



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.

NOVEMBER 2005 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3

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

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

Laker F.U.N. News

The next Laker F.U.N. meeting is on **Thursday, January 12th**. If you missed the last one don't miss this one. We need your input on upcoming events! Tricia, Olga and Kelly were drawing winners. Remember everyone is a member of Laker F.U.N.!

Current Events & Contacts

Cookie Walk: 12/4, Parishes
Laker F.U.N. meeting: 1/12, 6:30 ES
LMC Fund-Raising & Alumni Coordinator:
Chris Glendening: 983-5529, Ext. 37
cglendening@lmclakers.com
Market Day: monthly orders
Kelly Spencer 428-9556
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
Navigator Deadlines: 12/14, 1/18
Jan Mathews: 429-0227
janicemathews@yahoo.com

- The **Annual Cookie Walk** is this **Sunday, December 4th after all masses**. Don't miss this opportunity to get homemade cookies for the holidays and support Laker F.U.N. activities. **Sara Duris** and her crews will be selling these treats by the pound **at all 4 churches!**
- **LMCE Giving Tree for the Holidays!** Ever wonders what gift to purchase for a teacher or staff? The answer is simple! Take a look at the wishlist by the Giving Tree branches in the MPR, select an item, write it on a leaf and add it to the Tree. You, your child and LMCE staff all benefit. It's holiday "shopping" made easy!
- **Fall Festival 2005** at the school on Friday, October 28th had over 40 volunteers helping with fun activities and snacks, and ended with all the students gathered for the Rosary in the gym with **Fathers Bill and Christian**. Thank you **Kelly Spencer**, for organizing everyone!
- **Muffins with Mom** on November 11th saw moms and their children enjoying dozens of baked goods and drinks. Turnabout's fair play so **Karen Ballard** had dads staff this event.
- **Over 150 homemade holiday pies** were made under the coordinating hands of **Cindy Birk, Susan Herrmann and Angie Seger**. Many thanks to the additional helpers and everyone who purchased pies to support our fund-raiser.

LMC Administrative Contacts:

Mr. Berlin, MS/HS Principal & Exec. Dir.:
jberlin@lmclakers.com 983-2511
Mr. Stefanich, Ass't. Principal & Ath. Dir.:
wstefanich@lmclakers.com 983-3154
Mrs. Maher, ES Principal:
catholicprincipal@yahoo.com 429-0227
Mrs. Payovich, Business Manager:
cpayovich@lmclakers.com 983-5529
Mr. Paul Maloney, President, CCEC:
pmaloney@berriencounty.org

Elementary Essentials with Mrs. Maher

Our all-school Thanksgiving Day Mass was a joyful and yes, thankful celebration! **Monsignor Martin** was the main celebrant, and **Fathers Jacobs, Christian, Werra, and Msgr. Sears** concelebrated, assisted by **Deacon Gallagher**. Our IMH Memorial Gymnasium was filled not only with our student body, but also with many friends and family! It was a true Laker family singing and praying together, and giving thanks for the many blessings we share.

Like any family would, the Laker family members pitched in to make the Mass special. The **Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball teams** along with coaches **Josh Beckmann and Bobby Simmons** tested their “core strength” by doing all our set-up and tear-down. **Mrs. Cathy Mavis** provided our beautiful altar flowers. **Mr. Berlin** and **Mr. Stefanich** handles the Middle/High school logistics, and our own **Mrs. Peggy Gallagher** planned inspirational and joyful music along with preparing our song sheets, making this one of our favorite celebrations of the year!

I think my personal favorite part of the Mass was seeing our seniors “sing” *Awesome God* with their hands. It means a lot to take the songs we learn as elementary school students and get another chance to participate in such a special way!

Laker Key Club: Always in Overdrive

The holidays kick Key Club into a higher gear than normal but the students have been working throughout the community since school began. Just since October, students have collected \$250 for Breast Cancer awareness by hosting an ice cream social with sundae-of-your-dreams ingredients provided by Key Club members. Thanks go to the “sweet” parents who gave their kids extra money to get hyped up on sugar for the day. Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF was the beneficiary of Key Clubbers’ legwork that collected \$250.

Each of our Thanksgiving dinners was more enjoyable with the knowledge that a family, displaced by Hurricane Katrina and currently living in the Smith’s cabin, was able to celebrate with food collected by Key Club. Another ice cream social netted enough funds to supplement the food donation with \$100 for them to spend in any way they like along with a \$100 gift card to Meijer.

