



# Elementary Newsletter

ISSUE #12

## TEACHER FEATURE

Hello, Bluejays!

I am Krista Batenhorst, the 6th grade teacher here at Guardian Angels Central Catholic. This is currently my fourth year at GACC, and I have taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grade, as well as coached volleyball! My husband, Josh Batenhorst, is in his second year here at GACC. He is the Activities Director and teaches a couple of Ag classes. We have an eight-month-old son named Judson. He is crawling, climbing, and walking along anything and everything! He has definitely kept us on our toes and has been the GREATEST blessing!

A couple of my favorites:

- Dallas Cowboys
- Iced Coffee
- Sand Volleyball
- Candles
- Coloring/Drawing Pictures



## REMINDERS

- Life Runner Jerseys & uniform bottoms may be worn the first Wednesday of every month
- GACC will now be doing an all school First Friday Mass at 8:15AM unless we do not have school the first Friday, then we will have our regular scheduled Elementary Mass on Thursdays at 8:15AM
- Bluejay pride shirt (or any GACC shirt) & uniform bottoms may be worn the last Wednesday of every month
- Remember to hand in Graybeal's receipts, box tops & loaves for learning!

## DATES TO KNOW

- 2/13: Wear Red/Pink with Jeans
- 2/14: Ash Wednesday - All School Mass @ 8:10am (wear School Uniforms)
- 2/15: 100 Days Brighter - Wear Bright Colors with comfy bottoms
- 2/28: PS-6 NO SCHOOL - Parent Teacher Conferences (K-6) 8AM-8PM
- 2/29: PS-6 NO SCHOOL - Professional Development/School of Faith

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- Starting Friday 2/16, EVERY Friday during Lent After School Program will be held in the Elementary School NOT the cafeteria



# February Lunch Menu

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			<del>1 Pork Burgers/Bun Deli Salad Bar</del>	<del>2</del>
<del>5 Chicken Nuggets</del>	6 Chinese Food Deli Salad Bar	7 Goulash Deli Salad Bar	8 Meatball Sub Deli Salad Bar	9 Pulled Pork on a bun Deli Salad Bar
12 Hot Ham & Cheese	13 Taco Bag Deli Salad Bar	14 Pasta Bar & Breadstick	15 Chicken Noodle Soup Deli Salad Bar	16 Cheese Pizza
19 Chicken Patty/Bun	20 Chili Deli Salad Bar	21 Chicken Fajitas Deli Salad Bar	22 Hamburger/Bun Deli Salad Bar	23 Biscuits & Gravy
26 Mash Potato Bowl	27 Corn Dogs Deli Salad Bar	28 Philly Steak	<del>29</del>	

Starting for 2024 we have begun our “Bluejay of the Month”.

Staff can nominate students that they see going above and beyond the ways listed on our Bluejay Way poster below. Each student nominated will receive a certificate with the reason they were nominated. The one student that is drawn for each age level (primary, lower elementary and upper elementary) as our Bluejay of the Month will receive a certificate and a shirt. All of these students nominated will be recognized at lunch on the last Tuesday of the month so they can wear their shirt on the last Wednesday of the month with their uniform bottoms. We will also include the nominees and the three students drawn in our Elementary Newsletter each month.

# The Bluejay Way

**be helpful** have a positive attitude

**be a leader** volunteer

use manners

**give my best effort**

**be responsible**

**forgive others**

**be faithful** use appropriate voice tone

**follow school procedures**

be honest

include others

BE A SUPPORTIVE TEAMMATE & OPPONENT

**be patient**

**get involved**

**work together**

**be thankful** be a good listener

**choose kindness**

**share your gifts & talents**

**participate in class**

**be respectful**



Learning and Leading Through Christ

# BUEJAY OF THE MONTH NOMINEES

- Bridgette Borgmann
- Felicity Guenther
- Cole Lofgren
- Jema Lofgren
- Emma Tniele
- Logan Wolken
- Jed Black
- Josie Hagemann
- Mason Stratman
- Chesney Wieneke
- Sawyer Hugo
- Weldon Johnson
- Karter Kai
- Elise Lueshen
- Miles Randel
- Burke Ridder
- Rhoads Stratman
- Weston Black
- Bryn Knobbe
- Mia Wolf
- Rowen Dinslage
- Harper Lofgren
- Greeley Marr
- Brianna Nesladek

