



SWS CONNECTIONS

Summer 2009 • Volume 1, Issue 1

St. Wenceslaus School Alumni Association & Friends • 227 Main Street East • New Prague, MN • 56071

Alumni Group Looking for School Memorabilia

The SWS Alumni Association is looking for artifacts and memorabilia from the past 130 school years. If you have any items you would like to share, please contact George Mikiska or Dave Bruzek. See contact info on the back page. Items can be delivered to the parish offices M-F from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm or to SWS's office during the school year. Office hours are M-F 7:00 am - 3:00 pm. Any photos will be scanned and returned to owners. Class photographs are needed for the following years: **1908, 1909, 1910, 1913, 1914, 1916, 1917, 1920, & 1935.**

SWS Alumni on Facebook

Did you know SWS alumni have a group on Facebook? Join us today. You will receive information & reminders of upcoming events at SWS. Sign up to receive electronic copies of future newsletters.

St. Wenceslaus School's Alumni Take Action

The mission of the St. Wenceslaus School Alumni Association & Friends organization is to connect alumni, current students & staff, and the many friends of SWS, in on-going, lifelong support of the school.

Through efforts of the SWS Development Office and, with the assistance and enthusiasm of alumni, Dave Bruzek '56 and George Mikiska '59, the group is moving forward with goals of reconnecting alumni and providing financial support to SWS now and into the future.

For a list of forming team members see the back page. If you are interested in being involved with the association or would help with special alumni events, contact a team member today. SWS needs you.



Alumni Association & Friends

SWS 130th Birthday Party Attracts Alumni & Friends

SWS alumni and friends of all ages celebrated the 130th birthday of the school on Saturday, May 16th at the Parish Activities Center with an informal wine and cheese reception. Attendees enjoyed refreshments, browsed class pictures and socialized with classmates and friends. Representatives of the newly forming alumni association were on hand to greet visitors, talk about the mission of the organization and gather contact information for "missing" alumni. For more pictures see page 5.



Arnie '51 & Ann Schoenbauer visit with Gene Schmid '54, at the 130th Birthday Party. Schoenbauers' four sons graduated from SWS and at Grandparents Day 2008 noted they had a grandchild in each grade at SWS. Gene Schmid and his wife Sally both graduated from SWS and are proud grandparents of SWS students as well.

Measure Success by the 2005 SWS Grads

The New Prague High School Class of 2009 numbered 222. Of those 222, 36 were alumni of SWS. We congratulate all 37 outstanding students from SWS's Class of 2005 who received their high school diplomas this spring. And what are they up to?

Kyle Anthony ~ Undecided
Kelsey Becker ~ U of MN Duluth
Danielle Busch ~ College of St. Benedict
Leah Carr ~ Drake University
Jack Dietz ~ Alexandria Technical College
Katie Dietz ~ U of St. Thomas
Brittany Dorshak ~ Drake
Jeffery Dumbleton ~ U.S. Marines
Joseph Geiger, Jr. (Graduate of Groves Academy) ~ Winona State U
Stephen Gross ~ St. John's U
Mary Jane Harty ~ Normandale Community College
Martin Herrmann ~ St. John's U
Nicole Hoffman ~ Winona State U
Hannah Jayne ~ U of KS
Danielle Kaczor ~ MNSU Mankato
Andrew Kajer ~ Undecided
Molly Kellen ~ U of MN Duluth
Megan Lehman ~ College of St. Benedict
Kurtis Malecha ~ MNSU Mankato
Alyce Meyer ~ College of St. Benedict
Connor O'Brien ~ MNSU Mankato
Dane Pleiss ~ St. Cloud State U
Jon Ryan ~ Ferris State U, MI
Brittney Rynda ~ Winona State U
Jonathan Schoenecker ~ St. John's U
Marissa Schoenecker ~ St. Cloud State U
Adam Shimota ~ Normandale Community College
Connor Smisek ~ Universal Tech Institute, AZ
Daniel Soukup ~ Itasca Community College
Tyler Starkey ~ U of MN Twin Cities
Jenny Stocker ~ College of St. Benedict
Jodi Tupy ~ Winona State U
Katelyn Vollmar ~ U of MN Twin Cities
Joseph Wagner ~ MNSU Mankato
Katelin Weiers ~ College of St. Benedict
Anna Zeimet ~ U of MN Twin Cities
Jill Zimanske ~ Winona State U

CONGRATULATIONS!

