



THE NAVIGATOR

LAKE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

*Nourishing the human spirit ~ mind, body, and soul ~
through Jesus Christ*

LAKER FAMILY UNITY NETWORK: LAKER F.U.N.

FEBRUARY 2005 VOLUME 14, ISSUE 6

Laker F.U.N. Directory of Officers, 2004-05

From the President of Laker F.U.N.

President: Patti Kuehn 422-9557
Vice Pres.: Olga Juza 429-4748
Secretary: Lisa Iman 556-5559
Treasurer: Michelle Agay 982-2805

Current Events & Contacts

Laker F.U.N. meeting: 3/8, 6:30, LMCES
K of C Fish Fry for F.U.N.: 3/18, K of C Hall
Daddy/Daughter Dance: 4/16, LMCES
Teresa Allerton 925-3985
S.C.E.N.E. Auction: 4/22-23, LMCES
Volunteers call: 983-2642
LMC Fund-Raising: year-round
Chris Glendening: 983-2642
cglendening@lmclakers.com
Market Day: monthly orders
Patti Kuehn 422-9557
SCRIP: year-round
Business Office: 983-5529
Sunshine Committee:
Brenda Ives: 982-7802
Volunteer Coordinators:
Deb Stachowski: 429-2384
Becky Angelov: 428-3913
Welcome Committee:
Lisa Barta: 556-0120
Lee Ann Russell: 429-6956
Mrs. Maher, ES Principal: 429-0227
catholicprincipal@yahoo.com
Mrs. Mattis, MS Principal: 983-2511
pmattis@lmclakers.com
Mr. Brooks, HS Principal: 983-2511
pbrooks@lmclakers.com
Mrs. Payovich, Business Manager: 983-5529
cpayovich@lmclakers.com
Mr. Paul Maloney, President, CCEC
pmaloney@berriencounty.org

February began with a flurry of F.U.N. activities, with Catholic Schools Week being the highlight. The students send their thanks to **Sara Duris and all her bakers** who supplied the terrific cupcakes for Wednesday's lunch. The following day, the teachers were treated to a fantastic luncheon organized by **Maureen Luxem and JoAnn Smith**. Laker parents provided mouth-watering entrees, wonderful salads, soups, sandwiches, and desserts. With the helping hands of **Gina Svec and Becky Angelov**, the teachers were served in style.

The week ended with our second annual Winter F.U.N. Night. With **Lisa Iman** serving as chair, attendance was great as the packed gym and Multi-Purpose Room showed. Along with athletic events for young and not-so-old alike, students enjoyed making their craft, a key chain cross for their backpacks, planned by **Cindy Adent and Janet Sullivan**, and snacks provided by Laker F.U.N. Many parents stepped forward to help the night of the party. Thank you all for your support. Congratulations to the winners of our first-time basket raffles, the **Sullivan, Elliott/Schueneman, Lhotka, and Spencer** families. The raffles were a big success and will be a part of next year's event. We thank the families who put the baskets together.

The Knights of Columbus donated 10% from their recent Fish Fry, netting a donation of \$115. They will assist Laker F.U.N. again at their March 18th Fish Fry at the Knights Hall at 1650 Nickerson Ave., Benton Harbor. Don't miss the great food, or "Fryer" **Sean Juza** in action!

The next Laker F.U.N. meeting is scheduled for **March 8, 2005 with our 6:30pm social and 7:00pm business meeting.**

Elementary Essentials with Mrs. Maher

Jumpin' Jehosaphat! Way to go Lakers! During Catholic Schools Week, Grades K-5 jumped rope for the American Heart Association. Over the two-day jump-a-thon, we were able to raise \$3,963.17. As principal, I am charged with forwarding not only the school's mission, but to also make sure that it is within the context of the mission that the Diocesan Office has for ALL schools within the Diocese of Kalamazoo. That larger focus is to model a four-fold mission of message, community, service and worship.

The jump-a-thon is a wonderful way to teach that larger mission along with the importance of taking care of the physical body the Lord has given us. Lake Michigan Catholic is aware that educating the whole child creates the future of both our Church and our community.

