



**For More Information Contact:**  
**Jenny Van Soelen, Marketing Director**  
Phone: (712) 329-9000  
Fax: (712) 328-0228  
[vansoelenj@saintalbertschools.org](mailto:vansoelenj@saintalbertschools.org)

*For Immediate Release*

*Monday, January 25, 2010*

**Saint Albert Celebrates Catholic Schools Week;  
Inducts New Member into Hall of Recognition**

As the only Catholic school system in southwest Iowa, Saint Albert Catholic Schools is proud to celebrate Catholic Schools Week Jan. 31-Feb. 5. The theme of this year's celebration is "*Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life.*"

Throughout the week, students in PreK through 12<sup>th</sup> grades will be collecting canned goods. The items will be donated to food pantries representing the communities where Saint Albert students live – the Micah House, Phoenix House and Broadway Methodist Church in Council Bluffs; Glenwood Food Bank; Neola Food Bank; and Missouri Valley Food Bank.

Other activities are as follows:

**Sunday, January 31**

Students will **participate in the Masses at their home parishes**. Alumni, students and parents also will speak about the value of Catholic education.

**Community Open House** from 1-3:00 p.m. at Saint Albert, 400 Gleason Avenue. Prospective students will visit the school to learn first-hand about the school's academic and extracurricular activities. Guests also will have the opportunity to tour the school's facilities, including its new Elementary School addition and the Sheryl K. Johnson Child Care Center.

**Monday, February 1**

Parent/Grandparent Luncheon from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for students in PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grades.

Mitten Day for Kindergarten – Each student invites a guest to join them for language arts, math, art and science activities based on the book, "The Mitten."

The Junior High Leadership Group and Student Council will write thank you notes to the Area School Board, Educational Foundation Board and local priest thanking them for supporting the school.

Elementary Student Council will write thank you letters to the SA Ambassadors volunteer group.

## **Tuesday, February 2**

Parent/Grandparent Luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. for students in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades.

Academic Quiz Bowl for Jr/Sr High (2-3 p.m.) – students will test their knowledge in a “Jeopardy” game show-style competition between the grades.

## **Wednesday, February 3**

Day of Prayer for all students

Parent/Grandparent Luncheon from 11:20 a.m.-12:35 p.m. for Jr/Sr High students

## **Thursday, February 4**

All-school Mass at 9:30 a.m. in the Main gym at 400 Gleason Avenue; Bishop Pates, Diocese of Des Moines will bless bracelets (Character, Compassion, Values) for all students.

**Hall of Recognition Induction Ceremony** for Jacqueline E. Johnson at the end of Mass (see biography below)

Unveiling of the state football championship banner after Mass (about 11 a.m.)

Seniors will assist Elementary teachers with classroom activities in PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grades (11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.)

## **Friday, February 5**

Saint Albert Spirit Day – students in PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grades will show their school spirit by wearing green and gold clothing instead of their school uniforms

Dodge Ball Tournament for Jr/Sr High students in the main gym (2-2:45 p.m.)

Invention Convention for Elementary students (2-2:45 p.m.)

Ice Cream Social for PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grades (2:45 p.m.)

Saint Albert is known for providing quality education in a faith based environment. The graduation rate for 2008-2009 was 100% and an average of 97% of the 2009 graduates attended post-secondary education. ITBS, ITED and ACT test scores are consistently higher in all areas than the state and nation.

“Saint Albert Catholic Schools is a unique part of the educational landscape in southwest Iowa, and we’re proud of the faith-based education we provide,” Saint Albert President Jim Rouse said. “We invite everyone in the community to get acquainted with Saint Albert during Catholic Schools Week.”

"I wish everyone could participate in a Catholic education. It has been a life-changing and life-shaping opportunity for me," Saint Albert Senior Sarah Pogge said.

Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) for the nation's 7,800 Catholic Schools.

### **About the Hall of Recognition**

The Hall of Recognition is an honor awarded by the Saint Albert Educational Foundation. The purpose of the Hall of Recognition is to recognize those individuals whose contributions have allowed Saint Albert to provide quality, faith-based education for students in southwest Iowa. Inductees are chosen for their service to the church and community, personal accomplishments and dedication to youth.

### **2010 Hall of Recognition Inductee: Jacqueline E. Johnson**

Council Bluffs resident Jacqueline E. Johnson became the largest private donor in Saint Albert's history when she donated \$2 million in 2008 to build the Sheryl K. Johnson Child Care Center in her daughter's honor.

In 2009, she made a second contribution to fully furnish the Child Care Center with the highest quality items, ranging from furniture, appliances and window coverings to toys and playground equipment. In addition, the donation allowed the school to install all of the elementary classrooms with wireless laptop labs, "Smart Boards" interactive learning systems, LCD televisions, ELMO digital visual presenter systems and laptop computers for each teacher.

As a former teacher, Mrs. Johnson was inspired to make the donation in order to "make learning fun and exciting." She intends for her gift to give families greater access to quality child care and educational programs for generations to come.