Class of 1972 Alumnus is New Principal

Kim Doyle, Class of 1972, was hired as SWS's new principal for the 2008-09 school year. Printed below are excerpts from a letter Kim wrote to current and prospective SWS parents that was posted on the school's website.

"What an amazing experience to be the principal of this Catholic school. Many years ago I was a student at St. Wenceslaus, and I have many fond memories of the teachers and the staff. I have lasting friendships of classmates that I met early-on. I remember how well prepared I was once I graduated from this school and moved into New Prague High School.

I am thankful for the daily teaching and practice I have received in my Catholic faith. The firm foundations in all areas have carried me through life ~ through the trying moments and the good times, through my friendships and through my many years of higher education. So many times I look back and appreciate my Catholic school education as the base from which all other learning and growth has come. Now, as the leader of SWS, I have a chance to make sure this growth happens for the children of our time. Providing an environment for students to flourish and take hold of their Catholic Faith is my top priority.

In my brief time here, I am finding wonderful things happening within the school that are truly hidden treasures of



the community. SWS has an incredible teaching staff. I am impressed at the care and concern that each teacher has for every student they work with. The staff is a highly trained, competent group of professional teachers using the most current and effective methods of instruction with solid foundations for learning. They are not only teachers, but also excellent role models and witnesses of our Christian Faith.

The students here are good to each other and have a genuine level of respect for their classmates and their teachers. School families are committed and involved in the school operations. It is great when everyone shares the same hopes and goals for the children.

Fun Facts from the SWS Class of 2005

- SWS's Class of '05 represented 16% of NPHS's Class of '09.
- 35 graduating seniors at NPHS were members of the National Honor Society. 11 (or 33%) were members of SWS's Class of '05.
- 25 NPHS seniors graduated as Highest Honor Students (GPA of 3.9+ all four years of high school). 8 (or 32%) were members of SWS's Class of '05.
- An additional 48 NPHS seniors graduated with High Honors (GPS of 3.5+ all four years of high school). 7 (or 15%) were members of SWS's Class of '05.
- At NPHS, 56 seniors were scholarship recipients. 23% of these recipients were members of SWS's Class of '05.
- 9 (or 24%) of SWS's Class of '05 have chosen private Catholic colleges or universities to further their education this fall.

HATS OFF to Class of 2005!

8th Annual Golf Tournament ~ Another Great Time

The 2009 SWS Golf Tournament was held in June at CreeksBend Golf Course just east of New Prague. Queen of Peace Express Care was the tournament's major Putt-for-Cash Sponsor. Additionally, 40 area businesses and SWS families supported the event as hole sponsors.

The rain held off, and 98 golfers enjoyed the day including several SWS alumni. This year's tournament profit was just over \$14,000, and in the tournament's eight year history, an estimated \$100,000 has been raised for SWS.

This year's Golf Tournament Committee: John Coldagelli, Dan O'Neill '80, Sean O'Neill '83, Kurt Ruehling '83, Dave Schoenbauer '76, Jeff Schoenbauer '78, Kevin Solheid '84, and Jeff St. Germain. Thanks for all of your hard work!



Queen of Peace Express Care sponsored the \$20K Putt for Cash Contest. Pictured here is the Q of P foursome **Heather Tietz, Mary (Witt) Rynda '73, Marla Meyer and Kris Tietz.**

This foursome, **Therese & Dave Russell and Al '65 & Mary Sticha,** have made the SWS Golf Tournament an annual outing having golfed together all eight years of the tournament's history.



Kevin Becker, father/son SWS grads Kurt Ruehling '83 and Taylor Ruehling '04 and Tom Orr '83 enjoyed the day.



SWS Annual Auction – A Starry Night in the Orient

SWS's annual auction was held in April and raised over \$42,000. This year's theme, *A Starry Night in the Orient*, brought together school parents, alumni, faculty & staff, and many friends of SWS for a fun-filled evening of great food, fun and fundraising.



