



## *An Exemplary Recognition School Community*

**Proud to Be St. Monica School: We Celebrate Some of our Recent School Community Successes!**

### **SMS Alumni**

#### ***Ellie Christenson and Nicole Hangsterfer***

**Ellie Christenson and Nicole Hangsterfer**, both members of the SMS Class of 2006, were recently named as National Merit Semifinalists for 2010. Ellie, a Senior at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, and Nicole, a Senior at Nicolet High School, were among the over 1.5 million students from 22,000 high schools who were entered in the competition. Nationally, less than 1% of each state's high school seniors earn Semifinalist recognition!

In February 2010, Ellie and Nicole will find out if they will be honored as Finalists, becoming eligible for over \$36 million in scholarship awards. Congratulations, Ellie and Nicole, and best of luck!

#### ***Maggie O'Neil***

**Maggie O'Neil**, SMS Class of 2007 and current Junior at Dominican High School, was recently selected to attend the 2009 "LeadAmerica National Leadership Summit" held at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The National Leadership Summit is a college-accredited invitational leadership program for academically talented and promising high school students from across the United States and internationally. In this hands-on learning environment, Maggie and fellow students stepped into the shoes of those who lead on the national level in simulations during which they grappled with government, national security and global economic issues. Faced with complex issues and conflicting points of view, students learned to negotiate compromise and build consensus and support for their positions. Congratulations, Maggie!

#### ***Peter Vartanian***

**Peter Vartanian**, SMS Class of 2005, was recently published in Newsweek magazine. In his article, Peter shared his insights into the arduous process of choosing the right college. Truly, his piece – a delightful blend of humor, candor, and sage advice – is one to which every high school student can relate. Peter is a gifted writer, skills he no doubt honed throughout his time at SMS!

You can read Peter's article via the following link: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/210896>

Congratulations, Peter, and best of luck during your college career at Creighton!

### **SMS Students**

#### ***SMS Celebrates Another Year of Standardized Testing Excellence!***

The table below, representing the percentile rank of St. Monica School students compared to national school norms, is a summary of the results of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills administered to St. Monica School students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grades this past Spring. The ITBS is the standardized test mandated by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. While testing is only one measure of student achievement, we celebrate these results as further evidence of the excellence of our students, staff, and curriculum!

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Reading</b> | <b>Language</b> | <b>Math</b> | <b>Social Studies</b> | <b>Science</b> | <b>Composite</b> |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>3</b>     | <b>99</b>      | <b>99</b>       | <b>98</b>   | <b>99</b>             | <b>99</b>      | <b>99</b>        |
| <b>5</b>     | <b>94</b>      | <b>99</b>       | <b>96</b>   | <b>93</b>             | <b>92</b>      | <b>98</b>        |
| <b>7</b>     | <b>95</b>      | <b>99</b>       | <b>94</b>   | <b>95</b>             | <b>99</b>      | <b>99</b>        |

In all three grades tested, SMS has more high achieving students and fewer average and low achieving students than do most other schools in the nation. **The average composite grade equivalent for St. Monica School in grade 3 is 5.8, grade 5 is 8.3, and grade 7 is 12.7** – meaning all three grades scored well above grade level! This success can be attributed to the diligence of our students, our strong parental involvement and support, and our dedicated and competent faculty.

#### ***SMS Students "Live" Message of Service***

Once again this school year, SMS students will fully embrace the mission of our **Exemplary Recognition** school community "to learn, live, and love through Jesus." A major element of that mission and the faith we celebrate each day is engaging in a life of service and ministering to those in need. This service and ministry outreach takes many forms, including the following:

##### *All-school projects:*

- Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas Toy Drive benefitting the House of Peace
- Participation in Teddy Bear Patrol Program
- Personal Hygiene Product Drive for the Guest House Men's Shelter
- Rice Bowl donations and school and sport item collections for St. Augustine High School, NOLA – Josephite Ministries
- Habitat for Humanity Collection during Lent and Coats/Clothing Drive for Ladies of Charity (collaboration with Parish)
- Collection and preparation of clothing, candles, and Halloween candy for the Lakota People of South Dakota
- All school seed drive for the Lakota People of South Dakota (in Spring)
- Knights of Columbus Food Drive in conjunction with May Crowning

