



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.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2006 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 5

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

Current Events & Contacts

Laker F.U.N. meeting: 3/7, 6:30pm, ES
Keepsake Raffle: 3/17 drawing, ES
S.C.E.N.E. Auction: 4/21-22, 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: 3/22
Jan Mathews: 429-0227

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

Laker F.U.N. News

Catholic Schools Week, dedicated to celebrating all the aspects of Catholic education, was observed from January 30–February 4 with Laker F.U.N. hosting events for staff and students.

- On **Student Appreciation Day**, the elementary students got an unexpected treat thanks to **Linda Gallagher and her crew of bakers** who supplied nearly 400 cupcakes!
- The **Teachers' Luncheon** was co-chaired by **Gina Svec, JoAnne Smith and Becky Angelov**, which allowed the LMCE staff to enjoy a delicious and leisurely meal. Our thanks to those who donated food, items or their time to supervise students.
- **Sara Duris** and her crew of sorters and sellers raised over \$260 from the **Kid-to-Kid Sale**. Considering donated books, videos and DVDs started at 5¢, the volume becomes evident. The children had a great time "shopping."
- The **Welcoming Committee** invited families new to LMCE to the February 3rd Varsity Basketball game to be part of the Laker family. It was an intense game enjoyed by all. **Lisa Barta** coordinated this event.
- The **Winter F.U.N. Fest** on Saturday night capped the week. Many hands throughout the building made the event run smoothly with fun for everyone. Winners of the basket raffle were **Michelle Agay, Julianna Herrmann, Cindy Birk**, and **Ryan Stachowski**.

Join us for the next Laker F.U.N. meeting on **Tuesday, March 7th with snacks at 6:30pm**. Field Days and an adult event will be our topics.

Elementary Essentials with Mrs. Maher

It's been a breathless beginning to the new year! The students are well into the 3rd marking period that, in addition to their daily work, has been punctuated by special unit studies and collaborative projects with LMC Middle and High School students. Many new families have shown their interest in Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School and I have had the pleasure of showing the school more than usual for the month of February. Many of these parents, like many of our current families, are interested in a foreign language offering for their children. Our Finance Committee considered the request and I am happy to announce that I will be looking for an introductory Spanish program for school-wide use. While this project is in the early research stages, I am certain that I can find a program that will suit our curriculum, and we plan to begin in the fall. Specific information about our new Spanish component will be shared as soon as it is available. I am grateful for the Finance Committee who share our desire and is willing to allow us to find a program that will fit our needs.

On behalf of the students and staff, a very LARGE thank you goes to all who helped make Catholic Schools Week such a wonderful celebration! I always look forward to this special time, and the choirs, speakers, visitors, rope-jumpers, and Winter F.U.N. Fest participants made me even more proud to be a Laker!

Electronics: Leave 'em at Home, Please

It has come to my attention that some students are bringing Personal PlayStations (PSP) to school. These and other similar items are quite expensive and I'd hate for anything like this to come up missing or damaged. It would be in everyone's best interest if **students no longer bring any electronic devices (PSP, iPod, CD players)** to school or After-School Care. We have sufficient activities and computer opportunities, so everyone should have something to keep them busy.



Registration Reminders

Registration for the 2006-07 academic year will begin March 13th and continue until March 24th for currently enrolled families. Needed to secure a place for your children at Lake Michigan Catholic Schools will be a \$175.00 registration fee and the registration paperwork, which will be distributed to families by March 1st.

Within the registration packet, families will notice several positive developments. The **multi-student discount program** has taken another step. The tuition for the 3rd child will be 60% of the full fee. For families with 4 or more children enrolled in a given year, they will pay no tuition fee for the 4th and subsequent children, but will be responsible for a \$100 book & supply fee for grades JK-6. Introduced in December, the **T.R.I.P. (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program)** will provide a tuition credit of \$1,000 to current families for each new family brought into the LMC system during the 06-07 school year. Please refer to the registration material for further information.

If any family needs financial aid for the upcoming year, please contact the school. The Pastors, CCEC members and administrators want no one to contemplate withdrawing their children from Lake Michigan Catholic Schools because of financial concerns. **Cindy Payovich, 983-5529**, at the LMC Business Office welcomes any inquiries.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Elementary students were honored to experience Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction on February 17th, something that many adult Catholics have not had the opportunity to do. **Fr. Christian** exposed the Blessed Sacrament at 9:30am. Each class was assigned a time for adoration in the chapel, with parishioners visiting as well. Fr. Christian concluded our day of prayer with Benediction.