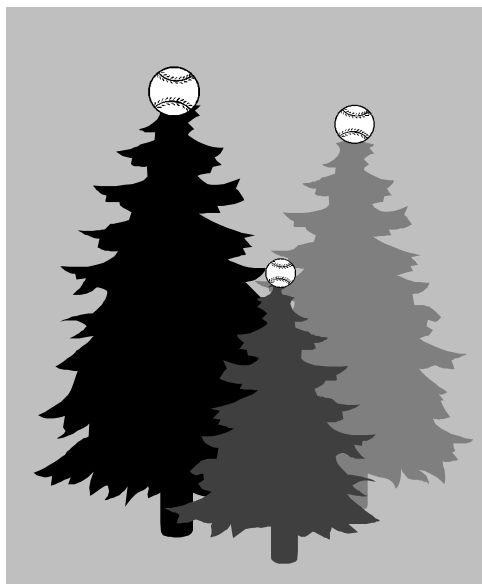
The Key Club to-do list for December is all about Christmas. In the next few weeks, the students will check off a card collection for inmates, hold another ice cream social to raise funds for a Christmas dinner for a family in need, and take a turn at bell-ringing for the Salvation Army at Orchards Mall. Busy as they are, Lake Michigan Catholic Key Club members invite suggestions for service projects. If you know anyone who needs help, call advisor **Mrs. Jeri DiBrito** or Club president **Tracey Chuckas** at LMCHS, 983-2511.

Laker Boys’ Baseball Fund-Raiser



Pick up in the
Rose Center
parking lot
12/4 & 12/11
9:00am – 1:00pm

Delivery for \$10



Order a Blue Spruce Christmas Tree!



Sizes from
2 feet – 15 feet
Prices from \$25- \$40

To order, call:
Patty Brookes at
428-9509

Laker Fund-Raising: It's So Easy

SCRIP: Everyone needs extra time for decorating, baking, entertaining and shopping. Shopping with SCRIP can make those tasks easier and save time, too. Have your order in on Monday and by Friday of that same week, your SCRIP will be in hand. *How easy is that?* **Orders can be dropped off at the Business Office, Elementary Office or sent by FAX (983-5520), by Monday, 9am.**

Last date to place special seasonal orders is Monday, December 12th by 9am.

Holiday hours for SCRIP will be Monday through Friday, from 8am to 3pm, except December 23rd, which will be from 8am to noon. The SCRIP office is closed on December 26th, but open again during Christmas break on December 27-30, 9am to noon, and January 2-6, 9am to noon.

Laker Night at Mr. Goody's: Just in time to provide a respite from cooking, Mr. Goody's comes to the rescue with a creative menu and 20% donation of sales on **Monday, December 19th** when you mention LMC. Stop by the restaurant at Scottdale Crossing every 3rd Monday!

Burger King Coupon Sale Coming in January! The annual coupon book sale is set for January 31 - February 24. The books remain bargain priced at \$3 each. Given their value and popularity, every student should be able to help meet our goal of selling 10 books per student.

S.C.E.N.E. Auction: The dates seem distant on April 21-22 but anyone wishing to donate goods or services to take advantage of tax deductions for the 2005 calendar year may contact **Chris Glendening** at the LMC Business Office.

Cash Back for Schools: Highlight on Toys for Tots

As the big shopping season approaches, Orchards Mall offers incentives to shop locally. Several bonus point opportunities will be in effect throughout the month. Any shopper can benefit LMC's point total by stopping at the Customer Service Center to have receipts stamped. Watch for updates on the Mall marquee on Napier Avenue.

An easy way to serve the community and assist our school's effort is to give to the **U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots Drive**. Our school will receive **500 bonus points** for each new, unwrapped toy donated. Toys can be taken to the Customer Service Center to be credited to LMC, or placed in the collection box near the Elementary school office. **The school collection will run through December 16th**. The kids enjoy choosing a toy to make Christmas special for someone else and feel a special pride as they watch that box fill up!

Merry Market Day

Market Day lets you put holiday dinner worries on the back burner and your energy toward what is more important ~ time with family and friends to celebrate the season.

Visit **www.marketday.com** then click "Roasts" to view mouthwatering entrée ideas for a main course of a fabulous holiday menu. Another benefit when time is at a premium is that these entrées come in generous and subtly seasoned portions that can pull double-duty with any leftovers easily adapted to other recipes. Call **Kelly Spencer 428-9556** with any questions about on-line orders (use **LMC Account #19457**) or paper orders.

