On a rainy day earlier this fall, a group of Pope John art students along with art teacher, Mrs. Connie Henn, traveled to Herb Mignery’s hometown of Barlett, NE to take part in the Herb Mignery Sculpture Dedication. They were able to visit the sculpture garden and see the six new sculptures that were being placed in the garden.

In addition to the numerous gifts to his childhood home, Herb and his wife Sherry have dedicated their talents to help students at Pope John by creating a series of bronze sculptures, as well as a collection of bronze crosses. This is the seventh year for the crosses and they have sold out each year. Mignery accepts nothing for the donation of his time and talent, even though his sculptures sell for thousands on the open market. Each cross is limited and numbered. The money raised from the sale of these items go directly to Pope John’s operating budget.

“Catholic schools and children are very important to us. We have been blessed with much, and we love to give back where we can. We know what a struggle it is for Catholic schools to make ends meet.”

- Herb & Sherry Mignery

PJ art students in front Mignery sculpture at Bartlett, (l. to r.) Breanna Bartak, Ashlyn Meis, Brynn Dilly, Kayce Kilhoff and Jasmine Dozler

The 2019 Pope John Mignery Cross
Homecoming activities at Pope John kicked off on Sunday, September 29th with coronation, relay races, and dodgeball.

Breanna Bartak, daughter of Gary and Mary (Allemang PJ ‘83) Bartak of Ewing was crowned queen. Breanna is the co-president of Student Council, an active member of the National Honor Society and Junior Right-to-Life, along with one act, speech, and musical. She serves her parish and school as an EMHC. Breanna’s future plans are to attend UNK and major in graphic design.

Conor Ramold is the son of Nick and Beth Ramold of Neligh. Conor participates in football, basketball, golf, one act and the musical. He is a member of the student council and serves as an EMHC. Conor’s future plans include attending Northeast Community College for his generals and then transfer to Wayne State College for business administration.

Front row L to R: Brynn Dilly, Faith Kinney, crownbearer Anna Stuhr, crownbearer Cecil Shavlik, Kayce Kallhoff, Haley Zegers
Back row L to R: Blake Hupp, Austin Bauer, Queen Breanna Bartak, King Conor Ramold, Luke Henn, Lane Bartak

8th graders dressed up as Spongebob Squarepants characters for “Squad Day”

Freshmen dressed up for “Tropical/Safari Day”
One Act Team Places Third at Conference

The Pope John one act team performed “Silenced on Barbour Street” by William Prenetta at the annual dinner theatre in November. The play takes place in the 1940’s when a fire broke out at a Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus and claimed the lives of 144 people. Some of the victims were forced to spend time in a circus-type purgatory by the ringmaster until they faced their guilt from before the tragedy.

The one act team is under new direction this year by Jessie Reestman and Alan Reicks (PJ ’84). The team finished 3rd place at the Niobrara Valley Conference performance in Ewing and third place at the district competition in Elba.

Seven Pope John students earned NVC acting honors at conference one act in Ewing. Pictured above l. to r. (back row) Matthew Dilly, Luke Henn, Natalie Reicks, Skylar Reestman (front row) Brynn Dilly, Breanna Bartak, Haley Zegers
On July 27th, Twenty-three members of the Pope John Central Catholic High School class of 1969 held their 50-year class reunion at the home of Jane and Jerry Meis in Omaha.

Pictured left to right are: Front row: Diane Neukirch Scheppers, Tom Kester, Jerry Meis, Larry Schmitz, Brian Dinslage, Rick Zegers, Gary Dinslage  Middle row: Bev Mitchell Fajman, Nancy Meis Thiele, Peggy Borer Stewart, Janice Meis Schlichting, Sharon Borer Noon, Carol Schmitt Rosberg, Myra Petsche Schindler, Mary Starman Shrader, Jolene Benda Foss  Back row: Merle Henkenius, Bill Parks, Ken Stuhr, Tom Eischeid, Vince Spieker, Patricia Dwyer Spieker  Not pictured: Sue Stokes Brandenburg

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pope John/Wolfpack Alumni Basketball & Volleyball Tourney
Friday & Saturday, January 24th & 25th
Contact Danny Borer at 402-843-6428 for information.

20th Anniversary Edition of Evening with Friends Gala
Sunday, January 26th at Elgin KC Hall

2020 PJ Graduation
Sunday, May 10th

Volunteers Provide Personal Touch to CCPJ

If you received your CCPJ Annual Fund envelope in the mail in November, please know that it was stuffed, sealed and labeled by a dedicated group of Pope John supporters. Each year these wonderful ladies show up and spend their morning helping Pope John reach out to alumni and friends of the school.