The students responded beautifully to what was truly a challenge ~ to offer their silence and meditate upon Christ's gift to us. Because of the sacredness of this time, there was no talking in the hallways or during lunch. With the guidance of Mrs. Maher, their teachers, and our liturgist Mrs. Gallagher, the students gained an understanding of the solemnity and the majesty of the Body of Christ.

S.C.E.N.E. XX Auction April 21st & 22nd “A World of Opportunity”

It's your passport to a fun weekend! This year's S.C.E.N.E. Auction, to be held at LMCES, has an international flair as old and new friends of Lake Michigan Catholic Schools come together for our 20th year supporting Arts, Athletics and extra-curricular programs throughout our parish schools.

Friday, April 21st, 7-10pm is a casual but high-energy evening featuring a fantastic Silent Auction, Prize Balloons, Lucky Keys, and Door Prizes that include tuition grants. Complimentary snacks and drinks are offered as well as on-site baby-sitting by LMCHS students. **Friday's event is open to the public ~ adults only, please.**

Saturday, April 22nd brings the **S.C.E.N.E. Auction Dinner & Oral Auction**. The Silent Auction tables are replenished with even more wonderful items to browse before and after an incomparable gourmet dinner. The Oral Auction inspires competitive bidding on an inventive array of items, dinners, trips and other surprises. A highlight of the night is the \$10,000 Raffle drawing, which benefits tuition assistance at LMC. Cocktails begin at 5:30 so dress up and spend the evening having fun while supporting Arts and Athletics. **Reservations are required.** Invitations will arrive in early April and mailings to new guests may be requested by calling the **Business Office, 983-5529**.

S.C.E.N.E. \$10,000 Raffle Tickets Available!

Now is your chance to get in on some terrific odds and aid the Tuition Assistance Fund at LMC Schools. Just 250 tickets will be sold at \$100 each for chances at \$10,000, \$1,000 or \$500! Buy a ticket or two or join a pool. Don't have anyone to splash in your pool? Just buy a share of a ticket and we'll fill the pool for you. **Contact the LMC Business Office, 983-5529, for tickets.** The drawing will be held at Saturday night's S.C.E.N.E. Auction on April 22nd. All proceeds benefit Tuition Assistance.



S.C.E.N.E. Volunteers Needed

Talk about a world of opportunities, here is your chance to get to know your fellow Lakers by helping out at the Auction. Among the positions available are:

- **Procurement** (contact donors, pick up items)
- **Cleanup Crew** (Sunday, 4/23)
- **Silent Auction** (chairman, set up, table workers)
- **General Set-Up** (4/20 – 4/22)
- **Raffle** (chairman for ticket sales and promotion)
- **Bartenders** (serve Friday, 4/21)
- **Waiters/Waitresses** (Saturday, 4/22)

So, Where Can You Find Chris Glendening?

In the deadline-filled days prior to the S.C.E.N.E. Auction, chairman Chris Glendening is dividing her time between the Business Office and a temporary office at the Elementary School. Her change of locale will make donations easier than ever to drop-off and organize. Volunteers, donors, and committee chairman can reach Chris at **983-5529 (Business Office), 429-0227 (Elementary), 429-8250 (home) or 208-5267 (cell)**.

SCRIP: A Great Way to Manage Expenses

SCRIP participation up to and during the Christmas season was outstanding, with many families trying the program for the first time! It is easy to see how SCRIP can be a time-saver throughout the year. Establishing a standing order for groceries and gas cards not only simplifies those weekly tasks but allows the purchaser to set a spending limit for the family budget and helps discourage impulse buying.

Families planning Spring Break travels should check out the extensive list of local and national SCRIP participants. Hotels, dining, gas, and, don't forget, apparel, can all be purchased with SCRIP.

Vendor Update: The \$5 **Burger King** certificates are being replaced by a \$10 card effective immediately. Some \$5 booklets are still in the SCRIP inventory. When these are gone, they will be replaced by the \$10 card. **The Gap, Old Navy, and Banana Republic** are all owned by Gap, Inc., which will offer a combined-use card redeemable at any of those stores.

Cash Back for Schools at Orchard's Mall

Our thanks to everyone who is participating in the Cash Back program by sending receipts to school, or placing them in the parish boxes. **Any Orchard's Mall receipt dating back to June 1, 2005 is eligible** to help LMC earn a cash award. Receipts that are needed back can be taken to the mall's Customer Service Center, where they will be stamped and returned to you ~ just tell them it's for LMC. Any shopper can support our school by having receipts credited to LMC. We are currently in 4th place, but great participation could mean a larger cash award in May!

