



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 - DECEMBER 2006 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3

Laker F.U.N. Directory of Officers, 2006-07

President: Michele Armstrong 429-2510
Vice Pres.: Karen Ballard 429-1566
Secretary: Lisa Iman 556-5559
Treasurer: Lee Ann Russell 429-6956

Current Events & Contacts

Laker F.U.N. Meeting: 1/10, 6:30, ES
LMC Spelling Bee: 1/15, 7pm, HS
Trivia Night: 1/20, 6:30-9, ES
CCEC Meeting: 1/25, 7:30pm, HS
Catholic Schools Week: 1/29-2/2
Kid-to-Kid Sale: 2/1-2, ES
“Ground”-Hog Day Café: 2/2, ES – info. soon!
Winter F.U.N. Fest: 2/3, 6-8:30, ES
LMC Fund-Raising & Alumni Coordinator:
Chris Glendening: 429-0227, Ext. 15
cglendening@lmclakers.com
Market Day: monthly orders
Kelly Spencer 428-9556
SCRIP: year-round
Business Office: 983-5529
Sunshine Committee:
Chan Marzke: 429-3993
Welcome Committee:
Lisa Barta: 556-0120

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 & Events

Our two annual fund-raisers, the **Holiday Pie Sale** and **Cookie Walk**, were very successful thanks to broad support, including a donation from Gordon Foods, and the leadership of event chairs **Angie Seger and Sue Herrmann** and **Sara Duris**.

LMC's first **Trivia Night** is scheduled for **Saturday, January 20th**, from **6:30-9pm**. Join with friends to test your knowledge and have FUN!

Catholic Schools Week is 1/29-2/2 with many activities planned for this week-long focus on Catholic Education, our School, students, parents, teachers and staff. Watch for details!

Kid-to-Kid Sale is back! Clear out and drop-off old videos, DVDs, books, and game cartridges for ages 3-12 at LMC ES or MS-HS. On **Thursday and Friday, 2/1-2**, LMCE students can buy donated items that will be on display in the MPR. Direct questions to chairman **LeeAnn Russell, 429-6956**.

Winter F.U.N. Fest 2007 on Saturday, 2/3, from 6-8:30pm will mark the end of **Catholic Schools Week**. Come for food, games, gym activities and our guarantee of fun for the whole family.

The next Laker F.U.N. meeting is on **Wednesday, January 10, 2006**. Plans will be finalized for our first Trivia Night and Catholic Schools Week activities. We need everyone's ideas. See you in the MPR at 6:30 pm for munchies.

We from Laker F.U.N. wish to express our thanks and blessings to all of you who support the LMCE School and our organization with time, talent, and donations. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a fun-filled, safe holiday season.

From Executive Director John Berlin

As the Christmas holiday approaches, our thoughts turn to the reason for our existence as a Catholic School. Christ's birth reminds us all of the importance of the mission that guides us each day. That mission is:

*Nourishing the Human Spirit
Mind, Body and Soul ~ through Jesus Christ*

Often in life, we find ourselves bogged down in the minutia of various situations. One of the beauties of working here is the daily grounding I receive from our mission. On the tough days that we all have, I am blessed with the opportunity to reflect for a moment on the mission of our schools. Those words quickly bring me back to reality and guide my thinking. What corporation in our global economy would not beg for such a powerful mission!

It is my sincere wish that everyone have a blessed and safe Christmas! Spend some time with those you love and appreciate the gifts that God has provided us all.

Elementary Essentials with Mrs. Maher

The fall with its dreary, wet weather, MEAP tests, and Fall Festival are long gone and replaced by an early bite of wintry cold and the season of Advent. The weather calls for parents and students alike to make sure students are dressed appropriately to go outside. Unless it is bitterly cold, we do go out every day! The kids love the snow and cold and look forward to this time of year even if we do not.

