



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.

OCTOBER 2005 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

Laker F.U.N. Directory of Officers, 2005-06

Laker F.U.N. News

President: Michele Armstrong 429-2510
Vice Pres.: Olga Juza 429-4748
Secretary: Lisa Iman 556-5559
Treasurer: Lee Ann Russell 429-6956

Everyone is a member of Laker F.U.N.! Join our next rally on 11/15 starting with 6:30pm snacks. This is what has happened so far...and what's planned...for our Laker Family.

Current Events & Contacts

Muffins with Mom: 11/11, 7-8am ES
Laker F.U.N. meeting: 11/15, 6:30 ES
All School Mass: 11/23, 9:30 ES Gym
Holiday Pie Pick-Up: 11/23, after Mass ES
Cookie Walk: 12/4, Parishes
LMC Fund-Raising & Alumni Coordinator:
Chris Glendening: 983-5529, Ext. 37
cglendening@lmclakers.com
Market Day: monthly orders
Kelly Spencer 422-9556
SCRIP: year-round
Business Office: 983-5529
Sunshine Committee:
Chan Marzke: 429-3993
Volunteer Coordinator:
Deb Stachowski: 429-2384
Welcome Committee:
Lisa Barta: 556-0120

- Each of the LMCE staff received a colorful card created by Treasurer Lee Ann Russell with a \$50 check to use for their classroom or office.
- Doughnuts with Dad hosted by Karen Ballard saw 35 dozen donuts disappear. Cars were lined up almost to the street and the noise level confirmed a successful event. Thanks also to the helping moms.
- The Welcoming Committee of Lisa Barta, Becky Angelov and Julie Holbert collected and assembled tasty and informative welcome baskets for our 14 new Laker families. Thanks also to the cookie and basketball ticket donors.
- The Halloween Dance Party took place on 10/22. Food, games, tattoos and lots of FUN noise marked this night of costumed creatures. We hope everyone got a photo to remember the event! Mucho thanks to Chair Lisa Iman and the multitudes that made it a great and 'spooky' night!
- Many helping hands under the direction of Kelly Spencer made Fall Festival on the afternoon of 10/28 a memorable occasion.
- Muffins with Mom will take place on 11/11 from 7-8 am. Moms and all their children can enjoy hot or cold drinks with yummy muffins in the cafeteria. Karen Ballard will enlist dads to staff this event.
- Order your Homemade Holiday Pies from Laker F.U.N.! Cindy Birk will be sending out details on our tasty fund-raising event soon.

LMC Administrative Contacts:

Mr. Berlin, MS/HS Principal & Exec. Dir.:
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Mr. Stefanich, Ass't. Principal & Ath. Dir.:
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Mrs. Maher, ES Principal:
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Mr. Paul Maloney, President, CCEC:
pmaloney@berriencounty.org

Elementary Essentials with Mrs. Maher

For those of you who haven't taken a peek at our playground lately, I hope you'll take a minute to notice our three beautiful maple trees. **Mr. and Mrs. Ron Reuter** began a "buy a tree" campaign last spring and through many generous donations from our school families we now have three maple trees dressed in their vibrant fall colors. As they mature, the trees will provide much needed shade to our playground. It is our hope that grass that will withstand the test of many children's feet is our next step. Thanks again to all who helped, especially the Reuter family!

A HUGE thank you goes to **Kelly Spencer** who was in charge of Fall Festival this year. Our students had such a wonderful day due to her hard work coordinating a lot of other parents to provide an afternoon of fun! Many giving parents attended several workdays as well as volunteering Friday, and these along with hours of behind the scenes work are truly appreciated. As we stood as a school community in the gymnasium to pray the last decade of the Rosary on Friday I know we all felt the presence of Mary and her guiding hand.

All Saints Day Masses



NOVEMBER 1ST, THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Downtown
9:45am, Fr. Bill Jacobs, presiding

Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School
9:30am, Fr. Christian Johnston, presiding

Calling All Alumni...

from St. Joseph, St. John and Lake Michigan Catholic High Schools. Loads of grads are out there. With a quick e-mail, alumni can help Chris Glendening build an updated list. Forward names, year of graduation, which school and a current mailing address and phone numbers to **cglendening@lmclakers.com**. or call **269-983-5529, x 37**.

