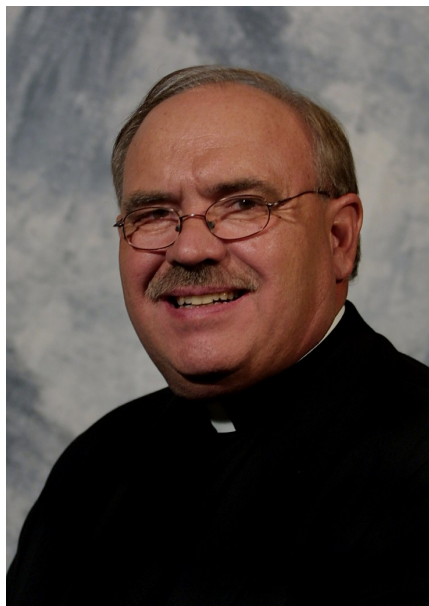


BLUEJAY NEWSLETTER



Spring 2018 Issue 33

From the New (since June) Pastor at Danbury Catholic



I would like to introduce myself and tell you a little a bit about how I discovered my call to priesthood. My Grandmother Schroer choose my first name, Richard. It was not to be shortened or should I be called any nick name. So, Richard it was, but I go by Fr. Rich or Fr. Ball now. My family consisted of my Grandma Schroer who lived with us, my parents, two older brothers, three older sisters, myself, and two younger sisters. My priestly calling started here, at home. We ate as a family, prayed as a family (evening rosary every night), attended Mass at St. Joseph parish in Duncombe, Iowa (between Fort Dodge and Webster City on old highway 20), went to Confession every Saturday, attended daily Mass especially during Lent, and never missed C.C.D. (religious education). When I was going to be a sophomore our priest, Fr. Louis Kollasch, told my parents that one of the children should go to St. Edmond Catholic school. I was chosen. Catholic school nourished the seeds of priesthood. No, I wasn't aware of the calling yet, but God knew what He was doing! I was so blest to have attended St. Edmond. Throughout my priesthood I have been blest to work in seven Catholic schools in our diocese. It is one way I can say thank you for a good education and a great experience of my faith. I hope that I can share and nourish the faith for those I serve at Danbury Catholic School for many years. I truly enjoy being part of this great family. I graduated from St. Edmond in 1969 with thoughts of attending Iowa State, becoming a teacher and writer. God had other plans. While working at Georgia Pacific over the summer that year God decided I should discover my priesthood. Late that night one of my co-workers asked me if I ever thought of

being a priest. I said no. But it was too late, God had awakened the call to priesthood within me. After talking it over with my parents and Fr. Kollash we paid a visit to Conception Seminary, Conception Mo. I signed up that very weekend. Four years later Bishop Greteman was sending me to St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Mn. On May 28, 1977 I was ordained a priest in my home parish of St. Joseph. That was more than forty years ago. When I'm asked if I like being a priest I respond, "If you can't tell, I must be doing a lousy job!" I enjoy taking a day off as well, I fish, golf, bow hunt, bowl, and get together with family, friends and fellow priests. It is simply a different aspect of my priesthood. My family of faith, a school of faith and pastor of faith made the difference in my discovery of priesthood. In sharing my faith I hope I can do for others what so many have done for me.

Fr. Rich Ball

Christmas at Danbury Catholic School



This school year's Christmas program was all about: A piece of fabric . . . that's the main prop in the children's musical, A Piece of Christmas. Joseph will wrap the fabric around Mary so she can keep warm. The shepherds will use the piece of fabric to towel-dry the sheep after their Saturday night bath in the field. The angels will raise the fabric overhead as they sing their song of praise to God. As this piece of fabric weaves its way through the Christmas story, your children will be reminded that the best piece of Christmas is the Savior . . . the one who fills our lives with love, joy and hope.

Students also decorated the Christmas Tree at Valley Bank & Trust again this year. The Kindergarteners and the 6th graders went Christmas caroling to shut-ins and businesses throughout Danbury. Every morning was started with a prayer service about a piece of the Jesse tree. The students learned so much about all of the people and events of the Christmas story.





