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**“THIS IS THE DAY
THE LORD HAS MADE,
I WILL BE GLAD AND
REJOICE IN IT.”**

PSALM 118:24

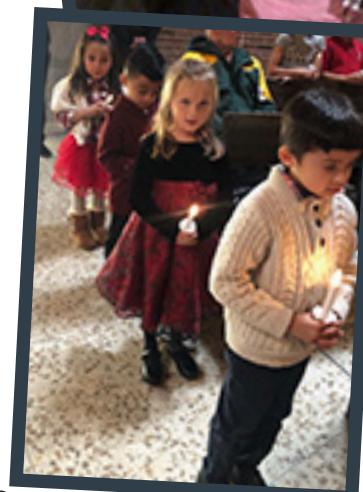
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A Season of Joy

They say joy is contagious, and I believe it. The past month has been filled with joy, and it seems to be magnifying in our school community. Since the St. Catherine's football team won their first WIAA Division 4 state football championship, the joy hasn't stopped. Students, parents, staff, alumni and the broader community are filled with happiness and pride in the team's accomplishments. Coach Dan Miller's feet, rightly so, haven't touched the ground.

I saw joy on the face of an entire crowd full of athletes, friends and family on Nov. 30 inside St. Catherine's McGuire Gymnasium during the court-naming ceremony honoring Coach Bob Letsch. Recent gym renovations included refinishing the floor and officially naming the court in recognition of his 51 years of dedicated service to the school as a teacher and coach. During the ceremony, the crowd stood and cheered for Coach Letsch as he spoke of his gratitude and the joy he felt coaching hundreds of young men during their high school years.



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Do you know of someone or something we should feature? If so, please share with us!

Do you want to promote your event? Please tell us about it!

Do you have questions? Just ask us!

It's easy! Email: communications@sienacatholicschools.org



Spotlight on: Mrs. Heidi Hernandez

Principal of St. Joseph School



I am so excited to be working with Siena Catholic Schools of Racine as the principal of St. Joseph School. Whenever someone asks me about my new school, I tell them that the St. Joseph community is truly something special. The dedication of the staff and families is noticed in everything they do.



A SIENA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

I love to hear about the generations of families attending St. Joe's — parents who were married at St. Joe's and even grandparents who were teachers. The character of the more than 150-year-old school continues to remind us of its strong history and how the school will be around for generations to come. Working with the Siena Catholic Schools' leadership team is a dream come true. Everyone is always willing to help, listen and offer advice. This is honestly what working in education is all about!

I earned my bachelor's degree in elementary education from Alverno College and two master's degrees. One master's degree is focused on curriculum and instruction from Marian University and the other in administrative leadership from Alverno College. For the first six years of my education career, I was a teacher for the Milwaukee Public School system, and later, I became an instructional supervisor for the Milwaukee Title I program. Prior to joining Siena Catholic Schools, I was a principal at another Catholic school for six years. I love to continue learning about education by attending professional development opportunities and by sharing the learning with other educators. I hope to someday earn my doctoral degree.

Fun Facts



- ◆ My husband, Cesar and I have been married for fourteen years and have three children — Emanuel (12), Isaiah (9) and Talia (2).

- ◆ We have a Boxer named Steve and a cat named Ace. They sure are like having two more kids!
- ◆ My husband is a firefighter, so between the two of us, we have very crazy schedules!
- ◆ We find the time to enjoy our family and friends, take vacations, spend time outdoors and try new restaurants.





Introducing...Kim Crawford

Siena's Senior Manager of Human Resources

We're pleased to introduce Kim Crawford, Siena's new Senior Manager of Human Resources. Kim comes to us with a broad and deep background in human resources, communications, development and public relations. Having spent a number of years at Chicago's Mercy Home for Boys & Girls (a Catholic nonprofit), Kim was particularly drawn to the mission of Siena Catholic Schools of Racine and its commitment to educating in a Catholic learning environment characterized by academic excellence, servant leadership, student diversity, personal accountability and respect for every individual. We're so excited by the experience and perspective she brings. We know she will make meaningful contributions to Siena's organizational excellence.

A Season of Joy continued from page 1

We sometimes connect joy to goals like winning a state championship or a lifetime achievement honor. The truth is that our joy comes from the Lord and a heart full of gratitude. C.S. Lewis once said, "Joy is the serious business of heaven." I believe that one of the greatest gifts we can give to God and one another is our own happiness and gratitude.

As we enter into the season of Advent, we don't have to look far for signs of joy. It is in the sound of our children rehearsing Christmas carols in readiness for the coming concerts. It is also in our Advent wreaths and prayers of waiting for Christ our Savior's birth. Joy is in our giving trees, food baskets and other signs of sharing that fill our schools. Joy is even in the midst of our participation in ugly Christmas sweater days!

May our hearts be filled with the joy of the season and gratitude for the many gifts that God has given us.

Sincerely,

Brenda White

Brenda White
President



Congratulations!