LMC Parents Praying Together

On Thursdays from 11am-12pm, the Elementary Music Room is the place to be among a welcoming group of parents praying for the intentions of the staff, students and families of Lake Michigan Catholic Schools. Organizer **Stacy Kryska, 428-9344**, invites anyone to take on this simple and profound role in the life of our schools. Prayer petitions, anonymous and held in strict confidence, may be sent to **jskryska@sbcglobal.net**.

St. Joseph Parish Picnic: Universally Fun

LMCES was honored to be the host site for the St. Joseph Catholic Parish Picnic. **Laurie Marshall and her team** ably took over the reins from long-time co-chairmen, the **Pangilinan** and **Faris families**, adding some new features and keeping everything running on a warm September day.

Our thanks go to Laurie and everyone else who lent a hand in organizing and working at the picnic to make it fun for everyone then following up to be sure the building was in shipshape for school the next day! Along with having a good time with great food, the picnic provides an added benefit to our parishioners and that is: *we are neither defined nor confined by our schools or where we attend Mass. It's all good!* See you next year!

A Boost from the Marzke's & ExxonMobile

Lake Michigan Catholic Schools would like to send a huge thank you to **Craig Marzke and the Marzke family**, along with the **Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Team** for the award of several grants. The grants awarded provided \$500 toward the purchase of new elementary school music hymnals for Mass, \$500 for new Elementary School physical education equipment, \$500 to the Middle School, \$500 to the High School to be used toward implementing the Laker Life Skills program.

Laker Fund-Raising: It's So Easy

Roger's Foodland \$\$ for Education: Though he's extraordinarily busy with the construction details of his new location, Roger Seely is still maintaining his role as a community supporter by offering **1% back on total tapes from 10/01/05-4/30/06**. Be sure shop **Roger's Foodland** and turn in your tapes!

Mr. Goody's: The first Laker Night at Mr. Goody's at Scottdale Crossing was terrific. Laker diners just need to mention LMC on the **3rd Monday each month and 20% of the sale will be donated to our school**. The menu at Mr. Goody's is broad and there is something for every taste. Please note that SCRIP cannot be used on Laker Nights. **See you there, November 21st!**

Cash Back for Schools: The Orchards Mall shopping incentive program features special bonus opportunities throughout the year. In addition to earning points for every receipt dated **June 1, 2005 through April 30, 2006**, October brought "The Great Gourd" decorating contest, each entry adding points to LMC's total and the chance for winners in each category to win a \$25 gift certificate. LMC had hundreds of submissions thanks to **Tom and Martha Schueneman**, who donated their home grown gourds in every shape that made a fun foundation for lots of creative designs.

General Mills & Campbell's Programs: Each of these companies offer easy ways to augment school fund-raising by simply cutting symbols or labels from various products. **General Mills Boxtops for Education**, which earn 10 cents each, includes far more than cereal. Look for the logo on **General Mills, Betty Crocker, and Pillsbury** brand items. **Campbell's** products are clearly marked with "**Labels for Education**." The front portion of the product label is all that is needed. Send labels and boxtops to school anytime.

Bonus! Join the Boxtops Booster Club and earn 5 extra boxtops for our school. Go to the website **www.boxtops4education.com** and follow the simple registration. Responding to an e-mail confirmation will generate the boxtop bonus.


Holiday Planning with Market Day

Ease your special holiday cooking with Market Day. Featured items are offered to suit each season. Don't forget the everyday items like chicken and turkey breasts and beef steaks ~ just add a little edible ornamentation to create an impressive holiday entrée.

Visit **www.marketday.com** to check out all the possibilities. There is even a gift service to send treats far and wide. Registration is easy for first time users. Be sure to plug in **LMC Account #19457** on all orders. Chairman **Kelly Spencer, 422-9556**, welcomes any questions.

Laker Key Club: Making a Difference Today

During the first two months of the school year, Key Club has already held two ice cream socials, helped out with the reunion dinner, and assisted with the Kiwanis Club pancake dinner. As the holidays approach, watch for fund-raisers, and food and clothing drives to aid various agencies. Working with local organizations and their schedules teaches the importance of advance planning. LMC Key Club has already slated blood drive to be held in the LMCHS cafeteria. Club president **Tracey C.** has kept the group's standards high and is leading more than 60 current Key Club members in community improvement activities. Watch for opportunities to work with this group!



Twin-City Area Catholic School Fund

This year, through the generosity of you and donors like you, the Twin-City Area Catholic School Fund was able to provide scholarships to 142 students from 76 different families. This represents nearly 27% of the student population of Lake Michigan Catholic Schools. Thanks to you, these fine young people have the opportunity to learn and grow in our caring Catholic community.

