



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.

APRIL 2005 VOLUME 14, ISSUE 8

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

Lakers will flex their muscles at the upcoming Field Days! Parents plan and staff these events so check your schedule and see if you are available. Grades 3-5 will be at the Upton Middle School track on May 24th from 8:30 to 11:00am. The fun begins the next day, May 25th, for Grades PS-2 from noon to 2pm on the Elementary School grounds. Check those backpacks and folders for volunteer information.

Current Events & Contacts

CCEC Meetings: 5/19 & 6/16, 7:30 HS
Field Days: 5/24, 8:30-11, Gr. 3-5
5/25, 12-2, Gr. PS-2

Blue Tide Golf Scramble: 8/8, Berrien Hills
Helen Marzke: 428-9029
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

The Daddy/Daughter Dinner Dance "Under the Sea" brought tides of fun and memories for our guests thanks to the efforts of **Teresa Allerton** and **Nancy Almus** along with the parents who prepared and served a delicious meal. Fifth Graders **Kelsey Allerton** and **Kelly Almus** worked throughout Spring Break to paint the nautical decorations and made beautiful necklaces for each of the girls as a memento of the evening.

Our first ever Kid-to-Kid sale, organized by **Sara Duris**, was a huge success. **Lee Ann Russell**, **Michelle Agay**, and **Julie Holbert** helped staff the sale with extra help from **Lukas Visin** and **Mr. Holloway** who kept an eye on everything in the mornings. Our profit over the 2-day sale was nearly \$200. Parents are happy to have cleaner closets and drawers and many kids are happy with a new game.

The next Laker F.U.N. night is scheduled for May 10th at 6:30pm with our social followed by the business meeting. Please plan on attending. New Officers will be installed at this meeting. The president's position for the 05-06 is still open. Please consider sharing your time and talents with our school.

Elementary Essentials with Mrs. Maher

The 2005-2006 calendar is very near completion. It should be coming home to parents very soon. Our **starting date is Monday, August 22, 2005** with a closing date of Friday, June 2, 2006. The other development regarding our school day is that we will be extending our day. School will still begin at 8:00am, but first dismissal will be at 3:00pm followed by second dismissal at 3:10pm. This will align our day with the Middle/High School. They will be in session 7:50am until 3:00pm.

The new times at LMC Middle/High School will also allow us to offer a shuttle for middle schoolers to the Elementary School. St. Joseph Public School will be providing this service at the end of their school day at 3:00pm. Our goal is to make transportation easier and more streamlined for many of our families. There will be more details closer to the beginning of the school year.

As the end of the school year draws near, please check your calendar often. There are a lot of exciting things coming up with field trips and field days at every grade level. The children have an uncanny sense of summer's approach and the teachers are careful to adhere to daily routines. One of our traditional May routines is the daily recitation of a decade of the Rosary. Led by students, the whole school joins in this beautiful devotion ~ there is no better way to start the busy day.

ES Morning Drop-Off Reminders

To keep a smooth flow of traffic:

- **Park in the lot** if you need to leave your vehicle for any reason and walk across at the crosswalk.
- **Pull forward** to make use of both front entrances rather than the cafeteria walk exclusively, regardless of grade level.
- **Arrive before 8am.** There has been an upswing in tardy arrivals. Students do their best when the day starts calmly.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration for fellow parents.

The Mary, Mary Month of May

May, along with October, is a traditional month of Marian devotion. Mary's example as the ultimate servant of God and model of goodness deserves to be honored and emulated.

At the Elementary's May Crowning Mass on May 4th, students who have made their First Eucharist were welcomed by the entire school community to celebrate this special milestone in their faith. **Nicole V.** and **Anthony C.** represented the 2nd Grade by crowning the statue of Mary.

May 4th also saw the reinstallation of the Mary statue. Last May's tremendous storm sent the statue flying, breaking the hands and damaging the surface. The statue of Mary, simple in white with welcoming arms, was a gift from the Knights of Columbus. **Mr. Sean Juza** sought the best way to repair the statue and found just the right person in **Mr. Bill Halamka**, owner of **LeRoy's Body Shop**. At the shop, hands were formed with fiberglass and a new durable surface was applied. Thanks to their efforts, Mary graces the front lawn of the Elementary again.