Blue Tide Athletic Boosters

Lots of activity accompanied the drawing for the \$10,000 Blue Tide Raffle. The Varsity boys defeated New Buffalo by the slimmest of margins, the Winterfest king and queen were crowned, and the winners drawn, all before an energetic crowd led by a pumped up student section. Blue Tide's goal of 1700 tickets sold was exceeded, furthering the support we offer to Laker Athletics. The lucky raffle winners were:

\$10,000:	Harry Cuchinski
\$ 1,000:	Paula Polaskey
\$ 500:	Bob Salvano

6th Grade Boys' Basketball Bounces Back

After a first round loss, the 6th Grade Lakers pulled together for three consecutive victories to win the Consolation Round of the Christ Lutheran Tournament. Congratulations to **Coach Jerry Sarno and his boys** for being terrific sportsmen and knowing that every practice and every game is a learning experience.

Prepare Ye: *Godspell, Jr.*

Little Laker Drama will present *Godspell, Jr.*, based on the off-Broadway folk musical, on **Saturday, March 25th at 1:00pm** in the school gym. The cast of 37 students will dazzle you with all of the familiar songs and skits from this great show. Many LMC Middle and High school students are helping with this endeavor by sharing their talents as directors, stage crew, tech crew and choreographers. We hope that you will all come out and cheer on this great group of performers.

Now for Something Completely Different: *Little Shop of Horrors*

The macabre yet funny *Little Shop of Horrors*, showing the first two weekends in May, is the spring offering of Laker Drama. This musical takes a light-hearted look at b-grade horror flicks to the backdrop of late-50's 'doo-wop' style songs. With a cast and crew of over 2 dozen of our Middle and High school students, the show will present some familiar faces and quite a few new ones, too. Look for more information as the show dates get closer.

Key Club Blood Drive March 8th

Members of the LMC Key Club are organizing a Blood Drive on March 8th at the **LMCHS Gym from noon until 6:00pm**. Adults who are eligible to give blood are invited to stop by after work. First time donor? It doesn't take long and is an easy yet vital way to help the community. Please **call the High school (269) 982-2511 and ask for Mrs. Jeri DiBrito to schedule an appointment** for donation. Any one who is 17 years or older, in good health and meets the weight requirement may donate. The blood LMC donates will go directly to the local hospital. Minimally, each pint of blood helps 3 people! Spread the word and most importantly, come donate blood!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #13942

Friday Lenten Suppers ~ March 3, 10, 17 & 24 at LMCHS
5pm - 7:30pm \$5/person or \$20/family

**Menu includes choice of soups, choice of two entrees
with slaw, beverages, and desserts.**

LMCHS Variety Show: March 31st at LMCES

A first ever event, the LMCHS Variety Show will take place on the stage at LMCES' IMH Memorial Gym on Friday, March 31st. The Junior class is organizing and hosting the evening that will showcase the talents of students from Middle through High School. Join them and show your support for the Junior class and all the Laker performers.

Sunshine Committee Hard at Work

The teams have been active throughout this school year providing meals for Laker families in need. Chairman **Chan Marzke** has a reliable group of volunteers at the ready with just a phone call. Don't hesitate to share a need or concern.

From the Starr Family: My family and I want to thank **Lisa Clancy and her crew of "angels"** from the Sunshine Committee that provided a meal for us after my recent hospitalization. We are certainly grateful and blessed to have all of you who looked after us! Many thanks. **Rena, Todd, Hannah, Hayden and Holly Starr**

Mrs. Hanley Wins Best Buy "Teach" Award

LMCES 2nd Grade teacher, **Mrs. Peggy Hanley**, has been honored with a \$2,500 prize given by the Best Buy **te@ch** program, which recognizes schools and teachers who make learning fun by integrating interactive technology into the curriculum. Thousands of schools across the country applied, making the selection process highly competitive. Mrs. Hanley's winning project centers upon digital storytelling. Typically this writing method has been used with middle and high school students but Mrs. Hanley has been a leader through the Third Coast Writing Project in successfully adapting this technique to very young writers and educating other teachers in the region. The \$2,500 prize will be used to enhance the scope of her project. Congratulations, Mrs. Hanley!

Score Some Fun with Your Family!

The Family Involvement Activity Team (F.I.A.T.) presents Family Bowling at Blossom Lanes on **Sunday, March 26th from 3:00-5:00pm**. The cost is \$2/game per person with a discounted shoe rental of \$2.50. Bumpers and ball ramps are available for the youngest bowlers. This event is appropriate for families with children ages 2 or 3 years and up. **RSVP by March 20th** to the **Religious Education Office, 983-7797** or **reoffice@sbcglobal.net**.

