

familytimes

SPRING 2017

The magazine of Holy Family Catholic Schools

2017 Holy Family
HALL of HONOR

Circle of Celebration
WRAPPING UP SUCCESS

The Reizens: CELEBRATING A 14-FOLD
COMMITMENT TO **CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

From the desk of our CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

Dear friends,

Even if I weren't looking at a calendar, I would know it's Spring because of the frenetic pace I see in all Holy Family schools. Every day from now until the end of the year is jam-packed with concerts, sports contests, activities, and the cherished events leading up to graduation. In the blink of an eye, this year will be history, and we will reflect on it with satisfaction for all we have accomplished.

The renovation of Wahlert gives us tangible evidence of our progress. The west wing, bridge, kitchen and cafeteria are the remaining large-scale items to be completed by the targeted end date, November 1. As I walk the halls each day and see students who are thrilled with their new environs, I am filled with gratitude for all of you who made this possible.

We continue to see progress toward our faith and academic goals as well. Prayer, Masses, Reconciliation, retreats and service opportunities continue to provide the foundation for all that we do. Teams of teachers and administrators at every level meet regularly to debate how we best meet all learners' needs; the fruits of their labors are seen in the learning opportunities that challenge students to solve real-world problems.

While faith and academics are our focus, we can't take our eyes off enrollment, which is the key indicator of our system's financial health. We are pleased that this year's enrollment beat projections, but people still are amazed to learn Wahlert Catholic's total student body currently equals some of the larger individual classes from the 60s and 70s. The change in the average family size, though, is a huge factor in the enrollment decline for Catholic schools across the country. This issue features the Reisen family that sent 14 children through Wahlert. We think that's the largest number of alumni from one family, though we would be interested in knowing if any family can top that total.

All parents who choose Catholic education, whether you have one or up to 14 children, will be able to relate to the Reisen's prioritizing and sacrifice. To all of you, we say thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Carol Schmidt Truog

Carol Schmidt Truog ('79)
Chief Administrator

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TEE UP!

**42nd Annual Wahlert Golf Outing
Monday, June 12 at Thunder Hills**

1 p.m. shotgun start, \$100 entry fee
includes golf and dinner. Call the Wahlert
Catholic Activities office to register your
foursome today: 563-583-9771.

COVER PHOTO: Students Jessica Deaver
and Bria Bauer at St. Columbkille's Ash
Wednesday student Mass.
Photo courtesy of Tammy Flynn

INTRODUCING THE 2017 *Hall of Honor*



In memoriam



Kayla Banwarth '07
RISING YOUNG ALUMNI

Andy Burgmeier '83
OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Sandra Gaul
HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS SERVICE

Brian Kane '75
PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Our congratulations and *sincere thanks* for the outstanding contributions you have made to our schools and your community.

HIGHLIGHTS {Congratulations}

ACADEMICS & THE ARTS

National Merit Scholars, class of 2017

- Finalists: Michael Banwarth, Jacob Berning and Aidan McSperrin
- Semifinalist: Lela Udry
- Commended students: Alexandra Foy and Carly Heying

Dubuque Area Youth Leadership Council (DAYLC) Top 100, class of 2018

Owen Borelli, Maeve Breslin, Libby Brosius, Abigail Burns, Emma Earles, Elizabeth Gehling, Emily Gehling, Holli Hammerand, Grace Herber, Ann Hermann, Anna Herrig, Zach Kemp, Carson Kunkel, Audra McMahon, Joesph Patrick and Sophia Shubatt

National Geographic State Bee Semifinalist, class of 2021
Evan Poirier

Distinguished Academic Achievement Award for 3.91 GPA, overall
Wahlert Girls Swimming & Diving Team

All-State Instrumentalists
Michael Banwarth '17, piano, and Sam Sykes '18, cello
This is Banwarth's fourth All-State recognition.

Show Choir Highlights

- Grand champions: Wahlert varsity "Impulse" and Mazzuchelli "Ignite"
- Prep division champions: Wahlert prep "Impact" (two championships)
- Owen Borelli '18 earned four best male soloist awards

- Alyssa Hackett '21 and Kody Arthofer '22 earned outstanding soloist awards

State Solo and Ensemble

- Band: Kaitlin Moran '19, violin, and Lela Udry '17, piano, perfect score
- Vocal: Soloists Abby Burns '18 (1st), Eric Leigh '18 (2nd) and Gwyneth McSperrin '19 (3rd)

Papal Performance

60 Wahlert students performed in Rome during the Papal Mass for the closing of the Year of Mercy. *They were the only high school choir to perform.*

International Thespian Festival performing [title of show]

Cast: Aidan McSperrin '17, Maddi Mulgrew '17, Eric Leigh '18 and Abby Burns '18; Crew: Fiona

Burns '17, Jayne Munshower '18 and Josh Nuti '17

International Thespian Festival original musical production

Michael Banwarth '17 and Eric Leigh '18
One of two student productions selected in the country.