On behalf of the entire school, I extend a big THANK YOU to all who helped, with special thanks to **Mr. David Cleveland**, our physical education teacher, who organized and supervised our jump-a-thon. Our secretary, **Mrs. Lee Pangilinan**, who performs her own jump-a-thon everyday, tallied all our money and got it mailed off to the American Heart Association. It was a great effort from every quarter!

Save the Date!

Retirement Celebration honoring Carol (Apple) Baratta Saturday, May 14th

Carol Baratta (Apple) is retiring, after 23 years of nurturing our kindergartners. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 14th to help us celebrate her dedication to Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School.

If you captured a "Carol moment" on film and would like to share it, printed or digital pictures maybe forwarded to Jan Mathews, LMCES. Prints will be scanned and returned. Digital pictures, JPEG format preferred, may be sent via disk, CDROM, or by e-mail to janicemathews@yahoo.com.

Recruitment & Retention: *What's So Great about Lake Michigan Catholic?*

I can think of a lot of things; according to last year's all-school survey, some of the best come, not surprisingly, from our staff and faculty. Of the ten items topping the list of 'high-satisfaction' scores, all but one directly reflect their efforts to respond quickly and fully to parent inquiries, to treat students and parents with respect, and to keep the best interest of our children as a top priority. The tenth item was parent satisfaction with class sizes.

Looking ahead, the Recruitment and Retention committee is excited about the 2004–2005 all-school survey—being prepared as I write—because, with your cooperation, we will now begin to have enough data to start identifying trends. Every year there seem to be a few unique issues, positive and negative, that simmer to the top and we rely on our administrators to be tuned in to these and respond appropriately. Our survey, on the other hand, is helping us identify those areas that demonstrate obvious trends or consistencies; this is the information that will be of most value to R&R in developing an overall school improvement strategy.

When your new survey arrives, please be ready to provide your constructive feedback promptly. **We ask that you return it by March 7th**. Your input, like your involvement with other school activities, is helping make Lake Michigan Catholic the model Catholic institution we all aspire for it to be.

Questions? Please feel free to call me at **983-4934**, or e-mail rrcmt@lmclakers.com.

**Dolores Landeck
Chair, Recruitment & Retention**



The Laker Giving Tree

The Laker Giving Tree is beginning to leaf out, a welcome site against the leafless and gray days of February. Check out the many ideas to fill our rooms with new learning activities. Teacher/room ideas are available in baskets on the windowsills in the Multi-Purpose Room. Pick a leaf, buy a gift, and fill our tree with bright, beautiful leaves! Ideas may be as small as stickers to larger items as well. With the purchase of that item, the leaf is added to the tree, and your gift and your generosity will enrich the recipient classroom.

A Day for Making Memories: Daddy/Daughter Dinner Dance

Mark your calendars, dads, for a night out with your favorite little gal, or two, on **Saturday, April 16th**. Dinner and dancing await you at this fun and memorable night. Anyone wishing to assist event chairman **Teresa Allerton** may call her at **925-3985**. Watch for more information!

Sunshine All Winter Long

From the Marciniak Family: Our thanks go to the Sunshine Committee team for the meal brought to us the week following my father's death. What a wonderful thing to have a great meal delivered, ready and waiting whenever someone was hungry. It gave us a much appreciated break and it was better than I could have made! The support we received from our LMC family was overwhelming. **Lori and P.J. Marciniak, Kane, Hannah, Amelia and Grandma Jackie**

From the Sherwood Family: Thank you for the delicious meal that the Sunshine Committee delivered after Deb's recent surgery. We appreciate all the cards and prayers sent our way ~ they worked! God bless! **Deb, Craig, Ian and Allie**

Auction Makes Elementary Debut!

The aptly named auction, "**Hollywood Premier at Studio B,**" will be staged in the IMH Memorial Gym at LMCES on April 22nd and 23rd. Though it means many logistical adjustments after 18 years downtown, the Steering Committee is excited about the prospect of more floor space, easier traffic flow, and on-site babysitting on Friday night!

