

## FIFTH GRADE



**KATHIE MOZZONE**

Kathie Mozzone graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration/Marketing with a Multiple Subjects California Teaching Credential, and a Catholic School Master's Degree from Santa Clara University. She currently serves as the math coordinator for Saint Mary School. In September 1995, she enrolled her two

children; and later in the school year, she accepted a position as the second grade aide. Two years later, she moved to teaching Fifth Grade. Her teaching philosophy is based upon student empowerment. In her classroom students are encouraged to analyze and internalize information, giving them the power to think both independently and critically. These skills are essential for their learning foundations. Morality is also a vital component of her teaching philosophy.

## MUSIC, ART, AND P.E.



**MELISSA BROOME**  
Music Program Director

While employed by the diocese as Director of Liturgy for the Cathedral in San Jose, Miss Broome continues to teach music and prepare liturgies for our students. While at Loyola Marymount University (L.A.), she studied Vocal Performance and Theological Studies. Her postgraduate work continued at University of

Notre Dame, Indiana, where she received her Masters in Liturgical Studies. In the classroom, students not only learn music to sing at Mass but also music theory, music history and music appreciation. Junior High students will continue the foundation on note reading covered last year with the use of instruments such as the Recorder. She is overjoyed to have such wonderful instrumentalists to work with for liturgies since the band program began. With all she has to do, Miss Broome still manages to squeeze some cooking, singing, wine tasting and traveling abroad into her busy schedule.

Although she did not major in Art, Mrs. Cathers took many college art classes while attending West Valley College. She began teaching art at St. Mary School in 1997, when her daughter entered kindergarten. In Junior High, her goal is appreciation: of famous art, of different styles, of their own work, of others' work.



**SHERYL CATHERS**

She focuses on technique, art styles, and exploring different mediums as she watches each student realize their own abilities. Mrs. Cathers and Mrs. Mantecon take the 7th grade class to the de Young and the Legion of Honor in the fall to allow the students to see art in the larger world and expose them to many famous artists and masterpieces.

Mrs. Cathers enjoys spending time with her family: husband Jeff, and son Josh and daughter Marina, both graduates of St. Mary School. She also enjoys traveling and takes every opportunity to visit art museums and view famous paintings throughout the world.



**JON SANCHEZ**  
P.E. Teacher/Athletic Director

Mr. Sanchez says that he is the lucky one—he has all of the students every year, not just one class each year! A graduate of St. Mary School, he credits his parents, the school and parish for giving him the basic fundamental Christian values that guide his life. As a teacher here, he feels fortunate to now be able to “give back” all that he has received. A graduate of San Jose State University, with a minor in Religious Studies, Mr. Sanchez strives to build student character through effort, teamwork, and responsibility. He and his wife Michelle have two daughters and one son, all graduates of St. Mary School. When he's not prepping the field for after-school sports, ordering uniforms or attending league meetings, Mr. Sanchez finds a way to play a game of golf—two—or three! He reminds all of his students, past and present to “be proud of who you are becoming and never let the crowd make your decisions for you.”



## Meet Our Elementary School Teachers Kindergarten to Fifth Grade

### KINDERGARTEN

Sr. Bobbi, a Presentation Sister, has been at St. Mary's for 23



**SR. BOBBI GREEN**

years as a kindergarten teacher. However, she spent eight years here as a student from grades 1-8. After graduating from St. Mary's, she went on to Gilroy High School, then received her B.A. and teaching credential from Chico State University. She also has a reading specialist certificate from Holy Names College in Oakland. Sr. Bobbi has taught in elementary schools in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, and Montebello. She has nine years of administrative experience as principal at St. Benedict School in Montebello and St. Christopher School in San Jose.

She loves teaching little ones whom she calls “her little mystics.” Teaching kindergarten allows her to help them not only begin their formal academic education experience, but also to introduce them to the person of Jesus. According to her, it is imperative that little ones have a positive, real relationship with Jesus. Chubby Bunny, a puppet, provides a typical 5-year-old approach to life and learning. Sr. Bobbi's guitar Jaime brings out their free creative response in song.

In her free time, she is a voracious reader of all genres of literature. She is a diehard San Francisco 49er and San Francisco Giant fan. She loves the creativity involved in latch-hooking rugs.

It has definitely been a gift for her to begin her formal education here at St. Mary's in Gilroy and to come full circle and share that gift with her students and their families.



**PATTI LITTLEJOHN**

Patti Littlejohn has been teaching since 1967, 39 years for Gilroy Unified School District and since 2006 at St. Mary School. She taught 3rd grade for 4 years and the remainder in Kindergarten. She has a BA in Sociology with a minor in Psychology. In addition, she has a lifetime elementary teaching credential and a cross-cultural, language and academic development certificate from the state of California. During her years with GUSD, she was a mentor teacher, co-authored a language experience curriculum for kinder and 1st grade, supervised student teachers, and presented many language arts workshops for K and 1st grade teachers. Her greatest honor came when she was named Teacher of the Year for GUSD.

