

Parent Newsletter

Volume V, Issue 2

November/December 2013

A Message from Principal Granger

McNamara Families,

As Catholics we are taught that Thanksgiving is a time to say "thanks" for all of the many blessings that have been bestowed on us, be it within our own homes and families, at work or even as a school. We are also taught that the season of Advent is the time before Christmas in which we prepare ourselves for the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. Advent is also however, a time of anticipatory revelation. For our children, especially the younger children, Christmas day is the day in which they have been waiting for; the day to open those presents! In their minds finally the day of "revelation" has come! They finally get to see what is in those packages under the tree. As adults, both young and old, hopefully we know that the true meaning of revelation is as Webster puts it, "the manifestation of divine truth." Yes, it is true that Jesus wants to give us gifts, but His gifts are not like those that are wrapped under the tree. What Jesus wants is to reveal His glory to us!

Each and every day Jesus offers

us an invitation to witness his glory, or to get to know Him. What is so amazing is that all we need to do to accept this invitation, is spend a little time with Him. How we spend time with Him is up to us, it could be through personal prayer, attending mass, or whatever we feel is necessary to put ourselves in touch with Him.



What can we expect when we do accept this invitation? While it is almost impossible to explain how a revelation occurs, we can describe however what happens as a result of a revelation. A revelation most often leaves us with a deep sense of joy, peace and love. This may happen because we have witnessed His mercy in a new way or that we now trust that He has us in the palm of his hand. Sometimes a revelation moves us to change an area in our

lives. It may move us to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a special grace or to strengthen our notion to change. One of the most common results of a revelation is the powerful affect it has on the burdens of life that we carry. We may experience God lifting our burdens or carrying it with us. People who are confronted with a life-threatening illness are comforted; those that have family or financial challenges are energized; and the guilt ridden, they find new hope. Whatever the result, it is important that we continually allow the Holy Spirit to show us just how magnificent Jesus is, and to guide us in all that we do.

So as we journey through this year's Thanksgiving and Advent season, respectively, let us remember to accept His invitations, to come to know Him better and trust that He wants to share his gifts of grace, wisdom and courage with us.

May God continue to bless you and your families!

Terry Granger

Open House for Prospective Students and their Families



Want to find out more about us?

Join us on Sunday, November 3, 2013 AT 1:00 pm

For a brief informational presentation followed by an OPEN HOUSE until 3:00 pm

Friends for life
McNamara is more than another High School
Think BIG

Go to a great college
Feel like more than just another student
Class Retreats

Advance Placement and Honors Classes
Find your spirituality
Mutual respect between faculty and students

Special points of interest:

- Grade School Open House November 3
- Passports' Trips To Spain & France Offered
- Ceile Calender Sales Kicked Off
- Thanksgiving Dinner Seeking Volunteers

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Student Council- Homecoming 2013



2013 Homecoming Queen
Laylah Funk




**Holiday
Music Concert
December 9, 2013
7pm
At ONU**

Pep Band & Jazz Band



Thank you to the Mac Pep Band for bringing extra cheer to the football games. Senior band members enjoyed their last football game, even if it was slightly colder than we anticipated. Great job everyone! Let's get ready for basketball season!

The Mac Jazz Band performed a few songs for the Grand Reunion, and did an absolutely amazing job. This group is in its second year, and the kids have really brought emotion and funk into their music. Keep up the great work! If any students are interested in joining the Mac Jazz Band, stop by the band room Tues-

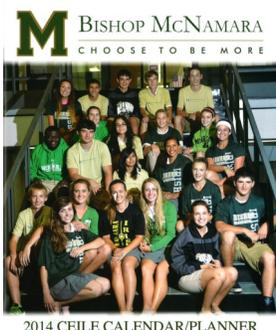
days from 2:30-3pm. The Mac Band Program has been busy at work preparing Christmas music for our Christmas concert! The concert will be at ONU on December 9th, 2013. The students have been working very hard to make this a magical season for all involved!

With Christmas time around the corner, the students are getting ready to perform carols around the town! We hope to bring holiday cheer to the Kankakee area. Please keep in mind- it is never too late to join the Mac Band Program! We are looking for new students every

day! If your student is interested in joining band, please contact Ms. Ruesch at vruesch@bishop-mcnamara.org. If they have never played an instrument before, but would like to start, there is a beginning band opportunity! It is never too late to start appreciating music. There are so many great reasons and benefits to join the band program, and there are many students who are great musicians in the BMCHS hallways! Join today!

Ceile Calendars

We are off to a great start with our Ceile Calendar sales. Keep selling to family, friends and coworkers. Our goal is to sell 3,500 calendars. When we reach this goal we earn an extra day off school. Remember there are still many great prizes that can be earned. A link to the prizes and turn-in dates can be found on our website at www.bishopmac.com under school news. Our last turn-in to earn prizes is Tuesday, **November 12th**. Contact Nikki Liptak in the Advancement Office at (815) 933-7620 or at nliptak@bishop-mcnamara.org if you have any questions



2014 CEILE CALENDAR/PLANNER

Passports

What is Passports?