Volunteers are needed! Anyone with a few hours, day or night, can lend a hand with Auction preparations. **Right now**, volunteers can help with item procurement, advertising, and \$10,000 Raffle ticket sales. **In the weeks prior** to the Auction, both manpower and horsepower will be needed to move Auction furnishings from the High school to the Elementary. Right up to **the days of the auctions**, extra hands are always welcome to assist with set up and decorating. **Chris Glendening, 983-2642**, is the clearinghouse for all things Auction ~ give her a call.

\$10,000 Could Put Some Dreams in Motion

The first place prize in the S.C.E.N.E. Auction Raffle can make your dreams come true. Just ask **Harriet Pilny**, last year's big winner. Harriet, in the midst of building her new home, had immediate ideas for the \$10,000 when her name was called at Saturday night's auction and dinner.

Only 250 tickets are available at \$100 each ~ good odds at being that \$10,000, \$1,000, or \$500 winner. The drawing will be held at the S.C.E.N.E. Auction on April 23rd. **Winners need not be present to win.** All proceeds benefit the TCACSF Tuition Assistance program. Call **Chris Glendening, 983-2642** to purchase a ticket.

Great Parents Make the Job a Joy

From the teaching and support staff, preschool to high school, words cannot describe how touched we were by all the kind thoughts and deeds done for us during Catholic Schools Week. Laker parents are truly the heart of our school and we feel genuinely blessed; your acts will be treasured forever.

Blue Tide Athletic Boosters

Be on the look out for a new honorary society. Lake Michigan Catholic High School is starting its brand new athletic "Hall of Fame." Guidelines are being drafted for the nomination criteria. Soon thereafter, we will form a selection committee that will represent and vote on the nominations into the hall. Our group is looking for volunteers who would like to have input into the "Hall of Fame" and ideas as to who should sit on the selection committee. Our goal is to have a committee seated by spring 2005, ready to evaluate nominations for our first induction class during the 2005-2006 school year.

Anyone with ideas for the hall, or nominations from Lake Michigan Catholic Lakers, St. John's Irish, or St. Joseph Catholic Ponies should contact **Phil Hegg at (269) 983-5457, or hegg@gcctv.com.**

Think Warm Thoughts of Summer & GOLF!

Blue Tide's Annual Golf Scramble will be held on **Monday, August 1, 2005** at Berrien Hills Country Club. If YOU or your COMPANY would be interested in being a SPONSOR or getting a team together to play in the event, please contact **Helen Marzke at 428-9029.**

SCRIP: New Players on the Team

Just in time for the outdoor sports seasons, two more eateries have joined SCRIP, Quiznos Subs (10%) and Roxy's (10%). Speaking of outdoors, how is the lawn looking these days? TruGreen might be the answer. While you enjoy your newly verdant lawn, call on Precision Cleaning to spiff up the indoors.

Remember, there is a SCRIP merchant for every need. Using SCRIP certificates and gift cards generates no-cost dollars for LMC that aids tuition cost and general operating expenses. Anyone can participate. Call the **Business Office, 983-5529**, to place an order or to arrange standing orders.

Playing Chicken: Tyson Foods "Project A+"

Be sure to save the **Project A+ redemption labels** from all Tyson Foods products. Each label is worth 24¢ for our school. Like the Campbell's and General Mills products, ask your friends, neighbors, and relatives to help. All labels and coupons may be sent to any LMC school office.

Orchards Mall "Cash Back for Schools" Deadline April 24th!

The deadline for this year's Cash Back program is less than two months away ~ LMC remains in 3rd place, but 4th is not far behind us! Many families have sent receipts to school; thank you for your help. **Remind family and friends that anyone can help LMC earn the cash award by taking receipts to the Mall's Customer Service Center, or sending them to the school office.** Receipts dated from **5/19/04 – 4/24/05** are eligible for Cash Back points. There are no more big bonus point opportunities for this year; **every receipt counts!**

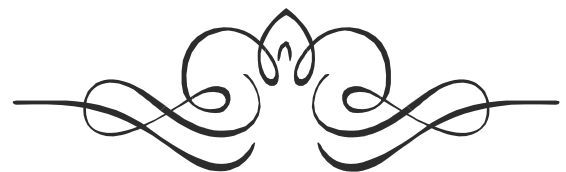
Lenten Fare from Bi-Parish

It's not too late to join the Lenten programs that began in mid-February. Short inspirational large-screen videos are viewed on Wednesdays through March 16th. Prayer and fellowship follow each film. Day and nighttime programs are provided.

