



ABERDEEN CATHOLIC
SCHOOL SYSTEM

NEWSLETTER

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aberdeenroncalli.org

JANUARY 2024

Featured Article

Tim Weisz- President, ACSS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Looking back on 2023 I can say ACSS has been very blessed. A few pivotal moments of the year include:

- Saying goodbye to Father Kapperman and Father Dickinson. Both provided excellent guidance and leadership for our school system. Their legacy at ACSS includes direction in Bishop DeGrood's vision of developing Lifelong Catholic Missionary Disciples Through God's Love, and their help in creating the ACSS Catholic Identity Standards.
- Creating new spaces for the high school music programs. Through the efforts and contributions of many people we moved the band and choir rooms out of the basement.
- Creating a new up to date weight training room at the high school adds up to a better experience for both our students and staff.
- Sacred art has been added to the hallways at the elementary school and middle/high school. The hallways are now a living testament to our Catholic faith.
- Re-configuring our grades was a big decision and has proven to be a wise one as well.

As I look forward, 2024 is sure to be filled with continued improvements.

I mentioned the ACSS Catholic Identity Standards. With Fr. Samson's help, our hope is to create a guideline to further distinguish our mission of nurturing the souls of the young men and women we serve. The document is still in the working stage. We plan to share more specifics in the spring and fall.

We look forward to kicking off 2024 with **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK** activities. This is a great time to celebrate the gift of Catholic education.

Also ahead in 2024, the implementation of a new student admissions/enrollment and billing platform. This platform, called **FINALSITE**, will allow for a more efficient and cost-effective way of running a school. Look for more details on page 4 of the newsletter.

Finally, we wish to thank you for a very successful and fulfilling 2023. Many have supported us through their time, talent and treasure. We appreciate all those efforts and ask you to keep us in your prayers.

We wish you many blessings in 2024.

Sincerely,
Tim Weisz

- Instilling Catholic values and promoting academic -
excellence by nurturing mind, body and soul.

2023 PARENT SURVEY



Parents, the 2023 Parent Survey shows what it has for all five years of the survey: When asked what you like most about Roncalli, your top answers were the family feel, size, faith and people.

WE AGREE! Those are the exact responses our faculty/staff gave, too. How blessed we are - to send our children to and work at an organization that values these things?

THANK YOU for being a part of the Aberdeen Catholic School System. You are one of the blessings, too!

RHS SEMI FORMAL DANCE

Saturday, January 6, 2024/ RHS/ 8-11pm

The RHS Semi Formal Dance will be held January 6th 2024 from 8-11 PM at Roncalli High School. Tickets are \$10 and will go on sale beginning Wednesday January 3rd in the high school library. Dates from other schools are allowed for this dance, but must be approved by Mrs. Florey. "Bring a Date" forms will be available from Mrs. Artz in the Library

RONCALLI ORAL INTERP @ STATE COMPETITION



Congratulations to Emily Enga (Poetry), Lucy Gutenkauf & Anya Unser (Duo), & Millie Duncan (Storytelling) for each earning a Superior Rating at State Oral Interp the beginning of December, as well as earning the Team Excellence award.

The team members who competed at state are pictured to the left. *Emily Enga, Millie Duncan, Coach Catherine Knapp, Lucy Gutenkauf, Anya Unser*

Supporting families during loss

The loss of little Helen Lesnar this past week has brought together not only our school family but many in the community in an effort to support her parents and siblings.

Among other efforts a Go Fund Me page has been established.

We are sharing the link in the event you would like to contribute.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/helen-lesnar?utm_campaign=p_lisco+share-sheet-first-launch&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer



In addition an account has been establish at Dacotah Bank to help the Lesnar family as well as the Murano family who lost their young son Charlie several weeks ago.