The CCPJ Annual Fund Drive will run through October 2020. If you can’t find your envelope, please see our website for information on how to give: pjcrusaders.org/annual-fund-drive.
The Pope John music students, under the direction of Rachel (Moser PJ ‘04) Becker performed at the St. Boniface Cabaret Show this fall. The event was held at the KC Hall in Elgin and had a Nebraska theme. The students sang songs related to Nebraska and created a skit that told of a city gal coming out to visit the country and how easy life would be. Guests were served Nebraska-themed foods.

The students also created jingles for area business sponsors and performed them throughout the show.

Pope John students currently in Spanish I and II classes have the opportunity to go to Spain this summer with Spanish teacher, Amy Klein. The students will spend approximately one week overseas. They will spend a majority of their time in Madrid, along with two one-day trips to Toledo & Segovia.

There are ten students and four adult chaperones going on the trip. The students are excited to take in the culture of Spain and see the sights. This will be the first time for many of the students traveling overseas.

Students pictured right are playing “Mi lapiz” in Spanish class. They have to roll a “6” on the dice to get “the pencil” to be able to fill in their review worksheets.
ALUMNI BABIES

Mark and Jacque (Heithoff PJ ‘02) Mahony, a daughter, Anna Macey born 1-31-19

Austin and Chelsea (Eischeid PJ ‘12) Preister, a son, Abram Matthew born 4-11-19

Jim and Jenny (Minarik PJ ’04) Score, a son, Randall Thomas born 5-9-19

Danny (PJ ’02) and Meghan Veik, a son, Caden James born 5-19-19

Thomas (PJ ’03) and Laura Dwyer, a daughter, Margaret Anne born 6-4-19

Blake and Jenna (Heithoff PJ ’06) Sloan, a daughter, Ella Elizabeth born 7-6-19

Matt and Melissa (Eischeid PJ ’05) Hampl, a daughter, Journey Margaret born 7-28-19

Heath and Jessica (Bartak PJ ’08) Faust, a daughter, Jocelyn Marie born 7-30-19

Austin (PJ ’13) and Connor Heying, a daughter, Sawyer Reese born 7-30-19

Jeremy (PJ ’99) and Lauren (Moser PJ ’01) Borger, a son, Thomas Ervin born 8-2-19

Jake (PJ ’14) and Briley Eischeid, a daughter, Jamie Rose born 8-7-19

Spencer (PJ ’08) and Megan (Beckman PJ ’06) Heying, a son, Lane Robert born 8-19-19

Garrett (PJ ’04) and Jennifer Dwyer, a son, Hagon Leo born 8-26-19

Luke (PJ ’07) and Ashley Beckman, a daughter, Kate Elizabeth born 9-16-19

Tyler (PJ ’13) and Chelsi (Mescher PJ ’13) Childers, a son, Tatum James born 10-21-19

Dylan (PJ ’10) and Meghan Heithoff, a son, George Leander born 11-18-19

Alex and Lauren (Selting PJ ’12) Kinney, a daughter, Ren Catherine born 11-20-19

Andrew (PJ ’07) and Kristen (Sund PJ ’07) Childers, a daughter, Sutton Mae born 12-5-19

If you would like a birth announcement included in the next Quad Lum, please email to jschiltmeyer@pjcrusaders.org

The Pope John Junior Right to Life group sponsored a Life Chain on Respect Life Sunday in October in front of St. Boniface Church in Elgin. Sister Patricia Hoffman, sponsor of the group, said this was the highest attendance she can remember with approximately 60 people spending time in silent prayer.

The Jr. Right to Life group is also preparing for a trip to Washington D.C. in January to attend the National March for Life. Pope John has 26 students attending as well as two Elgin Public students, which is also the most ever.

Preister Wins Essay Contest

Congratulations to Pope John junior, Marissa Preister on her winning entry in the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest at the national level. Her essay was read by the local, state, and national members of the Auxiliary. Her essay was titled, “How can we address and prevent homelessness in our community?”.

Marissa (pictured) read her essay at our Veteran’s Day Program in November.
Antelope County Food Pantry Benefits from School Food Drive

The students at Pope John and St. Boniface Schools brought canned food and non-perishable items during the month of November to be donated to the Antelope County Food Pantry. The students were challenged to bring in 1,000 food items and at final count brought in approximately 1,180 items. The senior class at Pope John packed up all of the donations and the junior class delivered the items to the Antelope County Food Pantry.