**This edition of *The Navigator*
is sponsored by
Milt and Michelle Agay
and Judith Callender-Koepner and
her husband, Ron Koepner
in memory of the
Callender-Agay-Meyer Family**



***Christ will be magnified in my body,
whether by life or by death...
for to me life is Christ.
Philippians 1:20-21***



Get Cookin' This Summer with Market Day

Market Day continues all summer here at LMCES. Our June and July pick up hours will be from 12:00 to 1:00. Last year's experience taught us that picking up orders during the lunch hour is best in the summer. Spread the word. **LMCES is the only school in the area that does Market Day all year round.** If a friend or neighbor orders from another source during the school year, encourage them to order at LMCES for the summer and then return to their normal source in the fall. With the addition of the 3-year old Preschool Program at LMC, Market Day profits will be dedicated to an outside play area built just for the "little ones." Your support will make this area possible.

Market Day products are 100% guaranteed. Check out the website at www.marketday.com for many great recipes, nutritional information, and web-only clearances. Questions and volunteer responses may be directed to **Patti Kuehn (422-9557)** or **Chris Glendening (983-2642)** in the Business Office. New customers are still coming in ~ once you start there is no going back. The food is great!

SCRIP: The All-Occasion Gift

If December is the No. 1 gift-giving month, May and June must be racing neck and neck for the runner-up position. Invitations to graduations, showers and weddings seem to arrive every week. SCRIP certificates make great gifts for new grads and the newly married as they establish homes and careers. Many national retailers are available and work especially well for convenient gift giving to those who live far away. Added bonus: SCRIP cards don't break in shipping! **Orders may be placed through the Business Office, 983-5529, or the Elementary, 429-0227.**

Another New SCRIP Merchant: Mr. Goody's (10%) \$5.00 denominations

S.C.E.N.E.: Way to Wrap the Production!

Debuting at the Elementary's IMH Memorial Gym, the S.C.E.N.E. Auction netted **a record of approximately \$120,000 for Arts and Athletics** over the two-night event. S.C.E.N.E. Chairmen **Chris and Larry Glendening** were pleased to see so many new faces among the guests who return year after year. Saturday night's dinner and oral auction hosted 321 guests. All told, over a hundred volunteers work hundreds of hours on the S.C.E.N.E. Auction, truly one of the best in southwest Michigan and certainly the most efficiently run. Every volunteer, donor, and guest plays a role in its success. Next year's event is already slated for April 21st and 22nd. Why not pencil in the date and extend an invitation for friends to join us? There is always room for more in the Laker family.

\$10,000 Raffle: Winners All Around

The \$10,000 Raffle drawing caps Saturday's Auction. While exciting for the winners, each ticket holder has the satisfaction of knowing that all the proceeds support Tuition Assistance.

This year, the \$500 and \$1,000 drawings found a lot of folks splashing around in the pool. Sharing the \$500 were **Pam Barden, Tracey Carpenter, Chris Glendening, Sandi Puplis, and Donna Vollmer.** Cashing in the \$1,000 ticket were tablemates **Kelly Alsbro, Denise Brooks, Tina Sassano, Patrice Schroeder, Kathleen Smart, and Kelly Spencer.**

The big winners of the \$10,000 were **Jerry and Colleen Kuhnlein and LMC students.** The Kuhnlein's generously donated their winnings back to the Tuition Assistance Fund.



Found at the S.C.E.N.E. Auction:

A pair of reading glasses

Please claim at LMCES. Call 429-0227.

Sunshine Committee

From the Newly Ambulatory Mrs. Petsovich: I am so very grateful for all of your prayers, meals, and concerns after my fall. I am now walking in a regular shoe and will never, ever, take my ability to walk and be mobile for granted again! I would especially like to thank my wonderful 1st Graders for all they did for me when I was in a wheelchair and in a moonboot in the classroom. Even now, they are so very careful around my foot and go out of their way to help me any way that they can. They are true angels! The meals from the Sunshine Committee, faculty and staff, and parents were fabulous and spoiled my family to no end. I thank God everyday for all of you! I wish you all of God's blessings, *Karen Petsovich and family*

From the Damico Families: Our sincere thanks go to the Sunshine Committee members who provided the wonderful food for our families. Your help was greatly appreciated during our time of need with the passing of our mother and grandmother, Pat Damico. Thank you all for your kindness.

