

SKUTT
CATHOLIC
3131 South 156th Street
Omaha, NE 68130-1907

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WINTER 2012

OUR Legacy

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE
ALUMNI, PARENTS & FRIENDS
OF SKUTT CATHOLIC

SKUTT
CATHOLIC

Back to Back to Back Mock Trial State Champs



www.skuttcatholic.com

Skut Catholic High School
3131 South 156th Street
Omaha, NE 68130-1907
p: 402-333-0818
f: 402-333-1790

State Champs
Skutt Catholic Mock Trial Team
Seated left to right:
Brenna Rossi, Danielle Desa,
Amanda Olson, Brianna Desa,
Taylor Gibson

Standing left to right:
Coach Mary Meyer, Coach Patrick Borchers,
Matthew Rago, Nathan Jensen,
Judge Lyle Strom, Federal District Court
Judge for the District of Nebraska

Prepare to
SOAR

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Skutt Catholic High School admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

Calendar of *Events*

FEBRUARY 4

BASEBALL BASH

This event will honor the 2005 State Championship Baseball Team and four Skutt Catholic graduates who were college Rawlings Golden Glove recipients.

- 7 p.m.
- \$25 per couple
- Hildebrandt-Nebe Wrestling Facility on the Skutt Catholic campus

MARCH 5 - 9

SPRING BREAK

MARCH 24

ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Gather your team and be watching for online sign-ups.

- \$15 per person
- 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Skutt Catholic gymnasiums

MARCH 31

PROM

- 9 p.m. to midnight
- The Ridge (20033 Elkhorn Ridge Drive, Omaha, Neb.)

APRIL 5-9

EASTER BREAK

APRIL 25

HAWKWALK 2012

Skutt Catholic students raise funds for the school's Financial Assistance Program, take a 5 mile trek around Lake Zorinsky, then cap off the event with an all-school picnic.

MAY 2

LIGHT OF LEADERSHIP MASS

Skutt Catholic seniors pass leadership candles on to the junior class

MAY 11

BACCALAUREATE MASS

- 7 p.m.
- St. Patrick's Catholic Church (508 Angus St., Gretna, Neb.)

MAY 12

GRADUATION

- 2:30 p.m.
- Orpheum Theatre (409 S 16th St, Omaha, Neb.)

JUNE 29

FLIGHT FOR EXCELLENCE

GOLF TOURNAMENT

- 11 a.m. Registration begins, with a noon shotgun start
- Pacific Springs Golf Club (16810 Harney St, Omaha, Neb.)
- Dinner and award ceremony to follow play
- All-alumni social with DJ Dan Hilario playing tunes on the Pacific Springs club deck in the evening

JUNE 30

CLASS OF 2002 10-YEAR REUNION

- 6 p.m. Social hour and tour of school (Skutt Catholic Media Center)
- 7:30 p.m. Picnic dinner under the big top (Skutt Catholic campus)



2011-2012 National Merit Scholars

Left to right:
Andrew Thielen, James Pieper,
Kaitlyn Heffron, Matthew Capoun,
Danielle Desa and Matthew Rago

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GrandHawks Mass 2011

President's Letter



Patrick Slattery
President/Principal

Every January in my household, my children stand tall against a particular wall and eagerly allow my wife and me to measure and record their height. All of us love to marvel at how much they have grown as we compare prior year marks to the most recent measurement. Seeing how fast they have grown in such a short time never ceases to amaze me. This little family tradition is certainly not unique to the Slattery household as what parent does not love to revel in both their children's past and current growth.

Skutt Catholic High School is nearing its twenty year anniversary, and marking our growth over these twenty years is much like marking the height of our children as they grow. Each year we see notable strides, we recall fond memories of those prior younger years, and continue to amaze ourselves at how far things are coming along. Skutt Catholic has grown from a school with 120 students in its first year to a school with 700 students today! Our alumni base has grown to 2151, and our total constituent list to nearly 10,000 people strong. Our curriculum, Catholic identity, and extracurricular programs have all grown leaps and bounds from where we were 19 years ago.

Unlike the markings on the wall that eventually stop as our children no longer grow taller, our success at Skutt Catholic must continue to grow. We must position ourselves for the future. We must strive to reach new heights and not be content with our success today. Data trends of Archdiocesan high schools in Omaha over the past fifty years would show that many schools experienced peaks in enrollment and financial stability around twenty years of age but struggled to maintain those patterns in the following decades. As the enclosed Annual Report will highlight, we are blessed to be in solid financial standing at this time. We are debt free and enrollment patterns for our school over the past decade are noticeably better than the national and Midwest average. It might be easy to argue that preserving the status quo is the right course of action for our school. Yet, the status quo will stop the progress. Our growth chart would grow stagnant.

As we look to our next twenty years, we will continue to rely on the strength, skills and expertise of all constituents to ensure that Skutt Catholic has not yet seen its peak. As our constituent base grows, so too should the strength of our school. You all have been instrumental in our first two decades of success, and all of us at Skutt Catholic feel blessed to have your support as we make plans for our future!

May God Bless you and your family in this new year!

Sincerely,
Patrick Slattery
President/Principal

Cover Story SUCCESS

by Mike McMahon

"That's what building a body of work is all about. It's about the daily labor, the many individual acts, the choices large and small that add up over time, over a lifetime to a lasting legacy. It's about not being satisfied with the latest achievement, the latest gold star, because the one thing I know about a body of work is that it's never finished. It's cumulative. It deepens and expands with each day you give your best. You may have setbacks and you may have failures, but you're not done. You haven't even started."

Barack Obama, Arizona State Commencement Speech, 2009

President Obama was right. His commencement speech also pertains to teams, programs and schools, and their "body of work." The off-season, the daily practices, the commitment to team rules and the acceptance of individual roles encompass any particular year. The teams during the fall season at Skutt Catholic realized they were not satisfied and wanted to leave their own individual mark - and they did.