Lenten Luncheons: 11:30 – 12:45, Rose Center
\$2.00 suggested donation

Pizza Piety: 5:30 (Mass) – 7pm, St. Bernard Hall
Pizza \$1.50/slice or bring a snack

Contact: Ron Demblowski, 983-7797



Little Laker Drama Presents
♪ Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr. ♪

This year's elementary school production is one that is sure to please everyone. Set aside **Saturday, March 19th at 11:00am** in the IMH Memorial Gym and Auditorium at LMCES. The production of *Schoolhouse Rock, Jr.* is a big one but we have a big cast to really help get the audience going. Eleven songs from those wonderful Saturday morning cartoons are woven into the story of a nervous new teacher on the first day of school. We are looking forward to having the audience join in and sing with us through such favorites as *Conjunction Junction*, *Interjections*, *Interplanet Janet*, and many more. Get ready to relive Saturday morning fun and rock our LMCES schoolhouse!

Parents: High School Digital Shots* Needed

Would you be willing to share digital pictures of LMCHS students taken during the 2004-05 school year? If so, please forward them via e-mail to Mrs. Nielsen at LMCHS, nnielsen@lmclakers.com. To be perfectly candid, everything from the Homecoming King, Queen and court, Winterfest crowning, field trips, and sports and drama shots to the recent Band trip to Florida would be welcome.

***Clarification:** Digital photographs, please; not pictures of your thumbs!

What Did the Necktie Say to the Hat?

You go on ahead, I'll just hang around. Donations of neckties for tie-deprived high school students may yet be sent to the attention of Mary Nielsen at LMCHS.

Prepare to Be Boarded!
"The Pirates of Penzance" Coming in May



Spring is around the corner and so are the pirates! The cast is being selected for this spring's high school musical. This classic Gilbert and Sullivan production seems to be just what we all need: lots of cast members, great songs to sing, and swords!

In this light-hearted tale, Frederick, mistakenly apprenticed to a band of pirates as a young lad by his well-intentioned, but hard of hearing nanny, leaves the pirates on his twenty-first birthday, having completed his duty to them. He meets "a bevy of beautiful maidens" and falls in love with Mabel but many obstacles develop that could keep Frederick from his love. Will Frederick marry Mabel? Will he be able to resist the pirate life he left? Will anyone really be able to sing all of the words in the Major-General's song? To find the answers to these questions, plan on seeing "The Pirates of Penzance" at the IMH Memorial Gym and Auditorium at LMCES. Play dates are May 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15.

Lory's Place Cookbooks Available

The Elementary office has a supply of the fund-raising cookbooks for *Lory's Place*, a family grief counseling center established in memory of Dr. Lory Schults. Anyone interested in purchasing books may call the school at 429-0227. The cost is \$10 per book with checks payable to *Lory's Place*.



In prayerful memory of
Father Brendan Tarrier

February 13, 2005

*Grace is a certain beauty of soul,
which wins the divine love.*

St. Thomas Aquinas: *Summa Theologica*



Little Laker Preschool with Mrs. Grundy

The chilly weeks were welcome to our Zoophonics character 'Peewee Penguin.' We painted with ice cubes made of frozen paint, created beautiful blizzards using pine branch paint brushes, and enjoyed Jan Brett's classic, The Mitten. February was all about emotions; we danced and acted out feelings with Greg and Steve's CD and discovered that even the groundhog has feelings from Don Freeman's book Gregory's Shadow. 'Robbie Rabbit' joined us in time to celebrate Valentine's Day and we shared the story Guess How Much I Love You. The Preschoolers have nothing but wonderful feelings for our moms, **Mrs. Garavalia**, **Mrs. Ollis**, and **Mrs. Svec** who helped make our Valentine party so much fun.