This month's edition of *The Navigator* is co-sponsored by the



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.

Laker Drama Now Showing: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!

Really...that's the name of the play. Join us on December 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11th for Barbara Robinson's classic Christmas tale. 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. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. Show times are 7:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 on Sunday.

Elementary Casting Call: The old theater axiom, "There are no small parts, just small actors" doesn't quite hold up when our actors are around 5- to 12-years old. Information for this year's LMCES show will be going out the first week of December. *Godspell, Jr.* will be presented on **Saturday, March 25th, with dress rehearsal on March 24th.** Elementary students who are interested should turn in their sheets as soon as possible. Parts will be assigned before Christmas break so that scripts and music can go home at that time.

Youth-to-Youth: Time for Red Ribbons

Red Ribbon Week, a national awareness campaign to promote drug- and alcohol-free lifestyles, takes place appropriately during the holiday season when, for some, the word "celebration" takes on an alternate meaning that can lead to painful consequences. During the week of December 2-9, LMCHS Youth-to-Youth members will present programs and lead activities with their peers and Middle School students to drive the message home.

Students in Grades 9-12 will end the week with a frank presentation by **Mr. Dale Mateson**, a teacher at New Buffalo High School who lost his stepdaughter, Brooke, in an alcohol-related crash in 2001. Brooke, a passenger, was killed and two other teens injured. The decision to drink and subsequently to drive led to a tragic loss for one family, recuperation for others, and a prison sentence for the driver.

Though the components of the program take place at school, now is the time for parents to take advantage of receptive minds to reinforce the message. Bring up the subject in conversation. Talk about the "what ifs" no matter how difficult to imagine. Isn't a little discomfort better than regret?

Christian Service: It's in the Bag

The 2nd and 5th Grade students send their thanks for all of the donations to their cooperative Christian Service project for November, "Christmas Caring Gift Bags." Our intention was to fill at least 20 bags with personal care items to help the parishioners of St. John/St. Bernard meet their goal of giving a bag to each client served by our Catholic Community Center. We were so pleased our Lakers' response to our appeal! Students in each grade were asked to bring a particular item, such as bathroom tissue, deodorant or toothpaste, things not covered by the federal food stamps program. To make the gifts more festive, the 2nd Graders colored pictures of the Nativity and the 5th Graders glued them on the white bags which were then filled with the donated items and topped by colorful bows. To make sure each bag was filled identically, **Gunny Rai's family** and **Mrs. Linda Fish** donated any missing items to complete the package.

When we finished, we found that we exceeded our goal of 20 bags. In all, 37 bags as well as boxes of non-perishable foods were collected for the people served by our good Sisters at the CCC! When **Mr. Byron Boyle** and **Mr. Jim Sullivan** came to pick up the donations, they were faced with the dilemma of transporting more than they expected, but there were no complaints ~ they were pleased to have that kind of problem!

LMC Ski Club: Counting Down the Days!

The LMC Ski Club has over 120 student members and 45 parent members! Our first trip together to Timber Ridge will be **Wednesday, January 11th**. Membership passes will be distributed at our December meeting for use during Christmas break. At the same meeting, safety issues and weekly bus sign-up will be discussed.

Laker Ski Club members in Grades 9-12 should start scoping out the last weekend in February for the trip to Schuss Mountain/Shanty Creek Resort in Belaire. This trip is exclusively for high school students and chaperones.

Skiing or not, everyone can help by *praying for snow!* Refer questions or complaints about that particular prayer request to **Mrs. Allen, 925-7677**.

Sound Choices for the College-Bound

The first step in making a confident transition to college is for the student to believe that s/he belongs in college. Then the trick is to find the right fit among thousands of choices. Some students have established a specific list of schools while others keep their options open. To encourage all students explore a variety of schools and nail down the best choice, the Lake Michigan Catholic Guidance Department hosts a variety of university and college representatives for on-site visits. Over the last few months, many distinguished universities, as well as smaller private institutions, have given our juniors and seniors a glimpse of what each school has to offer. Topics discussed were financial aid, entrance requirements, extracurricular activities and dorm life. Director of Guidance, **Debra Schmid** believes "it's never too early to start looking!" A few of the most popular schools to visit were: University of Notre Dame, St. Mary's College, WMU, Marquette University, MSU and Lake Michigan College. The interest shown by seniors *and* underclassman was impressive and demonstrates that our 98% college-bound record is no accident.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival

Honor Our Lady, the patroness of the Americas and celebrate the message of understanding and faith in Jesus that she revealed at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival on **Saturday, December 10th after the 4pm Mass at St. Joseph, South, 5300 S. Roosevelt Rd., in Stevensville.** The evening will feature an authentic Mexican dinner, Guadalupe pageant, piñatas and a homemade quilt raffle ~ all for a suggested donation of \$10 per person. Event proceeds will be donated to an orphanage in Mexico. **RSVP by calling 983-7797 or e-mail reo@qtm.net by Monday, December 5th.** Questions? Call Carmen at 429-1341.

