

EXCELSIOR

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"The Gift of the Magi"



What an enchanting evening of music, dance, song, and prayer at Summit's Christmas program!

Under the direction of Gina Lustig, the students performed an adaptation of O. Henry's *Gift of the Magi*, with a country Christmas theme. The intricate plot, buttressed by musical scores and carols, scriptural passages and artistic scenery made this nativity play a memorable engagement for the entire family.

The play focuses on the gift of God's love. Following the 7th-12th grades dance prelude of Simone's "Cotton Eyed Joe," narrators Nathan Beckman and Josh Lustig introduce characters, Jim (Josh Frei) and Della (Megan Seubert).

As newly weds, they reflect on their vows: "Everything I do, I now do for you!"

But hard-times test their marriage. After the 9th-12th grades boys performed Loesser's



"Jingle Jangle Jingle," they woefully remind Jim of current farming troubles. Worried and dejected, Jim returns home where Della tries to lift his spirits. With the 3rd-4th grade girls' choreographic performance of Strait's "Christmas Cookies," Jim and Della leave for a Christmas party.

That night, card-playing, poetry-loving 7th-8th grade boys discuss elements of courtship while the festive 9th-12th grade girls long for marriage with Crosby's "I'll Be Home for Christmas."



Just then, Jim and Della decide to buy one another a secret Christmas gift. Rushing to the hair salon, Della is convinced to sell her beautiful hair. After 7th-8th girls sing a parody of "Up on the Housetop," Della buys Jim a silver chain for his watch. Almost simultaneously, Jim sells his watch in order to buy silver barrettes for Della's hair.

In comic irony, Jim and Della realize the other's love behind the gift exchange

and renew their wedding vows.

But before the night falls, invited by a friend, Jim and Della rush to the Midnight Mass.

At once, six full-size, hand-painted scenes illumine the stage. During Mass, the elementary grades celebrated the coming of Jesus with "It Came upon a Midnight Clear," "Angels We Have Heard on High," and "Away in a Manger." The angelic host, performed by 5th-6th grade girls, danced movements reminiscent of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. The 2nd-3rd grades noted the role of the animals with "The Friendly Beasts." The scene ends with the Magi going to baby Jesus, singing "We Three Kings" and "Silent Night".

In the end, Jim and Della discover Christmas anew: "For you, Jesus, are the center of my life."

"The Gift of the Magi" was especially dedicated to married couples: "May the Christ child come into your marriage...to give you peace and love that is overflowing for each other."



Summit Academy's Chapel: Blessed and Active

On December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Father Paul Wander blessed Summit

Academy's new chapel. A month later, Father Vogel celebrated the first Mass.



Father Paul Wander speaks to Summit about the meaning of the Chapel Blessing.

After a year of planning, designing and constructing, the chapel is now being used as an essential component in educating our students.

Currently, the student-body gathers for morning and evening prayers. Faculty and staff gather at 7:45 a.m. for Christian Prayer. Communion services are being offered when available.

We send a sincere thank you to Fr. Paul and Fr. Vogel and to all who attended the Chapel Blessing and Summit's first on-campus Mass.

"Deo Gratias!" to Barbara Flerchinger and the many others who gave of themselves in completing this holy undertaking.

Junior High Basketball Season: Making Progress

The Junior High Boys Basketball Team ended their fall season living on the edge. With only three losses, Coach Karla Krogh says each game was a cliff-hanger.

"The boys had to learn how to deal with a lot of limitations. We had players in 6th-8th grades at work."

With great stamina, the boys rallied their spirits with a "no-quitting" attitude.

Improvements for next year?

"Defense—the boys learned that defense is a lot of work. It doesn't come easy."

Reflecting on the season, Coach Krogh is especially grateful for the time spent. "You know, they don't think basketball is the most important thing. They really cherish those prayer times before game—to give the game to Jesus."

Appreciations to Karla Krogh, Head Coach; Susan Wassmuth, Assistant Coach; referees Josh Lustig, Tyler Krogh, Brooke Haeling, Jacob Stubbers, and Miss Kimberly Frei.

The team's celebratory season ended in *real* class: a pizza party in Coach Krogh's 5-6 Homeroom.

"No man can attain to the knowledge of God but by humility. The way to mount high is to descend."
Blessed Giles of Assisi

Summit Academy's Annual Retreat: a New Beginning



Fr. Caleb Vogel celebrates daily Mass.

For three days, Jan 8-10, seventy Summit alumni, friends, and family members explored the Gospel of St. John and the meaning of Christian vocation with Father Vogel. Ample time for Bible study, prayer, Eucharistic adoration and daily Mass allowed all the opportunity to experience God personally in their lives.

Thank you to Father Vogel and everyone else who contributed to the retreat's success.



Eucharistic adoration in the chapel during the retreat.