Pictured above are SWS alumni and several parents of current SWS students **Jody (Picha) Hunt '83, Marv Peters '77, Mary (Zweber) Peters '80, Julie (Geiger) Litzau '76 and Joe Geiger '80.**

SWS hosted 11 students from South Korea through the KoAm Education Alliance Program. These students, who lived with host families while attending SWS, greeted guests in their traditional costumes at the auction. Photo by Ann Kreyer



Other alumni and SWS parents in attendance included **Mark Bartusek '81, Dave Schoenbauer '76 and Ron Geiger '77.** Photos by Rachel Harmon



Alumni committee volunteer opportunities

If you are interested in joining any of these committees contact **Dave Bruzek** at dave.bruzek@saintwenceslaus.org or **George Mikiska** at george.mikiska@saintwenceslaus.org.

- Membership** - Recruit and maintain members of the Association
- Newsletter** – Collect, write, produce and send out a newsletter
- Class Representatives** - Recruit and gather information about their class - to include deaths, honors and events
- History & Archives** - Maintain the association database. Collect and maintain history pertaining to SWS including pictures and articles
- Website** - Create and maintain the alumni Website
- Endowment** - Create, maintain and invest funds as dictated by donors
- Allocations/Grants** - Provide and regulate a system for the disbursement of tuition assistance monies

In 2008-09 SWS Alumni & Friends Raise \$36,000 for Tuition Assistance

A very special **THANK YOU** to the 106 individuals, couples, families and organizations listed below for their generous financial support to the SWS Tuition Assistance Fund. The TAF assisted 18 families representing 44 students during the '08-'09 school year.

The SWS Alumni Association & Friends asks you to consider a contribution to the TAF. A goal of \$125,000 has been set as the financial need for the up-coming school year is significant. Take advantage of a year-end tax deduction by making a contribution before January 1, 2010. See envelope enclosed.

- Greg & Anita '75 Aase
- Violet Bachman
- Mike '86 & Elizabeth Bartusek
- Jerome Barten
- Irene Bednar
- Audrey Bendzick
- Dan & Danielle Bible
- John F. Bisek, Sr. '41
- Julius Bisek
- Chris & Laurie Blaschko
- Bea Bowman '31
- Yvonne Brausen
- George '61 & Jane Brezina
- Dave '56 & Kitty Bruzek
- Debra Buss
- John '56 & Nora Chromy
- Jeanette Deutsch '45
- Al & Laurie '77 Dietz
- Ruth Doherty
- Richard Elsie
- Steve & JeNean '68 Erickson
- The late Judge John Fitzgerald & Mary Fitzgerald '43
- Paul & Rosanne Flick
- Steve & Mary '66 Frost
- First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch #35
- LeRoy & Jean Geiger
- Bob & Joan Goggins
- Patrick Goggins
- The late John Hamer '35 & Dorothy Hamer
- Ray '54 & Joyce '59 Hertaus
- Chad & Jodi '83 Hunt
- Ben & Luddy Johannes
- Lil Kafka
- Marie Kajer
- Dave & Susan Karan
- Jeff & Heather King
- New Prague Knights of Columbus ~ Third Degree
- Norm & Monica '65 Kokes
- Angie Korbel
- Jim '62 & Anita Kratochvil
- Leonard '34 & Doris Kubes
- Wally & Jeanne Kubes
- Wencel & Pat Kubes
- Justin & Rebecca Lane
- Adam & Maggie Lindquist
- Elise Lundeen
- Jim '74 & Tery '75 Mahowald
- Michael & Carole Maxwell
- Marty & Joan May
- Ron & Kathy McBroom
- Troy & Jennifer McDonough
- Joe & Joannie Meyer
- Evelyn Moore
- Roman & Sarah Mueller
- Francis Nickolay
- Lucille Nickolay '36
- Elsie Novak Family
- Kathy O'Neill
- Ryan '89 & Kathy O'Neill
- Vernon & Cynthia Oraskovich
- Ed & Grace '59 Picka
- Joseph Peroutka '51
- Joe Pexa, Sr. '24
- Jack '53 & Ann Pint
- JP & Anne Pomerence
- Helen Pomije
- Milo Pomije
- Katie Roers '94
- Shawn & Lori Ryan
- Milo & Carolyn '52 Rynda
- Dr. William Scheidt & Pat O'Neill Scheidt '62
- Eric '83 & Lisa Schmid
- Gene '54 & Sally '54 Schmid
- Arnie '51 & Ann Schoenbauer
- Barbara Schoenbauer '46
- Glen & Margie Schoenbauer
- Ray '36 & Dorothy '37 Schoenecker
- Evelyn Simon
- Jim '67 & Ann Marie '65 Simon
- Paul & Tammy Sirek
- Elaine Skluzacek
- Steve '69 & Cheryl Skluzacek
- Mona Smisek
- Steve & Becky Smisek
- Pat & Ann Stasney
- '08-'09 SWS School Advisory Board: Anita Aase '75, Julie Berg, Dan Bible, Gloria Flicek '89, Marv Peters '77, Gary Prelesnik, Eric Schmid '83, Ann Soderlund, & Joe Wondra
- Chacko & Ann Thomas
- Mike & Margaret '71 Tschimperle
- Fritz & Karen '56 Tupy
- Robert '63 & Mary '65 Vanasek
- John Wagner
- Regina Wagner
- Walter "Bill" Wagner
- Jerry '69 & Mary Walerius
- Art '67 & Ann Wann
- Chad & Kyle Wieskus
- Gerald & Carol Williams
- Ann Marie Witt '76
- Anna Mae Witt
- The late Jack Witt & Darlene Witt '49
- Ken & Lana '58 Witt
- Joe & Sue Wondra
- Catherine Wornson
- Don '67 & Jackie Yackley
- Steve & Maureen Zeimet
- Bill & Becky Zwirner
- And those donors who wish to remain anonymous...

