

Annie's Archives

Reprinted Articles from St. Anne School's Past Celebrating 75 Years 2002-2003 Barrington, IL Volume 16

St. Anne School Dedication Held Despite Blizzard 4/20/1961

A mid-April blizzard made it necessary to modify plans for the dedication of St. Anne's new 16-classroom elementary school on Chestnut Street Sunday.

Balmy weather would have seen a procession of visiting clergy, including His Eminence Albert Cardinal Meyer, Archbishop of Chicago, from the North Ela Street residence of the pastor, the Rev. Alexander N. Thane, to the church, thence to the school for outdoor ceremonies.

Because of the storm the ritual of dedication took place in the school building, His Eminence Cardinal Meyer officiating.

The ceremony began with a prayer for Divine assistance, recited at the main entrance lobby. Chant that called for a choir response was answered by the assisting clergy. Then, guided by Father Thane, the Cardinal accompanied by altar boys proceeded through the first and second floor corridors, sprinkling rooms with holy water. The Cardinal entered the eighth grade classroom and placed upon the wall a crucifix pronouncing an appropriate prayer. He imparted his blessing to those assisting in the ceremony, concluding the blessing of the school, and its dedication to the service of Catholic youth of the community.

His Eminence was accompanied by his assistant, Father C. E. Bergin. During the ceremony Father Kenneth Morris of the Clerics of St. Viator, who officiates at St. Anne Church every Sunday, assisted as Deacon. A successor of Father

Thane as chaplain of the Alexian Brothers' Hospital in Chicago, Father Clement Jagodzinski, assisted as Sub-deacon. A total of about 25 priests and religious brothers were present ultimately, though some were delayed in their arrival by the storm.

The neighboring pastors, Father George Ballweber of Buffalo Grove and Father Arthur O'Brien of Palatine came. The Provincial of the Servite Order who, as a young priest several years ago, was a "Sunday assistant" at St. Anne's, Father Louis Cortney O.S.M., along with Father John Stafford C.S.V., Provincial of the Viatorian Fathers, were present.

The busy superintendent of Catholic schools of the Chicago area, Msgr. William McManus, arrived somewhat late. Monsignor Cloos of Winfield, Msgr. James Murphy of Deerfield, Fr. Raymond Wilhelmi of Morton Grove, Fr. John Dussman of Glenview, Fr. Edward Holloway of Chicago, Fr. Augustine Freeman of Melrose Park, Fr. Frank Corley, Fr. Michael Kilbride, Fr. Leo Devitt, all of Chicago, were on hand. Msgr. Frank McElligott, Archdiocesan superintendent of cemeteries, a relative of the William Sheehan family of the parish, attended.

Others were Fr. Frank Williams, principal of the new Catholic high school for boys at Arlington Heights and Fr. Paul Jasinski, Superior of the Viatorian Community at Arlington Heights, Brother Fidelis, in charge of the Alexian Brothers Religious in Chicago, together with some of the brothers.

Throughout the religious ceremonies a group of 4th degree Knights of Columbus formed an honor guard to Cardinal Meyer, adding color to the occasion.

After blessing the school, the Cardinal and those with him went to the church where the laity had assembled to listen to an address by

His Eminence. Cardinal Meyer congratulated the parishioners on building the school and referred to the Catholic concept in education. The teacher is the soul of the school, said Cardinal Meyer, for the teacher represents primarily the parents and education begins in the home. As the home should be a sacred and holy place, so should the school. While living up to all state requirements, the Cardinal said, Catholics feel that education to be complete must relate the child to God: must teach a responsibility in life. The Cardinal administered solemn benediction at the conclusion of his talk.

At the end of the day, church dignitaries and visiting clergy were treated to dinner in the new school hall.

The following text appeared in the Dedication program prepared for the April 16, 1961 dedication of the new St. Anne School.

DEDICATION

We dedicate this building today as we parents, faculty, and pastoral staff have dedicated ourselves: to the formation of men and women of character who think, judge, and act constantly in accord with right reason illumined by the supernatural light of Christ.

May God grant us the Grace, the Wisdom and Fortitude to use these facilities effectively in developing and perfecting the natural faculties of our children, thereby preparing them for what they must be and what they must do in the temporal sublime end for which they have been created.

It is our hope and intention that this school truly become that "sanctuary of education," described by His Holiness Pope Pius XI in his encyclical on

The Christian Education of Youth, an instrument for maximum personal and social well being complementary to, and in accord with, the family, the Church, and civil society.

To this end we place our school under the patronage of St. Anne, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mother of Christ, that through her intercession and His grace the whole organization of teachers, syllabus, and textbooks may be regulated by true Christian spirit.

*Reverend Alexander N. Thane
Pastor*

MODERN CHALLENGE

St. Anne's school is responsible today for the intellectual and moral formation of 450 Barrington area children from 700 families. This number represents a growth of more than 260% from the 124 pupils in her charge fifteen years ago. The prospect of continued growth is rather well assured by the trend indicated in the fact that over one fourth of all new families moving into the community in the last calendar year reported Catholic religious affiliation.

EXPERIENCE CLOSE AT HAND

Happily, specialists in excellent school construction were close at hand. The architectural firm of Smith and Millin, our neighbors around the corner on Ela Street, enjoy a growing reputation in the field as a result of attractive and efficient schools successfully completed in numerous locations throughout the state.

Having taken on the project, they were careful to note the preferences and desires of both the pastor and the faculty. Because of this consideration many conveniences are incorporated that make life more cheerful, and effort more effective, for the staff. Long desired storage space for everything from chalk to charts is provided by built-in cabinets with large, free sliding drawers. Clean up sinks in the

classroom help dispose of art craft residue in the lower grades, while boot racks keep street dirt off of the floors, and free standing panels of ingenious folding louvered doors prevent idle coats and jackets from being a distraction. Steel backed chalkboards afford unlimited display space with the aid of small magnetized blocks that hold materials in position. Each teacher has ample shelf space conveniently at hand for text and reference books. Attractive, store type, window walls flank the entrance to many rooms where cheerful displays add welcome interest.

SWEET MYSTERY

Mothers will particularly appreciate the QUIET that prevails! Standing in corridor or classroom during a school day it is impossible to imagine that 450 active, healthy, young, American boys and girls are actually in the building. The staff finds the controlled acoustics almost heaven sent, but of course they are the pre-determined result of careful selection of ceiling treatment, resilient plastic paint, masonry interior walls, and tile cushioned floors underfoot in the classrooms. Long wearing terrazzo is used in high traffic corridors and stairwells.

Co-incidence of the academic year with the heating season precludes the need for air conditioning, but "tempered" fresh air in controlled amounts is directed into each classroom through internal conduit to prevent flagging of student interest for want of ventilation. Television outlets allow for future use of the medium as a teaching aid in each room, and all rooms are wired to a centrally controlled intercommunication and dismissal system that is a boon to an ever busy administration. You won't find the usual speaker dangling overhead, however, for the equipment is cleverly concealed behind textured panels that form an integrated and interesting part of each classroom's colorful décor. Varied application of muted pastel colors on classroom walls heightens interest and dispels monotony.

"Curtain walls" of glass that make up both north and south faces of the two

story, 36,000 sq. foot building bring plenty of God's own sun light into study areas, while fluorescent panels throw glare-free illumination to every corner on those winter days when Nature needs an assist.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Happy as we are about the physical characteristics of our new school, they are, after all, but secondary instruments in the total educational process. That which is primary, and for which we have most cause to be grateful, is the excellent teaching staff, lay and religious, that daily labors to form the minds and character of our children.