If you are interested in contributing to this fund please contact Amber Schwab- amber.schwab@dacotahbank.com or

Kristie Martin- kristie.martin@dacotahbank.com



NIGHT OF FINE ARTS

Saturday, January 20, 1:30pm

Art Show/Auction

RHS One Act Play

"The Scheme of the Driftless Shifter"

The Art Department will have beautiful works of art up for auction in the foyer, available for silent bidding before the one act performance starts. The Art Auction supports students participating in local and state art competitions and events!

The winners will be announced during the play intermission with pickup and payment occurring at the close of the performance.

Community and Alumni are invited to donate a work of art to the fundraiser.
Contact Mrs. Amy Heinz, amy.heinz@aberdeenroncalli.org

The RHS drama department will perform their production of
"The Scheme of the Driftless Shifter", by Carolyn Lane.

A Mixed-Up Melodrama about the efforts of one bumbling cast and crew to produce a serious melodrama, and from the premature opening of the curtain to the completely confused curtain call, everything that could go wrong does. Yet, through it all, the players valiantly try to surmount the monumental confusion and create an atmosphere of madcap zeal!



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JAN. 28- FEB. 3

*Many great events will mark Roncalli's
observance of CSW 2024!*

*A flyer will go home with students and more news will
be shared as we approach the week.*

*One of the highlights of the week is the **All School
Mass** with Bishop Donald DeGrood.*

*Please join us for that Mass on
Wednesday, January 31 at 9am.*



FINALSITE

Roncalli family survey have indicated, **YOU WANT:**

- An easier way to pay your Patch and school tuition bills all at once
- To be notified when a charge is added to your account
- To be able to choose when and how many times a month your tuition is deducted through ACH

We heard you and we are taking action. New software called **Finalsite** will soon be launched for Application/Enrollment/Tuition Management and Billing. With this software, you'll actually create your tuition agreement as you re-enroll your students each year.

We are so excited about this. As with anything new, we ask for your patience as there are bound to be some bumps. Please watch your email for updates.

ALSO

Please remember that **financial aid applications** will open in mid February. Get those 2023 taxes filed as soon as possible! New this year - we won't be using FACTS, only TADS, which means if you apply for the SD Partners in Education (SDPIE) - only 1 application to fill out!

Niki Zikmund, ACSS Business Manager
niki.zikmund@aberdeenroncalli.org
605-226-2100

**Click here to
REGISTER NOW**



Preschool - Aberdeen Roncalli
Roncalli Sonshine Patch is located within Roncalli Primary School at 219 1st Ave NE, which houses Pre-K/2nd grade classrooms. We offer preschool/childcar...

**RONCALLI SONSHINE
PATCH PRESCHOOL**

**Call or email for more information: 605-225-3460 or
pat.buechler@aberdeenroncalli.org**



PRESCHOOL PEEKS

Preschool Peeks . . . into Kindergarten Readiness!



People used to think children were ready for kindergarten if they could say the ABC's, count, identify colors, and write their first name. Readiness was always more complicated than that, and new brain research is helping us understand what it really is. Readiness also means a child has a willing attitude and confidence in the process of learning: a healthy state of mind. (Dr. Dan Gartrell)



Our approach to teaching is to help each child gain that confidence. Children learn concepts best when they are meaningful and relevant to them. They acquire knowledge through active exploration, not solely through direct instruction. By using a reflective, instead of directive, approach, we take the time to observe and reflect, thus changing and adapting to the needs of each child. This encourages curiosity, discovery, and problem solving which allows individual growth and development of a positive self-image, preparing the child for his/her school career.



When you look into our classrooms and see the children interacting with each other, playing with toys, role playing, creating, experimenting, etc., know each child is involved in activities which help get them ready for Kindergarten!



At Roncalli SonShine Patch, all faculty and staff are continuously learning about building a strong foundation for a child to have a successful school experience. We research best practice and plan age appropriate activities that encourage children to ask questions, wonder, experiment, investigate, create- all while learning important skills for school readiness. To learn more, please reach out to Pat Buechler, Director. (pat.buechler@aberdeenroncalli.org)



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

I am excited to announce that beginning next school year, our youngest full-time preschool students will be blessed with the opportunity to have **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** included within their school day.

