



The Irish Times

February 2017

BISHOP MCNAMARA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Bishop McNamara Families,

Please allow me to share with you a story that I recently read from a book written by Tom Matthews entitled, "Aim for the Heart." There was a young man who played football for the great Bear Bryant, the head football coach for the University of Alabama. This young man was a third-string running back by the name of Henry Peterson. Henry had never gotten to play, and just before THE biggest game of the year - the Alabama vs. Auburn game - Coach Bryant received a call from Henry. He said, "Coach, my dad just died but I don't want to let the team down, I'm going to be at the game." Just before the game Henry walked over to Coach Bryant and said, "Coach, I want you to start me today!" Bear looked him in the eyes and said, "Son, are you nuts? This is the Alabama vs. Auburn game and you have never played." Henry persisted and Coach Bryant, never really knowing why, said, "Okay, I'll put you in on the first play."

Henry Peterson scored three touchdowns in the first half. He almost beat Auburn by himself. At halftime Coach Bryant went up to him and said, "Why haven't you shown me in practices that you can play football like that?" Henry looked up at him and said, "Coach, did you ever see me walking around the campus with my dad?" Bear responded, "Yes, several times." Henry then said, "Coach, my dad was blind and today is the very first day he ever got to watch me play football!"

Obviously Henry was playing with his heart that day. Heart Power – what a strong and magnificent, yet simple and powerful, concept. The late legendary Vince Lombardi once said, "The key to success in anything we do is *heart power*." He went on to say, "Capture the heart, and you've captured the person ... get people to fall in love with your mission!"

In a few short weeks we will be entering the liturgical season of Lent and as we prepare for Lent 2017 and our own Lenten journey, I urge us to focus on "Heart Power." I challenge us all, faculty, staff, and students to go to the depths of our hearts. I encourage all of us to look deep into our hearts, when considering what sacrifice or extra intention we are considering for Lent 2017. If all of us could capture our own hearts and encourage our family members to do the same, I am confident our prayer, our almsgiving and our fasting will have a very special meaning this Lenten season. More importantly, if we capture our hearts we have captured the very essence of the season of Lent. After all, Jesus captured His own heart and gave up His own life for us! Let us all capture ourselves this upcoming Lent and revitalize our mission as Catholics through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In doing so, I am certain that our Lenten journey will lead to a very heart felt celebration of Easter!

In Christ,
Terry Granger, President

Upcoming Events

February 17
February 20
February 21
February 23
March 4

Early Dismissal (11:50am)
No School (President's Day)
BMCS Spelling Bee
Registration for Incoming BMCS Freshmen
Las Vegas in Bradley

Religion



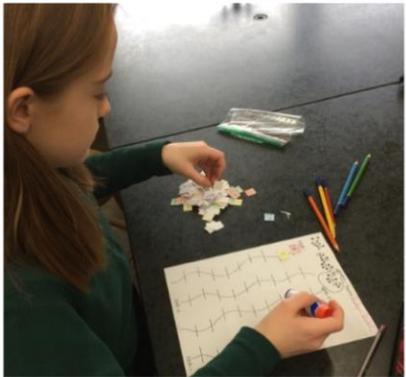
The 7th grade has been learning about Jesus as the Messiah. Students wrote skits and acted out a newscast from the Jordan River where John was baptizing Jesus.

Math



BMCS junior high students recently competed in the BMCS Math Contest and walked away with quite a few awards. Way to go!

Science



7th grade learns how DNA and RNA bases match up during their DNA Grab Bag lab activity.

Art



The Junior High Art recently had their first meeting and got started right away with a Jim Dine-inspired mixed media heart project.

ELA



Luke Azzarelli, student-athlete at Millikin, spoke to the 7th Grade ELA class about setting goals and pursuing dreams after they wrote about achieving theirs.

ELA



The 8th graders are currently reading *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey. Their latest project was a journey of personal discovery. They pondered people who influence their lives in a positive way, their own talents, and what's really important to them as teenagers right now.



Our 8th grade students recently completed the BMCS *Amazing Race to High School!*