molly (Naughton) Romano and her family recently moved from Omaha to Broomfield, CO. Her husband, Mike, accepted a position as Vice President, Ambulatory Services at UHealth in Denver. Their oldest child, Josephine, graduated from SPSL in 2018. They also have a 7th grade son, Rory, and a 5th grade daughter, Alice.

Class of 1991

- Sarah (Buda) Stratman graduated from College of Saint Mary with her Master of Arts in Teaching degree. Sarah is a 7th grade teacher at SPSL.

Class of 1995

- John Hoarty and his wife Katie Laskasky welcomed a baby girl, Isabella May Hoarty, on March 27, 2018. Isabella was baptized on August 26, 2018 at Holy Family Church in Chicago, Illinois.

Class of 1997

- Tony Schmitz and his wife Erin welcomed their third boy, Sawyer Grey, on November 18, 2017. Big brothers Finn and Archer were excited to welcome home Sawyer. Erin is a RN Diabetic Educator and Tony is an Agent with Farmers Insurance in Omaha.



Class of 2011

- Jessa Johnston started pharmacy school at UNMC College of Pharmacy in Omaha in August, 2018.

Class of 2012

- Aaron Salzman is studying Philosophy at Boston College. In the summer of 2018, he worked at the Global Catholic Climate Movement, an environmental non-profit. He also gave a thoughtful lay witness presentation at St. Pius X Parish in July.

Class of 2014

- Gabe Drew and Joe Hennessey were honored at a reception at the State Capitol in Lincoln with Governor Pete Ricketts for receiving perfect 36 scores on their ACT exams. Only 22 students in the state earned a perfect score, and two of them were

SPSL graduates! Gabe graduated from Creighton Prep in May, 2018 and is now attending University Nebraska Omaha.

- Joe Hennessey was named Valedictorian of Creighton Prep's Class of 2018 and he was also a National Merit Finalist. Joe was honored in the Omaha World Herald's All State and All Academic 1st teams for his academic achievements, rigor of classes, and success in studies. Joe is now attending Marquette University studying Biomedical Sciences and Spanish, with plans to continue on to medical school.



- Will Johnston was named Class of 2018 Valedictorian at Bennington High School. Will is attending Wichita State University with a major in aerospace engineering.
- Kyleigh Gall was named by the Omaha Jaycees as one of the 2018 Ten Outstanding Young Omaha Teens. The award honors teens that contribute to the Omaha metro community through volunteerism and community action.
- One third of the 2017-2018 Creighton Prep Chamber Choir was comprised of SPSL Alumni including Drew Dunham ('14), Caleb Myers ('14), Jack McLaughlin ('14), Matthew Baysa ('15), Daniel Noon ('15), PJ Mooney ('15) and Christopher Nubel ('16). The Prep Chamber Choir put on an awesome performance at SPSL in the spring of 2018.

Class of 2015

- Many SPSL Alumni were cast in Marian High School's production of *The Sound of Music* including Class of 2015 Alumni Becca Townley (Sister Margaretta), PJ Mooney (Captain Georg von Trapp), Daniel Noon (Franz), and Jolie Peal (Liesl). Also performing as nuns are: Avery Streeter ('15), Annie Compton ('16), Sydnee Baysa ('17) and Murphy Mertz ('17). Performance dates are October 25-28, 2018.

Class of 2018

- Anthony Bope, Michael Bope, Elleiana Green, Noah Peaslee and Danielle Stolze were awarded Serra Club Outstanding Server Awards at St. Pius X and Nate Drew received the same award as a server at St. Leo the Great.

YOUNG ALUMNI HONORED AS EAGLE SCOUTS

Three SPSL Alumni, Nicholas Loschen ('14), Gabe Drew ('14), and Connor Gregg ('16), were all recently honored as Eagle Scouts, the highest advancement rank in scouting.



SPSL Eagle Scouts visiting their alma mater in May, 2018

Nicholas and Gabe started scouting together in Troop 570 while in 2nd grade at SPSL while Gabe's scouting journey began with Troop 370. From the beginning, all three shared

the goal of earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

According to Boy Scouts of America, only 4% of Boy Scouts earn the honor of Eagle Scout after a lengthy and challenging review process. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, there are required performance-based achievements along with requirements in leadership, service and outdoor skills. Plus, all these criteria must be completed before the scout's 18th birthday.

These Alumni identified the service project as one of the most challenging parts of their quest to become Eagle Scouts. They each chose a service project that helped to improve the grounds of the SPSL school parishes. Nicholas' project involved placing a statue of St. Joseph in the St. Leo's garden, Gabe worked to erect a white fence near St. Leo's Church, and Connor's efforts related to updating the siding on the soccer shed at St. Pius X.

The honors earned by Eagle Scouts are a reminder that not all achievements are tied to academics, commented Nicholas. According to Connor, boy scouts has positively impacted his life, because he has grown as a leader and become a mentor for others. Participating in scouts instilled a love of backpacking and the outdoors for Gabe. The SPSL School community congratulates Nicholas, Gabe, and Drew on this outstanding accomplishment!

WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI CLUB

The SPSL Alumni Club gained 88 new members when the Class of 2018 graduated on May 17, 2018. The graduates and their families celebrated with Mass at St. Pius X followed by brunch. Later, there was a prayer service and graduation ceremony at St. Leo the Great. We know these Alumni will go on to do great things. Congratulations, Class of 2018!



MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

Memorials and Tributes are a wonderful way for you to remember or honor a loved one. Listed below are donations received from SPSL alumni, parents of SPSL alumni, and SPSL faculty and staff through the SPSL Educational Endowment Trust Fund to either remember or honor someone special. These donations were received between 2/19/2018 and 9/4/2018. (Alumni designated by graduation year after name.)

Memorials

- Susan (Mahoney) Mullen (1964)*
David Mahoney (1965)
- Erin (Arnold) Keeler (1984)*
Gerald and Denise Arnold
- Richard "Rocky" Roccaforte*
Dr. Bill (1964) and Jane Roccaforte

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to the families of:
 Derrith (Loneman) Murphy Class of 1987
 Teresa (Saenz) Sutton Class of 1969

WILL YOU BE AN EDUCATION PARTNER?

We need your help!

Long gone are the days of a tuition-free St. Pius X / St. Leo School. The two parishes of St. Pius X and St. Leo continue to support the school financially, but the cost of Catholic education rises each year.

Current tuition and fees are \$3,299 per student for members of St. Pius X or St. Leo parishes and \$5,737 for non-parishioners. The families of over 20% of our students are below federal guidelines for free or reduced lunch. Parents continue to pay as much as they are able, yet SPSL receives requests for tuition assistance from over 130 families each year.



You can help! The Education Partners program at SPSL matches willing donors with students in need. Will you become a partner in education with an SPSL student? If you can do so, please return the enclosed envelope with your donation, which the school will apply toward the tuition of a student in need. Any amount is helpful!

There are no meetings, dinners or other public recognition. Your contribution is entirely anonymous, and the student's family is simply told that a generous donor has assisted the student financially. A few times a year you will receive a note from your student partner updating you on his/her progress.

As Alumni who have experienced the benefits of an SPSL education, we can pay those benefits forward to deserving students today by becoming Education Partners. Your donation will enable students to continue a faith-based educational journey at SPSL. Our school's motto says: "More than a school, it's a community." And it is a community - a community of people from the past, the present, and the future.



Become an Education Partner today! If you are interested in learning more about the Education Partners Program, contact Michaela Smith, 402-551-6667, michaela.smith@spsl.net

SPSL SNAPSHOT 2018

MORE THAN A SCHOOL, IT'S A COMMUNITY

700

STUDENTS

Students from 34 different zip codes in the Omaha area with over 50 families speaking a language other than English at home

CLASSROOMS

30

homerooms incorporating STREAM throughout the curriculum and featuring 1:1 Chromebook technology for 4th-8th grades

20%

SCHOLARSHIPS

AdvancEd accredited school where 20% of 8th grade students received an academic scholarship to a Catholic high school

DONATIONS

130

families seek tuition assistance each year and 20% of families qualify for free and reduced lunch under federal guidelines

[WWW.SPSL.NET](http://www.spsl.net)

St. Pius X / St. Leo School is a diverse community forming students in the Catholic faith to excel in academics and service to others.

BLESSING WALK FOR SPSL GRADUATES

In May, 2018, SPSL School had a special blessing walk send off for our graduating 8th grade students. During the last day the 8th graders were at school in uniforms, all SPSL students, teachers, and staff lined the hallways as the 8th grade students walked through the school for the last time. The Class of 2018 had an opportunity to shake hands with the adults in our school community while the younger students cheered and clapped for the graduates. It was exciting to see our 8th grade students so excited, tearful, and happy. It was also impactful for our younger students to celebrate our graduating class. We look forward to continuing this tradition for years to come.



STUDENTS SHARE WHAT THEY LOVE ABOUT SPSL

“The kids at SPSL are accepting and friendly, so making friends is easy here.”

- *Caleb, 8th grade*

“We learn about Jesus and God. St. Pius X / St. Leo School helps others in need.”

- *Jonah, 3rd grade*

“I love SPSL because it’s like the teachers came from heaven. If you have trouble with a subject, the teachers are more than willing to help you.”

- *Adele, 4th grade*

“I hope to send children of my own to SPSL one day so they know as much about their faith as I have learned.”

- *Molly, 8th grade*



NEW PASTOR AT ST. PIUS X

In July, 2018, Fr. Joe Wray joined St. Pius X Parish as Pastor, replacing Fr. Mike Eckley. Fr. Mike is now stationed as servant minister for the Archdiocese of Omaha with residence at Our Lady of Lourdes.