From the Hanley Family: The support our family received on the loss of Tom's mother, Mrs. Ruth Hanley, was greatly appreciated. The Sunshine Committee and the many Laker families who offered their help and prayers made a difficult time much easier. *Tom and Peggy Hanley and Andrea, Eric, Jeff and Stephen*

From the Cutter Family: Thank you to all who prepared the delicious meal for us after the passing of Rusty's father. We appreciate the meal and prayer for our family and feel truly blessed to be part of such a special school community. *Rusty and Kris Cutter and Emily, Matthew, Molly and Jenna*

From the Bowman Family: Your gift of a Sunshine meal was much appreciated by our entire family. We thank you all, and especially **Karen Ballard and her team.** Your efforts were thoughtful and heartfelt.

From the Hoffman Family: Thank you all for the dinner you made for us when Spencer's grandmother passed away. It was great.

Orchards Mall "Cash Back for Schools" Extends Deadline to May 8th!

Gather those stray receipts and get credit for purchases ~ grandparents, friends, and family can easily support our school by designating LMC when turning in receipts. Send receipts to school or take them to the Customer Service Center or the Cash Back Redemption Wall by the Food Court. **Receipts dated from 5/19/04 through 5/8/05 are eligible for points.**

Corporate Giving Programs: Campbell's, General Mills & Tyson Foods

Don't stop now, and if you haven't been saving **Campbell's** product labels, **Tyson A+** symbols, and **General Mills** box tops, now is the time to begin. Send them to school or drop them off at the parish churches. What seem like an insignificant efforts combine to make a considerable impact on the acquisition of equipment for our school.

Blue Tide Athletic Boosters

Blue Tide, LMC's athletic booster organization, is just a churning with activity! Nominations are now being accepted for the LMC Hall of Fame, which includes St. John's Irish, St. Joseph Catholic's Ponies, and LMC Lakers. Nomination forms for individuals and teams are available on the school website at www.lmclakers.com. Contact **Phil Hegg** at hegg@gcctv.com with questions.

Mark your calendar! The **13th Annual Blue Tide Scramble Golf Tournament** is scheduled for **Monday, August 8th** at Berrien Hills Country Club. To register for golf, dinner, or volunteer to help, contact Tournament Chairman **Jeff Nuter (849-3234)**. To sponsor a tee or hole, contact Corporate Sponsor Chairperson **Helen Marzke (428-9029)**. Bit of Swiss' **Tim Foley** is assuring participants a delightful culinary experience.

Blue Tide's next meeting is Thursday, May 12th, at 7:00pm in the LMCM/HS cafeteria. Come join the Blue Tide. *Go Lakers!*

What Does PSAT Stand for?

Perhaps it means **P**eter **S**tands out **A**mong **T**eens as Laker junior **Peter M.**, after taking the 2004 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, met the requirements for entry into the 2006 National Merit Scholarship competition. Good luck to Peter who is remembered by his teachers from Elementary up as possessing one of the most organized minds they have encountered.

Peaceful Schools Sweat the Small Stuff

On April 22nd, the staff from the Elementary, Middle, and High school participated in an in-service training conducted by **Dr. Marcia McEvoy** about violence prevention in schools. Dr. McEvoy, a licensed psychologist, is an expert in the area of violence prevention with an emphasis on bullying, mean teasing, intimidation, and harassment. Under a grant from the Berrien County Intermediate School District, Dr. McEvoy's program helped the staff learn strategies for increasing positive feeling and tone in our school, examined the differences between normal peer conflict and bullying, and established when to consistently intervene in conflict. Many schools have employed her techniques successfully. Dr. McEvoy's firm methods, promoting self-respect and respect for authority within a clear, uniformly applied framework, dovetail with Catholic teachings. Her fast-paced and interactive training style was well received and the staff came away with many strategies to make our school an even better place for all of our students.

