

Madison Eagle

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2011

\$1.00

Relive college 'Glory Days' on March 19 • 6



Eagle Scouts set record • 10

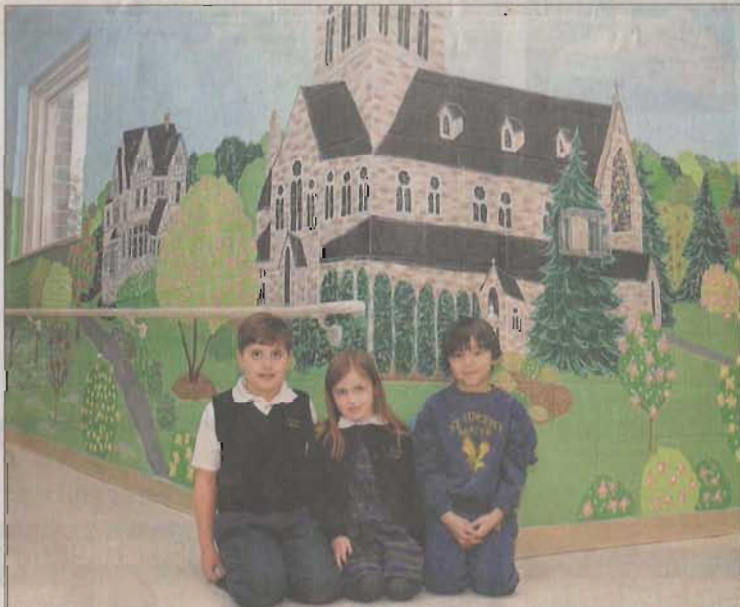
Dinner reception Feb. 16 will boost 'Relay For Life' • 3

GOD BLESS MADISON



Photos by Judi Whiting

In the span of seven days, in celebration of "Catholic Schools Week" from Jan. 27 through Feb. 2, all 430 students at Madison's St. Vincent Martyr School at 26 Green Village Road painted a nine-foot-high mural in their school hallway, depicting their church and rectory, the Blessed Mother, and scenes of historic downtown Madison. Above, the Rev. Monsignor George F. Hundt blesses the mural in a special ceremony Friday afternoon, Feb. 4; to his right, carrying the Holy Water for her pastor, is sixth grade student Katie Bishop.



Above left: St. Vincent Martyr School's entire student body was guided through the process of first outlining and then painting the mural by artist and illustrator Caren Frost Olmsted, owner of CFO Design in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township, who served as the adviser for the project under the auspices of the Arts Council of the Morris Area. The mural was executed in acrylics and finished with a protective coating. **Above right:** Kneeling in front of a portion of the mural that depicts their church, from left, are St. Vincent Martyr School second grade students Nicholas Lombardi and Ellie Macken and third grade student James Simon.

Schools chief pick imminent

Selection of superintendent could come at Feb. 15 meeting

By SALLY CAPONE
STAFF WRITER

MADISON — With the Board of Education down to two candidates for the position of superintendent of schools, a selection is expected at the school board's next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15, said board President Lisa Ellis.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Madison High School at 170 Ridgedale Ave.

Weather Delays Process

The board had scheduled two special meetings to discuss the finalists, on Feb. 1 and Feb. 3, but the first meeting was canceled due to dangerous winter weather.

"After tonight's interview, there will be one more; we're very close," Ellis said Thursday, Feb. 3.

"The process has taken three weeks longer than I wanted it to," said Ellis, adding that the recent spate of weekly snowstorms have drawn out the process.

The New Jersey School Boards Association has assisted the Board of Education with its search.

James Dwyer, a retired former superintendent of the



LISA ELLIS

Sonerville school district, has been serving as Madison's interim superintendent since Richard Noonan resigned from the grades K-12 district in August 2010 to take a similar position at the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District in southeast Delaware County in Pennsylvania.

Noonan had been Madison superintendent for six years.

New Salary 'Cap'

In its search to hire a new superintendent, the Board of Education has been restricted to offering a salary no higher than \$175,000 as mandated by a sliding scale salary "cap" introduced by Gov. Chris Christie.

Noonan was earning \$226,666 when he resigned last year. Christie's salary plan was to take effect Monday, Feb. 7.

Most school districts would be able to pay their top officials no more than \$175,000 per year — the same salary the governor makes.

MADISON BOARD OF EDUCATION

One incumbent, one newcomer say they'll run

By SALLY CAPONE
STAFF WRITER

MADISON — In addition to voting on a proposed school budget for 2011-12, residents will have the opportunity to elect three school board members on Wednesday, April 27.

With less than a month to go before candidates have to file a petition, one incumbent and one newcomer have thrown their hats into the ring.

Three terms, each for three years, are up for election this year. They currently are held by

David Arthur of Ferndale Road, Linda Gilbert of Brannick Drive and Shade Grabling of East Lane.

Of the three incumbents, as of this week only Grabling has confirmed her candidacy for reelection, for a second term.

Incumbent's Issues

"I want to focus on working on the transition of our new superintendent into the role to ensure the positive momentum we've had in Madison schools."