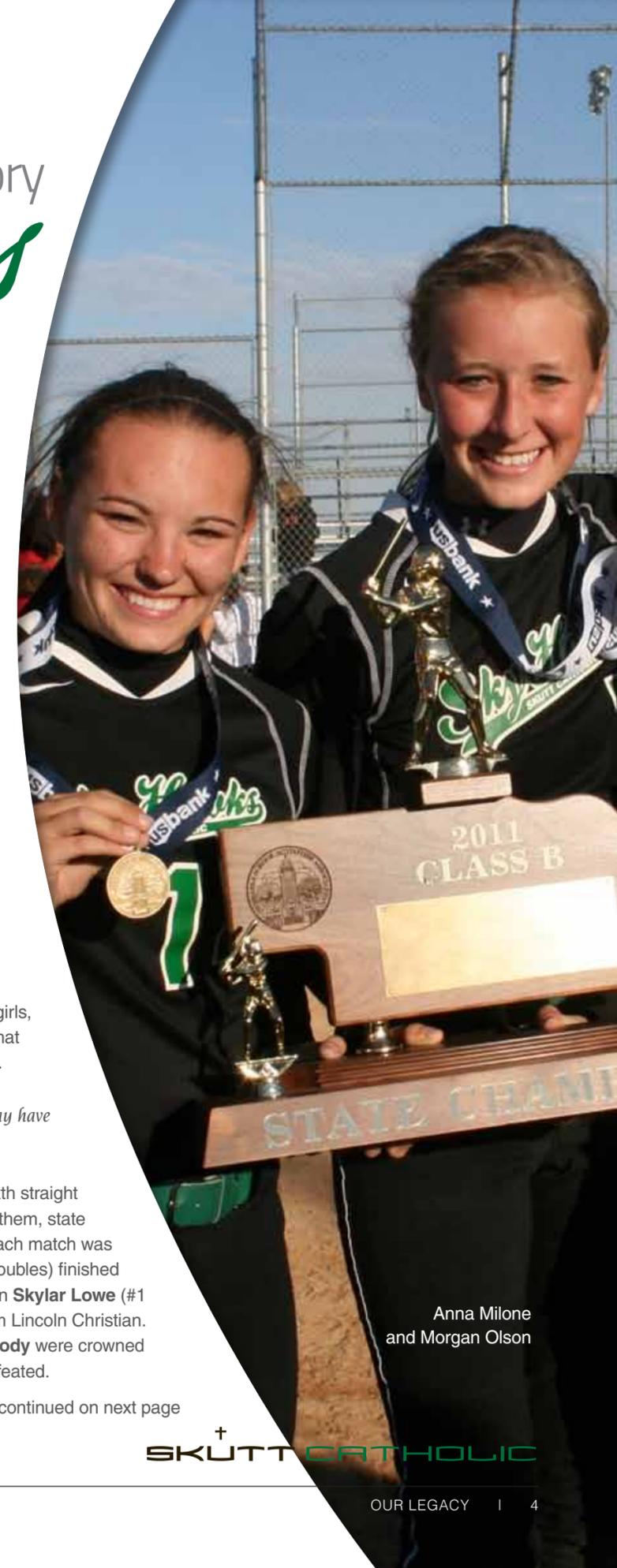
"...a body of work"

It started off with girls golf. New coach, **Mike Stolarskyj**, guided 12 girls, seven of whom were freshmen (some with little golf experience.) However, excitement was high and with one senior and two juniors leading the way, progress was made. The girls finished 3rd at the RCC meet, 4th at Districts, and qualified two girls, **Stephanie Kaiser** and **Katherine Slump**, for the State meet. That season added to their confidence and set the table for the future.

"...It deepens and expands with each day you give your best. You may have setbacks and you may have failures, but you're not done..."

The boys tennis team, coached by **Sheryl Vaughn**, won their sixth straight RCC team championship. With experience and tradition behind them, state competition began with high hopes. There were setbacks, but each match was extremely hard fought. **Nolan Healy & Andrew Johnson** (#1 Doubles) finished 4th, **Zach Legband** (#2 Singles) also finished 4th while freshman **Skylar Lowe** (#1 Singles) won his first match and then ran into a tough player from Lincoln Christian. In the end, the #2 Doubles team of **Mitch Plance & Brian Carmody** were crowned State Champions! Setbacks sure, but boys tennis was never defeated.

continued on next page



Anna Milone
and Morgan Olson

cover story continued...

Success

"That's what building a body of work is all about. It's about the daily labor, the many individual acts, the choices large and small that add up over time, over a lifetime to a lasting legacy..."

Coach Keith Engelkamp and the 2011 Softball team cruised through their regular season with a (22-2) record. Included in that run was the program's first ever RCC Softball Championship. Entering district competition, the SkyHawks were the #2 seed behind a tough Bennington squad. Eventually the Lady Badgers won that district, but both teams moved on to Hastings and state competition. The team had a tough start, but then really turned it on. Their hard work paid off when they persevered in a hard fought first game and then culminated their championship run with a 5-3 win over conference foe, Beatrice. What a year! The struggle is what makes victory taste sweeter.

"... You may have setbacks and you may have failures, but you're not done. You haven't even started?"

Who knows this sentiment better than a runner? The cross country team ran and ran and ran during their summer workouts. The boys and girls began the year with mixed team results, however personal goals continued to be in reach. At the RCC meet, held at Skutt Catholic, the boys were victorious, while the girls finished 2nd. A week later at districts, also at SC, the boys were 3rd and the girls 5th. At state, our top individual, Todd Leutzinger, finished 24th. For a runner, there are always more roads to conquer.

"...because the one thing I know about a body of work is that it's never finished. It's cumulative..."

Football in Nebraska, well, it's pretty important. The atmosphere in school seems to be influenced by the success of the football team. Enthusiasm at SC was high. Starting the year with two losses, **Coach Matt Turman's** group didn't have a quick start, but in the third game fortunes changed. They beat Pius X in Lincoln and started a streak of six wins in the next seven games. Since the program has reached the state playoffs eight of the last nine years, making the playoffs was important. In the first round, the SkyHawks traveled to Elkhorn to face the eventual State Champions. Too many turnovers left them at (6-4) for the year. After that (0-2) start - to finish with only two more losses - the team successfully added to the cumulative legacy of the program.

"It deepens and expands with each day you give your best."

November always begins with the final days of the volleyball season, and this year's ending was pretty special. A new coach brings with her the unknown, but Coach Renee Saunders, with the leadership provided by five seniors, made the season one to remember. Up against perennial power Gross Catholic, the SkyHawks won the RCC tournament for only the second time in school history. A tough district brought only a #3 seed, but the girls swept

through the competition to qualify for the state tournament. Losing to a tough Grand Island Northwest team in the semifinals, the SkyHawks battled back to defeat Elkhorn South 3-0 in the third place match. Finishing with a (30-10) record, the girls proved their best brought out something special.