Advent is another large part of life at Lake Michigan Catholic! Adoration helped remind us of the real reason for the season! That along with watching our Advent wreath's candles being lit to fill us with the light of Christ, point to way to Christmas morning. I know the hectic pace of this time of year can overwhelm even the most organized people, so during the Christmas holiday please pause, close your eyes and offer prayers of thanksgiving for the stunning beauty of a Michigan winter, good health, good friends, the blessing of family and the gift of the Christ Child.

Gift Honors Mother & Helps Teachers

The children of Rosalie Capizzo have chosen to honor their mother by establishing the **Rosalie Capizzo Professional Development Scholarship Fund** within the Twin-City Area Catholic School Fund. This permanent endowment will provide professional development scholarships for Pre-K through Grade 2 faculty at Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School.

Fund co-founder **Ferol Allen** stated, "*We are very proud of what Mom was able to do as an educator and parent. We felt that paying tribute to her while she was still with us would make a wonderful gift. We chose to create an endowment that would help Pre-K through 2nd Grade educators because that was Mom's passion when she taught.*"

Martin Golob, Executive Director of the Twin-City Area Catholic School Fund noted that "*While it has been common for quite some time to make memorial gifts, there is a growing trend to give "Gifts of Charity" in lieu of traditional gifts. It is a beautiful way to tell someone that they are loved and that you share their passion for a particular group or cause.*"

The first annual Rosalie Capizzo Professional Development Scholarship will be awarded in the spring of 2007. Anyone with an interest in establishing a similar fund is invited to contact **Martin Golob at 269-861-3108.**



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.

ExxonMobil's Educational Alliance Grant Awarded to LMC Schools

Thanks to the efforts of **Craig Marzke** of **Primar** and the **Kartar Brothers with Mobil stations in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor**, Lake Michigan Catholic Schools as been awarded a \$500 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance grant. At the Elementary, the grant will be used for the construction of a dedicated play structure for the Preschool programs. The Middle-High School grant will benefit the Physical Education program,

On behalf of the LMC Schools community, principals John Berlin and Jody Maher extend their thanks to Mr. Marzke and the Kartar Brothers for their investment in our schools, which will benefit our students for many years to come.

Sunshine Committee: There in Times of Need

Jon returned home from Iraq the end of May. It so nice having Dad back where he belongs. We apologize for taking so long to send our sincere thanks to all of you for the incredible support. All year we received weekly meals. They were an absolute blessing. I did a lot of sandwiches, cereal and fast food but at least once a week, I knew my kids would be eating a regular meal. Everyone was so great, providing rides for the kids all over. The notes of encouragement and gifts throughout the year were also such welcome surprises. We pray the Lord bless each of you who touched our lives so beautifully this past year. With our most sincere thanks, *Lynne and Jon Brunner and Children*

Thank you so much for the delicious dinner, as well as all the support and prayers that have helped my family and I get through this difficult time. It means so much to us and we keep our wonderful "LMC Family" in our thoughts and prayers for it. With the Grace of God, this too shall pass. God bless you all. *Cindy Mara and Family*



Cloverleaf Spelling Bee: Hey, Fans, It's a Whole New Ball Game

For those who have been involved in the Cloverleaf Spelling Bee in the past, things have changed—drastically! We have a new local sponsor, the **Berrien County Intermediate School District**, and their chairperson is **Tonya Snyder**. They have chosen to eliminate the Team Spelling Bee, which permitted all the spellers to compete in front of an audience and led to the selection of spellers for the Individual Spelling Bee that determined a local winner to represent our community at the National Spelling Bee.

The ISD has asked that each participating school hold its own spelling elimination competition. From this contest we are to select our top three spellers to send to the Cloverleaf Individual Spelling Bee, to be held at the Mendel Center in February. The winner of the Individual Spelling Bee will go on to compete at the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. in May.