Mrs. Cichon, We Wish You Well! It is with deep regret that we announce that **Kathy Cichon**, our preschool aide, will be leaving our program. Mrs. Cichon has been at LMC since her daughter attended preschool with Mrs. Miller many years ago. She has accepted another position with a local company, taking a role she has always wanted. She will be missed by all of us. It's hard to say goodbye to a good friend. We wish her many blessings and good fortune in her next pursuit.

Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Kuehn

The month began in a big way with the celebration of "100 Day." The JK'ers hand-painted 100+ fingers, counted 100 "things" brought from home, made 100 cereal piece necklaces, counted 100 stickers, and made our cool "100 Day Glasses"! Don't worry though, we are still counting. The count goes on now until the end of the year! February also brought Valentine's Day and another party! We made mailboxes to take home all of our valentines from our friends and, thanks to **Mrs. Marciniak** and **Mrs. Clarke**, we had a very exciting party. Several parents and even a grandpa helped out the day of the party. It was a blast! We are ending the month celebrating President's Day and finding out about some of the many African-Americans who contributed to our history.

Kindergarten with Ms. Apple & Mrs. Fields

The end of February? It doesn't seem possible but we can see that the sun is staying up later each day. The Kindergartners are making the most of their time, learning every minute. Our next special unit study, dinosaurs, will cover two whole weeks. By the end, our budding paleontologists will be able to expound on the myths and realities of these fantastic creatures. Fantastic in his own right is **Erik R.**, the first kindergartner this year to earn the Most Marvelous Manners award from Mrs. Maher!

Making our own Stations of the Cross books helps the children understand the great sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us. In their own ways, the Kindergartners are making sacrifices during this Lenten season as part of their growing understanding of our faith. They have discovered that sacrifice can be hard but the rewards are great.

First Grade with Mrs. Faris & Mrs. Petsovich

February was a most exciting month in 1st Grade! Our mini-units included penguins, groundhogs, presidents Lincoln and Washington, teeth, St. Valentine's Day, and of course, Lent.

Our classes are thankful for the support we receive every day. This busy month brought the need for extra hands, and our parents and friends came through like they always do. We are grateful for all the parents who planned, attended, and brought food and paper goods to our Valentine's Day parties. Your organization and dedication are very much appreciated! **Maria Kibler** and **Christy Spessard** are our first grade Junior Achievement volunteers. The children love the activities and we all look forward to our field trip! Last, but not least, the teacher appreciation luncheon was superb! Thank you, thank you!

We are making Stations of the Cross booklets for Lent. They will help us on our special journey with Jesus and keep Him close to our hearts. The children will take them home before Easter. May God bless each family this Lenten season.



Second Grade with Mrs. Hanley & Mr. Deja

The 2nd Graders have left the time when great dinosaurs ruled the earth. We concluded our dinosaur section with a helping hand from our high school. The juniors and seniors came to our assistance as we created models of our favorite dinosaurs. Now we have begun to study about great men that have ruled our nation. We are learning many unusual and often humorous facts about every president. Did you know that President Taft was so big he got stuck in the White House bathtub? Also, in the month of February, we celebrated our 100th day of school with 100 minutes of reading and a lovely St. Valentine's Day party.

During February, we also prepare ourselves for the Lenten season. We are learning the many ways we can make sacrifices so that we may become better children of God. Students in Grades 2 – 5 meet for the Stations of the Cross every Friday. Together, we are reminded of the sacrifices Jesus made for us.

Third Grade with Miss Ford & Mrs. Bodley

During the third quarter, we enjoyed Valentine parties, a fire safety program, the Burger King fundraiser, Catholic Schools Week, and have celebrated the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. We continue to make daily sacrifices as we offer our penance.

Our classmate and friend, **Francis J.**, left our class to relocate to Indiana. Best wishes to Francis! Another classmate, **Megan P.**, returned to school after spending six weeks in India with her family. Her experiences and interesting stories make us very grateful for all that we have been given.

Miss Ford and Mrs. Bodley thank all of the parents for remembering the teachers during Catholic Schools Week. We enjoyed inspirational notes, surprises, and a delicious and relaxing luncheon. It is such a wonderful feeling to be appreciated for our efforts.