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU,
THANK YOU**

Alumni & Friends Celebrate 130th Birthday of School

In the winter of 1878, a committee of 12 male parishioners from the Church of St. Wenceslaus in New Prague gathered and determined a Catholic school was needed to educate their youth. Construction began immediately of a two-story brick school house. It had two rooms on each floor with a wood-burning stove in each room. It boasted two outdoor toilets ~ one for the boys and one for the girls. The total cost of the project was \$3,500.

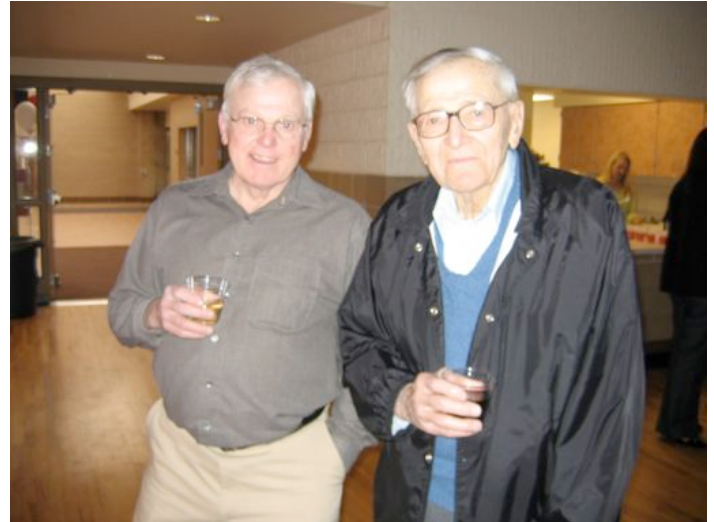
The doors to SWS opened by the fall of that same year and the 2008-09 school year marked the 130th school year anniversary. It is with great pride that SWS continues its rich tradition of providing a quality, faith-based education to children in New Prague and surrounding communities.

Alumni News

In an effort to keep SWS alumni connected, we would like to highlight alumni milestones and other news in **SWS Connections**. If you have information you would like to share about yourself, friends or family members who attended SWS, please contact Rachel (Kreger) Harmon '87 at rachelkharmon@yahoo.com or SWS's Development Director, AnnMarie Witt '76 at 952-759-9573 or annmarie.witt@saintwenceslaus.org.

Allie Meyer '05, a 2009 graduate of New Prague High School was featured in the May 13, 2009 issue of the CATHOLIC SPIRIT in a graduate profile. She plans to attend The College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN and hopes to become a lawyer. The article mentioned her favorite quote, "Keep your eyes upon me, keep me in your sight. Help me down the crooked road, lead me to the light. The road I'm on is dark, I'm not sure I know the way, but with you beside me, I know I won't stray. Protect me from the world I'm in, I'm certain we'll make it through. Let me hold your hand, let me lean on you." ~ Lissa Barker

Congratulations to **Tim O'Neill '86 and Annie Vogel O'Neill '93** on the birth of their twins Gabrielle Kathleen and Owen Michael in May. They were born at a bit early and spent a couple of weeks in intensive care, but are doing well, as are mom and dad.