It is important that all of our spellers have their chance to spell in front of an audience. The Lake Michigan Catholic community is invited to come out and support your spelling team! However, spelling bee audiences must be **quiet**, so as not to disrupt the concentration of the spellers. Therefore, we ask that you not bring small children to this event. It will be held on **Monday, January 15th at 7pm in the LMC High School Cafeteria. Refer questions to coach Linda McPherson, 925-9558.**

Lost-n-Found: An Avalanche Threatens!

When items walk out of the house but not back in, chances are they are in the Lost-n-Found. **Middle and High School** parents—no, wait, *kids*—should check the boxes located in each locker room and the main lobby. Items lost at the **Elementary**, including sports gear from anyone who practices in our gym, can be found in the basket by the cafeteria doors. Check often; the contents are sent to Goodwill every other month.

Thousands of dollars of lost clothing is donated to Goodwill each year from our Lost-n-Found. **TIP: If an item is not essential for the school day, don't bring it to school.**

Preschool with Mrs. Grundy & Mrs. Holbert

Throughout November, our Little Laker Preschoolers learned that they can help others like “Good Sam, the Good Samaritan” by bringing food to school. We shared canned goods and other non-perishables with our friends at the Catholic Community Center in Benton Harbor. Our three-year-olds learned to care and be thankful when studying about how the pilgrims and Native Americans worked together for the first Thanksgiving feast. The older children also collected food for the Community Center as they enjoyed units about healthy habits, cooking and baking, Thanksgiving as well as transportation.

During this Advent season, we are preparing for the birth of our Lord. The children are making mangers for Jesus. Every day when they try to do a kind act, a piece of yarn is placed in the manger. This will make a soft comfortable place for the baby. **Mrs. Gallagher** taught us many new songs for our Christmas program and we hope the memories of that evening, as well as the songs, will be shared for years to come.

Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Fields

Junior Kindergarten had a wonderful time celebrating Thanksgiving by sharing a feast with the Pre-School. The children expressed how thankful they are for their families and friends. We are now learning about Advent. Waiting for Jesus is certainly very hard but worth the effort as we learn to keep that special place for Him in our hearts all year long.

The Letter People are multiplying in our room. Meeting a new one each week and learning their special songs brings us closer and closer to reading and writing and new world those skills open for us.

**Our Navigator co-sponsors,
Elizabeth, Sarah,
Debbie and Art Stolte**



**wish everyone a
spiritual, peaceful and safe
holiday season.**

Kindergarten with Mrs. Kuehn & Mrs. Mills

Reading is a wonderful gift to receive and to share. The Kindergartners got an early present—the yellow readers have started to come home in their book bags! The new reading homework is something that the students are proud to have. With the Reading for All Learners (RFAL) series, students use a variety of skills that grow with them so they can be successful with reading and comprehension at higher and higher levels. The Kindergarten teachers were certainly happy to share what they have learned at their DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) training. The DIBELS method allows the teachers to make quick and accurate assessments of reading fluency. Combining these teaching and assessment techniques will enhance an already effective program. If ever there was a gift that keeps on giving, *it is the gift of reading.*

1st Grade with Mrs. Petsovich & Mrs. Faris

The 1st Graders are patiently waiting for the birth of Jesus. We are lighting a candle on our Advent wreaths each week. Our Advent trees are in the hallway and receive a new ornament each day. With the focus on sacrifice and giving, rather than having a gift exchange, each child is doing chores around the house to earn five dollars to give to **Sister Paulita Walters** and the **Readiness Center**. Our work is magnified in Sr. Paulita's mission to get children on the right educational path.

The students are continuing on their own journey through the school year. We are now in our third reader of the year, *Let's Learn Together!* We are learning to spell many seasonal word wall words like Advent and Christmas. Our growing word processing skills came in handy as we typed our letters to Santa. The field trip to the Krasl to see the photographic exhibit, *Heavens Above*, was amazing and is worth a second trip to see the images from the Hubble Space Telescope. The exhibit runs through January 7th for those who would like a little Christmas break excursion.

