

Transcript of
"The Bear Facts"
as broadcast on KLGA Radio
Saturday, January 28, 1994

SARAH: Good morning! I'm Sarah Reel!

NIKKI: And I'm Nikki Fickbohm! Welcome to a special edition of "The Bear Facts", where we'll keep you informed of all the special events for Catholic Schools Week at Seton Grade School and Bishop Garrigan High School.

SARAH: 1995 marks the twenty-second annual Catholic Schools Week, when schools all over America celebrate the alternative that Catholic education has to offer. This year's Catholic Schools Week theme is "Schools You Can Believe In", and this week more than eight hundred Seton and Garrigan students will be celebrating the schools that they believe in.

NIKKI: It all starts this weekend, with special masses in every parish celebrating more than a century of commitment to Catholic schools in our area. Tomorrow morning the Bishop Garrigan music parents will be sponsoring a special breakfast in the St. Cecelia's Rochleau Center to kick things off right for the week.

SARAH: Monday is Student Appreciation Day. Every student at both Garrigan and Seton will receive a special gift from the school administration. At Seton, they will unveil a special map and read letters from students at other Catholic schools all across America. Garrigan will have a big day, too. Algona Mayor Linda Becker will visit the high school at 11:30 to offer her special proclamation for the week. A reception is planned to welcome the mayor, with music provided by Garrigan choir students. Then at lunch Garrigan Parents in Action will provide a special dessert for every student.

NIKKI: Tuesday is Family Appreciation Day. Seton students will take special certificates of appreciation home to their parents. At Garrigan Tuesday will be our annual Grandparents' Celebration. More than a hundred grandparents are expected to join their grandchildren for lunch and get the red-carpet tour of the school. The highlight of the day is a special presentation by the large-group speech team, which will take place at 10:45am in the Garrigan gym.

SARAH: Wednesday is National Catholic Schools Appreciation Day, the one day of the year when Catholic schools from Maine to Hawaii join together in celebration. The United States Council of Catholic Bishops has asked that every Catholic school in America join together in mass on Wednesday. Here in Algona, all 821 Garrigan and Seton students will join together for a special liturgy at St. Cecelia's Church. Mass will begin at 1:15, and afterwards students from all grade levels will mix together in the Seton middle school home bases.

NIKKI: On Thursday of Catholic Schools Week we'll celebrate Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day. A recent survey of local Catholic school parents listed the caring and dedicated teachers as one of the main reasons parents choose to send their children to Garrigan and Seton. Thursday morning Garrigan Parents in Action and the Seton Home/School Association will provide a special breakfast for the faculty and staff in the Garrigan Cafeteria. There will be a jeans day at both schools on Thursday, and that afternoon the grade school students will celebrate a birthday party for the school.

SARAH: No school would exist if it weren't for students, so Catholic Schools Week ends with Student Appreciation Day on Friday. The main event of the day is a coffee and open house at Seton Grade School for the Algona Area Chamber of Commerce. That night will be "Pack the Gym Night" as the Bears face Clarion/Goldfield on the basketball court. The junior class is sponsoring a maid-rite supper during the games.

NIKKI: Catholic education has a long tradition in the Algona area. Religious instruction was provided in homes when the first Catholic settlers came to the area, and in 1876 the first Catholic school was built at St. Joe. Wesley was the next town to build a Catholic school, and Bancroft, Whittemore, St. Benedict, and Algona all followed soon afterwards. Overcrowding in the parish schools led to the creation of Garrigan High School in 1959, and with the construction of the new Seton Middle School in 1991, Catholic students from pre-kindergarten to twelfth grade all attend school in Algona. Over the years around ten thousand students have attended the area Catholic Schools, and we're hoping to keep that tradition alive well into the future.

SARAH: As Catholic Schools Week begins, the Garrigan and Seton staffs are reflecting on the results of a self-study and evaluation process that the school has been conducting this year. Last Thursday six committees reported the results of their year-long investigation, and the reports included both good news and ways the schools can improve in the years to come. The self-study will be followed up by a visit by evaluators from the Sioux City Diocese, which will happen next fall.

SARAH: Catholic Schools Week provides a reason to celebrate for the Bishop Garrigan speech team. They came back from district contest last weekend with six Division I ratings, making it one of the team's best contests in years. Directors Sue Ney and Mary McCall will be escorting the team to state contest in Spencer next Saturday, and we wish them all the best.

NIKKI: This morning twenty-one Golden Bears made the trip across town to compete in the annual Algona P.T.O. Quiz Bowl. Five Garrigan teams are entered in the contest, which runs from 9am to 1:30pm today. We wish good luck to everyone, and we'll fill you in on the results on next week's show.

SARAH: Our Senior Spotlight for Catholic Schools Week shines on Sally Besch and Erica Menke. Here with the latest scoop is Danielle Elbert.

DANIELLE: Sally Besch is a Whittemore native who never seems to have a free moment. You may have seen her artwork on play programs or posters for the school. Sally is also involved in both large-group and individual speech, flag corps, choir, drama, band, and jazz choir. Sally works at the Algona Theatre and Video Warehouse, and she says her favorite activities are playing piano and going to Golden Bear sports events. We congratulate her on all her successes, and especially on being the 1994 Kossuth County Pork Princess.

Erica Menke comes to Garrigan from Bancroft. Her favorite classes include Survey of English Literature and Computer Literay. Erica's favorite activity is drill team, where she's won numerous honors. She's also the area Youth Council president, she's won choir achievement awards, and she's in the flag corps for marching band. Erica works at Godfather's Pizza, and we wish her the very best in the future!

NIKKI: Thanks, Danielle! On the Catholic Schools Week calendar there's quiz bowl today at Algona High. Tomorrow morning there's the music breakfast at the Rochleau Center, and in the afternoon intramural basketball resumes.

SARAH: Monday Mayor Becker will visit Garrigaan at 11:30am. Monday night the J.V. basketball teams host Mason City Newman, while the freshmen travel to West Bend/Mallard.

NIKKI: Tuesday is Grandparents Day. The speech department will present a special program at 10:45am. Wednesday we'll have mass at St. Cecelia's at 1:15, and the freshmen host Newman at 4:30.

SARAH: Wednesday night the speech department will present its annual Evening of Theatre s they prepare for the state large-group contest. Then on Thursday it will be Jeans Day at both Garrigan and Seton.

NIKKI: Friday night the Bears host Clarion for a four-game blow-out. The junior class will be serving maid-rites in the cafeteria during the games. Then on Saturday there's honor band at Iowa State and the state large-group speech contest at Spencer.

DANIELLE: That's the "Bear Facts" for another week. Thanks for tuning in, and Happy Catholic Schools Week from everybody in the Bishop Garrigan School System!