



### Message from the Principal...

St. John Bosco is truly a special place, and I have been privileged to lead this learning community through another great year. All our community members are challenged to be lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and strong people of faith. Because of this we have seen tremendous growth at SJB. From the strong foundation, our Early Childhood Program provides, through our rigorous Middle School Program, our students are challenged to grow each day.

The excitement, joy and laughter that fills the halls brings so much life to SJB and truly proves that the power of our school lies in the children and families we serve. Our building's digital transformation, in summer 2016, helped ensure that our students have vibrant, engaged learning spaces throughout our building. During this past year, we endeavored to create opportunities for our students to be challenged academically, personally and spiritually. It is a pleasure for the faculty and me to partner with each of you as we support the growth and development of each of your children.

I wish to thank our learning community team – those who are paid and those who volunteer – for all your efforts and contributions this year. I have asked a great deal of everyone with the new technology and they have all risen to the challenge admirably. You have indeed made a difference in the lives of our students! Each year we will continue to challenge ourselves to innovate and be “Committed to Excellence” in the work we do.

Thank you to the Parent Association for their dedication and work celebrating the children; staff and school. Thank you to the Board of Trustees for entrusting this wonderful school into my care and for supporting all we are trying to achieve in the best interests of all our children. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the parish communities for your commitment, support and dedication in our efforts to provide the children with a superb learning experience. You are an invaluable component to the success of our school. Thank you again for a most memorable and exhilarating school year.

Please keep SJB in your prayers this summer, and know that you and your family are in ours as well.

*Mrs. Dassler*

### Catholic Identity and Discipleship

St. John Bosco's Catholic identity is integral to every component of our Catholic school. It is expressed in the daily experiences and interaction of students, and faculty. It permeates the spirit and the climate of our school. It is through daily prayer, prayer services, school liturgies, the sacraments, the integration of morals and values in academic studies, social interaction, and service to others that our school expresses its identity and reflects Jesus' message of love.

### First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Second grade is a pivotal time in the formation of the children in Christ, particularly with the preparations made prior to reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The children begin the year with foundational teachings of the Church's doctrines. The children

study and learn about the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, the divinity and humanity of Christ, as well as the implications these mysteries have on their lives.

Most of the school year is spent preparing the children's hearts and souls for a deeper relationship with Christ. Immediate preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation include studying the Ten Commandments and discussions to form the children's consciences. Students are also exposed to the Scripture accounts which particularly manifest Christ's forgiveness and mercy.

The climax of the second-grade year is the reception of First Holy Communion. The children prepare their hearts to receive Jesus for the first time especially through prayer. They are guided to a deeper understanding of Christ's true

Presence in the Blessed Sacrament by attending school Mass weekly and learning about the Mass. In addition, the children see and interact with Father Carl, Father Tony and Father Bob, who assist them in deepening their knowledge and understanding of the faith.

### **Opportunities for Prayer**

*Morning prayer:* We offer ourselves, all our thoughts, words, actions, and sufferings of the day through the Morning Offering and daily prayers of devotion and praise.

*Afternoon prayer:* The students end their day by praying. An examination of conscience and Act of Contrition allows the children to call to mind the hurtful thoughts, words, and actions of the day and to ask forgiveness for them to start the next day fresh and new.

*Weekly Mass:* Each Wednesday morning, we gather as a school community in the beautiful Church of Corpus Christi for the summit of all prayer: the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. From the choir, to the readers, gift bearers, and servers, our students are engaged in the liturgy and lead the adults present to greater worship and reverence of the God who comes to meet us in Holy Communion.

*Sacrament of Reconciliation:* Our students have an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation several times each year. They are prepared in the classroom to receive the sacrament and time is given during the school day for this sacrament of healing.

At St. John Bosco, we strive to model ourselves in all things after the person of Jesus Christ "who came to serve, not to be served" (Matthew 20:28). Throughout the year, each grade level completes acts of service with a local care center. Writing letters as prayer partners, making placemats or favors for holidays and visiting with them are all part of "to serve. . . not to be served." Students also contributed to the Thanksgiving baskets that were shared with local families in need, wrote letters to our Veteran's and active military personnel and participated in the Christ Child Advent project, which provided support to young mothers. Through these activities, the children are taught the virtue of gratitude for all they have received and the joy of giving to others.