Blue Tide Athletic Boosters

Along with supporting our current athletic programs, Blue Tide has lead the way in establishing a Lake Michigan Catholic Athletic Hall of Fame. Chairman **Phil Hegg** reports that the inaugural candidates have been selected for induction on **Friday, February 10th** at the home basketball game against Eau Claire. Come see some of the history of what has made Lake Michigan Catholic athletics what it is today.

To keep building on that proud past, Blue Tide captains fund-raising to assist current programs.

- **\$10,000 Raffle:** First place and \$10,000, \$1000, or \$500 cash could be yours but only if you are the holder of a winning ticket in the Blue Tide Raffle. At \$10 each, they make perfect stocking stuffers! The **drawing will be held Friday, February 3rd** during halftime of the LMC Boys Varsity basketball home game. Tickets are available from every LMC family, and from the LMCHS/MS Business Office. All Blue Tide proceeds are used to support LMC athletics. (License #R83987).
- **Foam Bleacher Cushions:** Blue and yellow and available directly from the concession stands for just \$10 each, Laker cushions will make everyone comfortable this winter sports season right through spring when soccer, softball, tennis and baseball put the fans back in the stands. Stop by at the next home game!
- **Spirit Wear:** Organizer **Mrs. Chris McQuillan** is thrilled with the marvelous support as your orders kept rolling in! Orders will shipped soon.

The next Blue Tide meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 8th at 7:00pm** in the LMCMS/HS cafeteria. Come and "Ride the Tide" in support of LMC athletics! **GO LAKERS!**



This month's edition of *The Navigator* was co-sponsored by

Sean & Olga Juza and their children Taylor, Austin, Joseph & Kyle

in thanksgiving for holidays past and for those yet to come.

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

Serve It Up! The St. Joseph Catholic Youth Ministry, together with the Benton Harbor Boys & Girls Club, served 225 meals at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen on November 19th! The next opportunity for students and parents to serve will be **January 21st for middle-schoolers** and **March 18th for high school students**.

LIFE TEEN! All 9th-12th Graders are welcome to check out the **Sunday 6:00pm Mass followed by dinner and LIFE Night from 7-9pm @ the Rose Center!** There's a great "prime time line-up" on the Catholic Cable Network that you won't want to miss in December. Our program will be preempted on December 25th and January 1st for some "family programming."

Check "It" Out! "It" meets **every Thursday evening from 7:00-9:00pm @ the Oasis** (the basement of the Morlock Center). This is a great chance for high school students to hang out with your friends and talk about relevant topics led by your peers and a few adults. There is even a vintage *original* Nintendo! **Questions? Call Ken or Jen Branham, 556-0525!**

T-N-T Night! The Rose Center is the place for all 6th-8th Graders each **Wednesday from 7-8:30pm**. If you've never been to TNT before, now's the time to check it out, and bring your friends! Everyone is welcome! Read on for details of our "departure" from the regularly scheduled place and time on December 21st.

Christmas Caroling for the Homebound! Once again, our middle school youth are heading out in cars and vans to let their voices ring for our homebound parishioners! All middle-schoolers are invited to join us on **Wednesday, December 21st from 6:00-9:00pm**. Meet at the Rose Center. Permission slips and St. Joe Catholic Youth Ministry medical forms are required, and are available at the back of the Church, Downtown and South. **Forms must be returned NO LATER THAN Monday, December 19th**, for ride planning. Parents who want to chaperone/drive should **e-mail Karl Dolson at Karl@HolyDaddy.com**.

**Little Laker Preschool & Preschool Plus
with Mrs. Grundy**

November was a busy month in Preschool. With the changing seasons, we have experienced awesome autumn color by making leaf prints. Letters e, f, g and h were introduced in the 3-day program and our 2-day children learned that they can help others by returning their toys and clothes to their proper places.