# BLUEJAYS OF THE MONTH

- Remy Timmerman
  - For being a helpful friend and following directions
- Asher Borgmann
  - For having a positive attitude and being helpful by cleaning the playground shed
- Clayton Thiele
  - For going out of his way to make others feel included



# GUARDIAN ANGELS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

408 E Walnut Street  
West Point, NE 68788  
402-372-5328



## HIGH SCHOOL

419 E Decatur Street  
West Point, NE 68788  
402-372-5326

February 1, 2024

Dear GACC Families, Staff, Alumni, and Supporters,

Guardian Angels Central Catholic leaders have been actively evaluating our school's needs and planning for its successful future. We are so *proud* of our history and we are working diligently to sustain our traditions for many more generations!

Please join us for a meeting on **Saturday, February 17th, at 8:00 a.m. in the GACC school cafeteria.** The purpose of this meeting is to provide essential information about our capital campaign: "Inspired By Our Past, Investing In Our Future." This much-anticipated project is directed at enhancing the campus environment for students, teachers, staff, families, visitors, and other benefactors. Our roadmap focuses on reinforcing Guardian Angels Central Catholic's areas of excellence and upgrading essential campus infrastructure.

We are eager to unite everyone in the Bluejay Nest with transparent communication as we formally launch the campaign! Join us as we advance our mission "to prepare all students to reach their fullest potential by learning and leading through Christ."

Sincerely,

Fr. James Weeder, Pastor, Director

Lisa Eisenmenger, Campaign Chair

Tyson Dinslage, Parish Council President

Leanne Ritter, Chair of the School Board

Paula Peatrowsky, Elementary Principal

Justin Wardyn, High School Principal



**Classes fill fast,  
enroll today!**



*Guardian Angels  
Central Catholic*  
**Preschool &  
Pre-Kindergarten  
ENROLLMENT**

Online Enrollment is now OPEN for the 2024-2025 school year! Click on the Admission tab on our school website ([gaccbluejays.org](http://gaccbluejays.org)) to get started today.

**PROGRAM FACTS :**

- ✓ Preschool classes are M/W/F or T/Th in the morning
- ✓ Pre-Kindergarten has an AM or PM class M-F
- ✓ ECEC (Early Childhood Education Center) is available M-F

**QUESTIONS**

Call: 402-372-5328

OR

Email: [ppeatrowsky@gaccbluejays.org](mailto:ppeatrowsky@gaccbluejays.org)

OR [rochelle.kai@gaccbluejays.org](mailto:rochelle.kai@gaccbluejays.org)

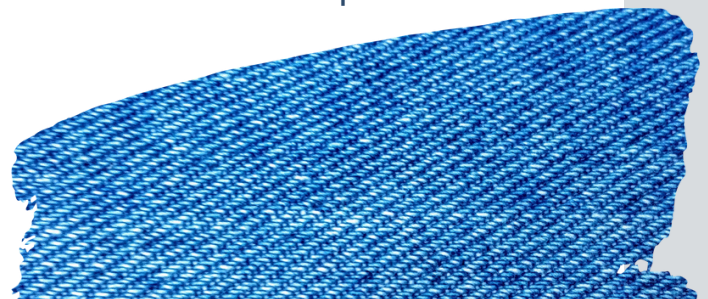


# Jean Day for a cause

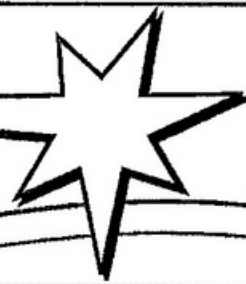


## **SUPPORT A BLUEJAY FAMILY**

For just \$1 or more you can wear jeans and a Bluejay shirt to school on Friday, February 9th. All donations collected are greatly appreciated and will help support a family with the cost of medical expenses.



# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

February 2024

St. Mary's Parish  
Fr. James Weeder, Pastor



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita was a young girl in Darfur, Sudan when she was captured and sold into slavery. Despite serving under cruel masters for many years, she remained sweet and kind. Eventually, the Michielis, who treated her very kindly, bought her. While in Italy, they introduced her to the Canossian Sisters of Charity. She joined in 1893. She spent the rest of her time there as a cook and sacristan. She also helped to prepare young sisters.