2017-2018 School Year

The first quarter of the 2017-2018 school year ended on October 20th. The last several years, our students and staff have come to love the last day of the first quarter. This is the day we celebrate Grandparents' Day at Danbury Catholic. Grandparents' Day is a beloved tradition at Danbury Catholic. It is a day filled with prayer, song, food, games, laughter, and love! Our students are able to share their school, teachers, and friends with some of the most important people in their lives. It is also a very popular day with our staff. We enjoy seeing our students interacting with their grandparents or special friends. Grandparents' Day was the beginning of a couple very busy weeks at our school. We celebrated Red Ribbon Week, the Scholastic Book Fair, and held Parent/ Teacher Conferences. We have achieved 100% attendance at our conferences over the last few years, which is a true testament of the level of support we receive from our families.

The amount of support we receive from our communities and alumni always amazes me as well. Our families just completed our annual Red Wheel fundraiser. This fundraiser netted \$4060. Earlier this fall we held our 25th Barbecue and Auction. Our profit was over \$68,000! The first weekend in November brought the Blue Jay Ball. The totals are not in for this year, but the Silent Auction alone raised \$3200 for our classrooms. The Silent Auction was added several years ago, and everything raised from this portion of the evening is given to our classroom teachers. The teachers are able to spend their portion on anything they feel is needed in their classroom. Teachers have used it to pay for new classroom furniture, iPads, and resources to supplement their curriculum, art supplies, and much more! It almost feels like Christmas for teachers! Besides the different fundraisers we hold we also have many private contributions given to the school to help us keep Danbury Catholic running smoothly. Of course, there are always items on our wish list! Our Social Studies curriculum needs to be updated, as well as hoping to update our beautiful Mary's Garden right outside the main entrance at school.

Mrs. Amy Seuntjens
Danbury Catholic School Principal



Technology at Danbury Catholic

Over the last couple of years we have been able to update and increase the technology at the school. We have been able to put "Smart Boards" in every classroom, we have 28 laptops for student use and iPads in each classroom where needed. All of this has been made possible by generous donations. And yet, to bring ourselves up to the level of the public school system we still need more. We need a second technology cart that would hold an additional 25 laptops and the laptops to go in it. It would be very nice if we could put a plaque on that cart that stated that 100% of the cart and contents were donated by alumni.



PreSchool Pumpkins, Apples & Pudding

The preschoolers have been busy learning about various aspects of the seasons. We have learned about leaves and taken a closer look with magnifying glasses. We have had fun experiences with apples and cut them open to taste and compare. We made graphs to see which one we liked the best as a class. We learned about pumpkins and took a closer look by cutting one open and then making pumpkin pudding. We celebrated Fall with a party on Halloween day in which we got to wear our costumes. Fun was had by all!! We have also had fun in the snow during the winter months.

The preschoolers have also been working very hard with learning their uppercase letters with a program called Handwriting Without Tears. The preschoolers learn how to write the letters as well as the sounds of the letters thru hands on activities and songs. They also recently went through Kindergarten Round-up to see if they are ready to take the next step.

Mrs. Croghan

Check out Danbury Catholic School's Twitter page
Follow our tweets about your
amazing students!!



You may also want to check
out Danbury Catholic Elementary



Schools Facebook page for
fun and interesting facts
about education and our students.

Kindergarten and their Kitter

The Kindergarten classroom has been extremely busy. We have been learning about the fall season and Thanksgiving. In language arts, we have been listening to stories about how animals hibernate and Thanksgiving stories. Our strategies for comprehension that we've learned are identify character, setting, problem and solution, and recall and retell stories in sequence. We have been learning the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make. We are learning the letter "Tt" now. We met Ms. Tt our friendly Letter Person, and have learned how to write the letter Tt. We have found words that begin with Tt and are working on syllables. The new words we know how to read are I, like, to, the, see, can, and a. We have been selecting books that are "good fits" for us and are reading independently. We made turkeys for snack. In Math, we have been counting, writing and recognizing numbers to six, identifying



tifying 3D shapes, and exploring addition. We have been practicing writing sentences and drawing pictures to match in our writing journals. We have to remember how to use capital letters, punctuation, and spaces between words while writing, and make sure to have our sentence make sense. We have discussed the themes of friends and the 1st Thanksgiving in Social Studies. In our Science Unit, we have discovered problems that winter causes for animals and how animals hibernate, stay active, or migrate. We have been learning our prayers, attending Mass, and discussing how God created the earth and people who love us, including the best gift of all Jesus! We have a new addition to our classroom. We have adopted a classroom pet "Lulu" the hedgehog, given to our class, by one of Mrs. Drees' former students, Katrina Schmidt. We absolutely love her! We have been drawing her pictures that Mrs. Drees hangs on her cage for something for her to look at.