Lenten Films Begin March 8th

Every Wednesday from March 8th to April 5th offers fellowship and prayer at the Lenten Luncheons and Pizza Piety. In St. Joseph, meet from noon-12:45 at the Rose Center, Wayne at Pleasant, for homemade soup and salads followed by short inspirational films and prayer. The evening component, Pizza Piety, takes place at the St. Bernard Church Hall, Delaware at Ogden in Fairplain, at 6pm following the 5:30 Mass. On site childcare for the evening sessions is available to those who call **983-7797** by noon of the prior Friday. The cost for each showing is \$2.00.

"Msgr. Tom's Talks" ~ Mondays, 7pm

Hey, if you think he's great on Saturdays and Sundays, here's an opportunity to hear Msgr. Tom in weekday mode as he guides discussions on various aspects of our Catholic Faith.

3/6 at St. Joseph, South: "How to Get More Out of the Mass, Part I"

3/13 at St. Joseph, Downtown: "How to Get More Out of the Mass, Part II"

3/20 at St. Joseph, Downtown: St. Joseph Day Mass at Downtown Church. No talk.

3/27 at St. Joseph, South: "Pondering Puzzling Parables Plus..."

4/3 at St. Joseph, Downtown: "The Grace of the Sacraments of Baptism & Matrimony"

Trekking Club – Adult Volunteers Needed

Mrs. Nina Binger will lead students in Gr. 3 and up on after-school hikes on and off Knauff Park trail on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:50 – 3:30, beginning March 21st. An adult is needed to be the "punctuation at the end of the sentence" for each trek. Call 429-0227!

**St. Joseph Catholic Church
YOU-th Ministry Programs**

TEC OPPORTUNITY! All young adults in 11th grade up to age 24 are invited *To Encounter Christ* (TEC) **March 25-27**, at St. Ann Parish in Gull Lake. The cost of \$50 for three incredible days includes food and lodging. Scholarships are available as needed. Register ASAP ~ information packets are available at the back of St. Joseph Catholic Church (Downtown & South). You won't want to miss this unforgettable experience!

LIFE TEEN! 9th-12th graders! Join us at the **Sunday 6:00pm Mass** followed by dinner and **LIFE Night from 7-9pm at the Rose Center!** Come get muddy with us as we dig deep into some awesome issues!

3/5: He Started It! – Resolving Conflict & War PARENT NIGHT! Come with your HS kids!
3/12: Filthy Rich: The Poverty of Poverty
3/18-19: CRS 24-Hour Food Fast at the Rose Center – NO LIFE NIGHT
3/26: A Rap on the Catholic Youth Congress on Social Justice

CRS FOOD FAST! All high-schoolers are invited to join in our Catholic Relief Services 24-Hour Food Fast, **9:00am, Saturday, March 18, to 9:00am, Sunday, March 19.** Come for a challenging and fun overnight of service projects, games, and faith-builders! Special dietary needs are taken into account. Sign up by **Wednesday, March 15th**, at the Youth Ministry Office.

TNT Night! 6th-8th Graders, get pumped up as we spend a few weeks probing the power of prayer on **Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm** at the Rose Center.

3/1: Ash Wednesday – No TNT!
3/8: Jesus & Prayer
3/15: Stations of the Cross
PARENT NIGHT! Come with your MS kids!
3/22: Brothers & Sisters – Our Catholic Connection to Other Christians
3/29: Protestant or Catholic? Join in a discussion with Msgr. Tom!

Steubenville Youth Conference – June 16-18

Three days of celebrating our Catholic faith at Franciscan University of Steubenville (Ohio) await all 06-07 *entering* freshmen through *graduating* seniors! The \$85 deposit and forms are due by March 31st with the \$100 balance due by May 10. Scholarship money is available. Spots will fill up fast so get your deposit and forms in soon. Call **Ken Branham, 556-0525**, for more details!

Here's what some LMC students and parents said about last year's trip!

"I wish everyone had the opportunity to attend this weekend."
Kaylene S., 12th grade

"I really got the 'Big' picture of Jesus this weekend."
Brett L., 10th grade

"It was a great experience, and I got closer to God."
Ben B., 9th grade

"I highly recommend the trip to all high-schoolers!"
Ross B., 10th grade

"I had some questions about my life and my faith and in talking to people and listening to people I really had most of my questions answered."
Ashley H., 9th grade

"I had a lot of fun this weekend. I feel a lot closer to God."
Jamie H., 9th grade

"By the time we left, I was dancing and knew all of the words to the songs, and was very interested in the things the speakers had to say. I grew closer, much closer, to God."
Faith L., 9th grade

"The speakers' messages touched me and really made me think about my life and my actions."
Mike L., 9th grade

"Beautiful, wondrous, amazing! I encourage you to send your high-schoolers and ignite their souls!"
Kelly Alsbro, Adult Leader

"What a precious gift Steubenville is to the youth of our parish. It was a powerful display of strength and beauty with Jesus' life-giving love at the center."
Paula Bryan, Adult Leader

**Information for
All Things Youth Ministry:
Karl@HolyDaddy.com or 983-3807**

Little Laker Preschool & Preschool Plus with Mrs. Grundy

Our Little Lakers have been moving full steam ahead since we returned from Christmas vacation. The 2-day Preschool class has been finding out that “God Made Me Good.” The children have been sharing, smiling, talking, praying and singing. With varied activities they learned that being good also makes them happy.