### *Grade-level and class-specific projects:*

- Christmas Sock Drive
- Banners, food, and help for “Donut Days” (collaboration with Parish)
- Cards and letters for Parish children recently baptized or celebrating the anniversary of their baptism
- Cards and letters for Annual Fund investors and birthday cards and “Welcome Home” letters for St. Monica School alums
- Christmas Cookies for the Residents of Milwaukee Catholic Home and “Valentines for Veterans” at Zablocki Medical Center
- Collections of books, treats, etc. for soldiers in Iraq (collaboration with Parish)
- Buying goats for Bosnia – Junior High “Donut Day” fundraiser (collaboration with Parish)
- Making and donating bowls for the “Empty Bowls” project (Food Pantry Charity Event)
- Preparing of meals for families with new babies, illnesses or military deployment.
- Celebration of Advent play for children in school and parish.
- Student leaders for the K4 program and the “Buddy Program”
- Collection of used books and texts for Hunger Book Sales and Library in Belize
- Participate with St. Eugene in combined Service Saturday activities
- Preparation of and participation in weekly all-school Liturgy
- “Reading Buddies” with lower grade-level students
- Writing letters to soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital
- Caroling for Ladies of Charity, Milwaukee Catholic Home, and other venues
- Donation of old and used text books and reference books to low income schools

While this list is only partial, it illustrates how committed our staff and students are to positively impacting others by leading the life of service we are called to embrace. We are proud of them for their efforts!

### **SMS Parents!**

#### ***MUHS Honors John and Norma Herbers***

St. Monica School parents (and St. Monica Parish members) **Norma and John Herbers** of Whitefish Bay were one of two recipients of the Spirit of St. Ignatius Award, one of the highest honors given to volunteers by Marquette University High School. They received the award Thursday night, October 8<sup>th</sup> at the school during the President's Club Dinner in front of 350 of the school's most generous benefactors.

Norma and John have contributed in numerous ways throughout the years they have belonged to St. Monica Parish and had children attending St. Monica School. Whether it is John's leadership of Scouting or the School Board Committee or Norma's leadership of and active involvement in Home & School and various Parish community associations, the Herbers have made a tremendous impact upon our St. Monica Parish and School communities. We are grateful for them and we celebrate them!

### **SMS Staff**

#### ***SMS Jr. High Science Teacher Honored by FDA and NSTA***

**Carmen Bond**, SMS Jr. High teacher, was one of 40 teachers nationwide selected to participate in the Summer 2009 FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) Food Science Professional Development Program. The goal of this partnership program is to celebrate outstanding science educators and help prepare them to implement the FDA food science curriculum during the coming school year. As a selected participant, Mrs. Bond attended a week-long workshop in Washington D.C. in July, during which she visited the USDA Agricultural Farm, the FDA labs, a seafood processing plant, and performed food science experiments at the University of Maryland microbiology labs. She will attend a follow-up conference in Phoenix in December to share updates with her colleagues. Congrats, Mrs. Bond, upon this exciting, well-deserved professional honor!

#### ***St. Monica School Staff Publishes Curriculum Guides***

In early October, St. Monica School staff, led by Principal Maria Schram, put the final touches on Curriculum Guide overviews for each of our grade levels (K-4 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade). These Curriculum Guides are a wonderful resource for school families, providing specific academic expectations and outcomes for our students. They represent hundreds of manhours of work by Mrs. Schram and all of our teachers who worked diligently to compile the information found within and to ensure the documents were accurate and representative of our accelerated curriculum standards. As a school community, we can truly be very proud to have such gifted educators and administrators leading us forward!

A very special note of thanks to Colin Hutt, school Dad, St. Monica Parish member, and President of Primum Marketing Communications who shared his time and talent in a multitude of ways to create and prepare the actual templates and formatting used in the Curriculum Guides. As I know you'll agree, the guides are incredibly impressive and such a great representation of our school community. We thank Colin for his amazing contributions to this important school community effort!

You can find our Curriculum Guides at any time via our SMS website: <http://www.st-monicaschool.org/about/curriculum/>

**Congratulations to the members of our Exemplary Recognition school community featured above! We are proud of you!**

***If you know of a SMS student, alum, staff, or parent success we should be celebrating, please contact Tom Mlada, St. Monica School Development Director, at (414) 332-3660 ext. 123 or tmlada@st-monica.org.***