

Music

Miss Rachel Joy is in her second year at the School of SHSF. She is a recent graduate of Roberts Wesleyan College and joined our school as the music teacher. She teaches music to

all the students in the school as well as the serving as the leader of the Middle School Band and introductory Band lessons for 5th grade. She has her degree in Music Education and finds that the students in the music program seem to love to sing and learn some of the stories behind the songs.

Middle School Band is a separate entity which allows students in 6-8th grades explore their instruments of choice. They practice songs for various concerts each year. There are 17 musicians in the Middle School Band. Eighteen fifth graders chose to try an instrument this year. "It's a great opportunity to learn an instrument, read music, perform in front of family and friends, and learn the importance of practice," said Miss Joy. "I'm happy to be here and I'm having fun with the kids exploring the possibilities of music."

Miss Joy is also the director of the Middle School Chorus. Fifteen middle school students have chosen chorus as an elective. They practice singing various songs and prepare for concerts during the course of the year. They choose songs from Broadway, the movies and classics. †



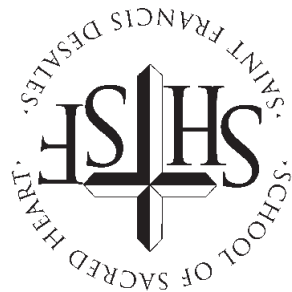
After school program has introduced a "juggling club." David Sholes, father of Erica in first grade, will continue teaching juggling skills on Wednesdays.

Coming Attractions

Look for an all-school musical entitled *Heroes* in the spring. It is a musical play honoring the heroes of September 11, 2001, both military and everyday. The date of production will be announced. †

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THE SCHOOL OF SACRED HEART SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

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Praise with the Timbrel, the Dance, and the Lyre!

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Letter from the Principal

Dear Friends of Sacred Heart St. Francis:

The gift of art and music has had an important place in the lives of people throughout the ages. At the School of Sacred Heart St. Francis our students get to experience a variety of artistic opportunities as well. It may be performing in a musical, creating a mosaic during art class, playing an instrument, or creatively expressing oneself in the movement of dance. Whatever it may be, it is a true expression of the God given talents that each student possesses.

As a music educator and a true believer in arts in education, it has always been an intrinsic goal of mine to provide children with the chance to express themselves in a way that celebrates who they are...creating a gift to treasure forever.

When we hear of so many schools having to reduce time given to the music and art programs, one can only surmise that others have forgotten the fact that the arts contribute meaningfully to the development of one's soul. To express oneself through an art is a beautiful thing. I am proud that the arts program at Sacred Heart St. Francis is an integral part of the curriculum we offer. Our students' artistic expression reveals an image of who and what they truly are. We, as adults, are never too old to laugh, sing, dance, and draw. Our students know that these things are what makes them feel fully alive. What a gift to be able to share with others.

I sincerely hope you enjoy reading about our students' artistic experiences in this newsletter. The children are creating memories that will last a life time. God definitely has a hand in all these little miracles.

Keep singing,

Mr. David Estes

Principal



Art

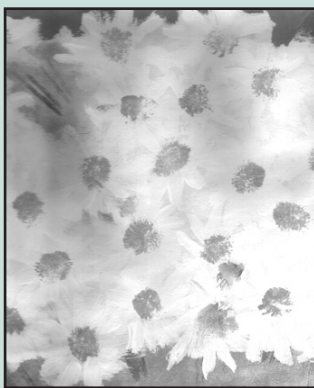
The School of SHSF is very lucky to have 2 fine art teachers on staff. They are Mrs. Mia Novelli and Mrs. Jennie Hogan. Mrs. Novelli teaches the middle school, while Mrs. Hogan spends her time with the elementary students. Each teacher concentrates on a different curriculum.

Mrs. Hogan's elementary curriculum this year includes the Alphabet in Art. With letter as the starting point, students have created pieces that represent that letter in "alphabet portraits." B became Blow Dried hair because the artist used drops of paint and used a blow drier to spread the paint in all directions for a fun depiction. Kitchen tiles decorated the K while N was depicted by a minimalist and simply represented nothing.

Mrs. Novelli can afford to spend time on in depth projects. Their first course of study this year was impressionism. Students used tools like cardboard strips, cotton balls and various sponges to paint a still life of potted chrysanthemums. The techniques used to paint the flowers and greenery were different than those used to paint the clay pot. The class included a field trip to the Bennington Museum to see a collection of impressionism paintings, sketches and sculptures by Monet, Renoir, Cassatt, Degas and others.

Another assignment is to provide Christmas decorations for the Diocesan Office bulletin board in Burlington. Mrs. Novelli had the class create watercolor paper. They used that to paint pieces to create a stained glass poinsettia. A second one hangs on the parish bulletin board through the holidays.

In middle school, Art is an elective. Since the students choose to be in art class they have a genuine interest in learning the processes needed to achieve a certain artistic goal. "The students have heart and desire. That makes teaching them a lot of fun," commented Mrs. Novelli. "I like this age because I can include a greater amount of detail in the directions and can include some history as well." †



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Dance

P lies, releves, step-ball-changes and grapevines: words and movements only learned in the dance studio. But thanks to Mrs. Judi Estes, hundreds of Sacred Heart students are well versed in this dance language. This year marks the

11th anniversary of the dance program at Sacred Heart. Mrs. Estes began this endeavor in 1996-97 because it allowed her to teach dancing to eager students without having to worry about the logistics and red tape of a private dance studio.

The classes meet once a week and they practice, practice, and practice. Dance class is an extracurricular activity offered to all students at SHSF. It is an affordable offering because Mrs. Estes donates her time and talent to the school. She runs the program as a fundraiser for our elementary and middle school students by offering classes at a very discounted rate and donating the proceeds to Sacred Heart. This year's program has evolved into a series of 6-week dance workshops that Judi teaches on Thursdays. Over 50 students are currently enrolled.

"Without this program I don't think my daughters would try dance, but this program allows the girls to be with their friends outside of the classroom, too," commented Jean Henderson. The Henderson girls, Katie, an alumna and Sara in 4th grade have both danced since Kindergarten. Sara likes jazz dancing best and thinks the costumes are great. They are not unlike their peers, who keep signing up for the popular program year after year. Plus, some of them even come back each year to help her with the young dancers. Helpers have included Nicole Nolin Comar, a graduate of Judi's private dance studio and Kelsey Armstrong, Amanda Greenslet, Renee Noel and Hillary Estes, all alumni of Sacred Heart and its dance program.

Mrs. Estes love of the art has inspired well over 300 kids to don elaborate costumes and climb on stage for a recital. Although the majority of the students involved in the program are girls, there have been a handful of boys who have donned tap and jazz shoes, along with a few top hats. Mrs. Estes is a Business teacher at the Mount Anthony Union High School. She spends her spare time coaching the HS dance team as well as volunteering at SHSF. †