The young child is Mrs. Littlejohn's inspiration for teaching. She respects them, believes in them, and she feels a tremendous responsibility to make their learning experiences meaningful, positive, and exciting. Her greatest satisfaction has been the "aha" moments—when she's taught something that has become theirs for life. When not in school, she enjoys and treasures time with her beloved family. Gardening and digging in the dirt (she's a child at heart) are her other joyful pastimes.

#### FIRST GRADE



**CINDY WHEELER**

A graduate of Chapman University with a BA in Liberal Arts, Cindy Wheeler has been teaching at St. Mary School since 1999. She began as an aide in First Grade then moved to Third Grade to teach Language Arts. She takes great joy creating a vibrant learning environment for her First Grade students. She loves children and the way they view the

world. She says they are trusting, honest, forgiving and delight in simple things like watching a butterfly or running through the sprinklers. She thinks of children as new souls just trying to find their way.

Mrs. Wheeler enjoys spending time with her three children—all St. Mary School grads—, her pets, working in the garden, and reading.

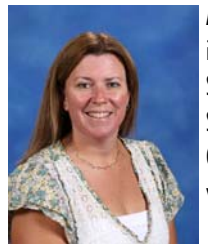
#### SECOND GRADE



**JOAN MILLER**

As Second Grade teacher at SMS since 2001, Joan Miller is a Liberal Studies graduate of San Jose State University; she received her credential from National University. Mrs. Miller's inspiration is her mother who worked many years as a teacher's aide in both Kindergarten and First Grade. She finds great joy in the love that children in Second Grade have for learning—"they are not afraid of anything and love to challenge themselves." In her spare time, you'll find Mrs. Miller running—she has run in nine marathons, including the New York Marathon and Boston Marathon, of which she is a three time veteran. You'll also find her spending time with her family—her two sons are SMS alums—and friends, swimming or reading.

#### THIRD GRADE



**MARCEE ERVIN**

A graduate of Cal Poly (SLO), Mrs. Ervin grew up in Morgan Hill and attended public schools there. She has been teaching third grade at St. Mary School since 1993. She received her Certificate in Catholic School Leadership from Santa Clara University. Mrs. Ervin also teaches Pre-Algebra to seventh and eighth grade students. More than anything, Mrs. Ervin loves the community at St. Mary School. She feels very fortunate that her own children will grow up in this supportive, welcoming community! In her spare time, Mrs. Ervin enjoys spending time with her husband, Bill, and children, Delaney and Braedon; she enjoys being outside hanging out with them, even if it is just in her own backyard! She also enjoys reading and working on home improvement projects.



**HEIDI WIERZBA**

Mrs. Wierzba has the pleasure of teaching the Language Arts portion in third grade at St. Mary. Language Arts is simply an "umbrella" term for Reading, Writing, Spelling, Vocabulary, Handwriting, and Grammar. This makes up the morning portion of the third grade schedule.

Mrs. Wierzba then stays with her class as the teacher's aide through the afternoon when Mrs. Ervin joins them to teach her subjects. Mrs. Wierzba graduated with honors from San Jose State University with a bachelor's in Psychology and a minor in Child Development. This fall she will finalize the coursework required to complete her Teaching Credential, and is using her classroom experience to satisfy her required practical coursework before applying for her Clear Credential. Before beginning her work in the classroom, Mrs. Wierzba worked with children of all ages in various settings such as swimming pools and pre-schools. More than anything, she'll attest to juggling her own two children's diverse needs being the best preparation for teaching.

Teaching is definitely Mrs. Wierzba's calling, but when she's not in the classroom she can be found with her nose in a good book, or exploring the great outdoors with her curious school age daughters.

#### FOURTH GRADE



**HEATHER LOPEZ**

Mrs. Lopez has been the 4th grade teacher and tutoring program coordinator at St. Mary School since 2006. Mrs. Lopez graduated from Pepperdine University with a B.A. in political science and an emphasis in journalism. She graduated Cum Laude and is a member of the Alpha Chi Academic Society, Golden Key National

Honors Society, and was on the Seaver Dean's List. After graduating she worked in Washington D.C. for former Congressman Sonny Bono. Upon returning to California, Mrs. Lopez attended the CalStateTEACH program through California State University Monterey Bay. Mrs. Lopez has taught at preschool and Kindergarten level; then, she and her husband moved to Northern California where she got a job at Sacred Heart School in Salinas teaching 3rd grade.

Mrs. Lopez truly believes that God called her to this vocation and finds it a blessing to be able to share her faith with her students. She describes her classroom as a place where children are encouraged to "think outside the box" and be active participants in the learning process. In her free time, Mrs. Lopez is an avid runner, enjoys Bikram yoga, goes abalone diving, kayaking, and loves to watch USC and San Diego Charger football. She and her husband travel whenever they are able!