Preschool Plus had visits from Letter Light A, Ms. P, and Mr. Z. Our letter people are working together as friends to make simple words. In the process we are learning about rhyming. Listening for beginning sounds and then listening for end sounds is a trick that becomes a tool as reading skills develop and emerge.

The children enjoyed preparing for Thanksgiving. Some of us made handprint turkey placemats and many made turkey headbands for fun. We hope everyone is safe through the holidays and remembers to thank the Lord for their blessings.

Kindergarten with Mrs. Fields & Mrs. Kuehn

During November the students have been busy studying Native Americans and pilgrims. They wrote stories using pictures, creating pictographs just like many Native Americans did, and made many other crafts. This alternate means of communication inspired some adventurous tales!

The Kindergartners have been making wonderful progress with another form of communication ~ the computer! They know the location of all the letters and special keys on the keyboard. Our first writing project was a Veterans' Day card. The cards were forwarded to an Army surgical nurse in Iraq who needs letters to brighten her patients' days.

On Tuesday, November 22nd we celebrated with a Thanksgiving feast. The tasty donations for our meal reminded us of the many blessings we enjoy. During this season, we think beyond our own needs. We are grateful to all who donated lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes for the Catholic Community Center. Toothpaste and toothbrushes may be sent in until the end of November. December's item for the CCC is bar soap. These are small but important comforts to those who would otherwise do without!

First Grade with Mrs. Faris & Mrs. Petsovich

The 1st Graders gave two fabulous performances of *Cinderella* on November 22nd. Mrs. Petsovich and Mrs. Faris expect to see many of our students on Broadway about twenty years from now!

Our classroom turkeys have been “dressed” with feathers depicting all the things we are thankful for this holiday season. Our many songs and Thanksgiving poems are favorites for “fill-ins” when our work is finished.

The 1st Graders are “language artists” and have started the third reader of the year, *Let’s Learn Together*. We are becoming better writers, learning about subjects, complete sentences, correct spacing and proper punctuation at the end of a sentence.

Religion class centered on learning about saints and their willingness to sacrifice for others and for God. We are looking forward to our Advent project next month when we learn the importance of giving to others less fortunate than us instead of receiving gifts ourselves. How nice to have the saints as our models of giving as we head into the season that celebrates the ultimate gift of Jesus.

Second Grade with Mrs. Hanley & Mr. Deja

The first quarter has swept by with the review and expansion of many skills we learned in 1st Grade. With a good foundation, we are on to many interesting things! November began with a unit on good nutrition, using the food pyramid as our guide. The students understand that food choices have a big impact on health and that each person is responsible for making good selections. We are all trying hard to bring nutritious snacks each day. Our Social Studies concentrated on the Native Americans. We have learned many remarkable facts that show that different tribes have distinct practices that make them unique. A trip to the always-wonderful Sarett Nature Center to view their Native American exhibit will conclude our studies. Lastly, the 2nd Graders are working hard on learning all the things we need to know to receive our First Penance. Soon we will have the Act of Contrition memorized! Looking back, our November could be summed up with the words: *feed the body, feed the mind, and feed the soul!*

Third Grade with Mrs. Bodley & Mrs. Bruder

The donations to the 3rd Grades’ *Trick or Treat So Our Community Can Eat* Christian Service project were received with grateful thanks by the staff of the Catholic Community Center. A consistent influx of goods is important year-round for the clients of the CCC, and the boost in donations is especially welcome as the colder months arrive.

Mrs. Bodley and Mrs. Bruder appreciate the parents’ attendance at the recent academic conferences and agree that it is a pleasure to meet and work with everyone toward achieving 3rd Grade goals. Please continue to support your student’s best efforts in their daily schoolwork.

The holiday season is quickly approaching. Holiday rehearsals, celebrations and activities on top of our regular schoolwork keep us very busy. As Advent continues, one of the ways we can focus on the meaning of the season is to share with others. We are looking forward to St. Nicholas Day on December 6th and our Christmas parties on December 23rd. The students will experience the “gift of sharing” by giving small gifts to others in the community. Tucked between those dates is our Christmas program. Be sure to mark your calendars for December 13th ~ the 3rd Graders will be ready to spread joy by singing our favorite Christmas carols!

Fourth Grade with Mrs. Binger & Mrs. Zetts with NewsTeam 4 Reporters Rachel L. & Hannah S.

In November the 4th Grade has been thinking about how God has blessed us. We all love our families, and are happy we live in a great country.