"...It's about not being satisfied with the latest achievement, the latest gold star..."

2006 - 2009 - 2010 - 2011 = Four state championships in the last six years! No one can accuse the Skutt Catholic Mock Trial team of resting on their laurels. Each achievement has only made them hungrier. In 2006, it was pretty cool to have the program win state, but little did we know of the program's burning desire. Started in 2003, the mock trial program just completed its ninth year under the guidance of **Mary Meyer** and **Pat and Judy Borchers**. Mrs. Meyer provides the educational leadership while the legal expertise comes from the Borchers. Together they have molded the program to compete not only at the state level, but nationally. In 2010, SCHS qualified two teams for the state competition. While one team finished first, the other finished third. There can be no argument that this program will not rest on past accomplishments.

Success is not being satisfied with what has occurred in the past. Since 1993, Skutt Catholic has built a strong foundation and 2011 is another building block in our SkyHawk tradition.



Skutt Catholic Volleyball

Alumni Board President's Letter

Happy New Year from the Skutt Catholic Alumni Board!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with your friends and family. I am excited to share a variety of recent happenings with your Skutt Catholic Alumni Association!

The SC Alumni Association hosted its annual Flight for Excellence Golf Tournament in June at Pacific Spring Golf Course. Alumni, alumni parents, and SC staff enjoyed a warm summer day of golf, food, prizes and even a putting competition to finish the day. Thank you to everyone who helped plan the event and those who participated in the tournament. I encourage all of you to consider playing in the tournament this year. Whether golf is your game or not, it's a fun day!

In October the SC Alumni Association hosted its second annual Homecoming event. Alumni and their families returned to Moylan Stadium for a fun filled evening under the lights. The night included free admission into the game, free food, raffle prizes, and even a bounce house and face painting for the little ones. The night was a huge success. Thank you to all those who helped and attended the event! If you missed it, be sure to watch your mailbox, email and Facebook for information on next year's Homecoming festivities.

Be sure to mark you calendar with the exciting events happening in the coming months. I hope you consider joining us!

- **Alumni Basketball Tournament:** Saturday, March 24, 2012. Spend an afternoon playing a few games of basketball against your fellow classmates. Start forming your teams today!
- **Flight for Excellence Golf Tournament:** Friday, June 29, 2012. Take a day off and enjoy fun in the sun! Registration will be available soon.
- **Class of 2002 Ten-Year Reunion:** June 29-30, 2012. If you are interested in assisting with the planning of the Ten Year Reunion, please contact us at skuttcatholicalumni@gmail.com

Before I wrap up, I wish to encourage you to follow us on our Facebook page for information about upcoming events and other alumni information. If you would like to become more involved with the SC Alumni Association please contact us at skuttcatholicalumni@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of Skutt Catholic and our alums. I hope you have a great start to the new year!

Kelsey Sievers '09
Alumni Board President



Alumni Association President Kelsey Sievers '09 (right) with fellow Alumni Board member Rachel Kroon '09



Sarah Guinane '06 at Alumni Homecoming Event

Alumni Updates



Anthony Pasternak '99 married Jeana Pecha on Aug. 13, 2011. Anthony, a CPA with BKD CPA's and Advisors, also serves as the treasurer for the Skutt Catholic Alumni Association.



Katie Lauritsen Molick '98 and her husband Michael welcomed their first child, Evan Michael Molick, on Oct. 28, 2011. He weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and was 21 inches long. The Molick's live in St. Louis and are huge Cardinal fans, so it was fitting that Evan was born on the day the Cardinals won the World Series.

Nikki Huffman '01 married Brandon Kathol on Sept. 17, 2011 at St. Robert Bellarmine. A reception followed at the Durham Museum.

Jill Graham Seberger '04 and Tim Seberger welcomed their first child, Graham Stephen Seberger on July 8, 2011. Jill is a staff RN in the NICU at The Nebraska Medical Center. Tim is a mechanical engineer at Cleaver Brookes in Lincoln. They live in Gretna.



Christopher Wolfe '99 and **Jaime Ammons Wolfe '00** welcomed daughter Camryn Faith Wolfe on May 9, 2011. Camryn joins three older siblings, Ryan, Lincoln and Paityn.

Nicki Bishoff '02 and Yale Thomas were married on June 18, 2011. Skutt Catholic alumni in the wedding included: Maid of Honor, **Amy Zavala '04**, **Chad Bishoff '99**, and **Andrew Bishoff '05**. Nicki is owner/manager of Pet's Earth, a pet services and natural pet food store. Her husband Yale is a partner with J. Edwin Brown, Direct Marketing.

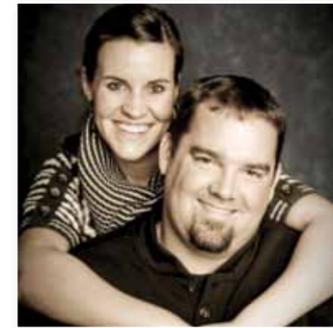
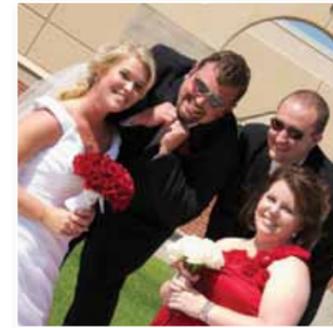


Shaun Patrin '02 and his wife Sarah were married in 2008. They have a son Max (18 months) and are expecting a baby girl in April 2012.

R.J. Heck '01, transferred to the Babies R Us store in Brookfield, Wis.

Stephanie Wawers '05 and Eric Cutler were married June 4, 2011 at St. Stephen the Martyr Church. The reception was held at Tiburon Golf Club. Stephanie is an accountant at Union Pacific. She is currently working on her CPA. Eric is a doctoral student in biomechanics at UNO/UNMC.

Ashley Rasmussen Hinze '02 and her husband Eric welcomed Kinley Sophia Hinze on Oct. 11, 2011. Kinley weighed 8 lbs, 10 oz. and 20.5 inches long!



Rachel Fuchs '06 married **Bryson Twist '04** on July 9, 2011 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. Rachel is the first SC alum to join the faculty of Skutt Catholic! SC alumni in the wedding party included: **Eric Benzel '04** and **Anita Fuchs Downing '04**. After the wedding the couple stopped by Skutt Catholic to take a few pictures!

Joe Patrin '04 received his MBA from UNO on Dec. 2, 2011.