We continue to build our speed and accuracy in learning our multiplication facts. The daily practice at home makes such a difference. Please continue your efforts to help your child be his/her best.

Fourth Grade with Mrs. Binger & Mrs. Zetts

Beamed via satellite: On February 3rd we built spaceships for our trip into space. On February 4th we blasted off into the vastness of space. It was certainly an event that was “out of this world.” Our mission was to board our space crafts and complete specially assigned tasks as directed by our Mission control leaders, Mrs. Binger and Mrs. Zetts. We were not confined to our space ships for the entire mission. Our galactic travels took us to **COMPUTER WORLD**. There, a friendly technical creature, Mrs. Mathews, helped us to gather new knowledge by visiting NASA web sites. Soon after leaving the technological wonders of Computer World, we landed on the not so alien worlds of **LUNCH** and **RECESS**. We disembarked and enjoyed good food and needed exercise. Upon re-entering our spaceships we finished our mission and returned to Earth, excited about our adventures.

Back at our home bases, Cape Binger and Zetts, we have added new activities to our busy schedule. Junior Achievement volunteers, **Marty Golob** and **Maria Kibler** have begun visiting our classrooms to teach us about our region and its economy. John Golob's dad is teaching Mrs. Binger's class and Kayleigh Kibler's mom is teaching Mrs. Zetts' class. We look forward to the informative and worthwhile sessions with them.

The 4th Grade astronauts salute our “universally” generous parents who contributed to the acquisition and allocation of materials necessary to our to make our “Space Day”, Valentine's Day, and every day successful. To these advocates of space exploration, the expansion of knowledge, and joy in general, we proudly confer membership in NASA (**Nice And Supportive Always**).



**Thank you to our co-sponsors,
The Ballard Family,
Bob and Karen
Audrey, Brendan, William, and Sophie**

Fifth Grade with Mrs. Puplis & Mrs. Fish

There was so much friction in the 5th Grade, yet everyone was happy about it! The marble mazes came to school on the final day of Catholic Schools Week for the official “race.” Some of our best, meaning slowest, times were clocked by **Josh Z.**, 53 seconds, **Annie M.**, 40 seconds, **Sam M.**, 39 seconds, **Lauren V.**, 31 seconds, and **Elizabeth M., Nellie P.** and **Ben S.** at 29 seconds. Having wrapped up their marble mazes, 5th Graders are preparing for our annual Science Fair.

For our community service this month, several students have volunteered to practice with **Father Rob Johansen** to learn special songs in Latin for the Lenten season. The singers’ progress is already evident with their choral contribution to the Ash Wednesday Mass. Join the elementary community throughout Lent to hear **Annie M., Stephanie T., Colin A., Dani G., Nellie P., Joe V., Elizabeth M., Samantha M., Allie S., Cathrine S., Shane G., Hailey B., Olivia T., Brittney D.,** and **Kearra Z.** share their gift of song at Mass.

Carpenter Nails the Spelling Bee

Can you spell (t&’ rä gr& fē)? No problem? How about (em’(p) f&’ ze’ m&d &s) ? **Sean C.** could! Following in the footsteps of **Lucas C.**, the Southwest Michigan winner last year from LMCES, Sean met all the challenges and emerged as the winner of this year’s Cloverleaf Spelling Bee. He was competing against 18 students from area schools who had missed no more than one word in the team competition held earlier. These students ranged from fifth to eighth grade, so the competition was fierce! Beyond the prizes earned in the local contest, Sean will represent southwest Michigan in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D. C.! By the way, Sean’s winning words were *pterography* and *emphysematous*!

Art with Mrs. Dudding

Beautiful elementary artwork is on display at the Box Factory for the Arts. Lake Michigan Catholic students have several pieces there which are available for viewing through February 28th. Take the family and see not only what our talented artists have done, but also students’ work from all the area schools.

Lakeland Hospital’s long-term care center in Berrien Springs was the recipient of some delightful artwork created by our 3rd Graders. The center staff decorated the cafeteria with the colorful pieces, brightening up the patients’ days.