Computer Whizzes to Learn More Wizardry

LMC sophomores **Eric H.** and **Philip S.** will represent Lake Michigan Catholic High School at the National Youth Leadership Technology Forum in St. Jose, California this summer. Attendees have the opportunity to work with representatives from various technology corporations, such as Sun Microsystems and Symantec Corporation, over ten tech-intensive days. Eric and Philip were nominated based on their interest in and knowledge of computer technology. Both students are involved with the design and maintenance of the school webpage, and assist with the 6th grade computer classes.

Stand Up and Cheer for the MS Girls

Though high school boys' basketball is more than a month gone, it is not too late to send our thanks to the LMC Middle School girls who cheered at several events this season. A dozen 8th Graders, **Kelly B., Rachael K., Casey S., Katelyn S., Faith L., Ashley H., Brooke M., Tracey G., Sarah S., Alex S., Natalie M.** and **Tory R.** along with 7th Graders **Laura S.** and **Leigh Ann I.**, added cheer practices to their already packed schedules to entertain the fans. Behind the girls' energetic performances were tireless coach, **Mrs. Eileen Schultz**, who oversaw every practice and attended each game, and **Mrs. Marites Barker** who assisted the girls with refining their routines. Faculty advisor, **Mrs. Helen Koch** took care of the scheduling which allowed the performances to run smoothly. The 05-06 sports seasons will be that much more fun when these girls take the field again.

Goals Set. Goals Met! Do More? You Bet!

The Key Club raised \$1000 for President Jimmy Carter's Habitat for Humanity building blitz this June. Between ice cream socials, babysitting and soliciting donations, we reached our goal. The Key Club capped the month by participating in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, held on April 30th to raise awareness of premature birth, its causes, and methods of prevention. Every Key Club member is offering March of Dimes tennis shoes for a \$1.00 donation. The shoes are placed throughout the school and the funds earned will assist families and hospitals cover the cost of caring for premature infants. Our goal is \$1000, aiming to outstrip last year's donation of \$600.

Looking ahead to the 2005-06 school year, our current officers will turn over the leadership of Key Club to **Tracey C.**, President, **Mary K.** and **Theresa M.**, Co-Vice Presidents, **Nicole D.**, Treasurer, **Ashley M.**, Secretary, and **Elizabeth H.**, Public Relations. As the year winds down, the Key Club members feel pride in what we have accomplished as a group and what each member has gained as an individual. Graduating members have left the organization stronger, with a firm foundation to build upon.

Little Laker Preschool with Mrs. Grundy

Spring has truly sprung and we're spending more and more time outside with the wonderful weather at Little Laker Preschool. Children should be wearing stable shoes like sneakers for outdoor play. Safety is of utmost importance.

Units on undersea life, birds, nests and eggs, and saving the earth have been keeping our children busy learning about God's wonderful creations and how to take care of it all for future generations. Science experiments abound. Our alphabet is just about complete. Xavier Fox, Yancy Yak, and soon, Zeek Zebra will round out our Zoophonics program for the year.

Next fall's expansion of Little Laker Preschool will include children who will be three years old by September 1st. If anyone comes across lightly used tricycles, big wheels, etc. that children have outgrown, the Preschool would be more than happy to accept donations.

Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Kuehn

With April bringing Spring Break one might think that the month was uneventful at school. Not so in the JK room! We returned after Easter to our "cocoon" and the "hatching" of our (coffee filter) butterflies and continued with our Spring and New Life theme by planting seeds in pots that we painted ourselves. We watch and water them each day to see our seeds' growth. Isn't God wonderful!

Ms. J, Mr. C, and Ms. K all arrived this month. Ms. **Kaboom Kick** entered the JK game just in time for the soccer season! Watch the fields ~ she is the **kicking champion**! Mr. C taught us that all are shy and afraid sometimes, but we have friends that help us overcome these fears. We can spell nearly all our classmates names and are just waiting for Ms. Y, along with Mr. Q and Mr. X!

The month of May brings exciting times. We will go on our last field trip to the Nutting's family farm at the end of the month and participate in the Field Day on the 25th.

Kindergarten with Ms. Apple & Mrs. Fields

After spending time with our families during Spring Break, the Kindergarten returned to school to spend time with word families. As a teaching technique, word families help introduce and reinforce basic spelling rules. They also expand vocabulary as students experiment with changing the first consonant to create new words.