The 3-day Preschool class has been visited by kayo kangaroo, lizzy lizard, missy mouse, nigel nightowl and olive octopus. These wonderful zoo friends have been around enough to help us learn about music, diversity, manners, and nutrition and even helped us to celebrate Valentine’s Day.

Ms. S, Mr. D, Ms. U and Ms. V visited Preschool Plus. The letter people have helped us through times when we were afraid, the study of dinosaurs, exploring space, and realizing that plants give us food. Such diverse topics give us lots to think about and experience.

Kindergarten with Mrs. Fields & Mrs. Kuehn

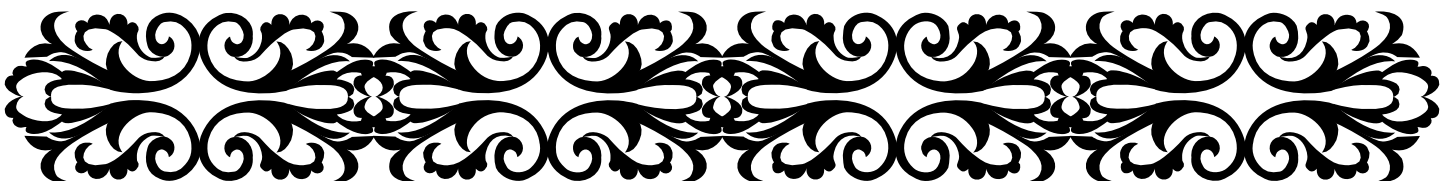
Our classes have been so busy in Kindergarten since returning from Christmas break. Animal survival skills were our focus as we learned about animals that hibernate and what makes birds fly south for the winter or stay in the cold. Did you know that whales are not fish? We know they are mammals and what distinguishes mammals from other creatures. Aside from those huge whales, we discovered that the ocean is home to a diverse range of animal and plant life, and it was fun finding out how varied ocean habitats make them different. For our Beach Day at the end of January, we were lucky to have had “temperate” weather. The Multi-Purpose Room became our beachside resort as the students played in the sand, fished, made starfish, and decorated sun visors. Our warm and sunny thanks go to the **Nutting family** who provided the very cool boat and the sand.

February blew into Kindergarten with brisk temperatures and a quick pace. With the help of volunteer moms and dads, the Valentine’s Day parties were a breeze. The challenging job of being president of the United States preoccupies the students these days. With their growing Math skills, which were practiced in Computers and with the correct use of number lines, maybe the Kindergartners can advise future presidents about the budget!

First Grade with Mrs. Faris & Mrs. Petsovich

The month of February marked our 101st day of 1st Grade. We spent the day doing many activities that had to do with the number 101. We timed ourselves to see what we could accomplish in 101 seconds, “guess-timated” which jar had 101 items, and sang songs and read poems that had the number 101 in them. The students imagined and then drew pictures of what we will look like when we’re 101 years old and imagined some more to write about how we would spend \$101.00. We created collages and experimented to see if we could stay silent for 101 seconds. Our day was fun-filled with excitement and learning. No matter what day of the year, the 1st Graders know that every day brings them closer to being 2nd Graders!

We also studied penguins and presidents this month. Abraham Lincoln’s log cabins were made in Art class, and we counted George Washington’s cherries from his famous cherry tree by 2’s. We learned about Abe Lincoln’s tall hat and realized that our school is on **Washington** Avenue and that many of us live in **Lincoln** Township. February was also Dental Health Month. We studied our teeth and everyone went home with a brand new toothbrush, and by golly, we are going to use them the right way, at least twice a day!



Second Grade with Mrs. Hanley & Mr. Deja

January was a great month as 2nd Graders roared through our dinosaur unit. We learned many facts about these amazing creatures as we practiced our research skills. After picking our favorite dinosaur, we wrote a fact book about it, then concluded the unit by making a paper maché models with the help of our wonderful LMC high school buddies! January also saw both 2nd Grade classes hosting the weekly school Mass and handling their growing responsibilities beautifully. January 31, we celebrated our 100th day of school. To commemorate the day, we did 100 math problems, read for 100 minutes, wrote stories about 100 things, ate 100 snacks, and made 100 piece puzzles. It was voted the best day of 2nd Grade so far!