The children have been singing their hearts out this month—thank you to **Mrs. Gallagher** for orchestrating another fantastic Christmas program. Thank you to all the parents who are planning and providing for the first grade Christmas parties.

2nd Grade with Mrs. Hanley & Mr. Deja

As we begin the month of December, our Jesse Tree begins to take shape to help us count the days of Advent until Christmas. We start each day listening to a Bible story and then we put a symbol from that story on our tree, beginning with the story of Creation and ending with the Nativity.

The students are getting into the true meaning of Christmas by recognizing the joy in giving to others. The 2nd Graders do this by collecting baby gifts and clothing that will be donated to Birthright for children that are less fortunate.

December has also been filled with fun things to learn. We have been working on how to tell time and how to count money. Everyone now knows when it is time for lunch by the clock, not by their stomachs.

The book December Secrets is our featured novel. It is about 2nd Graders, like us, preparing for Christmas. We are all excited about choosing our own secret person and doing special things for that person every day—just like the kids in the book. We will reveal our secret person at a gift exchange during our Christmas party. The question is: *can everyone keep a secret?*

3rd Grade with Mrs. Bodley & Mrs. Bruder

Amid the excitement and preparations for Advent and Christmas, the 3rd Graders have remained on their academic track. Mrs. Bruder and Mrs. Bodley are particularly pleased with the students' mastery of cursive writing and their readiness for multiplication. Beyond the regular Reading textbooks, the 3rd Graders have also completed several group novels. Their enthusiasm for reading from new genres is a gratifying response to the teachers' decision to expand the volume and scope of supplemental reading this year. Both classrooms are fortunate to have parents who come to school to share favorite stories and model reading for pleasure. Mrs. Bruder sends her thanks to **Mrs. Barta, Mrs. Schueneman** and **Mrs. Spafford** for their assistance with the reading program.

The 3rd Graders have demonstrated that they have acquisitive minds and generous hearts. The staff and volunteers of the Food Pantry at the Catholic Community Center were grateful for our contributions from our "Trick-or-Treat So Our Community Can Eat" food drive. The sense of awareness of people in need was kept at the forefront with the 3rd Graders' participation in Scholastic Books Reading Challenge. Meeting the goal to read at least 100 books earned an in-kind donation of books to charitable organizations that serve children.

"A Visit to Fourth Grade" with Mrs. Binger & Mrs. Zetts

"Twas the week before Christmas
and all through 4th Grade
we were learning our graphing
and practicing our plays.
The 4th Grade sometimes sat
all snug in our desks
while visions of digestive system parts
danced in our heads.
Our family tree projects hung in the hall
in hopes they'd be read
and admired before they would fall.
We made reports in Computer class
and checked our websites.
In Art we made Madonnas
and tried to make them look right.
We wrote in our immigrant journals
of days long ago
while we learned of the country
from which we did go.
As we watched playground become covered
with traces of white
we knew in our heads
that the season's just right.
So with our excitement
and the 22nd so near
we one to leave one message,

"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

Fourth grade would like to extend a special thanks to **Mrs. Graeber** for teaching us about teeth, to **Mr. O'Malley** for the exciting tour of the Water Filtration Plant and to the "Owl Guy" for giving us insight to the lives and world of owls.

5th Grade with Mrs. Kurina & Mrs. Fish

The 5th Graders can't believe that it's already December. We continue to improve our work and to have fun doing it. Our November projects, Bible history boxes, provided an insightful segue to the Advent season. Each box focuses on the early life of Jesus and contains a three dimensional scene with life-like figures, a passage from Scripture, and a dialogue written in a play format. It was fun to see all the clever techniques used to create such vivid scenes. **Lydia S.** cast herself as the angel in her diorama. **Megan P.** made stars out of gum wrappers. **Kristopher U.** used rice to portray the sand in the desert. **Meghan I.** made her people out of Nerf darts!