SWS is a legacy for many people who attend. Pictured here are **Tom Pexa '55** and his father **Joseph '24** enjoying refreshments and celebrating a family tradition. Tom and his wife, Margie will have their first grandchild attending SWS this fall.



Pictured above are alumni and friends **Rose (Kubes) Simmons '85, Tim Flicek, Mike Logelin, Deanna Logelin, and Gloria (Kubes) Flicek '89**. Photos by Rachel Harmon '87.

SWS
Alumni Association & Friends
Forming Committee Members

Dave Bruzek '56

Dave.bruzek@saintwenceslaus.org

George Mikiska '59

George.mikiska@saintwenceslaus.org

Kim Doyle '72, SWS Principal

Kim.doyle@saintwenceslaus.org

AnnMarie Witt '76, SWS Development
Director

Annmarie.witt@saintwenceslaus.org

Eric Doyle '75

edoyle@markem-imaie.com

Mary (Mach) Fitzgerald '43

Rachel (Kreger) Harmon '87

rachelkharmon@yahoo.com

Tim O'Neill '86

tim@pianobrothers.com

Gene Schmid '54

SASECS@bevcomm.net

Jerry Walerius '69

walerius@bevcomm.net

Jean (Kocina) Zimanske '73

jakzimanske@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We Congratulate SWS's Class of 2009

Mikaela Algren, daughter of Paul & Susan Algren

Nina Bennett, daughter of Steve & Theresa Bennett

Nicholas Bohlke, son of Steve & Carmen Bohlke

Elisha Breiner, son of Michael & Birdie Breiner

Claire Busch, daughter of Dan & Jolene Busch

Sophie Busch, daughter of Randy Busch & Tami Busch *2nd Generation SWS Grad*

Michael Coldagelli, son of John & Joney Coldagelli

Kendra Collier, daughter of Scott & Roxie Collier

Shannen Dietz, daughter of Peter & Carol Dietz *2nd Generation*

Ben Doerr, son of Brad & Jodi Doerr

Colleen Dudley, daughter of Brian & Amber Dudley

Alyssa Fahrenkamp, daughter of Don & Mary Fahrenkamp

Michael Gillen, son of Jon & Doris Gillen

Stephanie Hanson, daughter of Tim & Sue Hanson

Jessica Hennes, daughter of Gerald & Barb Hennes

Madison Hook, daughter of Peter Hook & Michele Hook

Jimmy Kaczor, son of Jim & Lisa Kaczor

Joseph Kneip, son of Dan & Connie Kneip

Kayla Kroyer, daughter of Jay & Dawn Kroyer

Samuel Leverson, son of Sven & Lisa Leverson

Jamieson Lindquist, son of Adam & Maggie Lindquist

Andrew Maruska, son of Paul & JoAnne Maruska *2nd Generation*

Molly O'Neill, daughter of Sean & Jamee O'Neill *3rd Generation*

Connor O'Rourke, son of Mike & Sandra O'Rourke

Lilly Rezac, daughter of Mark & Cheryl Rezac *3rd Generation*

Alexis Ruehling, daughter of Kurt Ruehling & Lisa Ruehling *3rd Generation*

Lucas Rynda, son of Steve & Laura Rynda *2nd Generation SWS Grad*

Amanda Schoenbauer, daughter of Brad & Kytyn Schoenbauer *4th Generation*

Jackie Schoenecker, daughter of Pete & Karen Schoenecker

Anna Solheid, daughter of Greg Solheid & Carol Sery *2nd Generation*

Ashley Tupy, daughter of John & LuAnn Tupy *3rd Generation*

Kendra Tupy, daughter of Steve & Linda Tupy *3rd Generation*

Nicole Tupy, daughter of Chuck & Shelly Tupy *3rd Generation*

Eric Warnemunde, son of Tim & Patty Warnemunde

Patrick Zeimet, son of Steve & Maureen Zeimet

Kyle Zweber, son of Tom & Barb Zweber

We're on the Web!

See us at: http://www.saintwenceslaus.org/school_index.html

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically contact
George Mikiska or Dave Bruzek at the email addresses listed.

ST. WENCESLAUS SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION &
FRIENDS

227 East Main Street
New Prague, Minnesota 56071

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ORG.
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Mark your calendar!

SWS
All-School Reunion
Saturday,
October 3, 2009

More information to follow