How exciting it was to watch the election of a new pope. The tradition and ceremony of the whole process is very moving. The Kindergarten is getting ready for a traditional ceremony of our own ~ the May Crowning at St. Bernard's. How honored we feel to have been invited again this year. To prepare for this event, we are studying Mary's important role in our faith.

The children had a great time learning all about the human body. They are full of knowledge about how the body functions. Our next destination will be the rainforest. We will learn all about this important ecosystem and why it is important to conserve our natural resources.

First Grade with Mrs. Faris & Mrs. Petsovich

Egg-citing things are happening in 1st Grade! We will have two incubators with chicken eggs! Fertilized eggs, furnished by the **Birk family**, arrived on April 27th. The eggs will hopefully hatch chickens in twenty-one days! The 1st Graders will chart the daily development of the chicks inside the eggs. We will also dissect an unfertilized avian egg to learn all the parts that will help the chick grow. Hatching chicks is definitely the most exciting activity in our annual New Life unit that spans all subjects of our curriculum including religion, reading, writing, computers, math, science, spelling, and art.

Earth Day was celebrated in Rooms 1 and 4 in a big way! We read *The Creation* from the Bible and then went outside to collect litter from our schoolyard to help keep the Earth that God has given us clean and healthy.

Symmetry, fractions, measurement, and geometry were our math topics this month. The 1st Graders have advanced to two- and three-digit addition and subtraction without re-grouping. We thank all the **Math Center Moms (and Dad)** for helping us with our basic facts. The extra practice helps us move onto new skills with confidence.

Each student is looking forward to our field trip to Dutch Village on May 26th. We also can't wait to showcase the collaborative books we have written throughout the year at our **First Grade Book Show**. We can't believe the school year is almost over, but there is no denying that time has passed considering the many ways the 1st Graders have grown throughout the year. They are not only ready but anxious to be 2nd Graders!

Second Grade with Mrs. Hanley & Mr. Deja

Everybody returned from spring break with smiles on their faces and plenty of stories to tell. We all are ready for the home stretch in the fourth quarter and began with writing and illustrating our books. The 2nd Grade authors met their publisher's deadline and the "manuscripts" were shipped, ready to be turned into hardbound books. Many wonderful stories were written. Our publishing project would not have been possible without the help of all the moms who volunteered to type what we wrote.

A visit to The South Bend Chocolate Factory finished our unit on production; the children and many of the parents enjoyed the tour. Once again, the weather turned out to be our friend, allowing us to conclude the day with a picnic at Lepeer Park. As plants, animals and insects emerge with the warmer weather, the 2nd Graders will explore the living world.

Arriving just in time to share in all the fun is Mr. Deja's new student, **Pedro N.** Welcome!

Third Grade with Miss Ford & Mrs. Bodley

The 3rd Graders began their Friday swimming lessons at South Shore Health & Racquet Club on April 15th. What a refreshing conclusion to a week of standardized testing! Everyone is revitalized and looking forward to the hectic end of the school year and all of the activities headed our way.

In a month devoted to Mary, our heavenly Mother, we will pray the Rosary each day. On May 6th, the 3rd Grade students honor their mothers at the annual Mother's Day Mass, which provides some of the most wonderful memories of our year.

Warm weather, sunny days, sports, spring activities, lighter evenings, and energy add to the beauty of springtime. We hope you find time to enjoy these many blessings from God.

Fourth Grade with Mrs. Binger & Mrs. Zetts with News Team 4

April was a month of contrasts, but if there is anything we've learned this year, it is to look at subjects from every angle. We have found different aspects of the same subject often come together to create a complete picture.

Business and Fun: Our JA field trips were a blast. **Mrs. Maria Kibler** took Mrs. Zetts' class to the 94.9 The Coast studios. We met the one and only **Phil McDonald**. He gave us a tour of the radio station and told us how it works. At 3:45 we were on the air. Mrs. Kibler also taught us about being an entrepreneur. She gave us a dollar bill. **Mr. Marty Golob** took Mrs. Binger's class to **Mr. Matt Luxem's** business called Metro Business Systems. Mr. Luxem is an entrepreneur. He is also very funny and can talk like different weird people. He was like a cowboy with drills. We liked seeing all the furniture in the warehouse and testing out many kinds of chairs. After Mr. Golob raffled the prizes, Mr. Luxem gave us a bag with a cookie and a Metro sticker. The whole field trip was delicious. **By Francesca S., Kayleigh K., Ella D. and Sydney L.**