“Seasons Greetings” from Laker Drama

Allow Laker Drama to officially kick off your holiday season! Laker Drama will present *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* the first two weekends in December (2, 3, 9, 10 and 11). The cast is already in rehearsals for Barbara Robinson’s classic and humorous take on Sunday school pageants. Come be a kid again as we see what the Herdmans, “the worst kids in the whole history of the world,” will do to the Christmas story.

Our cast of 32 students, from both the middle and high school, includes:

Colin A.	Iain M.
Nealie A.	Ashley M.
Joey A.	Valerie M.
Tim B.	Jonas N.
Rachel B.	Amy P.
Jessica C.	Anthony P.
Sarah C.	Caitlin R.
Nicole D.	Chad R.
Gina G.	Jackie R.
Janine G.	Anthony S.
Liz H.	Devyn S.
Megan H.	Cathrine S.
Eric H.	Max S.
Kyle H.	hil S.
Josh J.	Justin S.
Brett L.	Josh Z.

We Ski: LMC Ski Club for Grades 6-12

Though the October 27th deadline for season passes has, well, passed, students may yet sign up, albeit with a \$10 late fee added to the base rate of \$35 for returning members and \$45 for new members. LMC Ski Club membership to Timber Ridge includes bus transportation, departing LMC at 3pm and returning by 9:30 on Wednesdays throughout January and February. In addition to the membership, each trip entails a \$10 lift fee and \$10 for ski rental if needed. Food is additional and members may bring their own snacks or make use of the snack bar.

Membership has its privileges: *three free lessons, season-long reduced rates, and family member rates.* Those with questions or with an interest in chaperoning a trip may call **Mrs. Ferol Allen, 925-7677** or e-mail ferolallen@comcast.net.

Blue Tide Athletic Boosters’ Association

Sandwiched between attending their own children’s school and athletic events, Blue Tide committee members have made headway with their projects.

- **Laker Spirit Wear ‘05** is ready for its debut. Shirts, both long and short sleeved, including women’s short sleeved, hooded sweatshirts, basketball shorts, and hats are available along with a special graffiti T-shirt designed by the **Ives family**. Order forms are on the way!
- **Foam bleacher cushions** emblazoned with **GO LAKERS!!!** will be available in November to buy directly from the concession stands. The price is \$10 each and they are s-o-o comfortable, indoors and out.
- **Tickets for the Blue Tide \$10,000 Raffle** will be distributed in November. The drawing will be held in February 3, 2006. At just \$10 per ticket, you or someone you know could easily be our \$10,000, \$1,000 or \$500 winner!
- **LMC stadium chair orders** were taken earlier in the school year. Anyone who ordered one but did not receive theirs, should contact **Elaine Theisen, 983-5529**, in the LMCMS/HS Business Office to arrange pickup.

All Blue Tide proceeds are used to support LMC Athletics. Be a part of their success by attending our next meeting on **Wednesday 11/9/05, 7:00pm LMCMS/HS cafeteria**. Go, Lakers!



**LAKE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**

**Named one of America's
“Top 50 Catholic High Schools”
by the Acton Institute
for the Study of Religion & Liberty**

<http://chshonor.org>

**They Went That-a-Way:
Laker X-C Wins Red Arrow**

Laker Cross-Country clinched the Red Arrow Conference at the meet in Grand Beach with a dominant performance from Varsity Girls and Boys teams. Our girls, finishing in the top five positions, earned conference honors and should be considered a favorite for a team regional championship while also qualifying for State! Laker Boys registered a convincing win ~ our top five boys finished in the top seven overall with four running the course in the 18 minute range! Six of the eight boys finished with conference honors making the team a strong contender for State qualification. Good luck to **Justin S., Peter M., Aaron A., Andrew M., Iain M., Travis H., Frank D., Andrew S., Emily E., Megan K., Devyn S., Jessica C., Lauren C. and Sarah C.**

Middle School and Elementary students, take note: Cross-Country is a great sport in its own right, one that can lead to a life-long, *forgive the pun*, pursuit. It's a sport that relies on technique yet accommodates a broad range of body types from compact to lanky, and is a terrific conditioner for the winter athletic seasons. Several 6th, 7th & 8th Graders are on the course this season, learning and gaining experience. Sound interesting? Talk to the coach, **Mr. Trent Smith** at the Middle School.