The School Sisters of St. Francis, whose members first came to Barrington in the early thirties, are dedicated women who literally devote their complete lives to the education of youth. The teaching staff at St. Anne's consists of seven nuns of the order and five lay women whose dedicated spirit is no less intense. The level of their professional competence is suggested by Masters and Bachelors degrees awarded by distinguished institutions of higher learning. More than a few of these women are continuing their studies evenings and through summers so that our children may benefit from the latest pedagogic skills.

The best of modern methodology and equipment are dedicated by our faculty to the immediate objective of complete student development, development of the rational powers to know truth, of the will to seek union with good, development of the physical nature with care and respect, of the social nature to assume responsibility in family, community, state, and nation, and of the religious nature to recognize and fulfill responsibility to God and to participate both now and ultimately in the Divine Life. In short, the whole aggregate of human life—intellectual and moral, physical and spiritual, individual, domestic and social. In the works of Pius XI, this effort is made, "in order to elevate, regulate, and perfect, in accordance with the example and teaching of Jesus Christ."

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St. Anne's Bids Sister Superior Gertina Goodbye 8/3/1961

Members of Barrington St. Anne Catholic Church parish gathered at the school hall Sunday afternoon to attend a farewell reception for Sister Mary Gertina.

Sister Gertina, who has completed her six-year limit assignment as superior of St. Anne School, leaves this week to assume similar duties at St. Joseph School at Waukegan.

Coming from Milwaukee to succeed Sister Gertina as the Superior at St. Anne's is Sister Mary Rafaelita, also of the Order of the School Sisters of St. Francis.

Sister Gertina guided St. Anne School through a rapid enrollment increase and the transition of moving into the new school building last September. She was the eighth grade teacher. This past year she headed a faculty of 12, seven sisters and five lay teachers. Another teacher is being added to the staff for the coming year, according to the pastor, the Rev. Alexander N. Thane.

All of the school children and graduated pupils who attended St. Anne's while Sister Gertina served as superior, and their families were invited to attend the farewell party. Even though many families are on vacation, there was a large turnout to visit with Sister Gertina before bidding her goodbye.

Cake, coffee, and punch were served and the honoree was presented with a "spiritual bouquet" contributed to largely by her former students.

St. Anne Pupils Design Mangers For Christmas 12/21/1961

The long lost stable of a simple Bethlehem shepherd was reconstructed in Barrington this past week, many times over in miniature, as students at St. Anne School entered their own home made Christmas cribs in a seasonal program proposed earlier this month by Sister M. Raphaelita, principal.

More than two hundred and fifty families worked together with their school age children through the past weeks preparing original interpretations of the traditional manger scene for display in the school hall on East Chestnut Street last Thursday evening.

Rows and rows of the colorful, ingeniously contrived, "do-it-yourself," crèches were viewed by crowds of parents and friends who toured the interesting exhibit. Ranging in size from a toothpick model only four by six inches to an all craft paper display three feet wide and two feet tall, the highly imaginative replicas of that first Christmas scene were made of cardboard, soda straws, plywood, tree branches, ice cream sticks, shoe boxes, orange crates and paper mache, in myriad sizes and shapes.

Some of the traditional figures were "store-boughten," while others were obviously molded under youthful hands. The Holy Family and the Magi were cleverly represented in sculptured soap, modeling clay of many hues, plastic wood, rolled paper and even aluminum foil. They were painted in tempera and oil, scrubbed with crayon, and adorned with tatting.

The degrees of skill and aesthetic taste represented were as diverse as the number of models shown, lending a stimulating variety to the

extensive display.

By way of generating interest in the project, three small personal awards were proposed for the most original and creative efforts in each grade, with a remembrance being promised to all who participated.

"It was our intention to get the true spirit of Christmas into the home," Sister Raphaelita remarked when questioned about the program. "We hoped that families would thus be drawn together in their preparation for the joyous feast. We have been gratified and pleased by the interest shown by parents and friends of the students. The response was overwhelming."

Three of the more original models displayed were one completely of colored craft paper done by Joyce and Robert Grzecka, a paper-mache hillside cave by Shelby Trappey, and a styrofoam and plywood arrangement developed by three children of the Daniel C. Polich family.

Sister Edinia of St. Anne's Staff Dies 1/3/1963

A requiem Mass for Sister Mary Edinia, O.S. F., 54, teacher of the second grade at Barrington St. Anne School for the past 11 years was sung at 9 a.m. Wednesday at St. Joseph Convent chapel at Milwaukee.

The Rev. Kenneth Brown, nephew of Sister Edinia, ordained at Wauconda Transfiguration Church last fall, offered the final Mass.

A special Mass was said at St. Anne Church at 9:30 a.m. Monday with the Rev. Alexander N. Thane officiating. Funeral arrangement was made at the O'Connor funeral home at Elgin, and the body lay in state at St. Anne School Monday afternoon

and evening for visitation before being taken to Milwaukee Tuesday. Burial was at Mt. Olivet cemetery, Milwaukee.

Sister Edinia died Sunday afternoon at St. Joseph Hospital, Elgin, following ten days of illness. She underwent surgery Friday, December 21, and was making satisfactory progress toward recovery when complications developed Sunday and claimed her life. Her death came as a great shock to her pupils, fellow teachers and friends.

Born at West Brooklyn, Ill., Sister Edinia was the daughter of Joseph J. and Laura Henry Wisner.

Her service in the religious community began Sept. 13, 1924 and she joined the Order of the School Sisters of St. Francis June 24, 1925.

Surviving are her mother, seven sisters, and three brothers.

New Principal Arrives at St. Anne's 8/13/1964

Assuming the duties of Principal of Barrington St. Anne parochial school this week is Sister Mary Jeolanta, a member of the Order of the School Sisters of St. Francis.

With several years experience as an educator, she comes to Barrington from Lamont where she had an assignment as a teacher at St. Alphonsus school.

Sister Jeolanta succeeds Sister Mary Raphaelita and heads a staff of seven teaching sisters and seven lay teachers at St. Anne's. After three years of service at St. Anne's, Sister Raphaelita has been transferred to a school at Menomonee Falls, Wisc.

St. Anne Parish Opens Fund Raising Drive 9/19/1963

A campaign to provide funds for the construction of a new convent and reduction of the parish debt was announce at all masses last Sunday by Rev. Alexander N. Thane, pastor of St. Anne Church, Barrington.

This will represent the first major fund raising effort for St. Anne parish in years and will enable them to replace the present building used as a convent, which is inadequate.

The campaign is also planned to reduce considerably the parish debt that was incurred through the construction of the new grade school, opened in 1960.

Father Thane said, "It is not a question of merely how much we need this capital fund campaign, but also how soon we can get it started. We are proud to be able to say, with this campaign we are making a positive step in the right direction. This campaign means that we are getting action now. We will be placing our parish on a sound financial basis and at the same time provide proper housing facilities for our sisters."

The campaign, under the direction of Patrick J. Deluhery, Elmhurst, is based on pledges payable over a period of 156 weeks beginning October 27, 1963.

Plans for building the campaign organization are already underway. Members of the general executive committee met with Fr. Thane and Rev. Peter J. Riley during the past week. Father Riley will serve as executive clerical chairman in the campaign organization and will guide the laymen in enlisting a great number of men in the parish who will be asked to join the group.