Katie Smith '05 married Marcus Shanahan on July 15, 2011 at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Gretna, Neb. Skutt Catholic alumni in the wedding party included: **Jessica Smith Charlsen '00**, **Mike Smith '03**, **Maggie Smith '10**, and **Meghan Phelps Sullivan '04**. Katie is currently in PA school at UNMC here in Omaha. Marcus is a grain trader with Interstate Commodities.

Sara Warren '06 was hired last January (2011) as a CP Marketing Analyst with BNSF Railway Company in Fort Worth, Texas.

Brett Render '02 and **Erin McMahon '02** are engaged to be married June 1, 2012.

Joe Koneck-Wilcox '05 is currently interning in the theology department at Skutt Catholic.

Capt. Daniel Hatz '02 is currently in pilot training in Wright Patterson, Ohio and flying F16s with the 55th squadron out of Shaw Air Force Base. Dan received his MD from the University of Nebraska and is currently the flight surgeon for his squadron. Dan deployed to Italy last December and will deploy to Afghanistan in September of this year.

Matt Muschall '08 a senior at Morningside College was named as a semifinalist for the 2011 William V. Campbell Trophy endowed by HealthSouth and also one of the candidates for the 2011 National Football Foundation (NFF) National Scholarship Awards.

Tobias Letak '08 was chosen to serve Christmas Eve Midnight Mass with Pope Benedict at St. Peter's in Rome. Tobias is a seminarian at St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. and spent a semester studying in Rome.

Grant Farrell '04 and Morgan Fitzgerald will be married on April 20, 2012 at Mary Our Queen in Omaha, Neb. Grant's brother **Connor Farrell '07** will be his best man. Grant works at First National Bank as a Loan Service Specialist and Morgan is employed by the State of Nebraska as a Probation Officer serving Douglas County.

Operation Support Our Graduates Serving Overseas. If you know of a Skutt Catholic graduate who is serving in the military please let Mrs. Wilson know at jawilson@schools.archomaha.org. The Soaring SkyHawk chapter of the National Honor Society is committed to supporting our graduates through prayer, thank you cards, and care packages.



Britta Beckman Durov '00 was inducted into Bryant University's Athletic Hall of Fame on Nov. 11, 2011 for her stellar contributions to the school's volleyball program. Britta's entire family traveled to Smithfield, R.I. for the ceremony.



T.J. Welniak '03 graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Medicine on May 7, 2011. He is specializing in Emergency Medicine and will complete a three year residency at the University of Nebraska Affiliated Hospitals in Omaha, Neb. Pictured with T.J. are his sisters **Kari Welniak '12**, **Amy Welniak '10** and **Sara Welniak '05**.

Skutt Catholic remembers alum **Michael Willrett '10** who died this past August. May his soul rest in peace.

Save the *Date*

Pacific Springs

June 29, 2012

Skutt Catholic's *Flight for Excellence*
an alumni sponsored golf tournament
Pacific Springs Golf Club
Noon shotgun start

Save the *Date*



March 24, 2012

Alumni Basketball Tournament
Start forming your teams and watch
for online sign-ups.
www.skuttcatholic.com

June 30, 2012

Skutt Catholic High School
Class of 2002 10-Year Reunion

6 p.m. Cocktail Reception/School Tour
7 p.m. Dinner and Social
Located at
Skutt Catholic High School



Summer 2012

Skutt Catholic IXIM Mission Trip
(Late June/Early July...exact dates TBD)

Join faculty members Rachel Fuchs Twist '06 and Paula Lenz and others from Omaha for an IXIM mission trip to San Miguel Acatan in Guatemala. Volunteers will be working in Skutt Catholic's sister school, in an area that was entangled in a bloody civil war in 1989. Help Mayan families as they rebuild their lives and educate their children.

For additional information on IXIM Spirit of Solidarity visit:
http://web.mac.com/stephanie.spiegel/Ixim_Education_Committee/Welcome.html
To learn more about the mission or to make a contribution to the effort contact:
Lucy Smith at lcsmith@schools.archomaha.org.

"Borders are for countries, not for Christians."

Sergio Sosa

SKUTT CATHOLIC

Branding Skutt Catholic

by Lucy Smith

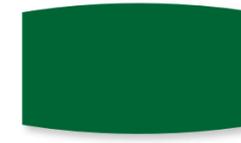
Brand Standards Manual



New Item in the HawkNest



BLACK



PMS 349
Global Green



PMS 422
Salvation Silver



PMS 369
Energy Green



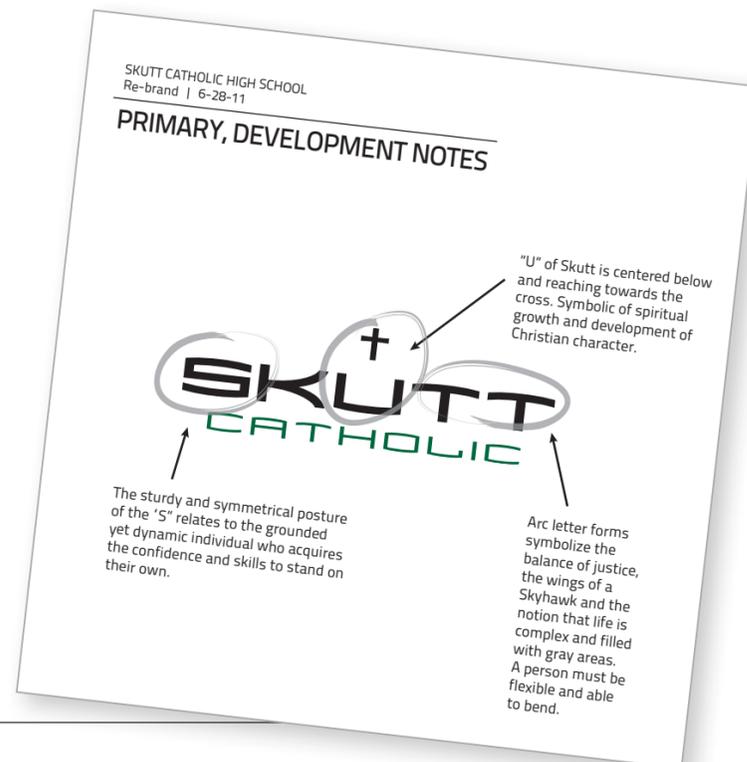
I had the privilege of attending a Partners in Mission Advancement and Leadership Services for a Catholic Education Conference last summer in Boston. The keynote speaker, an 80 year old nun with more spit and vinegar than a person half her age, began her talk with the following question: "Why do parents send their children to Catholic Educational Institutions?" As the sleepy participants sat up in their chairs and started to take note, she emphatically told the group in her thick Boston brogue, "Academics....Academics... Academics." After a pause she added, "And if you're not offering the finest product possible, you're not goin' be in business very long!"