To aid the Catholic Community Center's food pantry, the 5th Grade organizes the year-round collection of paper grocery bag. Remember to say "Paper, please," at the grocery store then bundle up the extra bags and send them to the LMCES office or to Mrs. Puplis' attention at LMC MS/HS. Soon, we will be collecting coins for the Pennies for Patients Campaign. The money will go to our areas cancer patients, so please save all your coins! More information will follow.

If you did not get to attend our special Thanksgiving Mass, you missed a very sacred event. All our priests and seminarian **Matt Mileski** were with us, as well as parents, grandparents, and LMC friends. In sharing this liturgy, we again are reminded that our faith is one of God's greatest gifts—and the Mass is our opportunity to freely rejoice in His wondrous creation.

**Get ready!
Burger King
Coupon Books
coming in January!**

Technology with Mrs. Barden

Christmas came early to the Elementary school computer lab this year! When we are counting our blessings this holiday season, the LMCES students and staff will certainly remember the **Twin Cities Area Catholic School Fund**. Thanks to a generous gift from the TCACSF Technology Endowment, we were able to purchase new computers to update the elementary school computer lab. We recently installed 24 Dell OptiPlex 210L Desktop computers, with Windows XP Professional, Pentium 4 processors, 1 Gigabyte of memory, 80 Gigabyte hard drives, combo CD read/write/DVD drives, optical mice, and 17-inch flat-panel monitors. These computers replace the well-used Windows 98 systems that had been in the lab for over 5 years, and help to keep LMC on track with our Technology Plan's computer replacement goals.



Look for the LMC Giving Tree and the staff Wish Lists as you head through the main hall. Read the list, give a gift, add a leaf to the tree and reap the many rewards of knowing you have helped enrich the school for years to come!

Scouting Around at LMCES

Kindergarten Daisy Troop #536: As new Daisies, our eight girls began their year by learning about the first Girl Scout, Juliette “Daisy” Low and earned their first badge after reciting the Girl Scout Promise at their Investiture Ceremony. The Troop got ready for Thanksgiving by making placemats and setting the table. With the table set and their best manners ready, they enjoyed delicious cookies made by **Mrs. Yacobozzi**. December found the girls making gingerbread houses, doing good deeds at home, and very visibly at the front of the Reindog Parade!

Casting their gaze on the future, the Daisies brainstormed with **Mrs. Finnigan** and made plans for upcoming meetings—ice skating, an outing with the dads, and putting on a play. It sounds like fun and any Kindergarten girl is welcome to join by calling leaders **Anne Hassett, 429-1361** or **Jen Gaska, 428-1461**.

1st Grade Brownie Troop #590: What an exciting month November was for our Troop. Our girls were formally welcomed into Girl Scouts by having their Investiture Ceremony. Each girl received their new Brownie pins and their first Try-It badges they’ve been working toward at each meeting. December found us marching in the Reindog Parade—we were easy to spot in our elf hats! The girls kept the Christmas cheer coming by making door decorations for the residents of Caretel retirement home.

The girls were excited to spend time with **Mrs. Catherine Fraser**, who introduced them to yoga. In addition, we played many great games while working toward the Sports Try-It. We are learning how to be a considerate friend while **Mrs. Tricia Salvano** helps us with our Friends Are Fun Try-It. We will join all the Brownies in the area to earn our Sew-It badge at the St. Joseph library in December.



Thanks to all the Elementary students who recycled plastic water bottles. We’ve turned the water bottles into containers for environmentally safe cleaners we can use at home. We’ve also decided to recycle plastic water bottles at every Wednesday meeting. Please watch for the recycling box at lunchtime and continue to help. We learned how important it is to recycle and use products that are kind to God’s planet and want everyone in school to help recycle as many bottles as we can.

The girls are aware that they are part of a much bigger world and have made some new friends in Tacoma, Washington by participating in the Girl Scout pen pal program. In the coming months, we expect to learn quite a bit about life in the state of Washington.