The financial goal, to be announced at a later date, will be sought in an intensive solicitation of all parishioners on Sunday afternoon, October 13.

His Eminence Cardinal Meyer, extended his encouragement to the people of St. Anne parish in meeting the problem.

St. Anne Fund Drive Pledges Far Exceed Goal 10/24/1963

The Rev. Alexander N. Thane, Pastor of Barrington St. Anne Catholic Church, has announced that 70 percent over the established goal was the amount pledged to date in the parish drive for funds to build a new convent and reduce the school debt.

Father Thane and the Rev. Peter J. Riley, assistant, said, "We wish to

thank all parishioners who brought into their pledges the element of sacrifice which is so necessary in an endeavor such as ours. Especially do we wish to extend our thanks to the 160 men of the parish who formed the active solicitation organization and who did such an excellent and spirited job of contacting their fellow parishioners."

Father Thane said, "There are a limited number of calls yet to be made because of people who were out of town, and while comparatively few in view of the overall picture, they will bring our final total to an even more substantial figure."

The drive is viewed by all who were connected with it as an outstanding success, and certainly the most ambitious project undertaken by St. Anne's Parish in many years.

St. Anne Women's Club Donates to Church, School 5/15/1969

Over \$2,000 worth of equipment has been given St. Anne School by the St. Anne Women's Club since September, 1968. Among the items purchased, according to Mrs. John Zanetti, outgoing president, are a melodi-grand piano for classroom use, four filmstrip projectors, four sets of draperies, materials to accompany the new MacMillan reading series for grades one through four and several items for the library and physical education department.

In addition to funds given for school use, the club presented Rev. Alexander Thane a check for \$1,000 to be used toward the parish debt and another for \$1,600 for altar and sacristy expenses.

The final meeting was held Monday, May 4 in the school hall and new officers were installed.

They are: Mrs. Robert Murphy, president; Mrs. Reno Romel, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. James Mascow, recording secretary. Those returning for a second term were Mrs. Joseph Thome, first vice president; Mrs. Stanley Rohowetz, second vice president; and Mrs. Norman Rustad, treasurer.

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St. Anne Plans Open House 2/26/1970

St. Anne parochial school is holding an open house Sunday March 1, from 1 to 2:30p.m. for anyone interested in seeing a parochial school in action. Secular subjects common to both public and non-public schools are part of the curriculum at St. Anne's.

The open house is planned to publicize the need for legislation to provide some tax relief for non-public schools.

The reasoning behind the request is that non-public schools are actually rendering a service to the taxpayers by relieving the public school district of the burden of its enrollment.

Because they relieve the public schools the cost of teaching these children secular subjects, it is felt the non-public schools should receive some remuneration for the secular subjects they teach.

This is referred to as a "purchase of services." In other words the state would purchase from the parochial school its teaching of some secular subjects.

It is reasoned that in the case of St. Anne's school, 465 pupils who are supported by the state at a base of \$520 or more per pupil, are not attending public schools. Saving the Barrington taxpayers 465 times \$520, i.e. \$240,800. If St. Anne School did not exist, nearly a quarter of a million dollars would be needed to support these same 465 pupils in the public school system, according to school officials.

A cordial invitation is extended by the school to the parish.

Tuition Hike is Approved by St. Anne 4/27/1972

St. Anne's school board, faced with deficits in the school budget, voted April 17 that school tuition be increased to \$260 per family for the 1972-73 term. At a later date, parents of school children will vote on this motion by the school board.

In conjunction with the tuition increase and expected increased enrollment, a decision was made concerning students wanting to attend St. Anne's, but living outside the parish boundaries. This decision was on a priority basis and will be (if school is not overcrowded) as follows:

First priority: Catholic children of Catholic families who are members of the parish.

Second priority: Catholic families who send their children to St. Anne's School but are not members of the parish.

Third priority: students of other families in the Barrington area wishing to attend St. Anne's.

In other business matters, a decision was made to have an "open house" at the school May 3 between 9 a.m. and noon. Invitations are being sent for this occasion.

Basketball Trip for St. Anne School 2/1/1973

St. Anne School's 7th and 8th grade basketball teams and the school's cheerleaders recently made a trip to the Chicago Stadium for a night of basketball. Also attending the games were a group of approximately 300 classmates, teachers, parents and friends.

Preliminary to the Chicago Bulls game, St. Anne's 7th and 8th grade teams played the 7th and 8th grade teams of St. Alphonsus School of Prospect Heights. Both teams used the same floor that the Chicago Bulls use.

Following these games, the group watched the Bulls play Philadelphia 76'ers. St. Anne's Booster club sponsored the event.

Teacher Enrichment Program is Initiated 7/12/1973

A fund to initiate a teacher enrichment program at St. Anne School has been started by Michael Graft of Barrington. This fund, primarily originated to express gratitude for the outstanding work of the faculty, provides financial grants for tuition to St. Anne teachers who wish to take academic courses to enrich their teaching skills. Recently, nine teachers attended a 12-week course in "Student Motivation", taught by Dr. Pecault of Northwestern University.

To be eligible, any lay or religious teacher currently teaching or who will be teaching in the next academic year, may participate in either credit or non-credit courses dealing with school-related subjects conducted by an accredited college or university. The teacher enrichment program is administered by a board comprised of the principal of the school, the president of the school board, and one lay person to be named by the former two. The primary function of this board is to review and evaluate the teacher petitions in relation to the benefits to be derived by both the school as a whole and the individual teacher.

This teacher enrichment program is the first of its kind in the whole Archdiocese of Chicago. Father H. Robert Clark, superintendent of schools, is interested in using it as an example for other schools to follow.

All contributions for St. Anne's teacher enrichment program shall be made directly to St. Anne Parish which will earmark these contributions for the program.

Village Approves Antenna

St. Anne School Going on the Air in January 12/12/1974

St. Anne School students soon will be receiving classroom instruction from Chicago via cable television.

The Barrington Village board approved Monday night the installation of a 40-foot high receiving antenna atop the school at Ela and Franklin streets. The variation, however, is for a period of five years.

"The Catholic Television Network of Chicago will begin test broadcasting Jan. 6," said Karl Fruecht of Barrington, a parishioner of St. Anne and a member of the Archdiocesan School Board. "St. Anne and 395 other Archdiocesan schools in Lake and Cook counties will receive classroom instructional programming in all subject areas."

The system is designed to supplement the teachers' curriculum planning. And as an added feature, teachers will be able to order specific programs of their own choosing during the time slots they select.

"CTN-C will begin a full schedule of programming Feb. 5 with instructional, vocational and educational programs for priests, sisters, teachers, church organizations, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes and ethnic groups," Fruecht added. "Only specially adapted television sets will be able to receive CTN-C programming and different shows can be aired on four channels simultaneously."

CTN-C will broadcast from the Sears Tower to the 450 parishes and 396 schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

CTN-C programs will be aired over a frequency band known as the Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS). ITFS works in a specialized band above UHF and its signal only can be picked up by a special antenna.

Some Questions

It appeared at the outset of Monday's board meeting that trustees were going to defer for two weeks action on the zoning board of appeals' recommendation for approval of the variation.

"If it as built in my neighborhood, I believe I would be concerned," said A.K. Pierson. "I think it should be held over to give people a chance to make their feelings known."

And Trustee J. Frank Wyatt stressed he would oppose the antenna if it was erected near his home. "When the church comes for something, you're put under pressure because it is the church."

