



Parents,
Guardians,
&
Students

Annually, we eagerly anticipate our Auction4Education, an evening dedicated to community-building and fundraising, vital for supporting our students and advancing the school's programs. Throughout our 22-year history, the Auction4Education has been instrumental in enhancing various aspects of our school. Seeing our school evolve and flourish over the years has been a blessing.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your contributions, which fuel the continual growth and enhancement of our school. As we gather "Down on the Farm" on March 2nd, we invite you to an evening of laughter and friendship, all while raising funds for St. Mary's School.

SMS Preschoolers build work of **HEART**

Thinking of an auction project idea is no easy task, but for first-year Little Saints preschool teacher, Heidi Hoppe, it wasn't difficult at all. "I really wanted something that reflected our faith, but yet was something that the family that buys it can cherish year after year or even pass it down as an heirloom. My dad also surprised me one year for Christmas and made me the exact same manger that I still cherish to this day. The nativity has been one of my favorite pieces of the Christmas season." So Heidi brought her dad, Jim Notch, to school to help her students make a nativity manger as a classroom project. He graciously explained the process to the students and showed them the tools he uses - including a nail gun (not a bad guy gun, like one student thought!) - and patiently helped each student glue and position the pieces in place before he nailed them down. At the end of the project, the student who was worried about the nail gun said "Ms. Heidi, I really like your dad." ❤️

"When I first introduced Christmas to my class at the beginning of December, they all thought that Christmas meant Santa and presents. By the time Christmas break had come around they knew that the important part of Christmas was about celebrating Jesus' birthday & that he was born in a manger. That has been the biggest highlight of my year. Getting to share my faith and teaching these amazing kids all about our faith, Jesus, God, and the things that God gives us has been such a blessing." Thank you, Ms. Heidi and Mr. Jim, for sharing your talents - we can't wait to see who WINS your project!



DOWN ON THE FARM

22ND ANNUAL AUCTION 4 EDUCATION

SMS Auction4Education: "**Down on the Farm**" Mark your calendars for **MARCH 2ND, 2024!**

- **Raffle Tickets** are on sale now for \$100 each with a grand prize of \$20,000! Drawing will be held at 7:00pm the night of the auction.
- **Dinner** at the Melrose American Legion on March 2nd from 5:00 to 8:00pm; free will donations for the food are appreciated. **50/50 drawings** will be held too; please join us there!
- **Online Auction** at <http://www.bidpal.net/smsmelrose>. Online viewing began on February 18th, online bidding begins on February 25th. Online bidding will close the night of the auction.
- **Live Auction** for the classroom items will be held during the event-don't miss the excitement!



6th Graders enjoy camp at *Long Lake*

SMS 6th graders attended their class trip at Long Lake Conservation Camp from February 7-9; this is the **29th** year the 6th graders have gone on this exciting adventure! Along with students from Sacred Heart School in Freeport, the 6th graders from SMS enjoyed learning about ways to care for the earth, outdoor survival skills-including building a wilderness shelter and meal, hiking, a compass challenge, and even KP duty ;)



LIGHTS - CAMERA - ACTION!

The theme for our Art Residency this year was Creative Drama. Creative drama is an educational and theatrical technique that combines elements of drama, storytelling, and improvisation to engage students in imaginative and expressive activities and games. It is often used to develop creativity, communication skills, collaboration, and self-confidence in students. During the week, students explored and enacted stories, characters, and situations through improvisation, guided the students through various activities and games. These activities included storytelling, pantomime, improvisation, movement, voice work, and character development.

Thank you to Joe Mullen for sponsoring this event. SMS is grateful to the Joe for his continued support of our Partners In Art Program, which teaches our students about new artists each month.



- Winter Open House: Monday, March 11th, 4:00-7:00pm- SMS
- Living Stations: Wednesday, March 20th, 1:00pm - Church of St. Mary
- Kindergarten Roundup: Wednesday, March 27th
- Speech Festival: April 12th, 2:00pm - SMS Gym
- Bishop's Mass with SMS: Friday, April 19th, 8:30am - Church of St. Mary
- First Communion: 5:00 mass on April 20th, 12:30 Spanish mass on April 21st, 10:00 mass on April 28th and May 5th; celebration for SMS students at the May 17th all-school mass - Church of St. Mary



SMS\$4Kids Incentive: SMS families participated in a SMS\$4Kids incentive challenge during the 2nd quarter of the school year to raise awareness and increase use of this beneficial program that doesn't cost any extra money for purchasers. This school year, families raised over **\$5,000.00** during the incentive for SMS! These funds will be used to purchase future playground equipment.

Contact the school office at 320-256-4257 or scrip@smsmn.org, or check out the website at <https://www.smsmelrosemn.org/sms-sms4kids> for more information.