19 Years

Deb Mielcarek - St. Catherine's
Theresa Manke - JPIIA

18 Years

Margaret Ross - St. Lucy
Joshua Barry - St. Catherine's
Cheryl Mooney - St. Catherine's
Luann Kratowicz - St. Lucy

17 Years

Pam Wisse - St. Lucy
Ryan Schwaiger - St. Lucy

16 Years

Jennifer Gianou - OLOGA

15 Years

Theresa Carpenter - St. Joseph
Coleen Ruediger - St. Joseph
Richard Hagopian -
St. Catherine's

**Thank you for
your years of
dedication!**



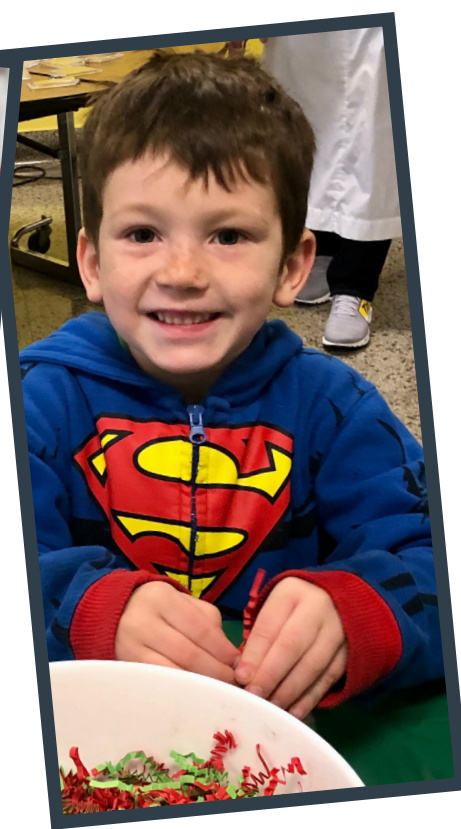
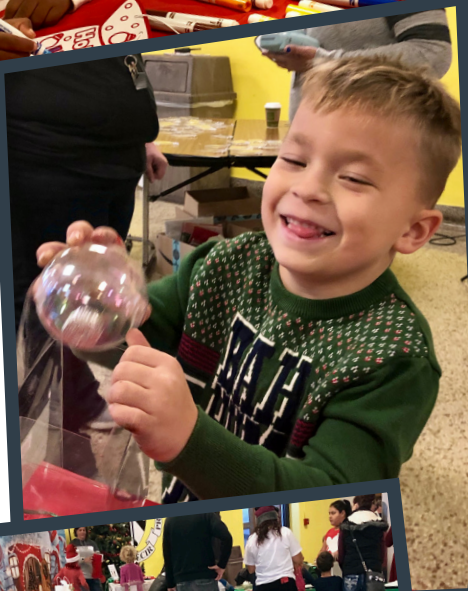
Christmas with the Angels

An event hosted by the Siena Catholic Schools' Admissions Team

Christmas with the Angels made its return to St. Catherine's High School on Nov. 17. More than 50 children and their parents spent time working on crafts, making graham cracker houses, playing Christmas bingo and posing in a holiday themed photo booth. They even had the opportunity to meet Andy Angel! For the first time ever, local vendors set up tables to provide parents with the opportunity to check a few items off their Christmas shopping lists. It was a festive day for all!


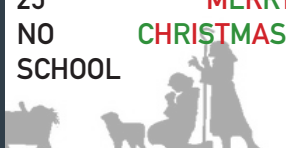


As part of organizing this wonderful event, the Siena Catholic Schools Admissions' outreach program encourages students to give back to their community. In that spirit of giving and sharing the joy of Christmas, the children also created 32 beautiful ornaments for the retired Dominican Sisters in Racine.

If smiles and laughter were any indication, attendees clearly enjoyed the event. We look forward to next year's *Christmas with the Angels*! A very special thank you goes to Panera Bread (5630 Washington Road, Mount Pleasant) for donating hot coffee.





SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

16 Third Sunday of Advent	17	18 *OLOGA *St. Joseph	19 *St. Catherine's	20 *St. Catherine's	21 *Siena Last day of school *St. Catherine's	22
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent	24 NO SCHOOL 	25 NO SCHOOL MERRY CHRISTMAS! 	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL National Chocolate Candy Day	29
30	31 NO SCHOOL 	January 1 NO SCHOOL Happy New Year! 	2 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service	3 * Siena Classes Resume	4	5 National Bird Day
6 The Epiphany	7	8	9 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	10	11 National Milk Day	12

*ALL SIENA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

21: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

24 - JAN. 2: WINTER BREAK

3: CLASSES RESUME

*OLOGA

18: CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 6 P.M. IN ST. EDWARD CHURCH

*ST. CATHERINE'S

19-21: END OF SEMESTER EXAMS

*ST. JOSEPH

18: CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 6:30 P.M. IN SCHOOL GYM

LOOKING AHEAD...MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

JAN. 18: FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE AT INFUSINO'S BANQUET HALL

JAN. 21: NO SCHOOL, TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY

JAN. 26: ST. JOSEPH'S BEER BASH AT GEORGE'S TAVERN

JAN. 27 - FEB. 2: CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

JAN. 27: OPEN HOUSES AT ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

JAN. 29: "FACES OF GOD" PERFORMANCE, 7 P.M. AT ST. CATHERINE'S

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For
a child
is born to
us. A son is given
to us; And the government
is upon His shoulder; And His name
will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Eternal Father,
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6