Our big project that we have started is about how our ancestors immigrated to the United States. We are finding out about the countries they came from. Each of us is reading a book about an immigrant, researching facts about Ellis Island, and creating our family tree. The best part is we get to pretend to be an immigrant. We have researched the countries we are from and now we will be writing a daily journal about our experiences.

We are thankful to our ancestors for being brave and making the sacrifices they had to make to come to the United States of America. We are blessed.

Fifth Grade with Mrs. Puplis & Mrs. Fish

Energy studies made November a really wired month. To see how energy is produced, a trip to the Cook Nuclear Plant Information Center, arranged by Andrew's dad **Mr. Craig Graeber**, was our destination. Prior to the trip, Mr. Graeber came in our classrooms to discuss the workings of the facility so the students would have a better grasp of the processes while they were at the power plant.

By putting the finishing touches on their saint costumes and oral presentations, the 5th Grades completed another monthly multi-media project. Our Saint Project was a huge success and we all agreed that it was quite an accomplishment to be canonized. Some of us have a long way to go, but we all agree that, with the grace of God, sainthood is attainable! December's project involves quilting and math. The students have already learned about quilt patterns from many different cultures and are currently making paper quilts using five of the designs. This is a brand new project, so teachers and students are anxious to see the results.

Veterans' Day was observed in Computer class with a "letters to veterans" project that was the vehicle to teach about layout, wrapping and ordering objects in a document. After writing their letters, students reformatted the pages using a combination of textboxes and text to create a flag pattern from the objects on the page. Though the computer skills are important, the greater goal was to thank current and former servicemen and servicewomen for the many sacrifices they have made to assure our freedom.

Under the heading, "Kids say the cutest (and kindest) things," the 5th Grade teachers noted some memorable quotes:

- Studying conductors and insulators in Science, **Maria M.** said that the greatest conductor is **Mr. Jarvie!**
- Discussing what the woman at the well prayed to Jesus for in Religion, **Chris V.** responded, "She prayed to be hydrated." That sure sounds like what a coach's son would say!
- During his first Mass at LMCES, **Father Werra**, who lived the first 30 years of his life in Poland, was delighted when **Jessica P.**, who speaks fluent Polish, welcomed him to our school with a message in his native language.

Reading through the Eyes of a New Reader with Miss Uliczny

When working with new readers at home, it is helpful to understand the process that is at work as children associate sounds with letter shape and try to decipher words.

Here is a code to figure out. For a full experience, do not write the letters on top of the numbers. This is to simulate what it is like to learn how to read. Let your brain search for a new method to create a meaningful statement. You have 10 seconds to decode the sentence.

18 5 1 4 9 14 7 9 19 1

8 1 18 4 19 11 9 12 12

20 15 12 5 1 18 14.

A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, E-5, F-6, G-7, H-8, I-9, J-10,

K-11, L-12, M-13, N-14, O-15, P-16, Q-17, R-18,

S-19, T-20, U-21, V-22, W-23, X-24, Y-25, Z-26

How did it go? Did it take more than 10 seconds? What strategies did you use when decoding this sentence? Reading certainly is not automatic. It is likely that an adult would use one or more of the following strategies that were learned in early childhood.

1. Give the children more **time to decode** the word themselves.
2. Ask them, "What word would **make sense** there?"
3. Have the child use **context clues** to figure out the word.
4. Separate a **big word** to make a **smaller word**.
5. Have them **look at the picture** to figure out what the word might be.
6. Have the child **sound out** the word.

Remember the experience and share the strategies as you guide young children with their reading assignments.

Musical Notes with Mrs. Gallagher

Please join us for our Christmas Musical Extravaganza ~ the children have been rattling the ceiling tiles of the music room as they prepare to sing in the birth of Our Savior. There'll be bells, chimes, xylophones, tambourines, violins, guitar, angels, dogs, in song anyway, kings and critters, and most importantly, the joy-filled sounds of children's voices. Come hear the old carols and the new and everything in between, and of course *Rudolph* and *Jingle Bells* ~ it wouldn't be Christmas without them. The younger grades are the opening act with **Pre-School – 1st Grade on Sunday, December 11th at 1pm in the Multi-Purpose Room** followed by students in **2nd – 5^h Grade on Tuesday, December 13th at 7pm in the IHM Memorial Gym at LMCES**. The LMCHS Drama Club has been hard at work on a terrific set for Tuesday's program. **Marty and Wendy Golob's** set design will be a wonderful backdrop for the elementary students' performance. Come to see; come to listen; come to celebrate!