**Save the Date:
Scott Hahn to Lecture at LMCES**

Renowned Bible lecturer **Scott Hahn** will appear on **Saturday, November 12th at 1:30pm at the IMH Memorial Gym at Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School, 3165 Washington Ave., St. Joseph.** Mr. Hahn, an internationally published Catholic lecturer and author, is a professor of theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Among his topics: "The Lamb's Supper" (The Mass), and "Swear to God" (The Sacraments) and a Question/Answer session. A \$10 donation is suggested. Questions may be directed to **Ron Demblowski, 983-7707** or at **reo@qtm.net**.

**YOU-th Ministries: Here for YOU!
So Is Karl Dolson at 983-3807**

SERVE AT THE SOUP KITCHEN! 9th-12th Graders and their parents, will serve lunch at the Soup Kitchen in Benton Harbor on **Saturday, 11/19, 9:45am-1:00pm.** Space is limited! A permission slip and medical form is required.

HIGH-SCHOOLERS! Come to the **Sunday 6:00pm Mass** followed by some great food and great times at **LIFE Night, 7-9pm at the Rose Center!** Come to LIFE Night even if you went to Mass earlier. Bring your friends!

- **10/30: The Big Game Is in Overtime!**
- **11/6: 2nd Overtime!**
- **11/13: 24-7**
- **11/20: Collect All 4!**
- **11/27: UNO por Favor - UNO Tournament!**

MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS! Check out TNT ("Tweens-N-Truth) every **Wednesday, 7:00-8:30pm at the Rose Center!** Bring your friends!

- **11/2: Saints Then, and...**
- **11/9: Saints Now!**
- **11/16: Serving the Persecuted Church**
- **11/23: No TNT! Happy Thanksgiving!**
- **11/30: Preparing the Way**

LIFE TEEN KICK-OFF WINNERS: mp3 Player-**Joey G.**; ND football tickets-**Abbey M.**; Celebration Cinema Gift Card-**Morgan H.**; iTunes Gift Card-**Kaylene S.**; and Casting Crowns CD-**Frank D.**! Congratulations!

TEC OPPORTUNITY! All young adults in 12th Grade up to age 24 are invited To Encounter Christ (TEC), **11/4-6 at St. John Bosco Parish in Mattawan.** The cost is \$50 for three incredible days, including food and lodging. Scholarships are available as needed. Register ASAP - info packets are available at the back of St. Joseph Catholic Church (Downtown & South).

YOUR CREATIVITY IS NEEDED! The St. Joseph Catholic Youth Ministry is in need of 2-3 more people to help with LIFE TEEN and/or TNT Night youth room environments. The environments/decorations are changed to fit each week's topic or theme.

Little Laker Preschool & Preschool Plus with Mrs. Grundy

Our 3-year-old preschoolers just finished a unit on using their senses. They have become experts on how “God Made Me Live.” By learning how to help, care, clean, share and smile, they are now learning how “God Made Me Good.” Helping us share smiles was the **DeFrancesco family** who gave us playground equipment that is just our size! We can now play safely out the backdoor of our classroom.

The 4-year-old class is busy learning the alphabet through Zoophonics with related units. We recently enjoyed weeks celebrating apples, birthdays, cowboys and now dinosaurs. The **Golob family** made a big impact on our “D” unit by donating our “fortasaurus.” The youngsters had a grand time playing in it.

Preschool Plus is continuing its quest for life in the land of the Letter People. Ms. F, Mr. N, and Mr. H are our new friends. They have helped us to learn that everyone has feelings, how to keep safe, and that there's no place like home. These ideas coupled with our math and religion series has rounded out our program.

Kindergarten with Mrs. Fields & Mrs. Kuehn

Kindergartners have had a busy month of October. We have finished up our books about Michigan and know the state flower, bird, and reptile. We even know what the state seal looks like! Our hands have been busy doing many fall projects. Our mini units included fall, pumpkins, trees of Michigan, and of course, some Halloween fun. Throughout this season, we used many of God's gifts of nature to help in our projects. The beautiful leaves of fall drifted into our artwork and we collected sticks and transformed them into stick vases.

Our visit to Jollay Orchards with the Preschool and Preschool Plus students turned out to be a terrific trip! We loved the hayride to the pumpkin patch where we could pick out our very own pumpkins. The students used their senses to watch and listen to learn how apple cider is made. Beyond the sights and sounds, our sense of taste may have been the most appreciated as we sampled fresh apple cider.