Bonjour and Buenos Dias from French and Spanish students and teachers... This year, in an effort to be more inclusive and to broaden our focus, French and Spanish Clubs are merging for a series of cultural events. We are called Passports, a new group which hopes to be a fusion of fun and interesting cultural activities for students outside of their Spanish and French classes. Students do not need to be currently enrolled in a language class to attend Passports events. Traditional French and Spanish events, such as class field trips and other activities will still take place. The first sponsored event takes advantage of the Kankakee Valley Theater's blockbuster production of "Les Misérables" this fall. Twenty three members of the Mac community will see the KVT's last performance of "Les Mis" on Sunday, November 17th. Those who have only seen the film version of the musical are in for an inspiring treat.

Another suggested activity for the group is attendance at Olivet Nazarine University's perfor-

mance of Handel's "Messiah" on Sunday, December 8th. This yearly performance is offered free to the whole community as a Christmas gift and is guaranteed to put everyone in the holiday spirit.

There will be additional winter and spring opportunities. We will keep you informed as they are finalized.

Finally, Mrs. Linneman and Ms.



Trevino are organizing their trips to France and Spain for June of 2014.

Mrs. Linneman's 10 day trip called "Le Grand Voyage," leaves June 10th and re-

turns June 19th. It includes Paris, the D Day beaches in Normandy, the Loire valley, the Palace and Gardens of Versailles, the cathedral at Chartres, Avignon and Aix-en-Provence in the south, with a painting workshop called "Be Cézanne." The tour ends in Nice, the heart of the French Riviera on the Mediterranean. The Spain trip is also 10 days in length and is called "Spanish Vistas." This trip will

leave June 16th and return June 25th. It features Barcelona and tours of Gaudi's



works, Granada and tours of the Alhambra, flamenco dance lessons, a Sevilla tour, a Toledo tour with tours of a gothic cathedral and Santo Tomé as well as a cooking lesson for Paella, and finishes in Madrid. Both trips are accepting participants until November 1st. Anyone in the Mac community who would like information about either tour can contact Mrs. Linneman or Ms. Trevino for a copy of the itinerary as well as a registration booklet. The tours are also open to adults. All events organized through Passports will be advertized through announcements made at school. Those announcements are always available on the McNamara website. If you have a suggestion for a Passports activity, please contact Mrs. Linneman, Ms. Trevino, or Mrs. Ronchetto.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Our 24th annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner for people in need or anyone who might otherwise be alone is quickly approaching. Last year we served approximately 450 meals at Bishop McNamara This is a wonderful opportunity for the Bishop McNamara family to give back to our community. Look for your volunteer form in the mail soon. Contact Nikki Liptak in the Advancement Office at (815) 933-7620 if you have any questions.

Thanksgiving Break

11/27-11/29



Guidance Office

Better Test Scores ACT Prep

Classes over Christmas Break and during the Spring Semester will start the first full week in January. Visit info@bettertestscores.net for complete information. Classes will be held in the following areas:

- Bloomington - Illinois Wesleyan University
- Bourbonnais - Olivet Nazarene University
- Champaign - Judah Christian High School
- Decatur - Milliken University
- Peoria - Peoria Christian High School
- Springfield - University of Illinois at Springfield

FACT: BISHOP MCNAMARA'S CLASS OF 2014 AVERAGE ACT TEST SCORE OF 23.5 EXCEEDED THAT OF ALL HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE SURROUNDING KANKAKEE AREA, AS WELL AS THAT OF THE NATIONAL AND STATE AVERAGE.

December ACT: 12/14/2013 at Bishop McNamara

**FALL PLAY
CAST
"LOST AND FOUND"**



View Book and School Video can be viewed on the Bishop McNamara Website: www.bishopmac.com

Send us your photos to: photos@bishop-mcnamara.org

College Visits at Bishop McNamara	
11/8	Eastern University
11/8	Judson University
11/12	Dominican University

**The College Process:
Finding the Right Fit**

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

7-8pm in the Mac Café

Presenter:

Laura Docherty
(College Counselor at Fenwick HS)

Topics to be discussed

- Creating Timeline
- Searching Colleges
- Finding the Right Fit
- Standardized Testing
- Preparing for the Application Process

On Oct 23 The Bishop McNamara Spanish IIIH and Spanish IVAP visited the Chicago art institute



Campus Ministry

Gratitude and Hospitality- A Generous Helping of Both Please

As November begins I await my favorite holiday- Thanksgiving. It isn't just the family memories or the wonderful aromas that fill the house. It is much more. Right after Halloween, I start reminding myself how blessed I am, how blessed we all are really. This begins on Nov. 1-2 All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day, days when I remember all of the people who have gone before me. I am reminded of all of the people who loved me enough to pass on the faith. I am reminded that through the Communion of Saints we are connected to the living and dead. I think of all of the saints- real people who have completed God's will on earth and are living eternally in heaven. In gratitude, I say thank you.