### Unconditional love

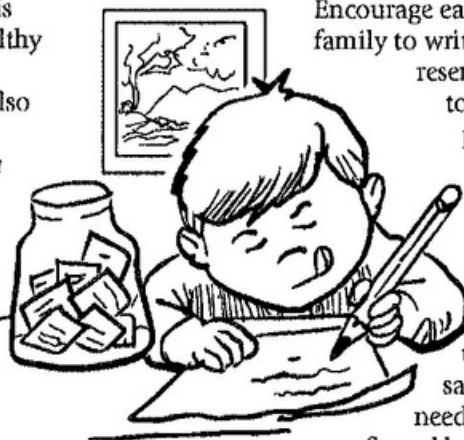
Children learn about God's love by experiencing love from their parents. Children who feel unconditionally loved by their parents are less likely to fear failure or judgment and more likely to look at their parents as advocates rather than adversaries. They are also more likely to be open to a relationship with a loving God as Father.

*"A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke"*  
(Proverbs 13:1).



## Forgiveness leads to holiness

In family life, conflict may be commonplace as children learn to navigate relationships but learning how to forgive is essential to healthy development. Forgiveness is also essential for holiness. *"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you"* (Matthew 6:14). Teach children how:



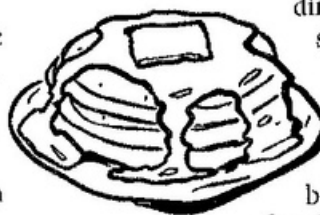
**Say the words.** Encourage children to say, "I'm sorry," "I was wrong," when they have hurt someone. Asking for forgiveness starts the process of recognizing when they have transgressed and understanding that amends must be made. When someone says the words, immediately offer forgiveness by saying, "I forgive you."

**Release grudges.** Old resentments keep us from fully experiencing God's love and forgiveness. Encourage each member of the family to write at least one grudge or resentment they are ready to let go of on a piece of paper and put it into a "grudge jar." Then, take out all the grudges, rip them up, and move on. **Practice humility.** Humility reminds us that we're saints-in-progress who need God's mercy. We are flawed beings who make mistakes that require God's forgiveness. Offering mercy to others in recognition of this need is an act of both humility and hope. **Pray for each other.** Praying together as a family opens us up to much-needed graces. Plus, it's hard to stay mad at someone for whom you pray!

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics serve pancakes on Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras)?

In the early Church, it was customary to give up rich foods and meat during the penitential season of Lent. This included milk, eggs, butter, cheese, and fat. On the Tuesday before Lent began, families would rush to empty the pantry of the



forbidden foods by enjoying a dinner of pancakes (or in some places, fried doughnuts). In several countries, it is even called "Pancake Tuesday." It was meant to be one final celebration of feasting before the Lenten fast.



## The positive power of penance

Children of all ages know that if we make a mess, we must clean it up and try not to do it again. Penance is a lot like that – it helps us clean up our sin and avoid repeats. Help children appreciate penance.

**Self-denial.** Suggest small sacrifices that are age appropriate - skipping a favorite TV show, foregoing an hour of video games, or passing on dessert. Then suggest that the discomfort can be offered to God as an apology for past wrongs.

**Acts of kindness.** Our sin affects others,

so helping others also helps us make up for our sins.

Assisting a neighbor, volunteering at church, or showing kindness to a friend, can be offered to God as penance.

"Do I have to?" When you ask your child to do something he doesn't have to do and may not enjoy, remind him that it can be offered as penance. Visiting elderly relatives, playing patiently with younger siblings, doing homework without reminders are sacrifices that can be offered as penance.



