

ST. PIUS X / ST. LEO SCHOOL

JANUARY 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The theme of our Catholic School's Week celebration is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." As many of you may recall, this has been the theme for CSW for the past two years. All of the core principles of this theme are embodied in each member of the St. Pius X / St. Leo School community.

As an Omaha community, we are blessed to have many amazing educational options available for families. Parents and guardians chose SPSL because of the education their child will receive, where faculty and staff are committed to the success of each and every child, where faith formation is key, and where everyone who enters the school building has a sense of belonging. This overwhelming sense of belonging is evident by the number of alumni who return to school after graduation, visiting former teachers and staff members. Alumni also return to help with drama productions, mentor in MATHCOUNTS, teach chess, or coach a sports team.

At SPSL students are provided opportunities to excel academically, grow in their faith, and serve others. These opportunities are made possible through the support given by so many, whether financially, spiritually, or through volunteer efforts which aid the school and our two parishes, as well as many other efforts, all which strengthen our school and church community.

We are blessed to be supported by so many, but the continued commitment of St. Pius X and St. Leo the Great Parishes is unwavering. For that, our school is eternally grateful.

Please know that you are always welcome to stop by and visit our wonderful school, specifically during any of the Catholic Schools Week activities (1/27/19 - 2/1/19). Events are listed on the school's website, www.spsl.net. It truly is a great week to celebrate and showcase this special community!

Mr. Cory Sepich, Principal



PLEASE JOIN US

Our celebration of Catholic schools begins the weekend of January 25/26 at both parishes. Our school will be highlighted in a special way at all weekend Masses. We hope you will be able to be a part of this special CSW kickoff. As supporters of our school, please also join us at either of our special Masses scheduled during Catholic Schools Week. CSW Masses will be held at St. Leo the Great Church on Wednesday, January 29 at 8:45 and 10:30 am. We hope you can be a part of any of these special Masses.

ST. PIUS X / ST. LEO SCHOOL IS A DIVERSE COMMUNITY FORMING STUDENTS
IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH TO EXCEL IN ACADEMICS AND SERVICE TO OTHERS.



(The first grade diaper drive was a huge success.)

STUDENT'S P.O.V.

"I love going to SPSL because my dad went here." - Lydia, 2nd grade

"We have Miles, he is a therapy dog who comforts you if you're feeling sad."
- Frannie, 5th grade

"SPSL is a safe place. There is no bullying, no hate, it is all love. I really feel like SPSL lives up to it is more than a school, it is a community. Everyone helps each other create our community." - Adele, 5th grade

"SPSL will always be a home to me and I can be positive that I will always be welcome. I can't wait to see what the future SPSL graduates will bring to the world."
- Josephine, 8th grade

DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS...



The 7th and 8th grade students in drama will present two evening performances of *Schoolhouse Rock* during Catholic Schools Week. The free performances will be held in the school's gym on Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1, both at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend either (or both) of the performances as they will feature two different casts.

TEACHER'S P.O.V.



"My name is Annie Wise and I teach 5th grade at St. Pius X / St. Leo School. My husband and I moved back to the Omaha area two and a half years ago, and I was fortunate enough to be able to substitute teach while looking for a school that felt like home. From the moment I first subbed at SPSL I recognized that there was something special about it; it's a family and I wanted to be a part of it. My prayers were answered and I found my place here among the 5th grade team! Everyday I get to collaborate with like-minded teachers (they are the best), I get to teach terrific kids that come from terrific families, and I get to do what I love to do. The administration, support staff, parents, and volunteers have made me feel like I've always been here and that I belong. I have a strong faith that God leads me where I am to go and I have no doubt that God led me to SPSL. I feel right at home. Thank you to everyone who has reached out and made me feel so welcome."