First Grade with Mrs. Faris & Mrs. Petsovich

The 1st Graders went absolutely “batty” in October! Our science mini-units were bats, spiders, and apples! We learned interesting facts, heard many stories, both fiction and nonfiction, and wrote collaborative books. We also wrote an autumn rebus and learned about Christopher Columbus. Outside the classroom, the 1st Graders took advantage of the gorgeous weather to travel to Stover's farm where **Mrs. Stover** herself taught us about the Native Americans who lived here before us. Our stroll through the apple orchard, raspberry bushes, grapevines, and pumpkin patch was wonderful.

October has so many blessings. We begin each morning with the Rosary and we sing Our Morning Offering. The 1st Graders learned about St. Francis and our Guardian Angels, too. These things are part of our beautiful Catholic heritage that we explore every day. Our weeks fittingly close with a discussion of the following Sunday's Gospel. For Mrs. Faris and Mrs. Petsovich, seeing their students wrap their minds around those big ideas is the best blessing of all.

Second Grade with Mrs. Hanley & Mr. Deja

The month of October has been an investigative month. We have been learning about solids, liquids and gases using kitchen chemistry. The 2nd Graders have played around in the classroom using everyday kitchen items, such as baking soda, vinegar and grape juice to see the chemical reactions they produce. Our trip to the LMCHS Chemistry Lab with **demonstrations by students of Mrs. Jasper-Stump** was a blast ~ just figuratively.

Also in October we have been studying a different saint each day and discovering how they devoted their lives to God. We enjoy praying and learning about the Mysteries of the Rosary every morning. We look forward to the end of the month and the celebration of the Harvest Festival and All Saints Day.

As the end of the first marking period approaches, the students are showing great improvement in their reading and math skills and are looking forward to the upcoming holidays in the second quarter.

Third Grade with Mrs. Bodley & Mrs. Bruder

The weather turned a bit brisk and the 3rd Grade pace has been the same. We are learning to make change and tell time in math. That must mean it's *time* for another *change* as we prepare to learn cursive in the next marking period. That same chilly weather offers a reminder that there are many people who need our care now and throughout the cold months. The 3rd Graders have started our first community service project called ***Trick or Treat so Our Community Can Eat!*** Outside our classrooms, please notice our beautifully decorated Trick or Treat bags. We are asking for donations of non-perishable food items school-wide. Please donate such items as canned soup, boxed mac and cheese, baby formula, cereal, or toiletries (disposal razors, shaving cream, toilet paper), and place them in our decorated bags. When the month ends, we will then take all that we collected and give it to our Catholic Community Center.

Fourth Grade with Mrs. Binger & Mrs. Zetts

The “**Owl Guy and Gal,**” **Mike and Shelly,** visited us from the Sarett Nature Center. They introduced us to different kinds of owls and even brought along two live owls, a barred owl and a screech owl. We learned the largest owl is the snowy owl. It comes to Michigan when food is scarce and likes to hang out in parking lots. The long-eared owl gets its name because of its long ears and the great horned owl eats mice *and other owls*. We now consider ourselves owl experts. **By Marie A.**

Both 4th Grade classes participated in the dissection of sheep's eyeballs. At the beginning everyone was saying that the eyeballs were gross! At the end though, the only words you could hear were “COOL” and “WOW.” Reading about the eye was cool but seeing it was even cooler! Thanks to **Dr. & Mrs. Urrea, Mr. Golob, Mrs. Luxem, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Kotyuk, Mrs. Halamka, Mr. Rai, Mrs. Smith, Max Smith and C.J. Smith** for being great eyeball dissecting assistants. **By Megan P.**

A BIG thank you goes out to the following parents for their invaluable help to our classes this month: **Mrs. Hannapel and Mrs. Halamka** for binding our mystery stories and **Mrs. Angelov** who helped with our assignment books. We couldn't do all we do without their help.

Fifth Grade with Mrs. Puplis & Mrs. Fish

The 5th Graders were welcomed aboard the *Friends Good Will*, a square sailed sloop, to go sailing on beautiful Lake Michigan. They were cruising for a good time and found it! The students visited the Curious Kids Museum first to learn about simple machines, then used this knowledge on board to hoist the sails, steer the ship, and practice navigational skills. A tip of the hat goes to Captain Jim Schneider and his crew, the Maritime Museum, the Fredrick S. Upton Foundation, the Curious Kids Museum, and especially **Mrs. Chris McQuillan**, who arranged this wonderful adventure!