Good Counsel from Mrs. Smart

On Tuesday, November 15th, LMCE was part of the fourth annual Mix It Up at Lunch Day, a nationwide program that provides an opportunity for students to challenge social boundaries in school. Students in Kindergarten through 5th Grade participated. On that day, students were asked to sit with someone new at lunch ~ a simple, symbolic step toward ending ostracism and creating a respectful, inclusive environment. Mix It Up at Lunch also demonstrates that for as easy as it is to fall into patterns of behavior is it just as easy to step out of those habits. Once students make the conscious effort to evaluate their "personal traffic patterns" at school, they can make those same observations about our habits outside of school. We look forward to "mixing it up" throughout the rest of the school year!

Art with Mrs. Dudding

Students have demonstrated their artistic skills through a variety of projects in the Art room. The 3rd Graders are adept at using Cray-Pas to complete still-life drawings. This project required good listening skills as well as the self-discipline for truly *seeing* what needed to be drawn. Learning about overlapping, perspective, shape and proportion was important. The 3rd Graders explored "another dimension" by using clay and a slab building technique to form wonderful fall leaf-form dishes.

The 4th Grade artists completed a woven item using beads, yarn and burlap. We looked at garments worn by people in other cultures, especially those used for ceremonies and celebrations. Like the examples we used for inspiration, each of the students' pieces is unique. Also one-of-a-kind are the *Original Works* projects that turn students' self-portraits into magnets or other printed media that parents can order. This project does double duty as the proceeds from purchases are used for the 4th Grade donation toward our Keepsake Raffle that in turn aids the S.C.E.N.E. Auction.

Our 5th Graders' brains got a work-out with projects that required atypical thinking in order to visualize ideas in 3-D to build masks and to mentally reprocess images in reverse to make stamps for a printing project. The masks, made with plaster cloth, evolved with every layer as the students discovered just how much manipulation the plaster cloth would support. Our printing project was difficult, as the 5th Graders had to reconsider designs in terms of positive and negative space. Mastering that, the printing process brought some challenges in handling the carving tools, applying the proper amount of paint, and using the brayer and the printing plate. Our thanks go to **Mrs. Karen Garavalia** who helped with the printing project and helped keep our thinking and printing on track. It was good exercise!

After-School Care News with Mrs. Zilke

Our November started off with 3 fun-filled extended after-school days. The high point was getting to watch Star Wars projected on the library wall thanks to **Mrs. Mathews and the multi-media projector!**

Our theme weeks continue to be fun and functional. During Safety Week we had a visit from firefighters of the St. Joseph Township Fire Department, who talked to us about fire safety. We conducted a fire drill and know that even though the school day is over, a fire drill is serious business. Cornbread was a tasty treat during Native American Week and we followed that with a wonderful feast on November 22nd. Just like the first Thanksgiving, many brought food to share! We have been very busy “dressing” our turkeys for Thanksgiving ~ take a look outside Room #7 to see our colorful friends! The After-School kids are eagerly looking forward to the end of the month, when we take a “trip” to Australia and a visit from **Mrs. Lia Hartline** who promises to bring a feathery visitor from the land down under!

Do you have a lot of shopping or baking to do during the holiday season? We are pleased to offer **Drop-In After-School Care** for those in need who are not currently enrolled. Just fill out the necessary forms, which can be picked up at the office and **give Mrs. Zilke 24-hours notice** so she can have the proper staffing and supplies on hand. After-School Care can be a treat for the children and parents!

Scouting Around at LMC

2nd Grade Brownie Troop #555: The girls have had a wonderful fall season and are looking forward to the holidays! We spent our autumn months decorating pumpkins, thanks to **Mrs. DeFay!** The girls each received a little pumpkin straight from the pumpkin patch to decorate as creatively as they could. The girls went horseback riding and had a great time! We earned the Animal Try-It and a Horseback Riding patch at Royal Crest Stables. We thank **Morgan and her mom** for helping us learn all about horses!

The Lake Terrace residents are excited that we will be visiting to carol and make ornaments! For this year's International Bazaar, our country is Denmark and we have already contacted a Girl Scout troop from Copenhagen, Denmark to communicate and share ideas! We have learned a Danish game, studied the Danish flag, and found out that this year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of famous author, Hans Christian Andersen. Every family in our Troop has been so supportive. At Thanksgiving, the girls thankfully remembered the parents who have helped so far this year!