Students Confirmed by Archbishop

Confirmation was held for our area youth at the end of October at St. Bonventure in Raeville. Archbishop Lucas talked to the twenty-five candidates and their sponsors about the importance of prayer and praying for each other. The group consists of students from St. Bonaventure in Raeville, St. Boniface in Elgin, St. Francis of Assisi in Neligh, and St. John the Baptist in Petersburg.
2019 EPPJ Wolfpack Football Team made the Playoffs for the first time since 2015.

Students gather for an Advent service to prepare their hearts for Christmas!

Members of the Pope John Band entertain at the Christmas Concert.

MEMORIES
2019
Dwaine Schmitt (PJ ‘80) has been the head track coach for almost 25 years at Kearney Catholic High School, but has been part of the KCHS athletics department, as either a coach or a volunteer, for the past 35 years. His involvement was one of the reasons he was chosen the 2019 Kearney Hub Freedom Award recipient in Sports.

Mandated for Service

Six Pope John students from St. Boniface in Elgin, St. Bonaventure in Raeville, St. Francis of Assisi in Neligh, and St. John the Baptist of Petersburg were mandated as lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) by Archbishop Lucas in August. They will serve their home parishes and the school in these roles.

ALUMNI WEDDINGS

Anne Mlnarik (PJ ‘06) & Tyler Christiansen on April 26, 2019
Derek Henn (PJ ‘11) & Jill Walmer on June 1, 2019
Juliann Starman (PJ ‘08) & Juan Ramos on June 15, 2019
Austin Mitchell (PJ ‘09) & Jessica Heithoff on June 22, 2019
Carey Eischeid (PJ ‘12) & Corey Kalkwarf on June 22, 2019
T.J. Mlnarik (PJ ‘99) & Christiana Hartmann on June 22, 2019
Justin Henn (PJ ‘03) & Savannah Murphy on August 17, 2019

DID YOU KNOW?

We pray for all of our alumni at every school mass.

2019 PJ Alumni Softball Champions

2019 Alumni Softball champions were from the classes of 1982-1994 and 1997-2000. Members of the team were: (front row, l. to r.) Marty Pelster, Moriah Zegers Brookshier, Adam Veik, Matt Pelster and (back row, left to right) Gina Moser, David Borer, Scott Borer, Heather Veik, Curt Zegers, Chris Eischeid

Will You Consider A Planned Gift?

All estate gifts, large and small are important to the future of the school. Please prayerfully consider a planned gift to Pope John that will transcend your lifetime.

“A good man leaves a good legacy if he leaves his children educated...”

-St. Pope John XXIII
Grandparents Day 2019

St. Boniface students invited their grandparents to spend a day at school with them and the response was great!

On Friday, November 15th the halls were full of smiling grandparents and grandkids. Highlights of the day were Mass, the Book Fair and working on projects together.

Building Skills

Students use everyday items such as marshmallows to build structures. This improves critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

In Memory

Mary Jane (Bigge) Henn (SJB ’53) 11/22/19
Our Students R.O.C.K.!

The second grade students learned about one of the new themes at Pope John & St. Boniface this fall. It is Crusaders ROCK. The ROCK stands for Respect others, Own your actions, Care for everyone, and Know God’s way. The students painted larger rocks and hid them around the school grounds. They encouraged others to find them and hide them in a new place.

Thank you...  
...for supporting St. Boniface Elementary Calendar Lottery Sales!  
We met our goal!

Saint For A Day

On Halloween, students came to school dressed as their favorite Saint.

Christmas Concert 2019

Pictured at right are the St. Boniface preschool and kindergarten classes performing at the Christmas concert.
I am appreciative of the opportunity to take on the role of advancement director within our schools! This is my 14th year at Pope John and I have come to know many of the alumni, whether that be as former students, parents, or friends of our schools. As with any position, there has been a learning curve, however I am enjoying the new responsibilities and continuing to be a part of such a strong, rich tradition, that is, Pope John and St. Boniface.

I am excited to be trying out some new ideas along with continuing the tradition of the way things have been done over the years. One of the new ideas started is TAKE ME BACK TUESDAY. Each Tuesday, our Pope John Facebook page has a picture from the archives added to it. However, we are noticing that many of our pictures prior to the early 90’s are on slides, which we can’t use for our posts. If you have copies of pictures or digital pictures that you would like to send us, please drop them off at school or email them to jschiltmeyer@pjcrusaders.org. We would love to continue posting these pictures from throughout the years and have you tag those you recognize, along with telling us what was the reason for the picture!