



St. Joseph's School Today

Nurturing Excellence for 116 Years • Summer 2016

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Students Trek to McCall for Ultimate Field Trip

St. Joe's 6th grade class recently experienced a one-of-a-kind learning experience at the University of Idaho's McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS) – Idaho's only publicly operated K-12 outdoor school.

The kids studied and explored Ponderosa State Park and Payette Lake, blogging about their adventures each day. Their field instructors were University of Idaho graduate students who taught them about the geology of McCall along with an understanding of how all ecosystems are important. They learned a 'tree-mendous' amount about the various trees in the park along with the different ecosystems found there. Night-time activities included an egg drop (simulating the 'beaver-drop'

done by the forest service in the 1940s) and a talk from a smoke jumper. Festivities culminated in a bonfire on the last night!

On Friday, teams presented results of their week-long science experiments through videos starring the kids themselves. Topics included: growing avocados in the park; using aspen dust as sunscreen; core temperature of trees versus air; comparing water quality for humans to drink; a perfect ecosystem for a frog home; and fire resistance of differing ages of Ponderosa Pines.

Mrs. McClure and her students are still smiling from their adventures. They had a blast!



MOSS
Adventure Learning

Above: The 6th graders say farewell to MOSS!
Right: Students collected water samples and checked pH levels in Payette Lake at McCall Outdoor Science School (MOSS).



St. Joe's Receives WCEA Accreditation

excellence.

Every six years, St. Joe's undergoes a process of self-study,

and then a WCEA team visits the school to review the self-study and school environment. St. Joe's staff has spent the last year reflecting and preparing for this visit. On February 3-5, 2016, a team of educators visited St. Joseph's School. The Visiting Committee was composed of educators who are trained evaluators from other

schools with educational expertise, including: Sister Catherine Kamphaus (Salt Lake City), Cynthia Burchett (Salt Lake City), Mike Caldwell (Bishop Kelly), Angela Hild (St. Edward's—Twin Falls), Tina Jackson (All Saints—Lewiston), Annette Wall (St. Paul's—Nampa), and Cheri Workman (Sacred Heart—Boise).

The Accreditation Team observed and assessed St. Joe's: Catholic Identity, Organization for Learning how the school is governed and administrated),

Curriculum and Instruction, Support Services (academic counseling, assisting students with special needs, spiritual counseling) and Resources (financial and human resources). St. Joe's greatly appreciates the prayers and support of the St. John's community, Fr. Jerry Funke, the St. Joe's School Board, our parents and our students. The Accreditation Visit was a great success: our WCEA Accreditation has been renewed for another six years!

St. Joseph's School is accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA). The mission of WCEA is to promote quality Catholic education for students in its member elementary and secondary schools through an accrediting process that assures the primacy of faith formation and educational

Achievements and Service



7th and 8th graders took 1st place in the 2016 Idaho Science Olympiad, qualifying for the National Competition at the University of Wisconsin-Stout at Menomonie.



Kindergarteners John Stover and Jack Boyce filled food bags for people in need.



Ben (1st), Nicholas and Nathan (5th) Malaniak prepared dinner and dessert for residents of the Ronald McDonald House in Boise.



Students held a "Jeans Day" fundraiser to support Mr. Abdi Haji, one of our school's beloved custodians. His family and many others lost their businesses in a fire at the Boise International Market in Boise in September 2015. Students contributed \$1 to wear jeans, with donations going toward a fund to help Mr. Haji and his family rebuild their family business. The response was amazing!



Forty-four second graders received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in May.



The 8th grade boys and girls teams both won 1st place at the 53rd Annual Hallissey Basketball Tournament.



Students "Built a Bridge to St. John's" to support our parish. They collected donations, and presented nearly \$6,000 to St. John's during a school-hosted Mass.

Our teachers spent an in-service morning sorting 4,500 pounds of food at the Idaho Food Bank!



Mrs. Violette's 4th grade collected 660 pairs of shoes to donate to Soles4Souls!