Mrs. Drees



1st Semester Extra Happenings in the DC 1st/2nd Grade Classroom



The 1st and 2nd Grade Classroom at Danbury Catholic has had many extra activities to be excited about...

The 1st and 2nd grade students started off the beautiful season of fall with an annual trip to Janelle's Pumpkin Patch and a visit from the Danbury Fire Department! The students utilized the endless possibilities of pumpkins in our classroom activities with pumpkin-related curriculum links in Math, Science, Social Studies, and Art. The students' favorite activities included reading the story *Spookley the Square Pumpkin* and celebrating their own differences. Students

also loved meeting some of the firefighters of the Danbury Fire Department and learning all about fire safety in Social Studies and Science class.

The 1st and 2nd grade students also thoroughly enjoyed Grandparent's Day at DC. This was a day intended not only to honor grandparents, but to remind young people of the "strength, information, and guidance older people can offer." Through the classes of Guidance, Social Studies, Writing Workshop, and Art, students were able to understand that grandparents are our heritage and essential members of our families and communities. After reading stories about grandparents, discussing ways to show respect, making art for grandparents, and writing stories about their favorite things to do with their grandparents, students enjoyed ending their study by spending the day at school with their grandparents and performing a wonderful program!

Red Ribbon Week was celebrated at DC through an array of exciting activities. The 1st and 2nd graders loved wearing the color red, school shirts, and boots, as well as dressing backwards and in what they want to be when they grow up—all in support of being drug-free. They also enjoyed entering the Drug-Free Poster Contest and Classroom Door Decorating Contest and working hard in their Guidance, Writing Workshop, and Social Studies classes to learn to live drug-free lives.

Veteran's Day provided discussions of one of the ways American citizens show their patriotism, or love for one's country, is by serving in the Armed Forces. Students learned about some of the symbols, songs, and pledges that represent our country and read stories including *H is for Honor* and *The Wall*. This year, as we do every year to help celebrate Veteran's Day, students honored those that have sacrificed for our country by writing to members of the military to express our gratitude for our freedoms and to help the students pledge always to remember.

The 1st and 2nd grade students are reading the story *How Full is Your Bucket* and learning about the importance of kindness. They are having so much fun practicing acts of kindness both at school and at home to fill everyone's buckets! You can follow along with all of our fun through our class Twitter page Mrs. B's Battalion @dcathsbrown12.



From the desk of 3rd & 4th grade teacher Mrs. Friedrichsen:

Our 2017-18 school year began with a bang and students hit the ground running ready to learn. Our class has been busy reading as many books as we can get our hands on! (This class LOVES to read!) Some of our favorite authors are Jeff Kinney and Rachel R. Russell. In our Daily 5 class we are concentrating on several comprehension strategies, grammar, and sentence structure. We've also accomplished 2 book reports and multiple group activates. In religion we are wrapping up our lessons on Abraham and Sarah. In social studies, we are learning about our community and surrounding areas. In science, we are learning about forces and motion. In art, we are learning about



the different elements of art. Math class has proven to be a realization that no matter where your journey leads, math will follow! We also had our visit to the one room school house. As you can tell by the picture, the students had fun learning about games in pioneer times.

Catholic Schools Week was a wonderful time for our class as seen by the pictures. We had great participation in each of the different theme days. The pictures here show just two of the different days. Pride in our students (the Hawaiian dress day) and Pride in our community (the team dress day). Go BlueJays.