3rd Grade Brownie Troop #558: The Troop has been working hard at having fun. We shared our hobbies with the help of **Mrs. Chris Visin** and **Mrs. Ann Marie Goodell**. We did a bicycle obstacle course and learned bike safety under the guidance of the St. Joseph Township Police. The girls combined safety with sales as **Mrs. Lisa Broderick** and **Mrs. Susan Herrmann** introduced this year's Girl Scout Cookie campaign. Our Troop jump-started the holiday season with a visit to the residents of Caretel to sing songs and help with holiday decorations.

4th Grade Jr. Girl Scout Troop #574: Our Troop of 4th and 5th Graders just earned the Pet Care badge. We took a trip to Paw Mart in Benton Harbor and the manager, **Dan Boveri**, helped us with all we had to learn. We learned how much certain animals cost to buy and what it costs to take care of them. We learned about ferrets, reptiles, birds, chinchillas and hermit crabs. At the end of our time there, we got to play with the ferret and some other animals. The ferret almost went up **Rachael H.'s** pant leg! Reported by **Megan P., Jeevanjot R. and Mary V.**

Are you ready for a guest?



2nd Grade Wolf Den: With the help of **Mrs. Maria Kibler**, the boys learned about our world and how we can help conserve resources by recycling and using less energy. Mrs. Kibler explained how milk used to be delivered in glass bottles and gasoline cost less than a dollar. The boys were amazed ~ they thought \$2 a gallon was cheap! While preparing their musical contribution for the Pack meeting, the boys earned their Music Belt Loops. Not only did they make a rainstick to use, but they also listened to a variety of music including country, folk, pop, rock and instrumental. Although they correctly identified the bagpipes as the instrument being played, that instrumental music was the least favorite. Well, some taste is acquired but you don't know until you try!

3rd Grade Bear Den: Music is in the air! Keeping in step with our theme of music this month, our Bear Cub Scouts crafted hand-made penny whistles from PVC pipe and some careful drilling. After the boys decorated their instruments, they performed an impromptu *Flight of the Bumblebee*. Special thanks go to **Mr. Pat Glotzbach** for his design wizardry and bravery to go without earplugs. The boys were also treated to a great presentation on music by LMCHS band director, **Mr. Joe Jarvie**. A standing ovation to **Mrs. Betsy Langbo** for arranging this tuneful outing, but it was SRO at our Pack meeting, when the Bears performed their well-honed talents, and the entire Pack #624 Orchestra backed our very own **Will L.** on violin and **Joe P.** on trumpet! The *Star Wars* theme and jazz jam never sounded so good. The special encore of the night went to **Andrew B.**, our newest Bear, who officially was awarded his Bobcat badge. Congratulations to all the Bears on making beautiful music together.

Pack #624 News: What a busy month! Over 40 of our Scouts and their families spent a night camping at Rota-Kiwan Scout Reservation in Kalamazoo. Following a hearty dinner and a lively campfire program, the boys drifted off to the sounds of nature...and plenty of snoring. We rose before the sun to fit in craft time, followed by a tour of the Reservation and an opportunity to use the special Climb Madron building, where the Scouts literally climbed the walls. Our day concluded on the BB gun range with our marksmen. A big day meant big appetites that were taken care of by our burger grilling crew, **Pat Glotzbach, Marty Golob, Mark Mitchell,** and **Milt Agay** ~ they were smokin'!

The monthly Pack meeting featured the special talents of all of our Scouts with the sounds of Magical Music Madness. The Scouts made their own instruments at their den meetings and after much practice came together under the direction of **Mighty Maestro Marty Golob** and entertained all of our families. It was a night we'll replay in our minds for a long time to come.

In a special ceremony performed by Mighty Chieftain Akela with his assistant Baloo, eight Scouts were awarded their Bobcat Badge. *Bear:* **Andrew B.;** *Wolf:* **Benjamin A., Nate B., Ryan C., Quinn K., Alex L., Ryan S.,** and **Vernon U.** Great job, guys!

Fresh-Popped News from the Popcorn Kernel

We can not thank everyone enough for the most generous support shown during this year's Trails End Popcorn sale. The proceeds from the sale directly benefit our Scouts. With your outstanding support, our Pack sold more than \$21,000 worth of popcorn according to **Popcorn Kernel Sean Juza**. This is the most the boys have ever sold in a single year, and without a doubt the sales volume will probably make our Pack the top seller in the area!

Thank you for supporting Boy Scouting at LMC!