Attorney Frank Winter interjected that registered letters informing residents of the Dec. 3 public hearing, were sent (as required by ordinance) to all homeowners residing within 250 feet of the school. "There were no objectors," he pointed out.

Wyatt nevertheless made a motion to table the matter and it was defeated 4 to 2. Trustee Henry Sall Jr. then moved that the five-year variation be granted and it was approved unanimously.

Classroom Television in Focus with Young. 2/27/1975

"Did you learn anything today?" Sister Lorraine asked members of a second grade class at St. Anne School.

"Yes," was the enthusiastic response.

"Would you like it if they came and took the television set away?" she inquired.

"No," the children moaned.

St. Anne only has participated a short time in the Catholic Television Network of Chicago but the experimental program is a hit with its

students, Sister Lorraine, principal, reported.

"They really enjoy it," she said Thursday. "Some even come in before school starts to watch a specific program."

Every classroom at St. Anne has a color television which operates on three channels. The programs include health and science, religion and environment for primary (K-3) grades and social studies, geography, music and art, environment and science for the intermediates (grades 4-6). Junior high students "receive basically the same thing as the intermediates only at a higher level," Sister Lorraine explained.

"The instruction varies but no teacher used the television for more than one-half hour a day because we're just starting," she pointed out. "The teachers are asked to evaluate each of the programs as to their effectiveness, the response elicited from students and whether they would like to have the programs again next year."

Sister Lorraine explained the program basically is self-sustaining. "The programs developed in Chicago will be sold throughout the country by the Archdiocese." The cost to St. Anne should be in the area of \$9,000.

The televisions will not only be used for students, Sister Lorraine pointed out. There will be evening in-service programs for adult liturgy teams and pre-marriage conferences. Programs also are planned for senior citizens, school board members and teachers.

"It is a little early to be evaluating the program," Sister Lorraine said, "but if it was up to the students, it would be here to stay!"

Mend a Friend 5/3/1979

In conjunction with the International Year of the Child, the children of St. Anne's School participated in the Mend-A-Friend Heal-A-Thon. The students collected simple medical supplies for more than 350 million poor children around the world.

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Kindergarten Opens in Fall for St. Anne's 2/21/1980

St. Anne's School will open its doors to its first kindergarten class when school starts next September.

The kindergarten will enable 25 five-year olds to attend a morning session at the school, although school officials are considering an afternoon session if it is warranted by registration figures.

Registration for the kindergarten program begins March 3 at the school.

School principal Sister Lorraine said the program will be comprehensive, "covering the development of every aspect of the child."

"In addition to the program, we will add the dimension of faith," she said.

Sister Lorraine's primary hope for the new kindergarten is that it takes care of the whole child. But the school is also hoping that it will help build St. Anne's enrollment in the face of an area-wide decline in enrollment.

According to the kindergarten's teacher, Cheryl Grelle, there is a definite need for this program. She said it would add to the continuity of keeping the children from each family in the same school, rather than switching them after kindergarten.

Grelle, a native of Barrington, has taught the school's pre-school religious class for 10 years and is in her fifth year as a resource teacher. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois.

She plans to use mothers to help out in the kindergarten as well as upperclassmen and "motor moms," who work with the children's

coordination.

The program will combine large group instruction along with individualized instruction. Concepts covered in the large groups will be reinforced in the smaller learning stations that are semantic, figural, symbolic and behavioral.

For example, in the semantic station, the children who learn best by the spoken and written word might hear a record while following along with a book to reinforce the instruction given in the large group. At the behavioral station, children who learn best by acting things out, might dress up and do a short skit to review the lesson.

The curriculum will include perceptual skills, reading, math, music, art, social studies, science, health, safety and career education as well as religious instruction.

Sister Lorraine said the basement kitchen, which has been moved to the new activity center, will house the kindergarten. Workmen will transform the area by lowering the ceiling and installing new heating and plumbing sometime this summer, the kindergarten will also be equipped with child-size cabinets, tables and chairs.

District 220 Board Not Happy With St. Anne's Bus Proposal

9/17/1981

A proposal to use one bus provided by Unit School District 220 to transport only students from St. Anne's Catholic School to and from the Sunny Hill area was greeted unfavorably by the board. Action was postponed, however.

George Babigian, assistant superintendent for business, said three

buses serving the area would have to be changed so one could take only St. Anne's students.

Babigian said the district was obligated by law to transport parochial students if they live along an established route. He said the district transports 46 St. Anne's students now.

Board President Stevenson Mountsier was concerned about the precedent it would set. He said other parents could ask for special treatment as well.

"The money they're saving is insignificant because we're diverting from the principle," Mountsier said.

Board member Joseph Kelsch said he wanted to hear from the St. Anne's board.

Focus on Fourth 'r' Sets St. Anne's Apart 3/11/1982

Reading, writing, 'rithmetic and religion are the four "r's" at the St. Anne's School in Barrington.

In honor of Catholic Schools Week, St. Anne's School held an open house and tour Monday morning.

"We focus on wholeness of human understanding," said Sister Lorraine, principal of the school for 17 years.

With the teaching of a theological point of view forbidden in the public school system, private parochial schools can provide a day-to-day atmosphere of Christianity and religion for their students, she said.

"We have a different vision of the child that empowers him to see through the eyes of Jesus, and to act according to His Kingdom values. We stress a fullness, or a wholeness, that comes only when the human interacts with the Divine. We're different than the public school because we teach wisdom that goes beyond all mere human knowledge. We believe that it

is faith that transforms the whole person,” Sister explained.

St. Anne’s School, part of the St. Anne’s Catholic Church, has 489 children in grades K through 8. In addition to two sections per grade, the school also has a library, music and choral room, learning center, gym, learning disabilities program, resource center for remedial reading and math, computer program, and gifted program, she said. The fifth through eighth grades are departmentalized.

Extra-curricular activities include ballet and tap dancing and foreign language instruction.

While about 15 to 20 students who graduate from St. Anne’s every year go on to attend parochial high schools, the vast majority go to Barrington High School, Sister Lorraine said.

Students at the school all receive an average of 30 minutes per day of religious instruction. “The other way in which the atmosphere of faith is created is through liturgies, retreats, the sacraments and daily classroom prayer, both individual and group,” she said.

The parochial school’s history classes are also different from the public school classes in its emphasis on social justice, Sister explained.

The church has encouraged a “new emphasis on minorities, justice for workers, with an eye towards the fact that all men are deserving, regardless of race, creed or color, of the same kind of empathy, the same kind of treatment. They deserve the same type of concern regardless of their social class,” she explained.

It is because of these focuses that the 291 Catholic and 9 non-Catholic families who belong to the school send their children there, she said.

“They see the continuity, or the atmosphere, as contributing to the overall success in education. School becomes the proving-ground or the main model for life,” she said.

With enrollment dropping in District 220 schools and public schools all over the country, St. Anne has been increasing its enrollment; certain classes are operating slightly over their 30-child capacity, and some have waiting lists, she said.

Sister Lorraine attributes the increase in enrollment to the new kindergarten classes that began last year. Before that time, children who attended St. Anne’s had to first attend kindergarten in the public schools.

When the first kindergarten class began in 1980, the school gained 50 new registrations, she said, adding that those children will continue to move up through the higher grades.

The school is supported by the parents and the St. Anne’s parish; it also receives state and federal monies. Catholic parents pay \$520 per year for a child, and non-Catholic parents pay \$1,100. The parish pays half of the operating costs of the school “because faith is at the heart of the school,” Sister Lorraine said.