Janelle Clausen— Our very own miracle:

Janelle Clausen has been a part of St. Mary's Catholic Church and Danbury Catholic School for over 30 years. She had been battling Restrictive Cardiomyopathy since 2011 and has been on a heart and liver transplant list since that time as well. On Father's Day of 2017 she received the call she had been waiting for...there was a heart and liver ready for her. She and husband Mark made the long trek to Rochester, where on June 19th Janelle received her new heart and liver. Prayers went out to her and the donor (along with their family). When we say prayers, we mean prayers, thousands of prayers, she was a part of everyone's prayer warrior list. She spent three months recovering in Rochester and has continued to recover at home since mid-September. She is doing extremely well. She must be careful about being around germs, but she has met every milestone that the doctors have for her. She is a living testament that the power of prayer is amazing. Please Keep those prayers coming that she is able to progress with the super power speed of the Wonder Woman that she is.

We at Danbury Catholic miss her and hope that she continues on this super path to be able to come back to us soon.

CSW 2018—St. Rose of Lima in Denison Retreat Day

On Wednesday, during Catholic School Week our students were able to host students from St. Rose of Lima School from Denison. We focused our lessons on the "BEE" attitudes since that is where Danbury Catholic's vision statement comes from. We also held a mini-retreat with Julie Tebbe a former Music teacher at Mater Dei in Sioux City and a current Lay Associate of the Fransican Sisters out of Dubuque. Ms. Tebbe travels the region giving retreats and helping young people find their relationship with Christ. We started the day with Mass celebrated by Fr. Ball and concelebrated by Fr. Paul Kelly from Denison, St. Rose of Lima Parish.





DC 6th Graders

6th Grade students Margo McMillen & Brayden Doty are getting ready to say goodbye to Danbury Catholic at the end of this school year and say hello to MVAOCOU Middle School in Anthon. They will take their smiling faces and Catholic values with them as they go. The staff and students at DC will miss them as they take the next steps in their journey through education. Say a prayer for them and wish them luck on their way.

5th & 6th Grade News:

The students in the 5th & 6th grade classroom have been studying cells in Science class by researching the organelles of cells and how cells work together to form tissue, organs, and organ systems. The students have been comparing the growth of plant cuttings over time. We will be planting the cuttings later in the year to watch the plants as they grow. The ancient cultures of North America and exploration of the New World have been the focus of Social Studies. The students created a painting of a Mayan mask by using tints and shades of two complementary colors. In Religion class, the students have been focusing on types of prayer and the Mysteries of the Rosary. In Math class, the students have been working on fractions, decimals, and percent, as well as basic computation skills. We were very glad to have veterans stop by our room and give a demonstration of folding the flag and answering questions about military service.



Band is Added at Danbury Catholic



Sounds echo through the halls at Danbury Catholic School during the school day. The normal sounds heard in schools. Students talking. Teachers talking. Kids singing. Musical instruments being played. Wait...what? Danbury Catholic doesn't have band. Oh yes they do! This year Mr. Allan Yeager from Ida Grove visits the school to teach vocal music. He decided that the school needed to offer band. The fifth and sixth graders were invited to join this new band, and 11 students chose to play beautiful music in the school's first band in decades. "I saw a need that wasn't being fulfilled," commented Yeager. "When students go to MVAOCOU or OABCIG as 7th graders they will be two years behind if they decide to go out for band. That kind of catch up can be daunting. Some would take on the challenge if they were really determined, but most would find it discouraging, and it would close off an important aspect of their education that many of their parents had." The potential musicians tested out various instruments to find one which best suit their interests. Yeager encouraged students that were undecided to choose an instrument that would help make a balanced ensemble. He tested them to determine their listening skills, background and musical development. The students are showing much improvement since the beginning of the school year. They look forward to eventually showing their talent to family and friends.

Donation Thank You

The Blue Jay Newsletter is published with the donations of our Alumni. Since there were no donations at this time, Danbury Catholic School has covered the cost.

We would appreciate your help to continue to offer the Blue Jay Newsletter.

Every little bit helps. Thanks in advance for continuing to support **our Blue Jay Newsletter**.