A study of the Iditarod Dog Sled Race will bridge February and March as Mr. Deja leads both classes on a “trip” through Alaska, one of his favorite places on the planet. The kids better bring a compass because this unit takes them in all directions: research, writing, geography, history, literature, and mathematics.

Along for the 2nd Grade ride is new student, **Jacquelyn F.** who joined Mrs. Hanley’s room right after break. Though our focus is on subtraction right now, she and her **4th Grade brother Kyle** are fine “additions.”

Third Grade with Mrs. Bodley & Mrs. Bruder

During the third quarter, we enjoyed Catholic Schools week, the Burger King coupon fundraiser, and Valentine’s Day parties. Thank you to all the parents who helped treat all of us. You are wonderful!

Mrs. Bodley’s class has been presenting biography book reports. The students dressed as their famous person and we all learned about many fascinating famous people. In Science, we finished a Simple Machines unit and even built our own Lego levers and pulleys with the DACTA kits! The speed and accuracy of our multiplication facts continue to build momentum. The daily practice at home ensures our success on our daily timed tests.

Through the year and especially during Catholic Schools Week, we take the time to think about why our school is special. We are so thankful to God and our parish families for our wonderful Catholic school. We think LMC is special because:

- We talk about God and we pray. **Nicole V.**
- God is always with us here. **Audrey B.**
- When I learn religion, I get closer to God. **Zach O.**
- We have a big golden cross in the Gym. **Allie A.**
- We have good masses, a cool fight song, and great lunches. **Joseph J.**
- If you learn to act like Jesus, there will be more peace on earth. **Lauren G.**

4th Grade with Mrs. Binger and Mrs. Zetts: Our Past, Our Present and Our Future

In 2006 a French Voyageur came from the year 1750. He told us about New France and wilderness exploration. New France was Canada and Michigan in 1750. Hannah said, “He taught us a lot about what life was like for a person who had the job of a voyageur.” Meghan said “He was cool and his musket was sweet!” Some people liked his French accent. Our teacher thought it was amazing we could communicate with him because he couldn’t speak English very well and we couldn’t speak French.

by Sarah F. and Jeevanjot R.

During Catholic Schools Week, it was fun to pretend we were students back in the 1950’s. They wore their hair in cool ways. The clothes were fun and we had to listen to the nuns. The sock hop was the most fun of all! Everyone danced!

by Ben B. and Kris U.

Alice Russell’s Uncle Jim came from NASA to talk to us about what we need to survive in the space shuttle and on Mars. When we tried to pack all our needs we found out we couldn’t fit enough water and air for us to stay at a space station or live on Mars. It was great to have an expert talk to our class about some of the projects they do at NASA to learn more about living somewhere other than the planet Earth.

by Kyle F. and Meghan I.

The 4th Grade students attended a magnificent field trip to the Kalamazoo Museum and Planetarium. We saw a show about our solar system and other galaxies. Then we headed upstairs where we built actual moving cars and race them! There were real mummies, too! It was really fun!

By Alex F.

Space Day was really dark. To go to space we had to do a lot of work like write a research paper on a planet by reading books, news articles, and using the computer encyclopedia and the web. We had eight tasks to do and two tests. Then we built our space shuttles out of big boxes that really nice parents got for us. The next day we had to work by flashlights and use walkie-talkies to talk to people in other shuttles. We had a lot of work to do in space. Most of it was Math with astronomical numbers.

by Harpar B.

Fifth Grade with Mrs. Puplis & Mrs. Fish

Lake Michigan Catholic Schools had a wonderful week celebrating Catholic Schools Week, January 30–February 3. and we sincerely thank everyone who contributes to the success of our school. We are grateful for the presence of our parish priests and our parents in our building. Several 5th Graders have expressed their thanks with essays and pictures. Here are a few of their thoughts on **We like our Catholic school because...**

- we go to Mass every week. **Dylan S.**
- we learn more than other schools. **Ella D.**
- the teachers challenge you harder. **Kayleigh K.**
- you can make a lot of friends. **Drew G.**
- you become a holy person. **Danielle K.**
- of the theater arts experience **John G.**
- of the fun things we do. **Hannah M.**
- our school encourages us to keep turning the pages of the book. **Hayley B.**