As we approach our 20th year, our goal is to stay in business a very long time. We'll reach that goal primarily because an outstanding academic environment remains the cornerstone of the Skutt Catholic brand promise. Yet we ask ourselves, "What else is contained in the Skutt Catholic brand promise?" To answer that question requires ASKING MORE QUESTIONS!

How do we differentiate ourselves from other high schools? What motivates Skutt Catholic teachers to show up and perform each day? What inspires our coaches and activity sponsors to take care of business? What convinces our parents to pay to send their children here? What prompts a student to want to be a SkyHawk? What is the first response when someone asks, "Why did you choose Skutt Catholic?"

If you ask Skutt Catholic constituents what makes us distinctive the answers will allow you to piece together DNA threads of common characteristics. Ask wrestling coach Brad

Hildebrandt and he'll note 13 consecutive state wrestling championships. Faculty member Mary Meyer will mention back-to-back-to-back mock trial state titles. President/Principal Patrick Slattery will boast of 36 National Merit Scholars in the past six years. Director of Guidance/Registrar Kathy Beckman will proclaim 99% college admittance rates, noting 100% admittance rates for the past two years. Service coordinator Julie Schmitz will communicate over 13,000 student volunteer hours. The commonalities reveal threads of excellence on several different levels.



Dig a little deeper and you'll find some more commonalities:

- A faculty that cares deeply about the success of each individual student, assessing special needs and special gifts in order to deliver customized direction
- An administrative staff that sets high expectations and then works diligently to give teachers and students the support needed to achieve lofty goals
- A student body challenged to become Christian leaders who empower others, promote justice, and initiate change

Eight months ago Skutt Catholic began the process of identifying the Skutt Catholic brand in order to better communicate our brand identity to the public. We did so with the following objectives in mind:

1. Create a differentiated, cohesive and recognizable identity
2. Eliminate the variety of Skutt Catholic logos used on team apparel
3. Invent the next generation of Skutt Catholic ID
4. Influence the perception of Skutt Catholic as the newest, most vibrant private high school of choice
5. Provide a solid and unified foundation to build upon
6. Build awareness among junior high students and their parents
7. Instill pride

The first step was hiring a branding agency to help lead the branding process. The second step was gathering a group of Skutt Catholic faculty and staff members to complete a rather unusual school survey. The survey asked questions

like: If Skutt Catholic was a famous person, who would that person be and why? (The answers to that question ranged from Jesus Christ, to the athletically talented yet understated baseball great Stan Musial, to the articulate, smart and funny actress Tina Fey.) The survey questions prompted the group to consider and describe the inherit qualities that have shaped Skutt Catholic. The answers were tallied and presented to the group, with the results allowing us to collectively determine our institutional DNA. Daake-Strategic Brand Expression took that information and used it as the foundation for developing a new logo for the school.

The new logo is sturdy, dynamic, clean, balanced, flexible, spiritual and guided by faith. (Please see Greg Daake's development notes for the new Primary Skutt Catholic logo on page 11.)

The process of redesigning new business cards, stationery, envelopes, postcards, t-shirts and school/athletic/club uniforms has begun. In a few weeks our website will sport a rebranded look. The site will incorporate the new Skutt Catholic logo with brand colors and several new features, designed to make the web experience more seamless and engaging.

The rebranding process will continue as we examine areas of the building in need of a more functional, yet dynamic face to greet the next 20 years. Like any good brand, our new mark is intended to help keep our numbers strong and growing while reminding us of the daily promise made to the students entrusted to our care.



Exploring My Roots

by Jim Mangimeli

It was not something I would ever have considered. Taking two weeks off during the school year was not an option for me, but when I saw the ad in The Catholic Voice last summer, I was immediately interested. The paper was sponsoring a trip to Sicily and Italy in November, and it was going to include Carlentini, the town in Sicily where my paternal grandparents had been born. When would there ever be a chance like that again? I thought about it carefully and talked with my wife and then asked Mr. Slattery if I could go, even though it meant I would miss two weeks of school. He was kind enough to say yes and I was fortunate enough to line up Mr. Paul Marek as my sub, so the planning began.

Early in the morning of Nov. 6 we arrived at the airport, flew to Chicago, waited six hours, and then took a 10-hour Alitalia flight to Rome. From there we flew to Palermo, Sicily, the first stop in our tour of the island. We visited, and had Mass in, the cathedrals of Palermo and Monreale, saw the Valley of the Temples, an archeological site of ancient Greek ruins in Agrigento, and explored an ancient Roman villa complex at Piazza Armerina. Then, on Nov. 10 we traveled to Carlentini, certainly one of the high points of the trip for many of us whose ancestors had emigrated from there.

It was a very emotional day for me. We had a wonderful lunch at a local restaurant and then proceeded to the church on the main square of the town for Mass with our priest/leader, Father Al Salanitro from St. Bernadette's parish. His family also had its' roots in Carlentini and the church was no doubt where our grandparents had been baptized and received their first communion. After the Mass the parish priest allowed us to see the statue of Santa Lucia, the patron of the town, which is usually only shown once a year on her feast day in December. They brought out the children's choir who sang for us while the doors were being opened and the beautiful gold and silver statue was revealed. Several in the group, including Fr. Salanitro, had local relatives meet them for the Mass, and there were tears in many eyes, including my own. It brought back many memories of my childhood when our family would go to St. Francis Cabrini Church in early June and watch the Omaha version of the Santa Lucia statue come out of the church for its procession to the festival in Little Italy. I felt an overwhelming sense of admiration and gratitude to my "Nana" and "Nanu" for making the long trip from Sicily to Omaha when they were young, and enabling our family to have the kind of life that is possible here in the United States.