In Memory of Alumni, Family and Friends

Larry Ortner	1935-2017
Robert Sexton	1923-2017
Earl Reimer	1942-2017
Thomas Kane	1919-2017
Gloria Welte	1929-2017
Helen Weber	1923-2017
Louise Sanders	1921-2017
Vernal Weber	1934-2017
Walter T. "Tom" Willson	1944-2017
Ed Welte	1942-2017
Leo Weber	1933-2017
Kiernan "Tiny" Sexton	1924-2017
Kay McCarthy Reimer	1943-2017
Tom McGuire	1931-2018
Madelon "Tootie" Sexton Seuntjens	1931-2018
Mary Donna Collins	1923-2018
Ruth Brenner Martin	1924-2018
Rose Kleine Wonder	1937-2018
Patrick Keitges	1939-2018

Reunion 2018

Friday & Saturday, July 20-21, 2018

Friday: The Friday evening get together will be held at Dana Hall at 5:30 p.m. with a meat dish provided and the rest will be "Pot Luck." Free Will Donation

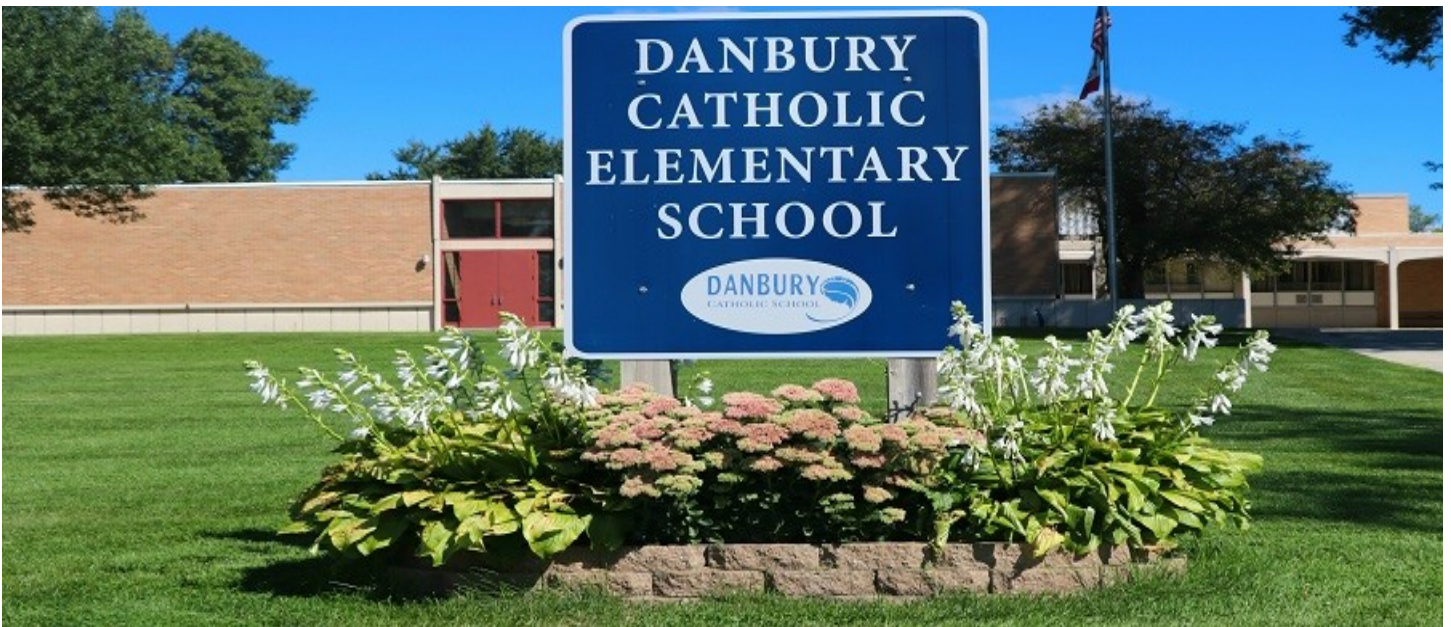
Saturday: Saturday evening will have Mass at St. Mary's Danbury, at 4:30 p.m. The social hour, banquet and program will be at the Parish Center immediately following Mass. There will be a dance at Dana Hall with all Alumni of Danbury High School following the festivities at the Parish Center.

Danbury United Methodist will be having Brunch Sunday Morning July 22nd 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Methodist Church



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Danbury Catholic School
602 Peach Street
Danbury, IA 51019



Is Your Address Wrong? Know of Any Alumni Who Have Moved?

Please let us know of any changes in your addresses so that the newsletter may be mailed correctly. When the address is wrong, we get the newsletter returned, and we have to pay double postage on the returns.

Please keep us up to date on addresses. Call Danbury Catholic School at 712-883-2244. Thank you