ATHLETICS

Fall/Winter State Achievements

- State Champions: Volleyball
- 3rd Place: Wrestling, Kolton Bartow '18 (160) and Boone McDermott '18 (182)
- 11th Place: Girls Swimming & Diving setting five school records

Individual Athletic Highlights

MacKenzie May '17, named 2016 Player of the Year by: MVC Mississippi Division, Gatorade Iowa Volleyball and the Dubuque Telegraph Herald

The Reizens: CELEBRATING A 14-FOLD COMMITMENT TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Combing through his father's old papers, Dan Reisen '81 came across a treasured news release from Wahlert Catholic High School, dated June 13, 1988. It read, "Wahlert High School's tradition of family support reached new heights this June when Ted Reisen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Reisen of East Dubuque, became the fourteenth member of the Reisen family to graduate from Wahlert."

If you ask one of the Reisen siblings about their family's priority for choosing Catholic education, you might hear them say, "We didn't know there was another way!" As it turns out, they wouldn't have had it any other way.

Honoring the memory of their parents, Ralph and Jean, the Reisen family gladly shared their story. They highlighted kind and hard-working individuals who were as devoted to their Catholic faith as they were to the large family that they raised.

Now, in adulthood, with families of their own, the Reisen kids truly appreciate the sacrifice and commitment it took for their parents to send them all through Catholic schools. "At the time," youngest daughter Tammy Barry '87 recalls, "our parents never made us feel like our education was a burden, but now that I look back, I understand the financial dynamics and I am in awe that we never felt their stress. Rather, they focused on our doing well in school."

Expressing gratitude for having received the gift of a Catholic education, Tammy said she is not quite sure what life would have been like without it. She described a sense of community they have gained being connected by faith. "Church is where we tend to gather

as a group -- weddings, funerals and special occasions," she pointed out.

A shared set of core values has formed these individuals as the people they are today. "Wahlert Catholic supported what dad and mom taught us at home," said Diane Trannel '72. "We learned what it meant to be good people, to earn respect, and to treat each other with love," added Patty Freese '75.

Their faith-based education has left this family feeling as though they can get through anything with God at their side. They appreciate having acquired strong work ethics, the discipline and equality derived from school uniforms, being greeted with a smile and the many opportunities to express and build upon their faith.

Tammy felt her school's small student/teacher ratio taught her how to better form relationships in her adult life, and that including prayer and worship in school meant they always had somewhere to share their thoughts. In all, the Reizens agreed that their gift of Catholic schooling meant that their parents wanted the best education possible for them and they wouldn't put a price tag on that.

Family Matriarch Jean Reisen was diagnosed with late-stage pancreatic cancer the day after Thanksgiving 2016. She passed away surrounded by her family on January 5. Growing up, Jean expected the children to contribute to the household chores. When money was tight, she would offer child care and cleaning services outside of the home – skills she had mastered running a tight ship for a family of 16.

Ralph preceded Jean in death by 17 years. His children described him as a hard-working and caring man who poured concrete during the day prior to his second-shift job at the Dubuque Packing Company.

The daily sacrifice was not only financial. Living on the other side of the river, the Reizens had transportation to contend with. Before the oldest boys could drive their siblings, the kids would navigate city bus connections, rely on carpools, or ride with Ralph as he chauffeured them to school and jobs they held in Dubuque. Donna Fluhr '71, Diane and Lynn Noonan '74 remember working 30-plus hours a week at various milk houses and nursing homes to do their part.



Jean and Ralph Reisen, 1948.



From left to right, back row: Mary, Lynn, Ken, Ron, Gail and Tim "T.J."; middle row: standing Dan, Diane, Joleen, Ralph and Ted; front row: Patty, Tammy and Donna, 1996



From left to right, back row: Ralph Jr., Ronald and Ralph Sr.; middle row: Patty, Jean (pregnant with Ted), Donna, Lynn and Diane; front row: Tammy, Tim "T.J.", Joleen, Kenny, Danny, Mary and Gail, 1969 St. Mary's parish directory photo

Looking back, Mary Berning '79 is ever-grateful for her parents' deep faith. "As I discerned my vocation and my career path, I knew my Catholic faith would be a driving force." She became a Catholic grade school teacher and values the importance of classroom time as an extension of faith learning in the home. "In those seven hours," she said, "so much love and kindness is shared."

For each of them, fond memories surround school activities such as state athletic tournaments, the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat for seniors, Homecoming, serving on student council and the many great relationships they developed over the years – numerous wonderful experiences students at Wahlert Catholic enjoy to this day.

