



St. Dominic School

WHERE MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT ARE AWAKENED

Alumni & Friends Newsletter

Website Address: school.churchofstdominic.org Ph.507-645-8136 Facebook: St. Dominic School, Northfield MN



Family Service Night

The eighth graders invited younger students and their families to a service night in March. It was a "one-stop" event for several service projects.

Small groups of eighth graders led projects in various classrooms.

Some of the projects included: packing hygiene bags for the

Community Action Center food shelf, decorating place mats for Three Links and Meals on Wheels, card-making for overseas soldiers, and blanket making for the homeless.



Two groups of eighth graders applied and won a grant through the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative to help pay for supplies.

Maltrata

The seventh and eighth graders along with parents and parishioners from St. Dominic Church spent time in Maltrata, Mexico this past February.



The purpose of this trip is to foster a relationship with the Maltrata community and learn about each other's cultures. Students, parents and parishioners stayed with local families, many of whom are relatives of people from Northfield. The students delivered letters from relatives, experienced traditional foods and customs, attended Mass, went hiking, played soccer with children

and visited schools. They were completely immersed in their culture.

Annie Kopas, an eighth grader, said "It was a trip I'll never forget. And no matter how different their culture is from ours, I learned that at heart we are all the same."



Going Green

St. Dominic School is going green. This spring, Scott Fuhrman, a senior in the Environmental Studies at St. Olaf, worked with the school to compost food scraps and milk cartons from the school lunches. Scott worked with Custodian Jeanne Fischer to develop the program.

Scott was able to secure a \$500 grant to purchase two composting tumblers and two garbage cans which are used in the cafeteria to sort the food scraps.

Presentations were given to students and staff on the

importance and benefits of composting. The compost will be used in the gardens around the school campus.

Through a partnership with St. Olaf College, three science students came each Friday and worked with students in grades K, 1 & 2 to talk about sustainable living and to teach the kids how to grow plants.

The students planted seeds (zucchini & marigolds), watered them and nurtured them until they sprouted. The St. Olaf students then took the plants and replanted them in the StoGrow Gardens at St. Olaf. The food grown at StoGrow is used in the cooking at St. Olaf.



SMART Boards and Laptops

At the 2009 Saints Night Out Auction, enough funds were raised to purchase the school's first SMART Board.

A SMART Board is an interactive, electronic whiteboard which allows teachers to use it like a giant computer notepad. Students and staff can literally use their finger to drag an item or answer to a problem across the board and insert it into a problem or a lesson.

The SMART Notebook software makes it possible for teachers to create content rich, dynamic lessons which address specific student skills.

St. Dominic School recently purchased 15 used Macbook laptop computers. Students in the middle school can be seen utilizing the laptops to prepare reports and projects.

The computers can be used by any of the grades, but priority is given to the middle school grades.

Get Connected

Find us on Facebook 

Learn more by visiting us at our new website address: school.churchofstdominic.org or call 507-645-8136.

Alumni Profile - The Graff Family



The Donald and Virginia Graff Family have been a part of St. Dominic School for over 70 years. Donald Graff and Virginia (Tille) Graff both attended St. Dominic School, Don from 1936-1944 and Virginia from 1937-1946. All of their children (Kitty, Liz, Phyllis, Denise, Ed, Julie and Andy) attended St. Dominic School at some point.

Donald and Virginia's son, Andy, attended St. Dominic School all eight years. Andy's wife, Cindy attended LNMV Catholic School, now Holy Cross, for eight years. Andy & Cindy's son Nicholas is now a 1st grader at St. Dominic School. Andy and Cindy share, "Catholic education is important to us, religion being taught and implemented in all areas of the day, and the feeling when you walk through the doors that this is an "extended family." We were able to see that first hand when a St. D's school family we knew was in crisis and so many people stepped up to help with no questions asked. Those are the values that we want Nicholas to grow up learning."

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St. Dominic School strives for excellence in education at an affordable cost. As a non-public institution, revenue is generated from tuition, parish support, fundraising, grants, in-kind donations and the endowment fund. Endowment money is used for capital improvements, student scholarships, professional growth of teachers, program enrichment and special projects. The endowment fund is managed by a committee consisting of the pastor, the principal, and members of the Parish Finance Committee, the School's Education Committee, Parish Pastoral Council, and members selected by the School Education Committee. Funds are disbursed according to a formula that takes a percentage of the interest and dividends earned for the year. The school depends on the generosity of alumni, family members, parishioners, and friends to help financially support the school and maintain a healthy endowment.