Girl Scout Cookie orders have been placed with the help of **Mrs. Kim Matheny**, who also spent an afternoon explaining the selling process to us—we can’t wait to distribute our cookies in January.

2nd Grade Brownie Troop #542: The girls’ activities have been focused on women and their achievements, from learning more about our founder, Juliette Low, to interviewing and sharing time with grandmas, aunts, and moms. Our discoveries were used to complete the Her Story Try-It. We honored Juliette Low’s birthday with a celebration including fun food, face painting, and designing our own troop T-shirts.

The always anticipated Reindog Parade was cold but sunny, and the girls were very proud to carry our new Troop banner designed by **Mrs. Lynn Hegg**. Thank you also to **Mrs. Christine Golden** and **Ms. Kellie Craig** for their help on parade day.

We officially welcomed **Mia S., Gabby C.** and **Sarah K.** into our Troop this year with an Investiture/Rededication ceremony at our November meeting and the girls have set their sights on their goals for their second year of Brownies. Community service is always on our minds; the girls enjoyed learning that their efforts are appreciated when they received a letter from **Lory’s Place** acknowledging the Troop’s donation of half of our dues from the last school year.

3rd Grade Brownie Troop #555: Community service has been on our agenda! The beautiful new flowers by the statue of Mary and by the entrance of the gym are two items we checked off our to-do and to-learn list. Our thanks go to **Mrs. Dolohanty** and **Mrs. Langbo** for their expert guidance. The other project the girls initiated was beautifying the benches in front of the school. Many Scouts helped with this project, the Cub Scouts helped move the benches into the Art room, our 3rd Grade Brownies sanded the rust off and the Junior Girl Scouts painted the benches to look like new. **Mr. and Mrs. Hamrock** not only coordinated this project but got all the materials donated from Lowe's!

Selling Girl Scout cookies offered the chance to learn about and earn our Banking and Money Try-It with **Mrs. Hamrock** leading the activity. Another type of asset is manners and the girls send their cordial thanks to **Mrs. Langbo** for helping them earn that Try-It. Since it is good manners to finish what one starts, the girls are wrapping their Science Try-It in a timely manner—a good thing since December brings a trip to see a Notre Dame Women's Basketball game, participating in the annual Reindog Parade, the All-Scout Christmas Party as well as community service projects for the Rose Center and Animal Aid.

Junior Girl Scout Troop #558: The girls have been in overdrive and the parents have been driving all over! The kind people at **PawMart** were our hosts as the girls earned their Pet Care badges, which gave us a greater appreciation for the care and enthusiasm that the pet owners who marched with us in the Reindog Parade have for their pets. With a little legwork, a neighborhood scavenger hunt was a fun way to gather Thanksgiving meal items for the Food Pantry. The girls went back on the road again, traveling to the **Fernwood Nature Preserve** to sing carols and enjoy their *Lights Before Christmas* display.

Our older Troop members are working toward the completion of their Bronze awards and will be finishing the school benches soon as part of that goal. **Mrs. Leona Hamrock** along with **Lowe's** provided the supplies.

The annual All-School Girl Scout Christmas Party, while fun, gives all the girls the opportunity to work together for one cause—this year, collecting supplies to help **Birthright**.

1st Grade Tigers: The ranks for Pack #624 grew with the addition of 20 new Tigers, who are full of energy and excitement. **Bob Pinkowski, Rich and Michaelynn McCoy, and Jon Brunner** are their equally energetic den leaders. Parent involvement has been excellent and points to a wonderful year.