When 14 siblings make their way through a school, faculty and staff are sure to form special bonds. Reminiscing about the teachers who profoundly influenced their lives – and in some cases, their kids' lives, too – several common names came to mind. Among them were Jim Killoran, Bernie O'Connor, Dick Osterberger and current Wahlert Catholic Assistant Principal and Women's Cross Country Coach, Cynthia Wagner.

Of course, for some, Wahlert Catholic gave them more than great memories and a deeper connection to their faith. Mary met her husband Roger Berning '79 at Wahlert. "It was the Sadie Hawkins dance that set my life with Roger in motion. I asked him our sophomore year." Together, Mary and Roger have raised six children of their own and modeled their parents in providing a Catholic education for their children at Holy Family. Donna and Diane also married their high school sweethearts, Ron Fluhr '68 and Jerry Trannel '70.

The Tradition of Catholic Education Runs Deep

Ralph and Jean Reisen were both products of St. Mary's Catholic School in East Dubuque. By their example, the next Reisen generation has continued to prioritize educating their families in the faith. Twenty grandchildren have attended Holy Family Catholic Schools and Catholic schools where they now live. Those in the family who pursued post-secondary degrees have also done so through Catholic colleges.



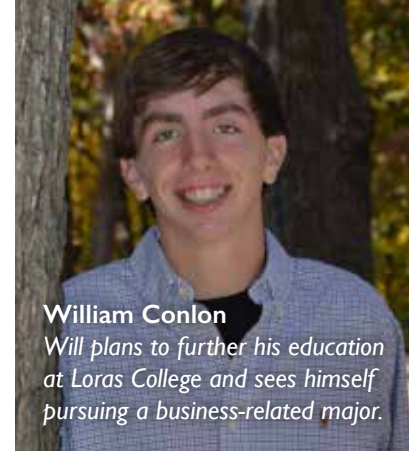
Ralph (Deborah) Reisen, Jr., (deceased) '69
 Ronald (Joanne) Reisen '70
 Donna (Ronald '68) Fluhr '71
 Diane (Jerry '70) Trannel '72
 Lynn (Mike) Noonan '74
 Patricia (Bob) Freese '75
 Gail Johnston '77
 Thomas Joseph (deceased)
 Mary (Roger '79) Berning '79
 Daniel (Anne) Reisen '81
 Ken (Lisa) Reisen '82
 Joleen Reisen '83
 Timothy "T.J." (Amy) Reisen '85
 Tammy (Kevin) Barry '87
 Ted Reisen '88



Jacob Berning
Jacob is a 2017 National Merit Scholar and plans to attend the University of Notre Dame.



Marybel Medellin
Marybel is focused on a career helping children grow, such as education or pre-occupational therapy.



William Conlon
Will plans to further his education at Loras College and sees himself pursuing a business-related major.



Kim Schmerbach
Next year, Kim will attend Iowa State University and major in Event Management.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

With only weeks left until graduation, we asked four Wahlert Catholic seniors to reflect on their high school experience and what lies ahead. They talked about how they feel their Catholic education has prepared them for the road ahead, the people who have made a great impact on their lives and some of their favorite school memories.



“My Catholic faith has become an integral part of who I want to be and what I want to do. My Catholic education has taught me the ultimate importance of a relationship with God and service to others. Nathaniel Gee, Fr. Alan Dietzenbach, Barb Ressler, and many other teachers and students have impacted me greatly. They’ve all encouraged me to pursue truth through my passions, to push myself intellectually and spiritually, and to actively love those around me.

I have many fond memories, including playing in the state soccer tournament last year, leading the K10 Kairos retreat last fall and late night conversations with friends in the Wahlert parking lot.”



“I no longer think of doing service as a requirement to graduate. I want to do it to help my community. I know that having a deep relationship with God will help me in all I do in the future. Whenever I worry about the future, I read scripture to remind me that God keeps me strong. One of my favorite verses is Psalm 130:7– “Hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is unfailing love. His redemption overflows.”

As cliché as it sounds, my friends have definitely made the greatest impact on me. They push me to do my best and support me in achieving my dreams. Seeing their smiling faces in the morning makes those gloomy Mondays a lot more bearable. During finals week or before a big test, we get together to help each other study. As our senior year ends, I know I will keep in touch with them no matter how far apart we are.

My favorite school memory has to be when the boys’ basketball team made it to state my sophomore year. My friends and I traveled down to Des Moines and got to stay in the Embassy the whole week. Throughout the week, I witnessed the love that Wahlert fans have for each other. The whole community gathered for one purpose: to support the boys and show our blue and gold pride.”