The school also has a unique approach to its gifted program, which began last year. State laws require the existence of a core program and the administration of a certain screening exam to students for a school to be eligible to receive state monies for a gifted program.

While St. Anne’s had to comply with those rules to receive the funds to start the program, it went further with the program, Sister Lorraine explained.

“I don’t accept the requirements in my philosophy. We believe that every child is gifted. Even though the program was designed to meet the state requirements for funds, that program is open to every child in the school who has the task commitment necessary to make use of the program,” she said.

Sister Margaret Feels At Home in St. Anne’s ***3/3/1983***

Sister Margaret strolls through the halls at St. Anne’s School in Barrington, opening each classroom door and acknowledging waves and giggled smiles from children in blue sweaters and black plaid jumpers.

One student doesn’t have his usual smile and Sister Margaret asks him if he is feeling well. She asks another student to explain his in-school suspension and reassures, “Well, I am sure it won’t happen again.”

In her first year as principal, Sister Margaret still shows much of her teacher side, stern and kindly by turns. She knows the 456 students and 25 teachers in grades kindergarten through eight by name and follows their studies and art projects closely.

Although in her first year as principal, Sister Margaret has been at St. Anne’s for 14 years teaching second grade. During those years she has had various jobs, including assistant principal, coordinator for the primary sections, ordering textbooks and classes on confession and Holy Communion.

“I know all the kids and all the parents,” Sister Margaret said. “It’s just like being home. It’s an advantage.”

St. Anne’s has changed since Sister Margaret arrived in 1967, fresh from a principalship at St. Williams’s School in Chicago. Enrollment has grown slightly (some classes have waiting lists), kindergarten was added, and teaching has expanded beyond the traditional classroom.

For example, “Picture Ladies” – mothers from a group of 100 who volunteer at the school—bring copies of great works of art to the classroom and discuss the artists.

Sister Margaret said the library, once smaller than her office, has expanded to become a learning resource center with books, a story area, video room, study carrels and headphones for lesson tapes.

When Sister first arrived, physical education was taught in a small cramped room. Things have changed.

In addition to physical education taught by a full-time PE teacher, students can play interscholastic boys or girls basketball, cheer or wave pompons. The school’s first pep rally last week was a huge success.

Children can take private piano lessons or private ballet lessons after school.

Not surprisingly for a former teacher, Sister Margaret said the best part of her job was “the kids” and the worse part was “the meetings.”

“I love it,” she said. “I just have a good rapport. It’s a lot of worrying and a lot of work, but no one ever knows. I never dreamt of all the things...”

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'Dean of Help' Takes Charge at St. Anne 9/1/1988

After spending one year as an assistant principal and dean of discipline at St. Anne's School, Margaret L. Neises began the school year this week as the parochial school's principal.

St. Anne no longer has an assistant principal position, and the discipline title was something of a misnomer for what she actually did.

As dean of discipline, Neises brought children with academic or behavioral problems into a special classroom where she taught them for about 10 weeks to understand them better. She also worked closely with the school psychologist to help guide children with more serious problems.

"One of the disadvantages of coming into a new school as the dean of discipline is that you want the children to like you, but more importantly you hope that they will understand that you are trying to help them," Neises said.

She agreed that "dean of help" was more appropriate.

"One of the main advantages of teaching in a Catholic school...is that discipline is easier," Neises said. "If we feel a child isn't happy at the school, doesn't behave properly, or will just not cooperate, we do not have to keep that child. I think the children know that, too."

The demand for openings at the kindergarten level prompted school administrators to establish a third section for the youngsters, but the school still maintains a waiting list of 35 children. The school will teach about 512 children in kindergarten through eighth grade this year.

"Originally we were going to have to turn 36 families away," Neises said, "but with the additional kindergarten class we were able to take 16 more children from those families."

"This is considered a large parochial school," she said. "There are some in Chicago that are this large, but we still have a very large school."

Before she got married, Neises began her 13-year career teaching deaf children to speak. After raising her three children, Neises began teaching again, and later assumed assistant principal duties at St. Rita School in Solon, Ohio. She replaced George Kokaska at St. Anne's after he left for another position in Niles.

Neises has already instituted some changes since taking the reins in July. She added the additional kindergarten class in the morning; the part-time teacher for the gifted program now works full-time; weekly computer class time was more than doubled to two sessions; and typing instruction was added for seventh and eighth graders.

Neises earned her masters degree last summer, and intends to pursue a doctorate, but for the present she will concentrate on her stewardship of St. Anne's.

"I have a full-time and a part-time secretary working for me," she said, "which gives me more time to be in the school, rather than in my office. I feel very strongly about being in teachers' classrooms and the school, and I want to spend as much of my time as I can there."

Gifted Teacher: Instructor Challenges Students With Creative Programs 5/18/1989

Although St. Anne's School teacher Carol Lee instructs primarily gifted students, virtually every student in the school will eventually benefit from her programs.

"I want to challenge more than just the gifted students," she said. "There are a lot of students in school of varying abilities."

The list of programs Lee has initiated, or is responsible for, is a long one. Challenge groups for children in four through eighth grades allow teachers to recognize students with high learning potential. Lee maintains records with include a student's IQ, achievement test results and teacher recommendations. The groups then participate in projects and activities designed to motivate them to greater levels of learning.

Enrichment classes allow students at any grade level to choose a specific subject to study for one quarter of the four-quarter school year.

THE JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS program and the Readers Club are for motivated readers. "I started the reading club for children who like reading," she said. "Now that the weather's nice, a lot don't come, but in winter we have a good turnout."

Lee began teaching full-time at St. Anne's just this year, but she has been teaching since she was graduated from Elmhurst College in 1963. She double majored in music and Spanish and began teaching piano part-time. Lee lives in Mundelein with her husband and has three sons.

Recently, she survived perhaps the most challenging program of her career with the eighth grade challenge group. The first weekend in May, she and seven students, along with parish youth minister Marcus Cunningham, teen leader Dan O'Connell and Chicago teacher Anne-Marie Barrabe, went on a camping and canoeing trip along the Kankakee River.

The students had studied survival skills and astronomy and navigating by the stars, as well as travel in the world. According to Lee, the trip was both initiated and planned by the students over a two-month period.

"It's lucky that we studied these survival skills," Lee quipped. "We really needed them." The group encountered some of the coldest weather on record for the month of May, with temperatures in the 30's and snow and gusty winds facing the group as they canoed 20 miles in two days.

"There were times they became very frustrated," she said. "But I think at the end they felt very exhilarated because they surmounted odds that they thought they never would. Just beating the adversity of it made them 'taller.'"

"Some seventh graders asked if we were going to do it next year. I would hope to, but I would leave the decision to the students. The purpose of working with gifted students is to put them in challenging situations and make them do the thinking, to facilitate their growing up."

Lee also began a hands-on workshop, in which groups of students participate in learning projects and activities.

"All students are eligible," Lee said. "Two students from each classroom are chosen by their teacher. By the end of the year, each student should come to the program three or four times. This has been absolutely fantastic." Each of St. Anne's more than 500 students will pass through her doors this year, she said.

She also has a program called Mountains into Molehills. "This

is for students who are above average in ability, but are underachieving," she explains. "We show them ways to make work easier. These students tend to make their work into mountains. We show them how to make their work into molehills, instead." Students seem eager to learn, demonstrated by the many who spend time over lunch with Lee, she said.

