



101 Years of SHAS



Focus on God

SHAS today

SHAS as it appeared in the early years

101 Years of Learning and Growing in God

Sacred Heart Area School Students

For the past 101 years, Sacred Heart Area School has strived for academic excellence, to provide for students the tools they will need to succeed in the future. What sets Catholic schools apart from public schools is our ability to also develop the spiritual part of the student for a happy life. Keeping God at the center of what we do and who we are is the key to our success. Teaching students to be grateful for what they have and a love and respect for each other and all of His creation gives them the guidelines to accomplish this. In our Veterans Day and Christmas programs we learn to be thankful to God and others. In community service projects we learn to show our love for others. We learn about respecting creation in religion class, recycling, and community spruce up. From our teachers, alumni, parishioners, and families, we learn about the Church and discipleship. We learn the most of how to live happily in God's Kingdom from each other. Thank you all, for playing such an important role in our faith and lives. *Jim Ope-
lia, Principal*



This year, SHAS will be working on a 7-year school strategic plan (SSP) as part of our MNSAA (Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association) accreditation renewal. SHAS is now on its 7th year of its 7-year accreditation cycle, where we are tasked to develop a new 7-year SSP. As part of our staff professional development on October 7th, we began work on developing our first objective regarding technology. So far, the main plan for this objective is to obtain the best choice of technological devices for the students in the classroom. Research will play a large part in carrying out this objective as there are many options available. As we continue with this objective and other objectives to come, we invite all stakeholders to share their input for the future advancements of SHAS. Currently, our classrooms have a teacher computer, two student computers, two iPads, and an interactive board with projector.

Save the date
Spring Blast 2016
May 7th

Work-athon Fun

The 3rd Annual, Sacred Heart Area School Work-athon took place on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, starting at 12:00pm and ending around 2:30pm. Parents, staff, and students in 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades worked at Pine Grove Park, 4th grade worked at Veterans Park, 2nd grade at Northern Pacific Park, and preschool and kindergarten on the school grounds, picking up sticks and raking leaves and pine needles. It was enjoyed by all who participated. Thank you SHAS families for your service, and raising \$8,500 for our school! The work-athon replaces the SHAS Marathon, where in the past, students rode bike or walked for pledges. The work-athon event benefits both the Staples community and Sacred Heart Area School while providing a community service experience for our students.



Students, staff & parents alike, worked together to beautify the Staples city parks at the SHAS Work-athon on October 19th, raising \$8500



Twigs, branches, and pine needles were hauled away by students to the city's compost piles for the work-athon.

Playground Improvements

Sacred Heart Area School has made several improvements to its playgrounds! Last year the sand playground base was replaced with pea gravel to eliminate the growth of obnoxious weeds. Before the school year started parents of Sacred Heart Area School spruced up the playgrounds; trimming the trees and fence lines, removing unsightly and unnecessary barriers, and replacing them with flower beds. They painted dull looking furnishings, and prepped the perimeter of the basketball court and installed a wood-chip border. The adjacent parking area was landscaped and resurfaced. A sprinkler system was installed with the donated help of Youngbauer's Landscaping of Verndale, and GB Directional of Sebeka, for the creation of a large green space on the large playground. This past summer, sod was laid by school families and additional furnishings were installed. Since these improvements were made, we see school families, as well as families from the entire community coming to enjoy this facility. Thank you parents and area business owners for making such a huge difference in our school's appearance!



SHAS students enjoying the new playground grass



Families of the community enjoying new playground furniture

A Message from Father Joe

As I write this column in this final week of the Liturgical Calendar, the Year of Grace 2015, we are also celebrating the civic holiday of Thanksgiving. As believers in Christ we have the privilege of being able to live our faith without undo interference from our government. For this we can be thankful. Our local parish communities have the opportunity to share our faith with the young people. For this we can be thankful. In particular, we can have a school in which we can share knowledge of God without interference. For this we can be thankful.

We are thankful for the many students who have attended Sacred Heart Area School and their commitment to living a Christian life. We are thankful for the many alumni who share of their financial resources to make it possible for Sacred Heart Area School to provide a reasonable education for the young people today.

We are thankful as we enter into a new Liturgical Year, the Year of Grace 2016, for a God who came to live among us. Throughout this Liturgical Year we will recall how God has touched our lives in Christ's birth, in His preach, in His Passion, Death and Resurrection. We are thankful for the witness of saints who have gone before us showing us the way to the Father.

As we begin the Holy Year Jubilee of Mercy, we are thankful for a God who loves us so much that He is willing to share mercy with us even in our failures of sin. Thanks be to GOD!

May God's love, mercy and peace be upon all of you who are in some fashion or another connected to Sacred Heart Area School.

Fr. Joe Korf

Alumni Making a Difference

This year alumni contributions went toward a variety of school needs beyond our school's budget, including; social studies books, a "crazy science" lyceum, technological devices, and new U.S and Minnesota flags for the school.

Several Alumni also contributed to the Sacred Heart Area School Scholarship Fund, which helps families to pay tuition toward attending SHAS who are challenged financially.

Thank you all, for making a huge difference in our school.



The \$10,000 Lucky Ticket

Last Summer's 2nd Annual Knights of Columbus \$10,000 Raffle was once again a huge hit raising \$11,900 for SHAS. From 250 chances, there were 5 prizes distributed in the amounts of \$10,000, \$1,000, and 3 at \$500. This year's big winner was the John and Barb Reese Family. Let us know if you are interested in participating in this coming summer's raffle. You could be the next winner!!!



Jim Opelia presents John and Barb Reese their \$10,000 check.

SHAS Scholarship Campaign Fund

Consider a gift of a scholarship for a parish student this Christmas season. Our goal is to make our school available to all children in our parish communities that want a faith-based education, regardless of financial status. **The two ways you can help are to either become a sponsor and / or spread the word, sharing our need with others.** Thank you for your consideration and have a blessed Advent!

Congratulations!

Sacred Heart Alumni & Friends
324 4th Street NE
Staples, MN 56479

Visit us today at: sacredheartareaschool.org

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

The following donations were received from February 2015 to November 2015.
We sincerely thank each of these donors for helping Sacred Heart Area School.

Alumni Donations

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Francis Donlin
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Andrew Burrows in memory of Dick and Janet Nagel
Suzanne Clark in memory of Lillian Jackson
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Pat Hollister
Beverlee Mutchler
Suzanne Clark in memory of Lillian Jackson
Charles Huff
SM and CS Olstad in memory of Pat Olstad

Scholarship Donations

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