



Growing the Tradition

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Giving Thanks

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The Thanksgiving Holiday is such a perfect time for friends and family to give thanks for their multitude of blessings. Madonna School has so many reasons to be grateful and we shared our thanks during the annual Thanksgiving Celebration, held last Tuesday.

This event is a long-time tradition at Madonna School. Each year, the classrooms take part in preparing the thanksgiving feast. The students pick the dish they want to contribute toward the meal and the staff cook the turkeys.



The classrooms also take turns writing and performing a play using the 'Giving Thanks' theme. They make their own costumes and practice their lines — it is always a fabulous production!

We were blessed to have a very special guest joining us this year. Archbishop George Lucas began the morning by touring the school and celebrating the liturgy in the chapel. He then joined the children for lunch and the Thanksgiving Play.



The festivities were held in the Madonna School Gymnasium, with lively decorations provided by the student art classes. All Madonna Student Families were invited to join their child for lunch.

Laughter abounded through the gymnasium as we joined with friends and family to reflect on this past year's blessings and pray for the same to be bestowed on your family this holiday season.



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Student Incentive Program

When students at Madonna School pass the library, they stop to look at the “Incentive Wall” — a selection of toys such as miniature cars, dolls, teddy bears, video games, cd's, posters, etc.

The program works with points that the students earn in their classrooms for both good behavior and completion of assigned work, such as written work or participation in art, music and speech therapy. Each item is labeled with a specific number of points required for a student to purchase that item. Students find an item they like and work to accumulate that number of points through their good behavior/class work. As you can imagine, this program is very popular with the students. And while they may not realize it now, it teaches them that good work merits reward. We hope our students will adapt this technique later in life as they work in competitive employment.

This particular program is made possible by Marge and Joe Gollobit. Marge and Joe have been donating toys from their Toy Shop to delight our children! We are very grateful for their generosity and the role they play in helping our students learn valuable life skills.



Marge Gollobit (standing in back) with students (l-r): Nicole, Dimitri, Alexandra and Brittany in front of the Incentive Wall at Madonna School's library.

Cards by Kids!

Do you remember drawing holiday pictures when you were a child? This is one of the most fun art projects for our students.

Since the days of Sr. Evangeline, Madonna School students have been creating beautiful 'Designer Christmas Cards' for our friends. Each child draws his/her own design and fills it with color. The five designs that best represent the holiday spirit are made into Christmas Cards.

This year's cards are now available in a package of 10 cards for \$12.50. Please call us at 556-1883 to reserve your order or drop by the school to pick them up. **Share the beauty of the Christmas season as seen through the eyes of our special children at Madonna School.**



This year's winning Christmas cards designed by Madonna School students

Madonna School Launches New Website

When visiting Madonna School's website, you may notice some changes. With the help of Websites to Impress, Madonna School's website is now user-friendly and updated regularly! It has quick links to help you navigate your way through the pages. You will find upcoming activities and events, the school schedule and tons of information about Madonna School including staff and faculty information and information about donating a gift. Throughout the web pages you will see numerous photos of the special students at Madonna School. This new website is beneficial to parents of Madonna students, prospective students and parents, our appreciated donors and anyone interested in learning more about Madonna School.



Go to www.madonnaschool.org



Christmas 2009



Dear Supporters of Madonna School,

At Madonna School, we welcome students with special needs and teach them to learn, live, work and become as independent as possible. That path to independence can take many directions and each student's path is different.

For fifty years, Madonna School has been providing opportunities for students with special needs and because of you, the generous supporters of Madonna School and **your belief in this philosophy, our students are loved, safe and treated with dignity.**

In 1960, Sister Evangeline Randolph, RSM started Madonna School in the basement of St. James Orphanage. Sister Evangeline was of the mind that children with special needs could learn and be productive if they were only given an opportunity. She gave them an opportunity – beginning with two and three children at a time. The program was working and Sister, with the generous support of many good people in the community, was able to purchase a building at 62nd and Maple Street. That location would be home to Madonna School for many years.

A capital campaign was launched in 2004 to build a new school at 72nd and Sorenson. This new one-floor building includes eight classrooms, a gymnasium and kitchen. It also has a learning apartment, where students practice life skills such as cooking, cleaning, laundry and making a bed. Today's enrollment is 58 students. **Truly, for Sister Evangeline, this is a dream come true!!**

To maintain the quality of education that was Sr. Evangeline's dream, we need your continued support. With 82% of our budget coming from contributions, we ask you, the community for your ongoing support for these children.

The title of Sister Evangeline's book "**I HAVE SEEN HIM**" clearly states that Sister saw in every child the face of Jesus through the light in their eyes and the joy in their smile. **As we commemorate His birth, please consider a gift and help make a difference in their lives and see how your own spirit will be set free!**

May the blessings of this beautiful season of Christmas remain with you through the New Year!

Gratefully,

Sister Michelle Faltus, SFCC
Exec. Director: Development/Transition

Dr. Bill Goodwin
Madonna School Principal

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Upcoming Events

December 6

Knights of Columbus
Pancake Breakfast
at Christ The King
9am-12pm

December 8

Madonna School
Holiday Open House
1-3pm

December 10

Madonna School
Christmas Program
6:30pm

January 20

Madonna School
Chili Feed 5-8pm

Madonna School and Workshop wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

Memorials

The faculty, staff & students wish to express their sincerest condolences to the families of those listed below.

Tal Anderson	Linda Gunsolley
Jim Kelly	Dennis Miller
Raymond O'Halloran	Jesse Rodaway
Helen Yungbluth	Mary Yungbluth

Honorariums

Recognizing special occasions

Sam and Lucy Marasco
Frank and Jody Sobetski
Tiernan and Luz Andrea Siems