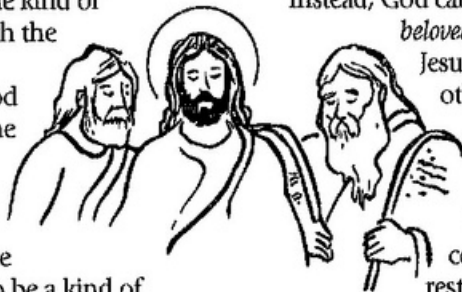
### Scripture LESSON

**Mark 9:2-10, Transformation, not restoration**

Ancient Jews imagined that the Messiah would free Israel to be the kind of people it already was with the religion and structure it already had. After all, God had set Moses aside as the lawgiver and liberator, and Elijah was the first great prophet to foretell the coming of Christ. The Messiah was predicted to be a kind of repairman to restore it all.

So, when Jesus was transfigured with Moses and Elijah, the apostles figured God was revealing Him as the expected Messiah. Peter thought he was complimenting Jesus by offering to build tents for each of them, putting Jesus on

the same level as Moses and Elijah. Instead, God called Jesus, "my beloved Son," exalting Jesus above every other human hero. What can a parent do? Jesus' apostles thought He had come simply to restore Israel, but



Jesus came to transform us and give us new life. The Transfiguration was to prepare Jesus' followers for a surprising truth: He would accomplish this victory by dying on the Cross and rising from the dead, thus conquering death itself.

### Feasts & Celebrations

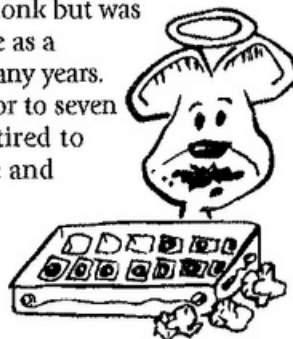
**February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord.** In accordance with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple forty days after His birth, and Simeon praised God for revealing the long-awaited Savior.

**February 2 – St. Catherine of Ricci (1590).** Against her father's wishes, St. Catherine gave up her wealthy life and joined the Dominicans when she was twelve. She received visions of the Lord's Passion, which she experienced every Friday.

**February 14 – Ash Wednesday.** The

first day of Lent. Ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead, as a sign of penance. It's also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

**February 21 – St. Peter Damian (1072).** St. Peter Damian became a disciplined monk but was called to serve as a bishop for many years. He was advisor to seven popes. He retired to monastic life and died in the care of his brother monks.



### Parent TALK

I had stopped praying. My father had a heart attack last summer and I was helping Mom care for him while working and caring for my own family. Then my father-in-law was diagnosed with lung cancer and needed care. Finally, Ken lost his job for the second time in three years and we had used up our savings the first time. Obviously God wasn't listening.

A few nights later I overheard our ten-year old saying her prayers asking God for help. She ended with, "Thanks for listening. Amen." Then she went to sleep. Standing outside her room, I realized Kara didn't tell God what to do. She asked for help, trusted that it would come, and left it to God.

I prayed for the first time in weeks and ended with, "Thanks for listening. Amen." I realized God is always listening. I was the one who had stopped talking.

**Our Mission**

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children

Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
 Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™  
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax  
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>  
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

**Childrens Scholarship Fund is now OPEN for both returning and NEW applicants. The application window is open from February 5 - May 3. Please see the information below. Any questions can be directed to the elementary office. Thank you!**



## Am I Eligible?

### Is my family eligible to receive a scholarship?

- Scholarships are based on financial need, following income guidelines similar to the National School Lunch Program. Please see the CSF website for our most recent income scale: [www.csfomaha.org](http://www.csfomaha.org)

### What grades are eligible to receive a CSF scholarship?

- CSF awards scholarships for children in grades K-8 to any private or parochial school of their family's choosing.

### Are siblings of my CSF scholar able to receive a scholarship?

- Yes, once you are qualified every K-8 child in your family is eligible to receive a scholarship.

### Can I transfer my scholarship to a different private school?

- Yes, you may apply your CSF scholarship to a different private or parochial school on our list, should you decide to transfer.