***The Navigator* is co-sponsored by**

**The Graeber Family,
Craig, Sharon,
Drew and Morgan**

**wishing everyone in our Catholic
community a Lenten season
full of insight
and joyful sacrifice.**

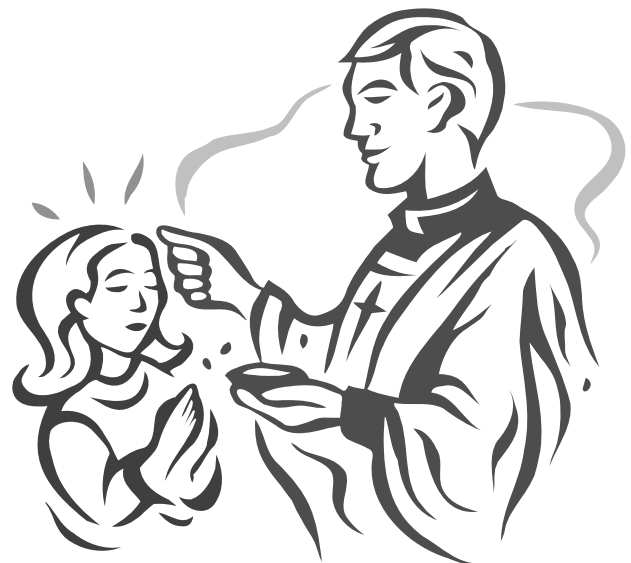
Technology with Mrs. Barden

FREE EQUIPMENT! Due to the computer upgrades that have taken place throughout the system over the past few years, we have extra 15” CRT monitors, keyboards, and computer mice in storage. This is all used equipment, but it works! They are free to anyone who’d like to take them “as is.” We will have a computer set up for testing so you can verify the equipment is functioning before you take it home.

Equipment will be available on the following days and times. Questions may be directed to **Pam Barden** at **lmcstech@yahoo.com**.

- **LMCHS-MS:** (monitors, keyboards, mice)
Tuesday, March 7, 2006, 6:00 – 8:00pm
Room 214 above the gym. The gym doors will be open, then follow the signs.
- **Elementary School:** (mostly monitors)
Tuesday, March 14, 2006, 6:00 – 8:00pm
Room 11 in the hallway connecting the school to the gym. The cafeteria doors will be open, then follow the signs.

FREE MONEY! Office Depot offers cash back to schools on your purchases through the “5% Back to Schools” program. When you make a purchase at Office Depot, just ask the salesperson to credit Lake Michigan Catholic Schools for your purchase. They keep a running total of purchases, and periodically send gift cards to the school.



Reading Tips from Miss Ulicny

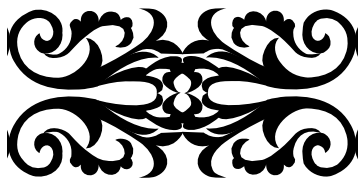
Reading comprehension can be a hard concept to learn. When children are concentrating so much on the figuring out of words, it's tough for them to understand what the words are actually saying. There are many ways to work with your children on reading comprehension. One strategy that I like to do with my students is Read, Stop, and Ask.

1. Child will read one sentence in the story.
2. Child will stop at the period.
3. Ask your child what the sentence was telling them.
4. Repeat steps 1 – 3.

As the child becomes stronger and stronger with their comprehension skills they can stop at the end of the paragraph or even the page. This may seem a little tedious, but it not only builds comprehension, but it also reinforces sentence structure skills.

After-School Care News with Mrs. Zilke

A flurry of activity has been swirling since we returned from Christmas break. We celebrated the beauty of winter by making winter mobiles. There was little snow to dig in so we went digging for dinosaurs and discovered how much we have learned about our prehistoric pals and how much we still are learning. Our travels in January took us to China where we sampled chicken fried rice, celebrated Chinese New Year, made lanterns and enjoyed fortune cookies! We moved from Asia to Africa and said, “*jambo*” to Kenya in February, making African drums and decorating the hall with African masks, capping our unit with a safari and a sampling of Kenyan food. The high point of the month was our winter Olympics. Flags representing many countries decorated our room where we talked about Olympics past and present and even competed in our own events. Our judges decided which teams won gold, silver or bronze medals and we learned a lot about good sportsmanship! As much fun as it has been, we have been earthbound too long and will shortly blast into space.



6th & 7th Graders Reading with Purpose

With so many activities competing for their leisure time, Mrs. Rugg's 6th and 7th Grade English students have been working on projects that emphasize different aspects of reading.

Over the last two months, the 6th Graders read over 100 books with a minimum of 100 pages. Averaged over the class, that is 2-3 books per student in addition to their regular homework assignments. By reaching their goal, Scholastic will donate 100 books in their name to a school that was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Along with helping another school in need, the program gives students the opportunity to think about life without easy access to books, something that we often take for granted.