After Carlentini, we continued on to a trip to Mt. Etna, Sicily's active volcano, and then to Taormina, a beautiful seaside town on the east

coast of Sicily. Here we enjoyed excellent food, a stunning view of the coastline and the local markets and Greek ruins. On Nov. 12 we crossed the Strait of Messina and headed up the western coast of Italy toward Rome. The scenery was beautiful and we were especially amazed at how the towns had been built into the sides of mountains, providing us with many picturesque views along the way. We made stops in the resort areas of Sorrento and Amalfi, both of which had beautiful old churches, magnificent views, and great shopping, of which my wife took full advantage. We also spent a day touring Pompeii, an ancient Roman city that had been buried under tons of volcanic ash from Mt. Vesuvius.

The second high point of the trip was Rome, where we arrived on Nov. 14. We had Mass in one of the grotto chapels in St. Peter's, and I was privileged to read the scriptures that day. We toured the Vatican Museum, including the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Gardens. The day was completed with a delicious Italian dinner at a fine Roman restaurant. The following day we had the privilege of being present at an outdoor audience with Pope Benedict XVI. We arrived early and got good seats and then waited for two hours with thousands of other people from countries all over the world. At 10:30, the Pope came out in his Popemobile and rode through the crowd. Then he went to the top of the stairs at St. Peter's and addressed the crowd in seven different languages. It was a very moving and impressive event, ending with the Pope giving his Papal blessing to all of us. It made us all proud to be Catholic and showed how truly "catholic" our church is. It was a time none of us will ever forget.

We completed our tour of Rome with visits to the other three basilicas, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls, each of which was more magnificent than the last. We also saw the Coliseum, and toured a portion of the Catacombs, where over 100,000 early Christians were buried. Another delicious Italian dinner completed our memorable day.

We flew out of Leonardo Da Vinci Airport the next morning, glad to be heading home, with unforgettable memories that would last a lifetime. I felt that I had gotten in touch with my heritage and had honored my grandparents and parents by returning to the country of our origin. It was something I had always wanted to do before the end of my life, and I left feeling very good about being Sicilian and Catholic. It was a great privilege to go and I am very grateful to those who made it possible.



HERE'S JIM

2010-2011 Annual Report

Time flies. It doesn't seem like that long ago that contractors were grading a site along the West Papio Creek for a new Catholic high school. Foundations were set. Masonry and bricks were laid. Steel was erected. Concrete was placed. At the time ground was broken, Leslie and I had just one young child. Although high school was the farthest thing from our minds, I was still excited to have an engineering role in the construction of a new school to provide Catholic secondary education in west Omaha.

That was only bricks and mortar. Soon our new school was animated by young faces and by dedicated educators. Then a community developed within and around our new school. Welcoming. Vibrant. Generous. Focused on excellence. Filled with faith. In a very special way, each of you has become a truly vital part of Skutt Catholic High School.

Almost 20 years have passed since our doors opened. Both of my children have graduated from Skutt Catholic. I no longer have children at the school, but Skutt Catholic will always be a part of my family and we will always be a part of the Skutt Catholic community. My family has grown and the community has grown as well. Our graduates are living their roles as Christian leaders. Many of our graduates are raising their own families. Our Board of Directors includes two alumni. Time certainly flies.

The accompanying Annual Report is a snapshot in time. The summaries of income and expenses demonstrate that the administration and Board have been good stewards during challenging economic times. These challenges have made the school stronger and enrollment is growing despite the continued economic headwinds.

The Annual Report is also an opportunity to recognize and thank each of you for your role in our success. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to express our gratitude to each of the benefactors who supported Skutt Catholic this past year. Your sacrifices allow us to touch the lives of hundreds of young men and women.

That was the past and present. As we near the end of our first 20 years, we should begin to look toward the future. What will the next 20 years bring to us? What can we bring to those that we serve over the next 20 years? Will we stand still, or will we strive to always move forward? We have choices that we can make. We can choose to reach new levels of excellence. We can choose to lead within the larger community. Together, we can develop a vision of the future, a future with a new generation of Christian leaders filled with unlimited potential. Time not only flies, it can soar like the SkyHawk!

Respectfully,

Daniel J. Thiele, P.E.
Chairman of the Board



Dan Thiele

SKUTT CATHOLIC

2010-2011 Annual Report

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HONORARY MEMBERS

Monsignor James Gilg
Mrs. Sally Skutt Desmond
Mr. Tom Skutt

Revenue, Gains And Other Support:	Amounts	Percentage
Tuition and Fees	\$4,804,367	72%
Parish Assessments	271,289	4%
Net Tuition and Fees	5,075,656	77%

Student activities	109,025	2%
Auxiliary activities	115,549	2%
Advancement	1,061,230	16%
Interest and Investment Income	265,508	4%
Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support	\$6,626,968	100%

Expenses:	Amounts	Percentage
Program Services:		
Instructional	\$3,085,957	50%
Student Activities	576,379	9%
Auxiliary Activities	88,347	1%
Total Program Services	3,750,683	61%

Supporting Services:	Amounts	Percentage
General Administration	903,111	15%
Depreciation	318,787	5%
Plant Operations and Maintenance	677,819	11%
Advancement	402,321	7%
Recruitment	132,230	2%
Total Supporting Services	2,434,268	39%

Total Expenses	\$6,184,951	100%
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$442,017*
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	\$10,271,431
NET ASSETS, End of Year	\$10,713,448

Investment income from the Endowment funds was reinvested (\$229K.) New Targeted Campaign contributions of \$45K were permanently restricted to Endowment. Advancement revenue of \$95K was temporarily restricted to future periods and/or specific programs. The Board of Directors also set aside \$50K for roof repairs to be completed in the future.

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† = Donors who have given to the school for 3 - 5 consecutive fiscal years.
†† = Donors who have given to the school for 6 - 9 consecutive fiscal years.
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†
SKUTT CATHOLIC