Developed by Sofia Cavalletti, an Italian Hebrew scripture scholar, building on the work and methods of Maria Montessori, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) seeks to give children the guidance and vocabulary which enable them to become aware of their relationship with God and give expression to it. With the Catechesis we help each child to continue to fall in love with God while building community among peers.

"The atrium is a place where the child comes to know the great realities of...life as a Christian, but also and above all, a place where the child begins to live these realities in meditation and prayer. There is nothing of the academic classroom about the atrium; it is not a place for religious instruction but religious life. - Sofia Cavalletti."

Katie Eskro, CGS Director, has already begun the process of building the Atrium at Roncalli Primary. The word "atrium" actually means "portico, or porch entrance to a large house." The ancient church called the gathering space between the Church Proper and the street the atrium. This was the place where those preparing for initiation into the Church would receive instruction. The special space for CGS is also called an Atrium, since it has a similar purpose for our children. It is a place to help them enter into full, conscious and active participation in the liturgical and communal life of the Church.

Many of the materials in our Atrium will be handmade by people across the community. This is a way for more people to help participate in the handing of our faith down to the next generations. This program tends to create the atmosphere of a retreat with its presentations, scripture, contemplation, work and silence. A fundamental aspect of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is for the child to understand the person of Jesus as their Good Shepherd and fall in love with Him. The child, as well as the adult assistants, grow in faith during this experience!

On the following page is a list of the items that we are looking for to furnish the Atrium. If you wish to donate any of the items, you may drop them off at RPS.

For questions regarding donations, call Katie Eskro directly at 320-980-5368 or email her at cgs@sacredheartaberdeen.net

Blessings, Principal Tammy Kost

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

---NEEDS LIST---

Household Items

Small glassware
(pouring vessels, bowls)
Decorative and plain
boxes/chests
(made of wood or other natural
materials. Small and medium
size)
Baskets
(all sizes, in natural materials)
Trays
(laptop size or smaller, wood,
plastic, metal, various colors)
Handheld vacuum
Small broom and dustpan
Small scrub brushes
Votive candles
Tea lights
Mirror
(wall but of smaller size)
Throw pillows
Lamps
(table and floor)
Rug of neutral color, various
sizes
Wash rags
Dish towels
Dish drainer
Bar soap dish
Watering can
Feather duster

Children's items

Wood puzzles for 3 year olds
Lacing beads
Lacing cards
Colored pencils
Manual pencil sharpeners
Rounded-point child-size
scissors
Glue sticks

Furniture

Shelves, various sizes 36" or
shorter
(natural wood color, or white)
Holy water font for wall
Coffee tables
Round coffee table
End tables
Child-size tables and chairs
(wood)
Accordion-style Room dividers
Child-sized benches

Religious

Statue of the Holy Family
San Damiano crucifixes
Statues of Jesus, Mary, or Joseph
Wall hangings of the Holy Family
Wall hanging of Jesus, Mary, or
Joseph
Small Nativity Scene, pieces
separate
Leather-bound New American
Bible
(regular size)
Leather-bound, white Bible
(small or medium size)

(Other Sacred Art may be needed –
please ask if you have an item that
may be appropriate)

Artists/Craftmen/Carpenters

Woodworking
(larger items and small detailed)
Painting
(furniture and small figurines)
Clay working
Calligraphy
Coloring/drawing
Sewing

Raw materials

Wood
(1/4" and 1/2" sheets, shelving)
Acrylic paint
Small paintbrushes
Fabric
(white, green, red, purple)
Calligraphy pens

If you would like to donate or
have questions, contact
Katie Eskro
320-980-5368
cgs@sacredheartaberdeen.net





Moving Health *Forward.*

TIPS to become a HEALTHIER YOU

**Adam White, Head Trainer Avera
Human Performance Center**

Stretch Daily!