Hot and Cold: In Science we formed groups and each group made a part of a weather station. For two weeks we tracked wind speed and direction, humidity, air pressure, temperatures, and the USA weather. If you want to know anything about the weather this month, look in the 4th Grade hallway and you will see our graphs and charts. We have also been giving daily weather reports to the school so they know what to expect at recess. It is fun being a meteorologist. **By Monique A.**

North and South: We are starting to learn about the North American rainforest and the South American rainforest. Half of the 4th Grade will work on the south and half on the North. Each person gets to research an animal, make a replica, and the turn our rooms into the rainforests. We will also have a bake sale to earn money to buy rainforest land. **By Aimee D.**

Debits and Credits: We are now getting paid to be a student and do special jobs. We also have to pay for utilities, going to school, taxes and anything we buy at the class store or auction. Mrs. Mathews helped us make our checkbooks in Computer class. The best part is at the end of the year we will make a mall and get to spend all the money we have not yet spent. **By Alex R.**

Save the Dates, 5th Graders!

- Special 5th Grade week, 5/23-27 (details T/B/A)
- International Festival at LMCMS, Thursday, May 26th
- Michigan Adventure End of the Year Field Trip, Tuesday, May 31st (non-uniform)
- Final school Mass, June 1st (Parents, please join us as we lead the Mass!)
- Graduation Ceremony, Wednesday, June 1st in the evening (time TBA)

**Are the dates in your planners?
Family calendars?**

Fifth Grade with Mrs. Puplis & Mrs. Fish

This month, we would like to showcase our spectacular 5th Grade students. The class of 2012 has accomplished so much individually and cooperatively. Did you know this class:

- ★ volunteered to participate in a special choir for Lent under the supervision of Father Rob?
- ★ had a student win the state competition for the DAR essay contest with her story called *Sacajawea's Reflections*?
- ★ cleaned the school grounds when spring finally arrived as a community service project?
- ★ takes turns serving breakfast every morning to help Mrs. Visin?
- ★ had a student win the local Cloverleaf Spelling Bee who will represent our area in the National Spelling Bee?
- ★ does a school project every month?
- ★ learns an average of 36 spelling words per week?
- ★ put on an awesome Science Fair for all the school to enjoy?
- ★ is raising money for Pennies for Patients to assist Berrien County Cancer Services?
- ★ will help parents with the Field Day for the lower elementary students?
- ★ has wonderful singers who are terrific role models for the younger students at the school Masses?

Our 5th Grades have found ways to shine in all they do. We are so proud of their efforts and wish them many happy days as their years at Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School draw to a close.

Technology with Mrs. Barden

According to data compiled by *USA Today*, nearly half of kids who use IM (instant messaging) admitted that they have exchanged information with someone they do not know. Unlike e-mail, an IM can just pop up on the screen. Absolutely anything could be contained in an IM from an unknown sender. Parents of children of any age *must*:

- **Talk with children** about personal safety and extend the message to the Internet. Strangers are not permitted into your home; nor should a stranger enter via an IM.
- **Teach children to respect privacy.** Kids are often taught the importance of others' privacy with less emphasis on their own. Do not allow children to share any personal information.
- **Check the settings** on your IM program and block messages from unknown people. Anyone who is not on a child's buddy list will not be able to send an IM to your child.
- **Learn how your systems work!** Don't fall back on the idea that the kids know more than parents do. There is no age barrier to learning and "Help" features are designed for YOU!
- **Place computers in high-traffic areas.** While children need appropriate privacy, they do not benefit from isolation. Thoughtful placement of computers makes supervision easier.

Internet predation aside, parents must recognize the correlation between increased amount of time spent on-line and a reduction of time spent on homework. **A big red flag is waving** if students have difficulty completing daily homework yet find plenty of time to be on-line. The issue of ethics also arises if students are sharing homework answers via IM or participating in electronic rumor mills.

For a good source for user-friendly computer advice with a healthy respect for parenting, go to **www.komando.com**. As with any form of media, it comes down to *direct parental supervision* and *modeling ethical use of all media*.