“My Catholic education has given me many gifts over the years. One of which is a great academic education that you cannot get anywhere else. The teachers care about you here and want you to be successful. The most important reason I have enjoyed Wahlert Catholic is having the chance to grow closer to God through faith. I have been in the Holy Family school system my whole life and I am grateful my parents chose this life for me. My Catholic education has shaped me into who I am today.

My grandpa has always been there for me throughout the years. He has influenced me to become a gentleman and has taught me many lessons. He tells me he did not have a lot of people to look up to when he was my age, so he decided he wanted to help prepare me.

My senior year of bowling had a major impact on me. My friends and I were all on varsity, trying to compete every Friday to bring home a win for Wahlert. It was a fun group of guys and I would not have wanted to bowl with anyone else.”



“One of the major lessons I will take with me is the importance of serving others. Wahlert has given me opportunities to get involved with the community and that has encouraged me to take the initiative to participate in service on my own time. Things like campus ministry, religion class and retreats have allowed me to grow in my faith and have given me a foundation for the road ahead.

Nathaniel Gee has had the biggest impact on me throughout high school. He sets a great example in service and is an all-around role model for me.

One of my favorite Wahlert memories was competing at state this year with our lyrical routine for dance team. Our coach asked the seniors to choreograph the routine and I’m so glad we did. It was a good way to end our senior year together!”

2017 CIRCLE of CELEBRATION

Raffle GRAND PRIZE winners:

Dan & Lisa Saddler

2nd Prize: Ron & Brenda Hearn
and Justin & Tammy Pierro

Thank You!

Once again, you have humbled us with your unwavering support at the 27th Annual Circle of Celebration gala and auction. We are grateful to our many tireless volunteers that dedicated their time to perfecting every detail of a beautiful evening; to our donors who contributed items for the live and silent auctions; to our corporate partners for their ardent support; to our record-breaking number of 605 attendees and to everyone who made the event a success with your individual gifts and auction and raffle ticket purchases.

With your support, we raised over

\$670,000



Find more photos at
holyfamilydbq.org/CircleofCelebration.

RENO *report*

The work continues at Wahlert Catholic with ground-level, hallway ceiling demolition as well as plumbing, electrical and structural changes in the gym and locker rooms. Every opportunity to maximize time and efficiency has been captured in preparation for large-scale reconstruction taking place this summer. While students were Spring Breaking, the cafeteria asbestos flooring was removed. Temporary walls have been created to facilitate curtain wall removal in the weight room and cafeteria. Roof replacement in the gym and painting in the O'Connor Activity Center (OAC) is underway. The west wing, bridge, kitchen and cafeteria remain to be completed by the target project end date of November 1, 2017.

Visit holyfamilydbq.org to find photos of the progress.

"The recently renovated chapel provides students with a gathering space for group discussions and reflection. The chapel has been especially meaningful for me since I attended Kairos as a retreatant and then as a leader."



Stephen Cochran '17

COMPLETED TO DATE:

- Central stairs•
- East wing classrooms•
- Chapel•
- Theater•
- Library•
- Conference Room•

LOOKING FOR A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT HOLY FAMILY?

Second Chances is a volunteer-run, repurposed furniture store selling items on consignment and by donation.

All proceeds from Second Chances directly benefit Holy Family Catholic Schools.

Open Monday – Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



2600 Dodge St., Plaza 20, Dubuque
563-583-5474

CLASS NOTES
Dec. 2016 - March 2017
IN MEMORIAM

1960s

Sandra Buelow '61
Keith Fettkether '61
Thomas Manning '63
Thomas Meyer '64
Michael Slaght '64
Duane Theisen '64
David Sutter '66
Victoria (Finsel) Osthoff '67
Gerald Thill '67
Donald Ernzen '69

1970s

Bert Peter "Pete" Kalb '77
Eileen (O'Neill) Meyer '72
Steven Wiederhold '73
Diane (Ferring) Hurm '74
Gary Gasell '78

1980s

Matthew Morehouse '87

1990s

Jana Juergens '92
Sara "Sam" (Cornish) Lynch '97

2010s

Shane Broderick '12

BABIES & MARRIAGES

Please share your celebrations
with us at holyfamilydbq.org.

REUNIONS

SAVE
THE
DATE

1962 - 55th reunion

August 11-12
Dubuque Shooting Society

1967 - 50th reunion

September 22-23
Diamond Jo Casino and
Thunder Hills

1972 - 45th reunion

September 30
Moracco Supper Club

1977 - 40th reunion

September 30
Location TBD

1987 - 30th reunion

Fall 2017, date TBD
Location TBD

1997 - 20th reunion




July 15
Park Farm Winery

2012 - 5th reunion

September 29
Location TBD

*If you do not see your
reunion listed and would like
to help plan an event for
your class, please contact
Christine McAllister,
cmcallister@holyfamilydbq.org
or 563-582-5456.*

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