Great Outing for Learning Development, or GOLD, is yet another of Lee's pet projects. The program allows parents and students to participate in educational and fun field trips. "We have 80 to 90 people every time. About one third of the group is adults, the rest are children."

The interaction promotes learning, Lee said. The groups have visited the Adler Planetarium, Chicago Art Institute, Lincoln Park Zoo and in June, a group of 160 will take a Lake Michigan boat trip.

"I see my job as getting kids excited about learning, to want to learn and to realize it's not work," Lee said. "Learning really can involve the whole self."

"I try to have children more in charge of how they're learning, and to facilitate children being involved in learning."

As an example of how her approach has been working, Lee said that recently, three fifth grade girls came to her and asked to begin a new group. "Since kids have problems, they asked if I would help them start a group where kids help kids. We decided to call the group P.S., and it will meet after school." Five students responded to the first announcement, she said.

"We set up ground rules," she added. "We explained to the girls that all of the discussions are confidential, and they know to go to an adult when a problem is serious. I think it's just a fantastic thing that these three girls would want to do this."

Perhaps most unusual about the programs Lee offers is that she does not grade the students. "I'm trying to get them to just want to do it. Try to make them work for their own good feeling about it."

Lee attributes her success with students to St. Anne's principal Margaret Neises, as well as area parents. "The principal is really supportive of offering all of this to children there. And I like being creative," she said.

Her hard work and dedication has gained her the respect of her peers. "She gives 150 percent," Neises said. "She really is extremely dedicated to what she's doing. And she goes beyond the school day. On weekends she's always taking kids on trips to museums and on field trips."

"She has many talents, too, that keep coming out," Neises continued. "She plays piano and organ, and sings. She doesn't hold back. If there's something she feels would be a challenge, she studies it, investigates it and brings it into the program."

But if it is hard work, there are also rewards.

"The biggest reward, possibly, is just how good I feel about what I'm doing," Lee said. "And of course, when I am able to get students really involved."

"Anybody can sit down and read and learn, but they don't. There's never an end to it. It's endless variety."

No Road Closed

4/12/1990

The Traffic Committee decided to deny a request from St. Anne's School to close off Ela Street for lunchtime crossing.

Trustee Richard C. Burdette said the committee felt the more appropriate safety precaution was to place crossing guards in the area. The school wanted to barricade Ela Street between Chestnut and Franklin Streets during the noon hour when students are crossing from the school to the lunchroom and back.

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Aliens Arrive in Town!

1/5/1990

In little more than two months, Barrington may host the first alien life forms to arrive on Planet Earth.

The pods landed in January, and have fallen into the hands of millions of innocent children who are presently planting them in hopes of a bountiful harvest.

Brace yourselves to meet Tomatoes from Space.

In fact, the unusual spring planting is part of a national experiment sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The program, dubbed SEEDS (Space Exposed Experiment Developed for Students), was one of 57 experiments on the long duration exposure facility (L-DEF) satellite launched in 1984. The satellite, along with 180,000 seeds, was recovered in January of this year by the crew of the space shuttle Columbia.

Students of Donna Konie's science classes at St. Anne's School were among hundreds of classes throughout the nation to receive the small packets of seeds. Her students will plant 400 of the alien pods in approximately 400 pounds of potting soil.

Each group of four students will plant two pots, one of which will contain "control group" seeds. Those seeds have been stored in a controlled climate at the Park Seed Co. in Greenwood, S.C., and will be used for purposes of comparison.

Great Expectations

"I think the ones in space will grow better than the ones from earth," said Annette Abbate confidently. Her partner, Vermille Seribo, agreed.

"I think there's something in space that will help," Seribo said.

"It's the lack of gravity," suggested Heidi Ross, adding she'd like to taste the fruit when it matures. "I'd like to try them to see if they'd taste different. There's no pollution there."

The students will not have a chance to taste the alien delicacies, however. The fruit of the plants will be analyzed, and students are encouraged to try to replant the seeds. Daily observations of the plants, including amount of water received, humidity, temperature and care will be forwarded to NASA by June 15 for compilation and comparison to data from other schools. By September, the results will be made available to the school.

Curiously, Konie pointed out, a white grapefruit and a pink grapefruit are virtually the same except for the fact the seed resulting in a pink grapefruit has been exposed to additional radiation. The radiation to which the seeds have been exposed may have some similar effect on the tomatoes.

"But, I think if they grow at all, they'll be identical," Konie said. "I would expect any changes to come in second generation plants. It's really all to get kids interested in research and data collection. Some of the results won't be used until they're ready to work on space stations and in science themselves."

The "pod pots" will sit in Konie's classroom for approximately 10 weeks, by which time (if they grow at all), they will have reached a height of 18 inches. Students are anxiously hoping to observe mutations such as differences in color, shape and size.

"By that time, I'll be teaching in another room," Konie said, laughing. "If all these start to grow, there won't be any room left for us."

In which case they will have taken over the imagination, if not the world.

Comedy Relief Spells Creativity at St. Anne's School

2/7/ 1991

It was a wonderful show. So wonderful in fact that the third-grade students at St. Anne School couldn't get enough of it. That is why Gloria Morton's and Jeri Mullin's students couldn't wait to test their comic skills in creating cartoons and fanciful characters.

It wasn't difficult to inspire the creative juices of the 8-year-olds. Seeing the Doctor Gesundheit Clown Therapy Show at the Barrington Area Arts Council last month inspired children of all ages to experiment in the wacky world of comic relief.

Doctor Gesundheit, alias Craig Sjogren, combines acrobatics, clowning, juggling and physical comedy into his one-man show. He reaches back to the days of vaudeville and slapstick comedy to entertain children of all ages.

"The kids just loved the show," Morton said. "When we got back I gave them an assignment to create their own cartoon, cartoon strip or cartoon character. I told them to do it over the weekend and bring it into class on Monday."

Good idea. Bad timing.

"They were so excited when I made the assignment that some of them just couldn't wait," Morton said. "They told me that they had their ideas now and that they were going to do their cartoons now. Well, of course, I let them. Who am I to stand in the way of creativity?"

While the students took a stab at inventing cartoon characters that are both out of this world and down to earth, they not only were given the chance to have a good time. They also continued their quest for creativity in writing and reading.

"We always look for something that will help them get a little more creative," Morton said. "Things like the clown show spark that creativity, and then we bring it back into the classroom."

Earlier in the school year, after studying rhyme in popular Dr. Seuss children's books, the students authored their own poems. Studying the classics by Rudyard Kipling also inspired the students to create their own animal tales.

Later this year, the students will take one of their favorite poems or stories that they wrote and will have an actual book printed and bound. The young authors will then be guests at an author's luncheon. Their parents, who will help with the editing, illustrating, and typing of the books, will join their children at the gala affair.

Sixth-Graders Move to the Middle **11/14/1991**

Sixth-grade students at Barrington's only Catholic school can give themselves partial credit for the decision made by administrators to incorporate the sixth grade into the St. Anne middle school.

If the students had not demonstrated their ability to make the transition smoothly, St. Anne School Principal Margaret Neises said, the move would not have taken place.

"The primary reason we decided to go with sixth- through eight-grade middle school was because our students were ready for it," Neises said. "Today's sixth-grader is well adjusted and independent enough to handle the change."

St. Anne School made the switch this year from a middle school that included only seventh- and eighth-grade students to one that now incorporates three grade levels. With the help of parents and teachers, the planning process took about one year.