The 7th Grade students have been working on creating a "Literary Fan Club" for selected authors. The project is divided into five phases. The first phase includes research and creating a FAQ list; the second phase is designing a Fan Club Homepage for their author. The third and fourth phases include writing different types of business letters (enticing people to join/thanking them for joining), and the final phase is creating a newsletter to send to their Fan Club members, which includes a summary of one of the author's books. **Meghan K.** took the initiative to contact her author, Lois Lowry, and was surprised to receive a personal reply from such an “in demand” author.

Parents, please encourage and model that “have a book with you all the time” habit, which will pay off in high school and college when every minute, not just leisure time, has to be utilized effectively.



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.

Scouting Around at LMC

1st Grade Brownie Troop #542: Our troop just finished the Try-It for Puppets, Dolls, and Plays. The girls worked hard on this by making puppets, a stage, and yarn dolls. They also put on a play to show the importance of safety. **Mrs. Kathy Allen, Mrs. Lynn Hegg, and Mrs. Jackie Markoch** provided extra hands to help the girls make their dolls. We also had a wonderful cookie sale ~ the girls did a great job learning the ins and outs of cookie selling to earn yet another patch. Way to go! The International Bazaar offered another learning opportunity as the girls said an enthusiastic “buon giorno” from our country of Italy!

2nd Grade Brownie Troop #555: Our activities have centered upon preparing for the International Bazaar where our troop represented Denmark. The girls learned how to make a traditional Danish heart basket, which was not easy! The creative Danish people contributed several things that are familiar to children ~ Lego blocks for one and the stories such as *The Ugly Duckling* and *The Little Mermaid* by Hans Christian Andersen. Thanks to **Mrs. Jan Mathews** who made a very special Danish heart with our troop number on it to hang at our booth, and Molly's mom, **Mrs. Mary Buckleitner** who made a traditional Danish desert for our Troop to share. Our Brownies went to Creative Adventure to learn about scrapbooking, and we will start working on a special surprise for our moms. All of our Brownies wish Jessica's mom, **Mrs. LeeAnn Russell** a speedy recovery and we are praying for her to get well soon! Mrs. Russell will be conducting a badge on Space in the near future!

3rd Grade Brownie Troop # 558: Hey mon, Troop 558 went jammin' to Jamaica at the Service Unit's International Bazaar. Thanks to **Mrs. Jan Sullivan** and **Mrs. Cindy Adent**, the girls have been learning about the culture and history, and making flip flops, and seashell picture frames to celebrate Jamaica's warm weather. The troop is hitting the road soon on a journey to Toledo, Ohio to visit the COSI science museum to solve a mystery about the disappearance of one of their basketball-playing rats. Watch this space for more information!

3rd Grade Bears: The Scouts were quite the craftsmen this past January and February. First, of course, was the Pinewood Derby where the boys expressed themselves with some very creative car designs. More than good-looking, the cars were pretty fast, too. The boys continued to work on their carving skills, learning the proper use and care of a pocketknife by sculpting things like a fish, a boat, a doughnut and an arrowhead out of a bar of soap. Each Bear earned the coveted Whittling Chip card and badge for their efforts. Congratulations to our den's Pinewood Derby winners and all the Bears for their wonderful talents!

5th Grade Webelos II: The boys finished up their last activity pins before the Blue & Gold Banquet and crossing over into Boy Scouts. The boys had a wonderful presentation by **Mr. Pat Glotzbach** about engineering and then worked on electrical circuits and made catapults with **Mr. Craig Graeber** and **Mr. Marty Golob**. The boys wrapped up their last den meeting with a pizza party, games and receiving their last pins as Cubs.

Pack #624: Forty-five cars ran in double elimination Pinewood Derby heats with everyone sitting on the edge of their chairs watching some of the races coming down to the thousandths of a second difference. There was even one tie! The results by Den are:

Tigers: August T. (3.542), Samuel H. (3.553), Gardner K. (3.605)

Wolf: Nate B. (3.503), Quinn K. (3.552), Alex L. (3.586)

Bear: Gregory B. (3.419), Joe P. (3.431), Nathan G. (3.444)

Webelo I: Ryan A. (3.458), Kris U. (3.461), Michael A. (3.486)

Webelo II: Joseph A. (3.448), Mitch B. (3.475), Cole D. (3.486)

Representing the Pack in the District Races next month on March 4th are:

- | | |
|-------------|--------|
| • Joseph A. | First |
| • Joe P. | Second |
| • Nathan G. | Third |

Congratulations to all of the boys for a fantastic race night and to **Mr. Pat Glotzbach** for running and managing the pit area for the Pack.