Thanks all around to **Grandpa Zilke**, the **Estkowski family**, **Mr. Joe Herzog** and **Mr. Matt Luxem** who have recently contributed fun “stuff” for use in our Art room, and to **Mr. Sean Juza** who used his time and talent to put shelving in the art room storage area.

The Art room is buzzing with industrious bees these days. We are weaving and sewing, building and pasting. Students have visited the Allied Artists of America gallery at the Krasl Art Center. Soon, professional artist **Elaine Harju** will visit and demonstrate her expertise with colored pencil. Students will be instructed in her techniques to create their own wonderful (aren’t they always wonderful?) artworks.

Music and Liturgy with Mrs. Gallagher

A huge thank you goes to Laker parents who supported our Catholic Schools Week efforts. We had four wonderful Masses with LOTS of students in attendance. The parishioners in Benton Harbor, Fairplain, Stevensville and St. Joseph were very impressed with our Lakers and their sung prayer.

An Open Invitation, Always: During this Lenten season, Grades 2 – 5 are praying the Stations of the Cross together on Fridays at 1pm. We will also receive the Sacrament of Penance on March 9th at 9am. Parents are always welcome to join us throughout Lent. And remember ~ if you're in the building during Music ~ the door is always open! Come in and "make a joyful noise" with us.

Technology with Mrs. Barden

Do you need to know the current sports schedule, when Spring Break is, what dates to save for the S.C.E.N.E. Auction, or which words our Cloverleaf Spelling Bee champion spelled to win the competition? Then check out the Lake Michigan Catholic Schools website at www.lmclakers.com. High school students **Eric H.**, **Phil S.**, **Michael P.**, and **Terence T.** update and troubleshoot the website for the school. Students can check their homework assignments and scores, and parents have an easy link to the *Teacherease* online grading program. In addition to the JK – Gr. 12 curriculums and policies, the minutes from all CCEC meetings, our school paper *The Navigator*, and the parish bulletin inserts can also be found on the site, along with e-mail contact information for each school, the Recruitment & Retention committee, and the Webmaster. It's all just a click away ~ add www.lmclakers.com to your favorites today.

An Approving Nod to Sr. Kathleen

When visiting our Middle/High School, parents and elementary students should make the trek down the senior hallway to check out the portraiture created by **Sr. Kathleen's art students**. Elementally, the face is a series of planes but it takes a studied hand to bring a face to life. With Sr. Kathleen's instruction, the students' work has matured and the results are phenomenal.

Our Girls Shine at Blossomtime

Over the past few months, young women throughout Berrien County have competed in their communities' Blossomtime pageants. Lake Michigan Catholic was wonderfully represented by seniors **Angela D.** and **Rachel S.** at the Miss St. Joseph contest, and **Megan B.** and **Alexandra L.** for Miss Benton Harbor. **Angela and Megan were named Miss Congeniality** for St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, respectively. **Alex was a top five finalist** among a crowded field of 27 at the Miss Benton Harbor pageant. Congratulations to each of these young ladies who, already possessing a great deal of poise, warmth and intelligence, desired to enhance those attributes through pageant participation, and acted as superb ambassadors of LMCHS.

The Rhythm of the Game

While the Varsity basketball players keep up the pace for four quarters on the court, Laker musicians have been keeping the rhythm going and the fans energized at home basketball games this season. Seniors **Michael N.**, bass, **Jake D.**, electric guitar, and **Brendan Bowser**, drums, with occasional appearances by senior bassist **Thom M.** and sophomore guitarist **Mitchell G.**, rev up the crowd pregame, at the half, and add musical punctuation to the team introductions. Fans can catch some familiar tunes among the instrumental interpretations included in their playlist that ranges from Jimi Hendrix to Led Zeppelin to the guys' original compositions. Way to keep things "up tempo" at the House of Noise!

Juniors Getting Ready to Play Host

Lake Michigan Hills is the place to be on April 21st for the **Junior-Senior Dinner Dance**. Following a long-standing Laker tradition, the Junior class hosts this up-scale party for the Senior class, faculty and spouses as a way of saying "We'll miss you" to the upper classmen ~ and just plain "thank you" to teachers and administrators for their work on the students' behalf. For this unique LMC party, students do not bring guests, but rather spend the evening enjoying the company of classmates. **Keith Chapman** of *Infinity Mobile Sound and Light Show*, **senior Alex C.'s father**, will be the DJ for an evening of dancing that follows the formal dinner. Oh, and kids, it's non-uniform, in this case, semi-formal!