Our classes and chaperones also felt welcome at the University of Notre Dame. **Mrs. Mary Dudding**, our art teacher, guided us through the exhibits at the Snite Museum of Art and around the campus to visit such famous places as the Grotto and The Word of Life mosaic, the real name of “Touchdown Jesus.” The highlight of the day was Mass at the magnificent Basilica of the Sacred Heart with its remarkable stained glass windows. Notre Dame is a great place to see inspiration expressed in so many forms!

Our first formal research paper, "Benjamin Franklin: More Than a Revolutionary," is done. The students' essays have been submitted to the annual writing contest sponsored by the Algonquin Chapter of the DAR. Lake Michigan Catholic has been home to many former winners of this contest and we look forward to this year's challenge. The student's have come to appreciate Franklin's many gifts and talents. If you wear bifocals, have stood by a warm Franklin Stove, borrow books from a library, or walk down a lighted street, you have Ben Franklin to thank for his innovative ideas.

The essays were barely off our desks when the 5th Grade moved on to a poetry unit. Forty-three of our original poems will be submitted for possible publication in the annual *Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans*. This beautifully bound book will feature students' original poetry from around the United States. We are excited about this awesome creative writing experience.

Technology with Mrs. Barden

Looking for the school Mass schedules? Lost your Student or Athletic handbook? Or maybe you're wondering when spring break starts? Then you need to check out the LMC Laker website at www.lmclakers.com. Our website has been redesigned and offers a comprehensive and growing overview of all things Lake Michigan Catholic.

"Breaking news" and announcements for the Elementary, Middle, and High school are posted on the front page, with links to calendars, sports schedules, *Teacherease* on-line gradebook and homework postings, and general school information on the left sidebar. New additions include team and band pictures, extra-curricular club information, and sports schedules with game results updated by Dan Gatchell. Mary Nielsen's "This Week in Sports" provides a day-by-day breakdown of athletic activities and includes a link to the Fruitbelt Officials site for school maps so you know how to get there! Be sure to add www.lmclakers.com to your favorites and check it often.

Musical Notes with Mrs. Gallagher

The sounds of Christmas are in the air as the children prepare for their programs. We are finding we have many talents in addition to singing. Guests in the Elementary building should to stop by the music room; it will make your day brighter.

Quite a nice addition has arrived in the Multi-Purpose Room. **Mr. John Baldwin** from St. Joseph donated a baby grand piano to the elementary school and we are beyond excited about this. The piano will be available for our Masses and special projects such as our upcoming 1st Grade production of *Cinderella*. We are so blessed at LMC by the generosity of many people.

And the winner is...the entire school! **Msgr. Tom Martin** recently issued a challenge that whichever class participated the best during Mass would be acknowledged and rewarded. The decision was easy - everyone was great - ice cream for all. As Msgr. Tom says, this was really a way for him to celebrate his 26th anniversary of ordination, and what a celebration we had! Join us at LMCES on Wednesdays at 9:30 and you will really understand the meaning of the word "celebrate!"

After-School Care News with Mrs. Zilke

The After-School kids had a spooktacular October! We made beautiful leaf paintings to celebrate "Autumn Week" and had a tasty treat of pancakes with maple syrup for our "trip" to Canada. Our half-day of After-School Care during the staff inservice was well received and there were a lot of laughs during our charades game. We made colorful coats for Joseph and we had fun with a Father Abraham song and dance. We rounded out our month with a pumpkin-coloring contest and spooky spiders and our Halloween pizza party!

Good Counsel from Mrs. Smart

The family dinner is becoming a rare treat these days. Thirty to forty percent of families don't eat together more than twice a week.

Dining together is vital to building a strong family unit. Dinner conversations are one of the few chances the family has to bond. Studies show dinner conversations can also improve young children's vocabularies and further enhance reasoning skills in older children. To make the most of dinnertime:

- **Schedule dinner** so most family members can make it. If someone has a conflict, continue with dinner to reinforce routine.
- **Ask children to help** with preparations, setting the table, preparing the food, and importantly, assisting with clean-up.
- **Have dinner at a regular time.** It doesn't need to be at the exact time daily but routine allows family members to plan events *around* dinner.
- **Turn off the TV** and turn on the answering machine. This sends the message to children that dinnertime *with them* is special.
- **Think about what you want to talk about** at dinner. Make it a pleasant experience. Avoid topics like bad report cards.
- **Make sure children join the conversation.** Address each child directly. Even young children have important ideas and should be more than observers.