Strive to stretch every day for at least 5-10 minutes. Doing this will help improve mobility, limit injuries, and can even lead to improved mood and mental state!



I hope you had a great Christmas...

The Booster Club would like to express our thanks for a great 2023. We appreciate the outstanding support in Green and Gold memberships and the support of the Bash for Cash event. We offer a **SPECIAL THANKS** to Steven Lust Automotive for letting us hold the Bash for Cash event in their showroom !

Happy New Year!!

Lee Keller

President, Booster Club



*The Cavalier Campaign is underway.
All contributions make a difference!
Go to our website and click DONATE
to make an easy online contribution.
<https://www.aberdeenroncalli.org/support-us>*

SAVE THE DATE

Coming to the Dakota Event Center
April 20, 2024.

We look forward to having you join us
for the largest friend/fund raiser
of the ACSS year.

Keep in mind the Roncalli Ball silent
and live auctions during your new
year shopping. A great way to make
amazing donations to the Ball.



PARISH NEWS

Sacred Heart

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION:

Wed. Jan. 3, 5:30-7:30pm.

For families with kids in grades 1-6.

YOUTH GROUP SERVICE PROJECT NIGHT:

Wed. Jan. 3, 6:30-7:30pm

for youth in grades 7-12.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MTG, mandatory.

Sun. Jan. 7, 7pm

EMMAUS NIGHT OF WORSHIP:

Sat. Jan. 13, 7-8:30pm in the church

Adoration, worship music, and led meditations

PAINTED PRAYER GRIEF WORKSHOP:

Sun. Jan. 14, 2-4pm in the social hall

For anyone experiencing grief.

No cost, RSVP needed. Details on page 12

CONFIRMATION CLASS:

Wed. Jan. 21, 4-6pm

Saint Mary's

CONFIRMATION CLASS:

Wed. Jan. 10, 7:00pm, in parish hall

Wed. Jan. 24, 7:00 pm, in parish hall

FIRST RECONCILIATION:

Sat. Jan. 13, 10am

FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MTG:

Wed. Jan. 17, 5:30pm, In parish hall

**SUMMER OST PROGRAM
REGISTRATION
IS ONLY OPEN TO
CURRENT
RONCALLI FAMILIES
AT THIS POINT**



CAMP KINDNESS REGISTRATION OPENS JAN 23rd!

Are you looking for a fun, engaging summer program for your children to attend? Camp Kindness is the place for YOU! Field trips, arts & crafts, outside/gym time, water days, and STREAM are just a few things that we do here. Come enjoy the fun!