**This issue of *The Navigator*
was co-sponsored by**

**The DeFrancesco Family,
Frank and Mary,
with Aimee and Grant**



**who wish everyone a blessed
Lenten season.**

Scouting Around at LMC

Kindergarten Daisy Troop #542: With the Help of Daisy mom **Lynn Hegg**, the troop welcomed **Officer Rick Knapp** of St. Joseph Township for a visit. He taught the girls how to recognize authority figures and how to respect them. He also gave us a great tour of his squad car. The girls are busily preparing for the International Bazaar under the guidance of **Renae Starr**. Our troop will be representing the country of Switzerland. Mrs. Starr has taught the girls about Switzerland and about Girl Scouting there. The Daisies have already sampled the fondue that will be served at our booth and are working on their crafts and decorations for the big day on February 26th.

1st Grade Brownie Troop #555: Our month was so busy! The girls spent time delivering all the cookies they sold ~ which was a lot! In fact, they were so successful, they met the goals they set for themselves! The girls earned a new Try-It, 'Our Bodies' and learned how our bodies work, and sometimes, don't! We tried to write and circle our legs at the same time ~ that was hard to do ~ and we learned and danced to new Brownie songs!

The girls are preparing for the International Bazaar and our Troop is representing the country of Spain. Many thanks to **Jessica's mom, Mrs. Russell**, who is coordinating the Spanish craft, **Charley's mom, Mrs. Langbo**, for coordinating parents to help with the Spanish *tapas* and **Becca's mom, Mrs. DeFay**, for decorating the booth! It should be great fun!

3rd Grade Brownie Troop #574: Our destination is exotic India! The girls have had fun learning about India and making crafts. We thank **Megan's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patel**, for coming to our meeting and sharing their photos and stories of India with us. We look forward to an afternoon of fun with Scouts from all around the St. Joseph area.

5th Grade Junior Girl Scout Troop #514: The girls send their thanks to **Mrs. JoAnn Smith** for sharing information from her recent trip to Israel and leading the troop in activities to prepare for the International Bazaar. We also extend our gratitude to **Mrs. Maher** and several other Laker moms who demonstrated their knitting expertise. It's always fun to learn a new craft!

6th Grade Junior Girl Scout Troop #5123: The Juniors have spent a lot of time this month learning about Poland. Along with learning more about the culture, the girls explored how to use technology to enhance our presentation. We really enjoyed creating a PowerPoint slide show using video clips, like mini-newscasts and other graphics, to help show what we have learned. We invite everyone to visit our booth and all the others at the International Bazaar to see what all of the Scouts in the area have been working on.

1st Grade Tiger Cubs: The Tigers proved to be true Cub Scouts when they visited the WSJM Radio Station in February. The boys were courteous, listening and following the rules of being quiet and not touching any of the equipment ~ and there was a lot of equipment to see! They learned where and how radio commercials are made and even had a chance to say their name into the microphone, pretending to make a commercial. It was also very interesting to see carpeting on the walls as well as the floor!

Now that all the badge requirements are done, the 1st Graders have threaded sewing needles while they await the Blue and Gold Banquet where they will get their Tiger badge. They practiced sewing a button on a scrap of material this month and we only had a couple of fingers pricked by the needles.

2nd Grade Wolf Den: Our Wolves have been working hard on their Wolf trails over the past few weeks ~ and having a lot of fun doing it! The Scouts each made special arrowhead necklaces at our Den meeting. The boys then had a great visit to the St. Joseph Coast Guard Station, and learned all about how important the Guard is in keeping our community safe. The Wolves checked out the surveillance monitors (everything looked good!), and saw how the rescue boat drops right into the water from the boathouse! Special thanks to **Mr. Sean Juza** for arranging both activities. We're all anxiously awaiting the Blue & Gold Banquet where our awesome Wolves will officially be awarded their Wolf badges. Way to go, Wolves!