Scouting Around at LMC

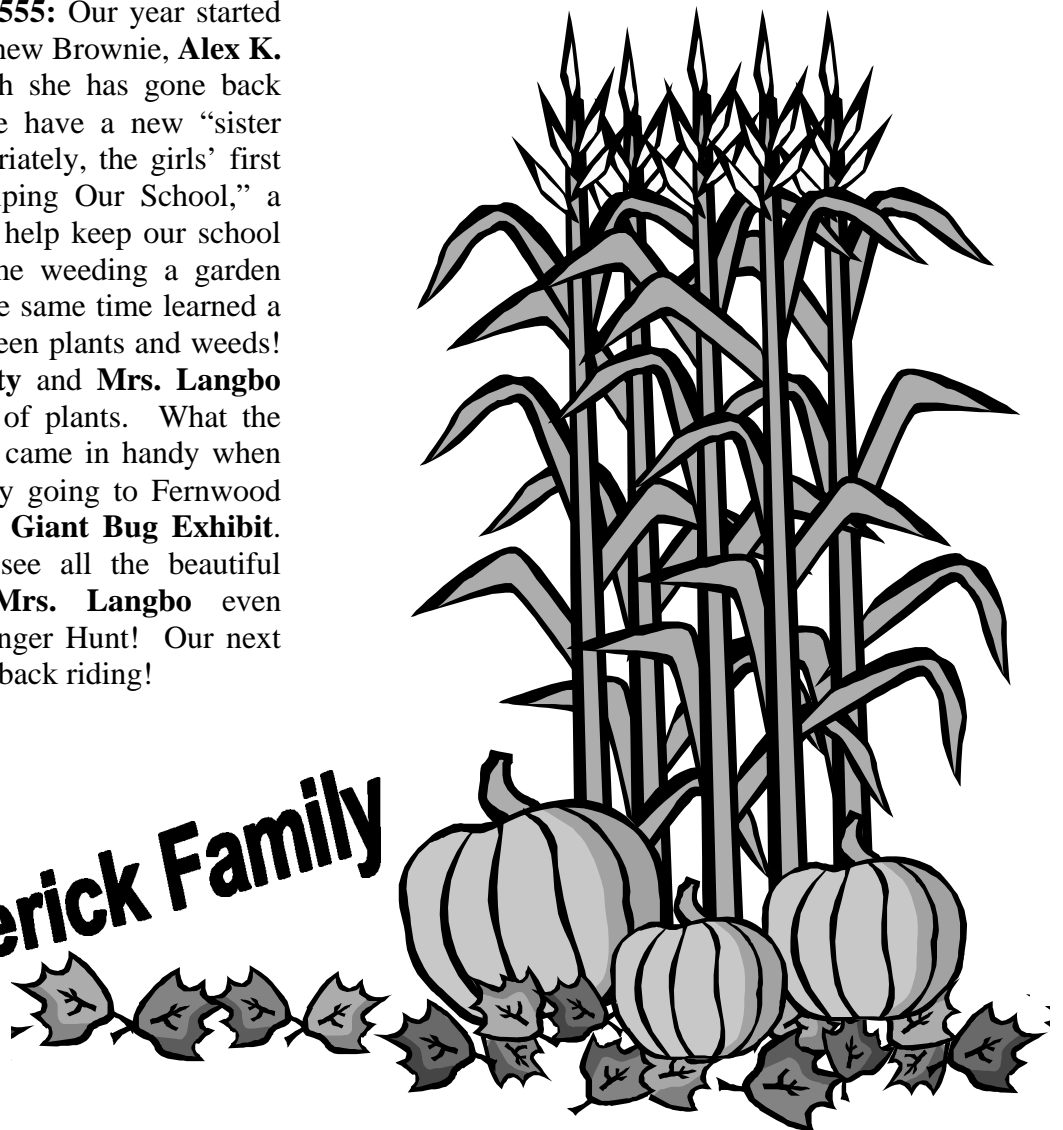
1st Grade Brownie Troop #542: The girls completed the requirements for two more Try-Its, Girl Scout Ways and Manners. Our troop worked very hard on the Great Gourd Decorating Contest to help our school earn points for the Cash Back for Schools program. Our efforts were rewarded at our first award ceremony on October 24th where the girls were presented with their various patches. Much of the girls work and fun happens in **Mrs. Petsovich's** classroom ~ we thank her for generously sharing with us.