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 Jason and Kristin Hennessey
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 Michael and Pat Mackin
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 Ben and Lucille Mannino
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 David and Cyndi Margritz
 Market Basket
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 Matt and Machelle Krajewski
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 Trent and Audrey Kraus
 Anonymous
 Steve and Lori Kreinbring
 Harold Kreski
 Joseph and Amy Krettek
 Don and Joyce Krone
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 Anonymous
 Karen Kruse and Mark Hathoot
 Katherine Kubovy
 Joseph and Jackie Labeledz
 †Dan and Holly Laferla
 Lauren Laferla
 Nabil and Julie Laham
 Russ and Robbie Lane
 Vern and Dolores Langel
 †Steve and Monica Lanik
 Julie Larm
 Mike and Kathy Larsen
 Dennis and GehBee Lato
 Patrick Leahy
 Legacy Nails & Spa
 Ben and Lisa Legendre
 Goitom Legese
 Michael and Sara Legleiter
 Dan and Stacy Loukota
 Thomas and Annette Luedtke
 Mike and Jane Lynam
 Dick and Vicki Lynn
 Joe and Anna Mackevicius
 Michael and Pat Mackin
 Luis and Kris Madrigal
 Malibu Gallery
 Keane and Fara Malley
 Mama's Pizza
 Mangia Italiana
 Michael and Vicki Manly
 Ben and Lucille Mannino
 Maplewood Lanes
 Marcus Theatres
 †Paul and Linda Marek
 David and Cyndi Margritz
 Market Basket
 The Maschka Family
 Don Matton
 Terry and Denise McBride
 Chris and Katie McDonald
 Michael and Danielle McGlynn
 Timothy and LeeAnn McGonigal
 †††Greg and Renee McHale
 Mike and Jill McMahon
 Jeff McPherson
 Medicine Man Pharmacy
 Meineke Car Care
 Kathleen Menzies
 Ryan Juricek
 Eric and Brittany Kauffman
 Tom and Lynne Kauffman
 Tom and Bev Kellogg
 Kelsey Sievers
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 New York Burrito
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 Nicola's
 Bill and Karen Novak
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 Philip O'Halloran
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 Chris and Erin Perry
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 Randall and Clarice Pfeifer
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
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 Scott Reeves
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 Rex and Nikki Weight
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 David and Debbie Wesely
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 Alex Winking
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 Tina Winter
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 Jeffrey Witt
 William and Marilee Wood
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 ††Dave and Randi Zabawa
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Greg Asplund
 A. Lee and T. Bloomingdale
 Margaret Evans
 Herman and Armelia Kramer
 Lois Lesenyie
 Robert Slattery
 Jim Smith
 Robert Taten

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Chris and Monica Storm
 Trudy Stratman
 Mike Strawhecker
 Matt and Jenifer Stremiau
 Joe Sturm
 Jim and Audrey Suing
 Steve Sulentic
 Denis and Joan Sullivan
 Nick and Meghan Sullivan
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 Joseph and Carol Szczepaniak
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 Andrew Thedinga
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 Shon and Terese Thielen
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 Gloria Thompson
 Del and Phyllis Toebben
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 †Louise Tritsch
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 Anna Tubbs
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 ††Vala's Pumpkin Patch
 Marty and Lori Vanderheidan
 Dave and Susan Vanlandingham
 Kelsey Ventinquinque-Egan

Gifts were made In Honor of:

Tim and Julie Bloomingdale
 Dale Courtney
 Monsignor James E. Gilg's
 70th Birthday
 Brandon Siracuse
 Chester Wisinski



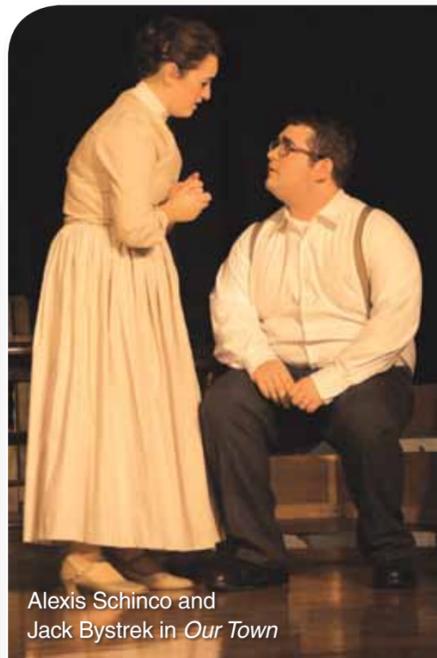
Around Skutt Catholic



The Lanik Family
at GrandHawks Day



Ken and Janet Sorensen
Angel Flight Honorary Chairs



Alexis Schinco and
Jack Bystrek in *Our Town*



Kathryn Dempsey
Angel Flight Outstanding Alumni
Award Winner



Men of Steel Robotics



Kurt and Kathy Strawhecker
Angel Flight Honorary Chairs



General Chairs Jerry and Ann Crouse,
Charlie and Lynn Wurtz
& Mike and Renee Masching

Angel Flight 2011 ~ New York Nights, An Evening for Excellence Skutt Catholic's annual auction and dinner event set an all-time fundraising record, bringing in over \$410,000. On September 24, 2011, the school was transformed into the streets of New York City complete with an outdoor replica of the Brooklyn Bridge, a 20' X 10' nighttime canvas of NYC painted by Skutt Catholic honor art students, and a brightly lit *New York Nights* marquee.

Event chairs, **Jerry and Ann Crouse, Mike and Renee Masching & Charlie and Lynn Wurtz** worked diligently throughout the year to meet their financial goals. **The late Tim Moylan, Ken and Janet Sorensen & Kurt and Kathy Strawhecker** served as honorary chairs and were recognized for their early efforts in building Skutt Catholic. **Kathryn Dempsey '03** received the Outstanding Alumni Award for her pursuit of excellence in the field of Bioinformatics.

Mr. SkyHawk Pageant A tradition started over 12 years ago continued to thrill students as Skutt Catholic junior and senior boys competed for the coveted Mr. SkyHawk 2011 title. The crown went to senior **Josh Pudlowski**. He made a video about how he helps others achieve their greatest potential. Josh performed in the pageant on Wednesday during Homecoming Week and then went on to quarterback the football team to a win over Gross Catholic at the Friday night Homecoming game.

GrandHawks Day Skutt Catholic welcomed over 450 grandparents of current students for Mass and a

reception. Guests were greeted upon their arrival at school by the rousing sounds of the SC Marching Band, treated to the melodic sounds of the Skutt Catholic Choir during Mass, and after Mass delighted by the gripping sounds of the cast of *Aida* performing the signature song from the fall musical.

Aida Skutt Catholic's fall musical wowed audiences as the cast performed Elton John and Tim Rice's riveting music and dramatically told the sorrowful love story based on Giuseppe Verdi's Italian-language opera by the same name.

Skutt Catholic Robotics Team The robotics team under the direction of faculty member **Kerry Black** and volunteer **Tom Jensen** continue to impress the judges at robotics tournaments. Black recently reported that several team members are in the running for qualification for the VEX Robotics World Tournament. At publication of this issue of *Our Legacy*, team members have put up the 11th best score in the world so far! The cutoff for world qualification is March 1, so the boys still have time to improve their score to help insure their spot in the tournament.