Now, after roughly three full months of classes, the students and teachers, Neises said, are glad the change occurred. Students, who at one time would have remained in a more structured environment, are

now allowed more freedom to choose from elective courses and are able to have special needs better fulfilled.

"Sixth-graders are more ready for the departmentalized approach to learning," Neises said. "They can do without the traditional contained classroom. They are more than ready for a little more freedom."

Students in the middle school are able to choose from elective courses that include dramatic art, music appreciation, public speaking, and dance. They also are able to hone their writing and study skills through special courses offered only to the middle school students.

As Neises said, these opportunities serve to enhance self-esteem and increase student excitement toward education, while also helping students prepare for the sometimes bumpy transition from middle school to high school.

Students also can participate in interscholastic athletics, which, Neises said, help them get accustomed to athletic competition that allows younger students to play on the same court as older students.

In a sense, the sixth-grade students who now can call themselves St. Anne Middle School students, feel more grown up. They feel like they are learning and socializing with the "big kids."

"They feel like they are 155 (years old)," Neises said with a broad smile.

"Educationally and socially, they are able to mingle with kids who are older than they are. Even the eighth-graders and seventh-graders feel good about it."

While the teachers are also enjoying the move, Neises said, they now face increased challenges. Just as this is a new program for the students, some teachers also are experiencing this type of academic environment for the first time.

"The teachers have to work harder, especially those who have not taught sixth-grade," Neises said. "It is more challenging for them due to the fact that we take a more specialized approach."

That specialized approach to teaching, which in the past has been reserved for seventh and eighth-grade teachers, may be more challenging for the teachers, but it also is much more

rewarding for both student and educator, Neises said.

"Our teachers can now be more focused on their particular sixth-grade students," Neises said. "Before, some of them would meet with both fifth and sixth-graders, and there is a difference."

Now, when a student enters the sixth-grade, he or she will find the same teacher greeting them each day for the next three years for each subject. For example, the same teacher who taught a student math in sixth-grade will most likely have the student in math class for the next three years.

"That offers more continuity and stability to our learning environment," Neises said. "Teachers can guide the more gifted students through special courses that offer the students more of a challenge. Those that need extra attention also can be better monitored and their progress better evaluated."

So far, the program seems to be working, with parents, students, teachers and administrators all giving the move positive marks.

Neises, who said this transition was a goal of hers when she came to the 470-student school three years ago, indicated that the program's first year has so far been successful."

"By all measures, it appears to be working," she said. "We are very excited about that."

Five Fair Well **1/23/1992**

Most of us can say we've been to the Museum of Science and Industry, but how many of us can take pride in knowing that one of our own creations will actually be displayed there?

Projects from five students at the St. Anne School in Barrington will be on display soon at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

After taking top honors at the recent St. Anne Science Fair, Suzanne Sobolewski, Jessica Sawyer, Vernon Seribo, Lara Economos and Brian Konie will all take a trip to the museum in March, where they will compete in a regional science fair. Top honors in that contest would lead to the state competition later this year.

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Students get Glimpse of Art as Career

12/5/1991

Deborah Chabrian's artistic talent was first recognized when she took top honors in a St. Anne School art contest.

Now, more than 20 years later, Chabrian's works can be seen in magazines, books, art galleries and even on baby food jars.

The St. Anne and Barrington High School graduate has seen her career as an illustrator skyrocket out of the art room located in the St. Anne School basement to national recognition as one of the finest illustrators working today.

Because of the support and nurturing Chabrian received at St. Anne's, the artist and her husband, who is also an illustrator, recently paid a visit to third-grade classes at St. Anne, sharing with students their professional and artistic side of life.

Chabrian, who was recognized in May as an outstanding Barrington High School graduate, and husband Ed Martinez, traveled to Barrington from their home in Connecticut last week to spend time with family over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Follow that Dream

They also took some time to tell students that a career in art, no matter how improbable it may appear, can be achieved by anyone with a little talent and a lot of dedication.

"When I was a student here just like you kids, I always looked forward to being able to paint during art class," Chabrian told the students. "I knew even then that one day I wanted to be an artist."

Aspirations toward a career in art, as dreams of becoming an astronaut or a dancer, are sometimes only

fleeting for students not much older than 10 or 11. But Chabrian and Martinez wanted to let students know that dreaming can sometimes turn into a wonderful reality.

St. Anne art teacher Patricia Lunde, who is Chabrian's sister, said the appearance of two professional artists gives students a sense that art as a career is not as elusive as it may seem.

Lunde also said that her sister and brother-in-law's visit had a more immediate purpose. The students are all working on projects to produce their own books as part of teacher Gloria Morton's class, complete with words and illustrations. Showing students how to illustrate a book is one integral step in the successful production of that book, Lunde noted.

"Having Deborah and Ed here is proof to the students that artists are just like you and me," Lunde said. "This also shows the students that art is a building process. They realize that their artwork can be vitally important to telling a story."

Real-life art

The students also learned that art is not merely relegated to painting on canvas or sculpting with clay. Art, for example, can be seen in display windows of businesses along Main Street during high school Homecoming activities, they said.

But when Chabrian showed the students that her artwork has even appeared on baby food jars, helping sell things like strained peas and carrots, the students registered surprise when they realized that artists are responsible for many of the day-to-day images they encounter.

That is why Morton wants her students to put every ounce of energy they can muster into their own books, which will be completed later this year.

As Morton explained to her students, words, too, can be expressions of art.

"Your words paint pictures in other

peoples' minds," Morton said. "You are an artist when you write. Always remember that."

Chabrian and Martinez illustrated that point to students by showing some of their work, work that has appeared in everything from children's picture books to classic novels like Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind."

As the couple explained it, the job of an illustrator is to enhance images that are conveyed through words. As has been said, a picture, even when accompanying the immense amount of words found in such works as Mitchell's Civil War masterpiece, offer to the reader a vision of how things appeared.

"Part of being an illustrator is to simplify things," Martinez said. "A good illustration will show the reader what and who you will visit through the story."

Kindergartners Travel the World at Home

9/1/1994

The girls in Beth Hulina's kindergarten class spent their summer traveling around the world.

The St. Anne Catholic School 6-year-olds participated in a unique summer program designed by Barrington mother Lynn Cushwa. Every Tuesday, the group took turns going to each girl's house. At every house, the group learned about a different country, one which had been selected by the host mother.

Besides teaching the kindergartners about foreign countries and cultures, the program also gave their moms an opportunity to get better acquainted.

"It was perfect for the summer," Cushwa said. "And we all have a greater appreciation for our teachers now."

In each three-hour program, the girls were served a traditional snack,

made customary arts and crafts, and played games from that country. For example, when the group came to Cushwa's house, she taught the girls about the Carribean Islands.

The girls learned how islands were formed, and watched Cushwa open coconuts, and were allowed to taste the milk. They also had a chance to chew on a piece of sugar cane, and help make customized exotic fruit drinks in the blender. Umbrellas were available for their drink glasses. For a craft, the girls made tropical fish hair clips.

When the girls went to the Gear home to learn about Sweden, they made St. Lucia crowns, were taught about the country's Christmas customs, and sampled herring, Swedish rolls and rice pudding. All of the girls found and almond hidden in their pudding, which signals good luck for an entire year.

Other countries the students learned about were Ecuador, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, the United States, including Native American culture, and Italy. Kindergarteners raved about the program and said it was better than any camp.

"And we get better snacks here," added Katie Cushwa.

Ashley Heilingoetter said her favorite part of the program was the arts and crafts.