### How much will my child's scholarship be?

- Current scholarship amounts range from **\$400-\$1,100**, and the same amount is awarded to each child in your family. Please note that a **CSF scholarship does NOT cover full tuition at a private school.**

### CSF scholarship requirements

Once awarded a scholarship, families must adhere to CSF's scholarship requirements to continue to receive assistance. For more details, please visit our website: [www.csfomaha.org](http://www.csfomaha.org)



## How to Apply

Choose the private or parochial school that is the best fit for your child(ren)



Go online at [www.csfomaha.org](http://www.csfomaha.org)  
**Click on How To Apply**  
If eligible fill out the application completely



Submit **correct and complete** application with all required financial documentation



**If not selected** to receive a scholarship, please apply the following year\*

Want to know more? Visit our website!  
[www.csfomaha.org](http://www.csfomaha.org)



## Rural Schools

### Currently helping CSF Scholars

Archbishop Bergan Catholic School, Fremont  
Cedar Catholic Jr./Sr. High School, Hartington  
Christ Lutheran School, Columbus  
Christ Lutheran School, Norfolk  
Columbus Christian School  
East Catholic Elementary School, Bow Valley  
Guardian Angels Central Catholic School, West Point  
Holy Family Catholic School, Lindsay  
Holy Trinity Catholic School, Hartington  
Howells Community Catholic School  
Immanuel Lutheran School, Columbus  
Keystone Christian School, Norfolk  
Norfolk Catholic Elementary School  
Norfolk Catholic Jr./Sr. High School  
Pope John XXIII Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School, Elgin  
Scotus Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School, Columbus  
St. Anthony Catholic School, Columbus  
St. Augustine Mission, Winnebago  
St. Bonaventure Catholic School, Columbus  
St. Boniface Catholic School, Elgin  
St. Francis Catholic School, Humphrey  
St. Isidore Catholic School, Columbus  
St. John Lutheran School, Battle Creek  
St. John Neumann Catholic School, Clarkson  
St. Joseph Catholic School, Atkinson  
St. Leonard Catholic School, Madison  
St. Ludger Catholic School, Creighton  
St. Mart Catholic School, O'Neill  
St. Mary Catholic School, Osmond  
St. Mary Catholic School, Wayne

\*More listed on back

Please Note: Completing an application does not guarantee a scholarship. New scholarships are selected using a lottery-based system.

## Additional Schools

### Currently helping CSF Scholars

St. Michael Catholic School, Albion  
St. Michael Catholic School, So. Sioux City St.  
John Lutheran School, Columbus  
St. Paul Lutheran School, Arlington  
St. Paul Lutheran School, Norfolk  
St. Paul Lutheran, West Point  
St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Crofton  
St. Wenceslaus Catholic School, Dodge  
Trinity Lutheran School, Fremont  
Trinity Lutheran School, Hoskins  
Trinity Lutheran School, Madison  
West Catholic Elementary School, Fordyce

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT APPLYING FOR A CSF SCHOLARSHIP:

- Contact your desired school
- Visit CSF website  
([www.csfomaha.org](http://www.csfomaha.org))
- Contact CSF office

7101 Mercy Road, Suite  
150 Omaha, NE 68106  
402-819-4990  
Fax: 402-281-0908  
[www.csfomaha.org](http://www.csfomaha.org)

## Children's Scholarship Fund of Omaha (CSF) at a glance:

### A Parent's Choice

CSF Omaha has no religious affiliation and is destination neutral. Families who receive a scholarship choose the school that best fits their children's needs.

### A Family Commitment

Every family who receives a scholarship must contribute \$500 to their child's education, and each scholar must achieve a minimum attendance rate of 90%.

### A Commitment until Graduation

Once a child receives a scholarship, they will continue to do so until 8th grade graduation.

[www.csfomaha.org](http://www.csfomaha.org) 

\*Long-term scholarship commitment is dependent upon continued financial eligibility, adherence to scholarship requirements, and availability of funding.



Giving parents a **choice**.  
Giving children a **chance**.



We provide partial tuition  
scholarships for K-8th graders  
in Northeast Nebraska  
and the Omaha Metro.



**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**AS A 4-H MEMBER, YOU CAN JOIN A CLUB, EXPLORE  
SUBJECTS THAT EXCITE YOU, TAKE PROJECTS TO  
THE FAIR, AND APPLY FOR AWARDS!**

**[4H.UNL.EDU/ENROLL](http://4H.UNL.EDU/ENROLL)**



**QUESTIONS? CONTACT CUMING COUNTY EXTENSION  
AT 402-372-6006 OR VISIT CUMING.UNL.EDU**