### **Curriculum & Professional Staff Development**

Continuing to add additional resources in the core academic areas as well as thru technology has impacted our students and their learning in a positive way. When looking at data throughout the year in

math, science, language arts and reading the overall student body has made significant academic gains. Prior to school beginning teachers had an in-service on CGI (Cognitively Guided Instruction) for math. CGI increased the teachers' understanding of the knowledge that students bring to the math learning process and how they connect that knowledge with formal concepts and operations. In-services were also given throughout the year on the use of Smartboards, laptops, and iPads as well as the various apps and web based programming based on students prior learning and curriculum expectations. Teachers in turn facilitated student learning and individualized the curriculum. This will be an on-going process for several years as the teachers and students "master" devices, applications and concepts. Along with adjusting for skills needed for the future we also look at what has proved to be needed. Yes, we still teach handwriting because . . .

Children who are able to quickly transfer the mental image of a letter into its physical form on paper have a clearer understanding of how letters form words, sentences and meaning.

Strong writing skills improve reading comprehension. Knowing how to translate and organize complex ideas in writing increases the ability to read and understand them.

Hand writing notes helps retain knowledge more so than typing. The brain summarizes and comprehends better when committing notes to paper.

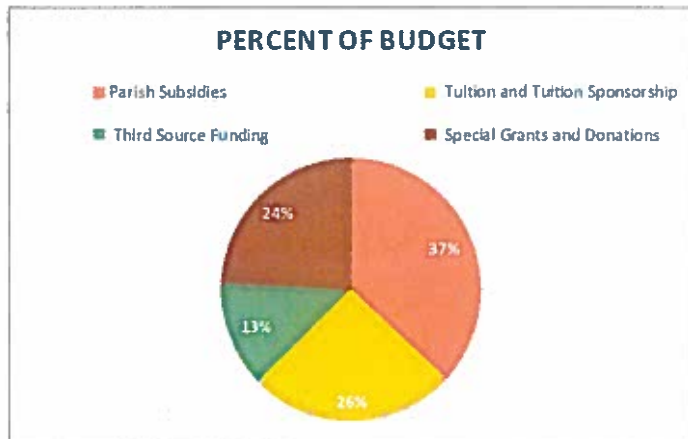
Using paper forces the brain to slow down, consider the big picture and helps writers and artists explore abstract ideas using simple shapes or phrases to solidify concepts.

Our Spanish program at the middle school level is the strongest in Door County and possibly in the state. Our 5 – 8 students have Spanish every day as part of their core courses. Every student this year was at level 1A/1B. As a realignment was done this past spring for next year and ensuing years, materials were purchased for Level 1 and 2 which is what the high schools are using for Spanish I and II. Being able to "test out" of Spanish II upon reaching high school will allow for additional programming choices for our students.

Our related arts programming continues to foster art, music (vocal and band) and physical education. All three programs contribute to cognitive function and

improved test scores in math, language arts and other academic subjects. All three are important to developing creativity — a crucial factor in school and post-school success. The evidence is clear that time spent in these special programs does not result in less learning because of less time studying other subject matters — quite the contrary — time spent in these programs enhances school success. In school, as in society, being well rounded is important. Special programs in the curriculum are critical to developing fully functioning well-rounded individuals who are contributing members of society.

**Finances**



Parish Subsidies (\$380,000) = 37%

Tuition and Tuition Sponsorship (\$265,000) = 26%

Third Source Funding (\$135,000) = 13%

Special Project Grants and Donations (\$250,000) = 24%

At St. John Bosco, we are very aware of the investment that is being made in our children by the parishioners, parents and community members. We take seriously our responsibility to be good stewards of our investment. The above figures are what has been budgeted for the 2016 – 2017 year. Special Project Grants and Donations, and Tuition Sponsorship are what has been received so far toward those endeavors. Third Source Funding includes our Golf Outing, Gala of Giving, Annual School Fund Drive and a few miscellaneous fund raisers. Special Project Grants and Donations include Creative Spirits – Creative Souls Playground, Spanish curriculum, Stations of the Cross booklets and Children’s Hymnals.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

Our sixth annual school musical presentation of Aladdin was a definite highlight of our year. The students in grades 6 – 8 began their preparation for the performance in February. Their hard work and

commitment resulted in a performance exceeding our expectations. We are especially proud of the great cooperation and respect shown by the students for one another in working together to make the production a success. This year we fielded five basketball teams of various grades and genders. The focus was continued growth in their skill set along with teamwork and sportsmanship. Three math teams competed at Sevastopol in the Door County competition held in March. Prior to the competition students refined their skills in problem solving, numerology, formulas, probability and statistics and algebraic reasoning. Not only did the students develop confidence in their ability to reason and solve problems but they gained insight as to its application to real world situations. Student Council provided students an additional opportunity to provide leadership and service to the community. Their year began with a baby supply drive for young mothers and ended with a school countdown celebration of the last 26 days of school. Each day corresponding with a letter from the alphabet and activity.