2nd Grade Brownie Troop #555: Our year started in the best way, welcoming a new Brownie, **Alex K. from New Orleans!** Though she has gone back home, it is nice to know we have a new "sister troop" in Louisiana! Appropriately, the girls' first activity as a troop was "Helping Our School," a community service project to help keep our school beautiful. The girls spent time weeding a garden near the gymnasium and at the same time learned a lot about the differences between plants and weeds! We relied on **Mrs. Dolohanty** and **Mrs. Langbo** who shared their knowledge of plants. What the girls learned about gardening came in handy when we earned our Plant Try-It by going to Fernwood Botanical Gardens to see the **Giant Bug Exhibit**. The girls had a chance to see all the beautiful flowers and plants and **Mrs. Langbo** even developed a Fernwood Scavenger Hunt! Our next venture outdoors will be horseback riding!

Junior Troop #574: Greetings from the Junior Girl Scouts and reporters **Megan P., Jeevanjot R. and Mary V.** As 4th Graders, we are very excited to become Juniors. We can't wait to earn new badges. We have been camping and we have learned how to do archery. We also learned how much hiking really hurts! Our troop is working on the "Being My Best" badge. We are also going to PawMart to earn the "Pet Care" badge. Our main goal is to earn the Bronze Award as Juniors. We want to have success in all we do this year. We will work very hard to try to earn the Bronze Award.

Thank you to our
co-sponsors,

The Broderick Family



Mike & Lisa with Kelley, Megan & Amy

2nd Grade Wolf Den: Before it got too cold, the Wolves visited Lions Park where they had a cookout and discussed the food pyramid. Scout mom **Deb Stachowski** even turned a Toss Across game into a tic-tac-toe food group game. The boys filled up on hot dogs, veggies and apples as they tried to experience the different food groups.

Hammers and screwdrivers are tools, not toys. The boys learned that lesson along with what these and other tools are used for from **Janet Birch**, Alex's mom. Mrs. Birch discussed the purpose of many tools and helped the boys practice hammering a nail straight into a board before they made a birdhouse using the information they learned.

5th Grade Webelos II Den: The boys are continuing to work on that Readyman badge and soon will be starting BAT (Basic Aid Training) through the Kalamazoo Red Cross Office. The Webelos also spent a fantastic weekend at the Sportsman's Club camping with Troop 624 at our local Camporee. The Scouts were not shy when it came to firing the 20-gauge shotguns, knocking those clay pigeons out of the air. They lined their sights up with the 22's, demonstrating that we have some real up-and-coming marksmen in the group. They boys started learning the patrol method by cooking the meals and cleaning up by themselves. The Webelos send their thanks to **Scoutmaster Elmer Jones, Mr. Ed Groeshel and the other Boy Scouts and leaders** for a wonderful time and learning opportunity.

News from Pack #624: Gone to the races! Our Pack headed off to Lane Automotive in Watervliet, hosts for the 2005 Cubmobile Races this past month. Our boys were standing in the winners circle time after time collecting those medals following double elimination heats. In the Tiger heat our Tiger Den won 2nd place with a team of **Grant D., Gardner K., and Andriejus G.** The undefeated Wolves took 1st place, with team members **Benjamin A.** and **Nate B.** Bears **Andrew D., Nathan G., and Greg B.** took 3rd Place. In the Webelos II division, **Joseph A., John G., Andrew G.** and **Amasa S.** pulled in with a 1st! A special thanks goes to **Mr. Golob and Mr. Graeber** for not only tweaking our old Cubmobile but for building a new prototype, which will end up as a model for Scouts everywhere!

Big congratulations are due **Benjamin A.** for being the first Scout in the Pack to earn the new Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award. One of the requirements is that the Scout must attend summer camp and do other requirements for their specific age. We have a bunch more who are getting close ~ so keep up the good work.

At the Pack meeting this month, the boys had a special visit by "Andy the Ambulance" from Medic I Ambulance. **Mr. Rick Pletz**, a paramedic with Medic I, arranged the visit that also featured one of the ambulances for the boys to tour. Following through with the theme, the boys made individual first aid kits.

M-m-m-m-m! It must be...



Trails End Popcorn!

What's better on a chilly day than to wrap your hands around a warm bowl of Trails End Popcorn? Contact one of our Cub Scouts and stock up for the year. Remember each sale helps support our Pack's operation. If there are any questions or special requests, such as arranging to have the boys outside of your store or at an event, call **Popcorn Kernel Sean Juza, 429-4748.**