The boys have learned the basics of Scouting; the motto, the pledge, the handshake, and more. We put together Scouting scrapbooks with specially designed coats of arms, shared leaf and baseball card collections, and learned about eating right by following the recommendations on the food pyramid. The boys got their quota of outdoor time as well when we hiked in the woods to learn about fall colors and the change in the weather. Our trip to the AirZoo and the Blue Star Moms' Holiday Pack-Out were good opportunities to discover what other great activities are available as the boys grow in Scouting. Coming events include attending an LMC Lakers basketball game, visiting a local fire station, and participating in the Pinewood Derby. Before long, the annual Blue and Gold banquet honoring our Scouts and leaders will be here. There are so many adventures yet to come. It is not too late to join us, so contact **Jon Brunner, 556-1097**, or leave a message for **Michelle Agay**, through the ES Office, **429-0227**.



3rd Grade Bears: Have you ever wondered what was in the safe in the Sacristy at St. Joseph Catholic Church? That was the burning question the 3rd Grade Bears had for **Fr. Christian** as he conducted a tour. Thanks to Mrs. Gallagher, we weren't surprised that the boys knew what the monstrosity was but it was surprising that they each have such an eye for detail, noticing a lot of intricate work on the various chalices. **Ryan S.** was the denner for the meeting where he also instructed the boys in a game that required a lot of trust. The boys toured an entirely different place—the St. Joseph Fire Department where **Lt. Pete Fister** discussed our *Be Ready* requirement, which includes learning what to do in an emergency. The boys assisted Lt. Fister by putting emergency contact forms into folders that will be sent to all St. Joseph city residents.

To show our appreciation for their help, at their next meeting the Bears wrote thank you notes to Fr. Christian and Lt. Fister. The boys learned about the importance of sending thank you notes and different ways to write them. While they were in writing mode, the Bears wrote letters to Santa. **Ryan C.** acted as denner and led a game that tested the boys' sense of touch by having them guess the content of small bags—some of them were really tough, especially the sugar and coconut.

Pack #624 News: November found our Scouts suited in armor at our monthly pack meeting themed "Scouts in Shining Armor." A ceremony was held to recognize many Scouts who have completed the requirements for their Bobcat badge. Parents pinned the Bobcat badge onto the Scout's uniform upside down. In order for the badge to be sewn on right side up, the Scout must do a good turn. After recognizing the other Scouting achievements earned by the rest of the Pack, each of the boys listened closely to instructions as we made knight helmets that they could wear.

Pack 624 Popcorn sales ended in the month of November with our second best year ever. The boys sold over \$17,500 worth of delicious popcorn. A big thanks to all who supported the fundraiser that helps our pack go!

The Pack would also like to recognize **Milt Agay**, who has been elected Vice President for Programming for the Southwest Michigan Council, BSA. Milt has stepped down as Pack Cubmaster but promises to remain a familiar face. We would like to thank Milt for his service to the Pack and his continued involvement in Scouting. **Pat Glotzbach** will be replacing Milt as the Cubmaster. Contact Pat at ptglotzbach@ameritech.net or **428-8256** with any questions about Cub Scouts at LMC.

A Message to the Boy Scouts and Families from Milt Agay

For the past few years I've had the honor and privilege to serve as the Cubmaster for our Cub Scout Pack at LMC. Recently I have been asked by the Boy Scouts to serve in another capacity which has required me, with deep regret, to have to step down. I have enjoyed my time as Cubmaster and hope that I, along with the other wonderful leaders who have served with me, have helped to carry on the tradition of scouting here at LMC. I also hope that during this time we have had a positive impact on the lives of many of our boys.

I have had the opportunity to visit many Scout units throughout the State and the one thing that always impresses me about our Pack is its strong parental involvement and support, which many other units don't have the good fortune of having. This is a major reason why our program works so well; because the parents believe in it and participate with their sons.

I want to thank all of our Scouting families, our wonderful principal, teachers, and the priests for their support, guidance, and help over these past few years, and ask that you all continue to give your support to the Pack, and our new Cubmaster, **Mr. Pat Glotzbach**, and work with him as he takes our Pack forward.

Heads Up, Volleyball Players of All Ages:

**See the back page of *The Navigator*
for the MSU Skills Clinic
registration form and details on the
MSU vs. ND Men's Volleyball Match!**