Fr. Joe grew up in Omaha as a member of St. James Parish, and he attended Mr. Michael Benedictine High School. He was ordained in 1996. Most recently, Fr. Joe served as Pastor of St. Joseph’s Parish Center in Wisner and Holy Cross Parish in Beemer. Fr. Joe has a music education degree, and enthusiastically incorporates music into the liturgy. We are excited to welcome Fr. Joe to the St. Pius X / St. Leo School community.

FUTURE SPSL ALUMS

Do you have a Future SPSL Alum? Submit information regarding your new little one to the SPSL Alumni Director (michaela.smith@spsl.net) within one year of birth and we will send you a “Future Panther” t-shirt or onesie and publish the good news in an upcoming SPSL Alumni Newsletter.



MISSION STATEMENT FOR SPSL SCHOOL

St. Pius X / St. Leo School is a diverse community forming students in the Catholic faith to excel in academics and service to others.

NOMINATE A SPSL DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

SPSL is accepting nominations for the 2019 SPSL Distinguished Graduate Award. This award honors a person who has made a significant contribution to American society and/or the Catholic Church. Send your nominations to Michaela Smith at michaela.smith@spsl.net.

ALUMNI INVITED TO CELEBRATE SPSL: COMMUNITY OF ONE



SPSL Alumni are an integral part of the SPSL past and future. All alumni are encouraged to gather at Creighton Prep the evening of Saturday, October 20, 2018 for the St. Pius X / St. Leo School Fall Fundraiser: Community of One! The

St. Pius X / St. Leo School community is welcoming and supportive of each other through good times and bad. Let's celebrate our great community and support SPSL!

This casual event includes a plated dinner with a wonderful silent and live auction. Funds raised help maintain the SPSL commitment to academic excellence, support our teachers, enhance facilities, and enable technology use.

Keeping our students safe is the number one goal at St. Pius X / St. Leo School. We hope to raise at least \$10,000.00 through the annual GIVE at the Fall Fundraiser. A GIVE donation can be made in any amount and will be used to help add upgrades to the existing security features at SPSL. Planned security enhancements include improved security doors, new security cameras, and additional key fob entry systems.

The cost to attend the Community of One event is \$60.00/person or \$600 for a table of ten. Your tax deductible contribution is \$30.00/person or \$300/table of ten. For more information or to RSVP, contact SPSL Alumni Director Michaela Smith, michaela.smith@spsl.net or visit www.spsl.net/ways-to-support and visit the Community of One fundraiser page.

ON THE CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 16, 2018: Enjoy a meal at My Pie Pizza on 120th and Blondo Streets between 4-8:00 pm. Mention SPSL and 20% of your purchase will revert to SPSL.

Saturday, October 20, 2018: Mark your calendar for the SPSL Fall Fundraiser, *Community of One*. The event will be held at Creighton Prep High School.

Thursday, November 15, 2018: Come watch the 5th and 6th grade performance of Madagascar at 7:00 pm in the gym.

Monday, November 12 - Sunday, November 25, 2018: SPSL Spiritwear will be for sale just in time for Christmas. Visit www.spsl.net/spiritwear to check out SPSL alumni items, hats, sweatshirts, and other Panther gear. Delivery will be made to SPSL by December 17, 2018.

Wednesday, November 14, 2018: Grab dinner at Panera Bread on 78th and Dodge Streets between 4-8:00 pm and 20% of your purchase will revert to SPSL when you identify your purchase as part of the SPSL fundraiser night event.

Tuesday, November 20, 2018: Please consider participating in GivingTuesday! Proceeds will benefit the SPSL Annual Fund and provide needed support for the operating budget of our school.

Sunday, January 27 - Saturday, February 2, 2019: Each year our students celebrate their faith, knowledge, and service during Catholic Schools Week.



Friday, April 26, 2019: SPSL students will participate in the annual Race for Education, a fundraiser involving walking, running, snow cones, and fun. This is a great way to support our school.

Saturday, May 18, 2019: The 16th Annual SPSL Golf Tournament will be held at The Knolls Golf Course. Join us for a day filled with golf, fun, and friends.



For more information on these, and all of our upcoming events, visit the St. Pius X / St. Leo School website at www.spsl.net.



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ALUMNI - TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

We want to hear from you! Is there any interesting news or events that have happened recently in your life? Did you get a new job or a promotion? Have you recently been married or added a new member to your family? Have you moved? We encourage you to share your news with us and your fellow alums.

Name (Maiden and Married) _____

Address _____

Street City State Zip

E-mail Address _____

Phone (____) _____ St. Pius X /St. Leo Class of _____

High School Attended _____ Year of Graduation _____

Sibling's Names _____ Spouse's Name _____

Name and Ages of Your Children _____

Business _____ Position _____

School Currently Attending _____ State _____

News for Our Alumni Newsletter _____

Please mail to: St. Pius X/ St. Leo School, 6905 Blondo Street, Omaha NE 68104-4600
Attention: Alumni News

Please fax to: 402-551-8123

Please email to: michaela.smith@spsl.net or submit your update at: www.spsl.net/alumni-profile

If you are a parent receiving this newsletter rather than the graduate, please ask them to update their address with us.