**Vitality/Facilities**

Our facilities continue to be adjusted based on the needs of our students and the school. Over Spring break, in 4K, the ceiling tiles were removed and replaced with tiles that absorbed the sound of the students rather than echo the sound. New signage was put up on the south side of the school in January identifying the entrance and larger logo with school name. Focus for the summer will be new drainage fields on the south and east sides of the school, extensive landscaping for the school, new walkways and a new and expanded playground with three banks of swings. A retaining wall will be put up along the south foundation and an artist wall for student chalk drawings will be formatted to it.

**Marketing**

Our website now can accept donations using a phone and a QR code placing funds directly into our checking account. Our website also connects directly to our Facebook page. We have 1,126 participants who have entered their personal information as part of being an alumnus of one of the three parish schools (Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Joseph or Corpus Christi) prior to St. John Bosco being formed or an alumnus of any Catholic school. We have Donor Perfect to organize our constituent data into one unified database with almost 3000 members entered of which 400 are alumni. We are beginning to use the information for

various reports and communications.

Christmas by the Bay afforded the school parade participation with the float theme "Tis so sweet to be loved by Jesus". This is the third year in a row St. John Bosco has placed first in the Non-Profit Category. An insert in the Door County Advocate during Catholic Schools Week afforded the school an opportunity to share what was special about our school and how we were celebrating Catholic Schools Week. We continue to have marketing announcements at all the masses throughout the year, a movie streamer in the local cinema and a Parish Connection communique the first weekend of each month.

**Blessings**

- \* Students in Kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade were all reading at or above grade level by January of 2017 (first time that has happened to me as an administrator in over 16 years – fantastic)
- \* We have increased enrollment of 13% or 17 students over the past 2 years
- \* AMVETS state winners for the banner/essay contest: Jack Konop (4<sup>th</sup> grade) and Anna Estes (6<sup>th</sup> grade)
- \* Third Annual Golf Outing was successful socially and monetarily, netting \$32,003.85
- \* Over 430 letters were written by our students honoring our active military personnel and Veterans
- \* St. John Bosco School and the parishioners are sharing in the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association state award bestowed on Vickie Dassler for the Digital Transformation Plan designed and funded during the 2015-2016 school year and implemented during the 2016-2017 school year
- \* Creation of a daily middle school Spanish program. At the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have mastered Spanish II at the high school level
- \* Successful engagement of 32 students involved in our school play – Aladdin
- \* Three math teams competed in the Door County Math Competition in March
- \* 3D Origami, stop motion animation and multi-track creations done with the use of iPads in our arts program
- \* Increased to five basketball teams this year
- \* Design and funding almost completed for Creative Sprits – Creative Souls playground project
- \* Over 500+ letters written to our homebound partners throughout the year
- \* Thirteen new students trained as servers for our masses

\* ACRE (Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education) Results: **St. John Bosco Average/National Average**

Category	5th Grade	8th Grade
Faith Knowledge	86.8%/71%	88.7%/71%
Liturgical Life	84.3%/68%	87.9%/69%
Moral Formation	89.1%/78%	94.1%/81%
Prayer	78.4%/65%	83.5%/73%
Communal Life	85.3%/72%	75.8%/62%
Missionary Spirit	69.1%/54%	96.2%/76%

**Opportunities for 2017-2018 School Year**

Create a donation page as part of our website whereby donations can be given to a specified area e.g. Tuition Assistance, Annual School Fund Drive, Golf Outing, Fine Arts, Athletics, Special Project, or Endowment.

Further development of our technology program and its application with curriculum.

Design work and fundraising to begin for Project Lead the Way, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program) focus.

Dedication of playground – Friday, September 8th.

Increase marketing to include 2 monetary drives.

Host the Door County Math Competition.

Host the Diocesan Representative Mass with Bishop Ricken on October 25, 2017.

Implement 7th Grade Accelerated Math Program.