"I made all these things because I want to be an artist when I grow up," she said.

Molly Daluga, who hosted the Ireland program, said she learned everything there is to know about the country.

"Ireland is this teeny tiny country. I couldn't even fit in there!" she said.

Borrowed Idea

Cushwa borrowed the idea from her sister, who does something similar to this in her Wisconsin community. This was the first summer the program was ever tried in Barrington.

The mothers hired University of Northern Iowa freshman Kelly Angell to go house to house each week to help out. Angell said the girls learned a lot and had a great time.

"It's been fun," she said. "They miss kids from their class over the

summer and this way they get to see them."

The 10-week program ended Aug. 16. Cushwa believes it was a success, and an affordable, educational way for the 6-year-olds to spend the summer.

"My daughter Katie remembers a little bit about different things and that's the most I could hope for," she said.

Cushwa said she might try organizing the program again next summer.

North Pole Fantasy Flight

12/15/1994

The reindeer were missing, but the spirit of the season was present in abundance. "It's the true meaning of Christmas," said Sharon Curran, a fourth-grade teacher at St. Anne Catholic School.

Curran was talking about the "Fantasy Flight to the North Pole" program that her and Rita Callahan's fourth-grade classes helped organize for young oncology outpatients at Loyola University Medical Center.

In all, there were 65 children, ranging in ages from two to 11 years old, who took the "North Pole" trip.

The program is organized by the Chicago Silverliners, a group made up of former Eastern Airline flight attendants.

It was the eighth year the Silverliners put on the program, and the seventh time it was done with St. Anne students.

The relationship was started with Barrington resident Lynda Reedy, a Barrington resident and former St. Anne room mother.

Curran said she was looking for a charity project for students to work on, and then heard about Reedy's participation with the Silverliners' Fantasy Flights.

"I asked Lynda how can we help?" Curran said. "And it's just grown into this."

The simulated North Pole flights previously were held at the Glenview Naval Air Base, but this year it was held at the military base at O'Hare International Airport and Reedy reported that it was a complete success.

"Everything went fine and the guys at the base were great," Reedy said.

"They helped with the decorating and they helped with the cleanup."

The Loyola children arrived at O'Hare, and then boarded an Illinois National Guard refueling plane.

The plane taxied the runways at high speeds for about 40 minutes before arriving at an airplane hangar decorated like the North Pole.

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived by fire engine minutes later.

St. Anne's fourth-grade students, dressed as elves, then helped Santa pass out the presents.

The presents were wrapped and purchased by students who picked gifts off of Loyola children's "wish lists".

The project also involved parents, as students were told to earn money around the house, and then use it to buy presents.

"They didn't just bring the toys in," Curran said. "They had a part from beginning to end."

A lottery was held to determine which students would be gift buyers, gift wrappers, or elves.

"Children gave up their recess time to wrap presents," Curran said. "Each year I've done this, I'm overwhelmed by their generosity."

Back at school, the elves traded stories with the students who couldn't be at the Fantasy Flight, Curran said.

"They were saying things like: 'Remember that present? Joey got it and it was just what he wanted,'" Curran said. "On Monday, the feeling was we really helped someone else have a happy time."

Grinch Hits St. Anne; Robs Money for Charity

12/28/1995

Those responsible for the crime didn't just open up a desk drawer and steal a few dollars.

Instead, they burglarized the school building of St. Anne Catholic Church last week, ransacked several rooms, entered an office through the ceiling, pried open a steel safe and then stole \$1,800 in cash.

The money had been raised through a junior high school auction and was going to be used for a variety of different charities.

Father Jack Dewes said the church is taking added security precautions in the wake of the burglary.

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St. Anne's Students Meet City Pen Pals

6/6/1996

Fifth-graders at St. Anne's School saw their familiar hallways through new eyes recently when their year-long pen pals from St. Gelasius School in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood came to visit.

"They think they're in heaven," St. Gelasius teacher Jeannie Ruther said of her students. "It's a dream day. They love it."

Among the things the Chicago students were most impressed by were the size of the gym where the rained-out picnic was held and the fact that the school had elevators.

"It looks real nice," St. Gelasius fourth-grader Cirsten Wilson said.

What made the day great for Wilson, though, was meeting her pen pal and talking about the things they'd already learned they had in common.

"She's really funny," Wilson said of her pen pal. "She laughs a lot. We talked about our favorite things and sports. We both have pets and we're both on teams."

St. Anne's fifth-grader Will Blake thought the things he and his classmates learned from the program made it worthwhile to continue. He plans to stay in touch with his own pen pal beyond the year.

"He taught me how to keep on going even though you don't have a lot," Blake said. "He's a regular guy. We both love sports. We like the same guys on the Bulls. It's really neat how the city and suburbs can come together."

Other students weren't quite as sure they'd stay in touch with their pen pals, but enjoyed the program and the day anyway.

Mary Hickey, a St. Anne's volunteer, said the two schools have

had a sharing program since the 1970's. The pen pal program has been going for five or six years. Eighth-graders also meet for basketball games, and St. Gelasius students make black history presentations at St. Anne's.

"It's good for their grammar and they're excited about writing to each other and having fun," St. Gelasius teacher Chris Price said of the pen pal program.

Price said he saw enough students becoming better friends by meeting face-to-face, which they didn't last year, to think they might stay in touch beyond the end of the school year.

"Last year's students didn't," he said. "But these students might."

Though rain forced the get-together indoors, students still had plenty of fun running around the gym in a variety of games and sports using the school's equipment.

"All these activities they just don't have," Ruther said of her students. "They just don't have very many resources."

So students from both schools learned how much they had in common, and that while not next-door neighbors, they are hardly from different worlds.

From Cows to Computers

Teacher's Life has Taken

Many Turns

5/29/1997

Having taught many kids who are now retired themselves, Sister Genevieve Wieser is stepping down from her teaching job at St. Anne School after 64 years in classrooms.

Her present position as computer lab monitor at St. Anne emphasizes how much the present face of education is a product of the time she has been teaching. Born Jan. 2, 1912 in West Brooklyn, Ill., about 25 miles

south of Dixon, Wieser entered the convent in November 1929 and began teaching second and third grade in Kenosha, Wis. in 1932.

At the age of 10, Wieser and her 11 siblings moved with their Swiss father and French mother to Volo, where they farmed 500 acres and owned about 60 cows. Nearly 300 acres of the site remain agricultural, though a large store now stands where her house did and a McDonald's and Amoco station have replaced the old barn.

Though many kids today haven't had the work responsibilities she and her brothers and sisters did, Wieser believes there are aspects of today's childhood that are tougher than the one she knew.

"I think we got more parent support years ago," Wieser said. "We found it much more relaxed. Our aim was to do the best for the child. I feel sorrier for children today. They're confronted with so much in conflict with what they're doing."

In the early years of her career, Wieser never had a classroom of less than 50 students. Though she believes in the trend toward small class sizes, she said teachers always found a way to make the larger classes work. Often the faster students would help the slower ones while the teacher concentrated on the majority who moved at an average pace. This system was often effective because the students trusted and related to those of their own age.

One of Wieser's eight sisters, Edinia, was a nun herself who taught at St. Anne from 1952 until her death in 1962. Wieser taught at least five boys who later became priests and 10 girls who became nuns.

Thoughts of retirement were always difficult for Wieser, as she maintains her enthusiasm for the kids who fill her days. "I always say, what you look for, you find. If you look for good in kids, it is there."

This concludes "Annie's Archives."