Scouting Around at LMC

1st Grade Brownie Troop #555: Our girls have had a fun and very busy spring! As a result of their hard work selling cookies this year, the girls were able to have a Gymnastics Party *and* a Swimming Party! The fun didn't end there as the girls played hard to earn a couple of achievements for our **Fun and Games Try-It**, old favorites like Red Rover, soccer and making bubbles are still popular! **Maggie S., Kristen and Sarah D., Lyndsay P., Sarah H., and Julianne U.** attended a special **Earth Day Program** where they learned all about recycling and keeping the Earth clean for the next generation. We helped plant a beautiful dogwood tree in the Arboretum in downtown St. Joseph, earning a special **Earth Day Try-It**.

Our Troop is beginning the **Rosary Patch** series sponsored by the **National Catholic Committee on Scouting** and we will complete both the **Joyful Mysteries** and **Luminous Mysteries** patch by the end of the year. The Rosary Patch series is a 4-year program; we hope to earn all four beautiful patches.

Two of our Brownies are about to become older sisters! We are awaiting the arrival of new brothers and/or sisters from Hannah's mom, **Mrs. Christensen** and Charity's mom, **Mrs. Webster!** We will keep you posted!

1st Grade Tiger Cubs: The boys know which way is up... and north, south, east and west. **Benjamin A., Ryan C., Ryan S. and Vernon U.** learned how to identify places on a map as well as how to tell directions while working on their "Map and Compass" belt loop that they received this month. The boys then put their newfound skills to work in two ways; by drawing their own map from their house to school and by using a compass outside to locate a hidden "treasure." They also listened to the story of how Mowgli, the boy from Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, joined the wolf pack, much like they are in the process of doing as they work on their Bobcat badge.

2nd Grade Wolves: Wolves are making waves ~ bottled ones, that is. After a terrific spring break, our Wolves still had visions of vacation and days at the beach on their minds. We turned those sunny thoughts into wave bottles ~ those magical water/oil mixtures that produce mesmerizing surf. Each Wolf customized his by adding sea creatures and coloring. The Scouts also learned how we use our waterways and stepped back to view the world from the water's point of view. In the midst of all this, the boys continue to work on their achievements, pursuing the coveted arrow point badges.

4th Grade Webelos I: The 4th Graders should be able to tell you what type of trees are in their yards, or what flowers are coming up right now. After spending their last meeting touring the trails at Sarett while working on requirements for their forestry achievement pin, Webelos were able to learn what kinds of flora and fauna appear at this time of year in Michigan.

Pack #624 News: At the April meeting, den leaders went fishing for awards, bringing in a big haul of belt loops and arrow points earned by the boys. The Cubs also played games such as Crossing Quicksand, Fish Can't Stand and Boat Race Obstacle Course. We added a few items to the Pack's time capsule ~ a Pinewood Derby award, a summer camp form and pictures of the Cub Scouts. Won't it be fun to open the time capsule years from now and see how inexpensive summer camp will seem?

Since Cubmaster **Milt Agay's** uncle, **Col. Walter Sawyer**, was recently deployed to Afghanistan and **Jon Brunner**, father of Cub Scouts **Greg and Nate**, has been sent to Iraq, the Cub Scouts of Pack 624 have decided to "adopt" Col. Sawyer's unit and Mr. Brunner during their tours of duty overseas. This means the boys will send letters, cards, pictures, and perhaps some care packages. We started at our April meeting by having each boy sign a large card for our friends and family serving overseas.

A Letter from Afghanistan

Dear Cub Scout Pack #624,

10 April 05

I am an American soldier deployed in Afghanistan. I am from Michigan, too, in Macomb County. I am only 19 years old. Last March, I was given a "pocket flag" from your pack before I left Germany to come here. I just wanted to say that all of the troops appreciate your support. It is people like you that help us get through the hard times. You are the reason we are here ~ to make sure that all of you are safe and happy. I think the "pocket flag" project makes a difference. Keep up the good work.

Remember you can do anything if you just put your mind and heart to it. Believe in yourselves, believe in your dreams, believe in your faith, and *thank you* for believing in us and in our country.

God bless you all!

PV2 April M. Chavin

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