Our Town In early January, Skutt Catholic's talented group of thespians presented the Thornton Wilder three-act play about life passages in small town USA during the early 20th century. The play, directed by faculty member **Mark Schnitzler**, with the assistance of faculty member **Bill Howard**, reminded audiences of a simpler time with universal themes of love, family, birth, and death.

Around Skutt Catholic



Nolan Healy and Andrew
Wright in the musical *Aida*

Around Skutt Catholic

Poetry Out Loud Faculty member **Shari Hoye** sponsored the second year of competition for Poetry Out Loud. The competition took place in late January. 14 Skutt Catholic finalists recited their chosen poems and competed for the school title. Out of 357 original contestants the winning trophy went to **Grace Eliason**.

Operation Homerun SkyHawk baseball player **Matt Warren** challenged all SC baseball players (freshmen-seniors) to make tie fleece blankets for patients at Children's Hospital during the Christmas season. Matt's goal was to make 100 blankets. The project was a huge success! SC baseball players made a total of 141 blankets and senior baseball players delivered the supply to the hospital on behalf of the entire SkyHawk Baseball Program

Viva La SkyHawk During P.A.R.T. week (Project for Acceptance, Respect and Tolerance) SkyHawks for Life hosted, for the first time, an all-school talent show called Viva La SkyHawk! Eleven acts were represented with first place being awarded to the Mouth Piece and the Funk Brigades, a popular jazz band which performed *Chameleon* by Herbie Hancock. Members include **James Pieper, Zach Beran, Nick Bundy, Danielle Desa, Libby Kane, and Haley Eck**. Second place was awarded to **Aubrey Fleming** who performed a vocal solo of *There's a Fine Fine Line* from Avenue Q. The People's Choice award was given to **Kiana Meradith** and Guitarist **Joe Bloomingdale** who performed *If I Die Young* by The Band Perry. The SkyHawks for Life believe that hosting an event that features each other's gifts and talents is part and parcel of what it means to not only Accept, Respect, and Tolerate Life in all its forms, gifts, and talents but to Celebrate it!



Operation Homerun

The SkyHawks for Life is a group of students at Skutt Catholic High School who were so inspired by the March for Life and Jason Evert to dedicate themselves to spreading the messages of Life and Love to the Skutt Catholic Community primarily through being a voice for the voiceless particularly the unborn. SFL provides opportunities for our students to participate in the March for Life, the Living Rosary, prayer vigils at the Planned Parenthood, the 40 days for life campaign, lunch-time fasts for life, service to Mary Weslin House, along with spreading the Pure Love messages of "true love waits" and "modest is hottest."

Thanksgiving Day Mass Fr. Damian Zuerlein concelebrated our Thanksgiving Day Mass with SC Chaplain **Fr. Jeff Mollner**. The Mass was said in English and in Spanish. Members of the student body wore Guatemalan dress to promote Skutt Catholic's mission trip next summer (2012) to Guatemala.

SkyHawks Gone M.A.D. A new award for SkyHawks who Make a Difference was initiated in October. Students who exemplify by their words and deeds what it means to be a true SkyHawk are nominated for the award by faculty, other students, and the community. To date the following student's have been honored with the SkyHawk's Gone M.A.D. award:

- **Ceara Kirkpatrick** – For her Christian leadership in both word and action and for being an excellent student.
- **Phillip Rasmussen** – For his leadership in the classroom, on the football field, and in his robotics club.
- **Kate O'Brien** – For her fantastic leadership of her peers in the classroom and on the stage crew.

SC Grandparent Highlight by Sally Brittan

George and Marcy Lackovic



Grandparent's Day they seemed to have a hundred grandchildren as many of the students would stop to say hello to "Nana and Papa Lackovic."

George and Marcy were known to make the occasional baseball road trip where Marcy's famous cheese ball and crackers were a hit with players and parents alike. They would get to the games early and set up their chairs in a prime location. Prior to the addition of the baseball press box, they brought a boom box with them to provide music for the baseball games. Their musical selections ranged from country to rap. Coach Keith Engelkamp recalls how they played polka music between innings. Now we know the secret to the program's success.

Tim and Sherry Lackovic had two children attend Skutt Catholic. **Katie** is a '99 graduate. She participated in both soccer and softball, returning after graduation to help coach the girls softball team. **Tim** '07 participated in football, basketball and baseball. He played junior college baseball at Neosho. Tim has been a varsity boys baseball coach for Skutt Catholic for the past three years, as well as helping out with the football program.

Robert and Lisa Lackovic also had two children attend Skutt Catholic. Their daughter **Amy** graduated in '04. She played volleyball and was a member of the student council. **Bobby** is a '06 graduate and he participated in football, basketball and baseball. He went on to play baseball at Creighton University.

Mike and Peg Odorisio had four children attend Skutt Catholic and participate in SkyHawk sports and activities. The eldest, **Michaela**, graduated in '99 and participated in volleyball, swimming, soccer,

continued next column

Skutt Catholic High School is fortunate to enjoy the support of a robust fan club. Fans bring a level of enthusiasm and excitement to our school activities that contribute to our success. We not only have parents and students that support our teams but also a following of faithful grandparents. When you pair the role of fan with the role of grandparent you get a result that multiplies exponentially and is truly extraordinary.

George and Marcy Lackovic are grandparents who experienced firsthand eight of their grandchildren's time at Skutt Catholic High School. Whatever sport or activity their grandchildren participated in they were there as positive supporters. They could often be heard at games chanting good job to both their grandchildren and their teammates. During

student council and show choir. **Vince** '01 participated in basketball and soccer. He went on to play soccer at Creighton University. **Marcus** '04 participated in golf, wrestling and soccer. He has been a member of the wrestling coaching staff since his graduation. **Elizabeth** '06 participated in basketball and soccer. She went on to play keeper at South Dakota and UNO. She has coached at Skutt Catholic in both the girls basketball and soccer programs.

Put all these sports and activities together and you can see that George and Marcy were very busy. Whether it was on the baseball diamond, at the pool, in the gym, or on the pitch, they brought their love for their grandchildren along with their enthusiasm and support. They continue to attend SkyHawk games that their grandchildren are coaching. There is talk from the grandchildren that they liked the sport of baseball best of all, but as diplomatic grandparents they are quick to say that they enjoyed them the same way they love their grandchildren...equally.