Kathy Rehder: a Dedicated, Loving Teacher

Mrs. Kathy Rehder grew up in Lewiston and was very involved with her high school friends in her parish. She graduated from Lewis-

Clark State College with a degree in Elementary Education and then accepted a pilot-kindergarten post at Saint Stanislaus Catholic School in Lewiston, teaching for three years.

In 1986, she married and became a homemaker and a substitute teacher for Cottonwood Public Schools and for Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School in Grangeville.

Believing in Catholic education and seeing her friends' involvement at

Summit Academy, Mrs. Rehder joined the school in 2003. Her best memory is "the joy of seeing the students grow....The formation we teach has become real through our students that have graduated."

An added bonus for her has been to see her own children graduate from Summit and to have her youngest presently enrolled.

She describes the students as "faithful, dedicated, hard working, and high achieving."

Interested in learning about all our teachers?

Visit

www.summitacademyid.com



Mrs. Rehder with three of her students and their astronomical posters.

Kids' Corner—Iditarod!

For the third year, Grades 1-2 will participate in the Iditarod sled dog race. The + 1,000 mile Alaskan race, composed of over 60 dog-sled teams, begins in Anchorage on March 7 and ends several days later in Nome after the last musher crosses the finish line.

From their classrooms, the students will select mushers to follow and track. With the incentive of winning a stuffed 12-inch husky dog and \$5, students will attempt to choose the strongest sled dog team. A consolation prize of a red lantern also will be given to the student who chooses the musher that ends the Iditarod.

Along with the race and as part of a recycling project, the students will collect 500 milk jugs for building a milk-jug igloo, which will stay in their classroom during the race's entirety.

"Participating in the Iditarod is an incredibly fun way to integrate all of our curriculum," says 1-2 grade teacher, Mrs. Sonnen.

We Have Plans: Phase II

Summit Academy Board seeks for God's guidance and wisdom in the next major step for Summit Academy's future.

"We are in need of more classrooms, a science lab, and an area for auto mechanics" says Principal Jim Hickel.

A new building wing is to be added. This would supply room for four high school classrooms along with a technology, wood-

working and mechanics shop. The present high school classrooms would then be converted into a science lab and a permanent stage to face the multi-purpose room for drama productions.

The estimated cost for this new addition is \$250,000. Please pray for our school board: that God's would give His direction, courage and peace as they embark upon this next venture.



Pictured above, 1-2 grade students from 2013-2014 huddle together in their recyclable milk-jug igloo.



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Upcoming Events

- Jan. 27: First JH Girls' VB game at Nez Perce
- Feb. 5: HS Boys BB Senior Night
- Feb. 12: Final Regular Season HS Boys BB at Clearwater Valley
- Feb. 13-15: Hallisey Tournament
- Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 19: School-wide Spelling Bee

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Where Are They Going? Class of 2015....

As our seniors enter their final months at Summit Academy, what are their future plans?

Nathan Beckman is hoping to go to college and then to law school. He then hope to go into politics or practice law. He plans on going to Texas A & M or U of I.

Joshua Frei plans to be a builder of a better

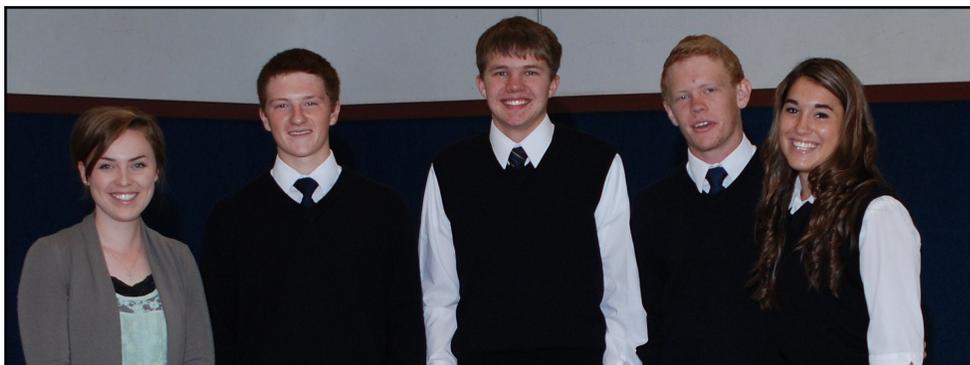
world through civil engineering, studying at the University of Idaho.

Joshua Lustig anticipates becoming an expert in business management at Texas A & M University. He believes God has blessed him with leadership qualities that need to be sharpened.

Megan Seubert, who immensely enjoys

working with people, plans to major in biology, with dreams of bringing more smiles into the world through the field of dentistry.

Please pray that our seniors will be aided by God's grace to stay focused on the Faith, to excel in their studies and to follow the plan God has for each of them.



Class of 2015: from left are Teacher and Alumna Miss Kimberly Frei, Joshua Lustig, Joshua Frei, Nathan Beckman and Megan Seubert