SPSL SCHOOL ANNUAL LUMINARY AWARDS

St. Pius X / St. Leo School will host the fifth annual SPSL School Luminary Awards (formerly "Recognition Dinner") on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at St. Leo the Great Church. The following awards/honors will be presented:

- The Reverend George Kempker 'Volunteer of the Year' Award - Jennifer Mangan
- The NCEA and SPSL School 'Distinguished Graduate' Award - Tim Sutherland (1964)
- The Sister Brigetta (Burns) 'Teacher of the Year' Award - Sue Kurtenbach
- The Sister Viola (Miksch) 'Servant of Mary' Award - Marikay Schwaller
- SPSL School 'Hall of Fame' Inductee - Tom and Margaret Hoarty

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT TRUST

In Memory (January 1 - December 31, 2019)

Each year we receive many memorials in recognition of family and friends of the SPSL community. While we are saddened to hear of these individuals passing, we are happy to continue their legacy and commitment to Catholic education through these gifts.

Kelly Lynn Bartman
Jane Cannon
Miana Corey
Joy Beth Dailey
Dr. James R. Dunlap
William Dunn
Joan Englander
Jean Giles
James "Jimmy" Grasso (Class of 2008)
Richard Harrell
Richard Hekl
Anthony "Tony" Homan (Class of 1977)
Linda (Mills) Kamins (Class of 1960)
Donald Kestel
Kathleen "Suzie" Klosterman
Mike Langenfeld
Cecilia Kay Munter
Derrith (Loneman) Murphy (Class of 1987)
Robert Nussrallah
Rosemary Pogge
Theresa Ramold
Phillip Rappenecker
Marilyn Rogers
Duane Starman
Steve Vogel (Class of 1968)
John W. "Bill" Weekly (Class of 1965)
Patricia Zach

WAYS TO SUPPORT SPSL

There are many ways to support St. Pius X / St. Leo School.

- Special Restaurant Nights - Wednesday, January 29 is Culver's Night (120th & Miami Streets) from 4:00 - 9:00 pm
- Box Tops, Our Family, Family Fare
- Baker's Plus Card

For more information on more ways to support SPSL, check out the school's website, www.spsl.net under 'Ways to Support'.



MAKERSPACE

The SPSL Makerspace program was started in 2017 by Mrs. Christy Vogel, our school library media specialist. The program started small, with Mrs. Vogel inviting 6th grade students who were interested in 'creating' to visit the library during their reading time. In 2019, Mr. Jason Nelson, a 2nd grade teacher assistant, assumed the role of Makerspace coordinator. He is still working with 6th grade students but has more activities for them to 'create' with. So far this year they have sewed quilted pillows, created electronic toothbrushes (which they named 'bristle bots'), made micro habitats and a small terrarium, and sculpted mini figures out of plasticine. The students love mixing recycled materials and tech kits to make innovative and creative items!

VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCES



As a result of the money raised from this year's GIVE at the annual fundraiser, the school was able to purchase a Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality Kit. This technology will enhance the curriculum and learning experiences of all our students in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade by providing them the chance to take virtual field trips. Students in 6th grade took a virtual field trip to Ancient Egyptian sights to get close up views of the Pyramids and the Sphinx. Eighth grade students will use the packs to explore a black hole in science, and 3rd grade students will get an up close view of penguins during a trip to Antarctica.



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KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

If you have a potential kindergarten student for the 2020-2021 school year, please join us for Kindergarten Roundup on Saturday, February 1 from 9:00 - 10:30 am. We welcome you to become more acquainted with our exceptional learning environment here at SPSL. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Parents and incoming kindergarten students are invited to attend.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

We are hosting a Pre-Kindergarten Roundup on Saturday, February 1 from 9:30 - 11:00 am. This roundup is for parents interested in our Three and Four Year Old Pre-Kindergarten Programs. The programs will be discussed and you will have a chance to visit with the Pre-Kindergarten teachers and look at the modern classrooms these students use. Parents are invited to attend.



If you, or someone you know, have children who will be in 1st through 8th grades for the 2020-2021 school year and have an interest in learning more about SPSL School, please call the school office at 402-551-6667 to arrange a tour. Also, be sure to check out our school's website, www.spsl.net, to see classroom information, upcoming events, and more.