Let us be a people of gratitude. "Thank you" are two little words that carry big weight. Suppose you were to wake up tomorrow only with the people or things you thanked God for yesterday. Look to Jesus as an

example. Jesus began every prayer with "thank you". I often make this challenge to my students. Look at your hand. Think of your "favorite 5", that is the 5 things or people that you are most thankful for at this moment. Repeat at least daily!

As we approach Thanksgiving, let us be a people of gratitude not only in our words but also through our actions. St. Francis of Assisi said, "Be Christ for others. Use words only when necessary." Reach out to a neighbor who is alone, help out with the Thanksgiving Dinner at school or simply make a difference by listening to a friend. Take action. The smallest good deed is better than the biggest intention.

Advent is right around the corner too. Our Church says "Come Lord Jesus". How do we prepare? I don't mean baking, decorating, or buying. I mean praying, reflecting, worshipping. God calls each of us to contemplate the coming of our Savior. God humbled Himself, became man and was born in a stable. How

do I welcome Him into my life? How do I welcome others? How do I show hospitality in my words and actions?

I once heard a story about a man who entered a Catholic Church. He was excited and eager to join this church. He entered and walked to the front without anyone inviting him to sit down. Isn't it sad that not one person sought him out? Do you know what he did? He left, feeling unwelcome and alone. Jesus had the gift to make each person feel welcome and loved. Isn't that our mission now?

Lord, thank you for everything. We are a blessed people. May You strengthen us to be a people of gratitude and hospitality. Help us to share our faith and love for You with all people. Guide us to be courageous and authentic in living out Your will so that we may give glory to You in all that we do.

Love and prayers,
Mrs. Bovie

GIRLS KAIROS NOV 5-8

Freshman Service:

For 3 Days our freshman students went to "Feed My Starving Children" in Aurora where they packed 75,000 high protein meals for babies suffering from malnutrition.



School Mass Schedule

November 1 All Saints
November 26 Thanksgiving
December 9 Advent

Freshman and Sophomore Retreat Photos



Athletic News

Mark your Calendar for upcoming Post Season & Holiday Sporting Events

Cross Country Sectionals	11/2
Football Playoffs	11/2
Boys Basketball Thanksgiving Tournament at ONU	11/26 11/27 11/29
Girls and Boys Basketball State Farm Classic	12/26
Wrestling Dvorek Tournament At Harlem HS	12/27

Contact us:
Bishop McNamara High School
550 W. Brookmont Blvd.
Kankakee, IL 60901
Phone 805.932.7413
Fax 815.932.0926



All City

Girls Cross Country
Girls Tennis #1 Doubles



Regional Champs

Girls Cross Country



Sectional Qualifiers

Boys Golf

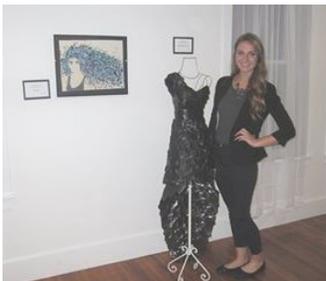
Boys/ Girls Cross Country

Girls Tennis



Playoffs

Football



FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT NEWS:

College Day for Music and Visual Arts Students

On Wednesday, October 16th, Ms. Ruesch and Mrs. Kinstner took twenty fine arts students to University of Illinois in Champaign for a fine arts college day. Students participated in two-hour workshops of their choice, including dance, improvisational theater, music, animation, architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, collaborative theater and two-dimensional design. They enjoyed lunch at the Ikenberry dining hall and tours of the fine arts buildings on campus. Students who attended include AJ Angellotti, Blake Banks, Gabby Barnes, McKenna Bertrand, Faith Foster, Manuel Guerrero, Samantha Hakeman, Juan Hipolito, Theresa Hodak, Jordan Lakomiak, Cassidy Patterson, Kyleigh Payne, Kayla Ronchetto, Madeline Rosendahl, Sarah Salkeld, Rebecca Schneider, Cassie Skyer, Kyra Slavin, Paige Smith and Bailey Theisen. *Photo attached.*

Senior Artists Show Work in a Gallery Grand Opening

Seniors Gabby Barnes and Rebecca Schneider participated in the grand opening of the Paper Street Gallery in Momence on October 26th. They were two of twelve area seniors to show their work in the exhibition. They were also invited to create works made from Post-It notes, which were donated to the gallery that evening. Congratulations to Becca and Gabby!

Check out the student art gallery at
<https://sites.google.com/site/mrskart14/gallery>