Contact Shelby Braun
shelby.braun@aberdeeroncalli.org
(605)225-3460



Emmaus Night of Worship



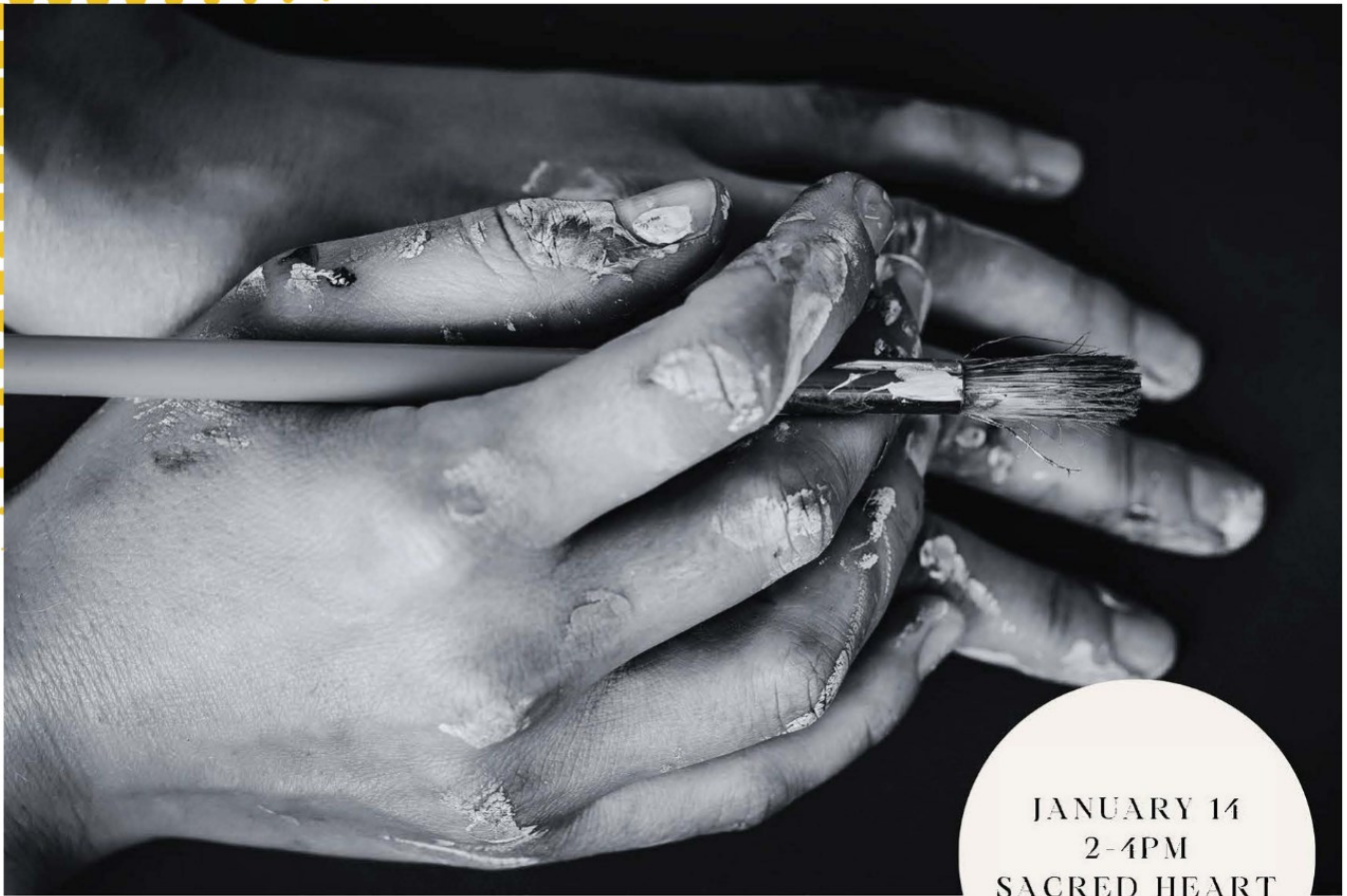
“STAY WITH US” LUKE 24:29

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - WORSHIP MUSIC -
LEAD LECTIO DIVINA MEDITATION - SACRED SILENCE -

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13: 7-8:30PM

Sacred Heart Parish
409 3rd Ave SE - Aberdeen





JANUARY 14
2-4PM
SACRED HEART
PARISH HALL

PAINTED PRAYERS

PAINTED PRAYER GRIEF WORKSHOP

LED BY JESSY PAULSON, PRAYER ARTIST

In this workshop, we will learn to use art as a form of prayer through abstract painting. Through conversation and connection, we will see the ways God is working in our lives here and now. This workshop is for all abilities. It's not about the product, it's about the process. Come even if you aren't sure if painting is for you. This event is possible through a grant from the Catholic Community Foundation of Eastern South Dakota and sponsored by Aberdeen Elizabeth Ministry.

**RSVP to the Sacred Heart office (605-225-7065)
and bring a friend - No cost to attend**