



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.

MARCH 2007 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 5

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

Laker F.U.N. News & Events

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

When the students return to school after Easter Break, everyone will be in a 4th quarter frame of mind. For the kids, there is much to learn; for Laker parents, there is much to do.

Current Events & Contacts

Stations of the Cross: 1:00pm, ES
Fridays of Lent
Easter Break: 3/30-4/9
Daddy-Daughter Dinner Dance: 4/14, ES
Penny Truini, co-chair 428-0566
Kathy Urrea, co-chair 429-3104
S.C.E.N.E. Auction: 4/20 & 4/21
Chris Glendening: 429-0227, Ext. 15
Market Day: monthly orders
Kelly Spencer 428-9556
SCRIP: year-round
Business Office: 983-5529
Sunshine Committee:
Chan Marzke: 429-3993
LMC Fund-Raising & Alumni Coordinator:
Chris Glendening: 429-0227, Ext. 15

Co-chairs **Kathy Urrea** and **Penny Truini** have been hard at work finalizing the details for the **Daddy-Daughter Dinner Dance** on **April 14th**. Whether it's on your PalmPilot, Blackberry, or a good old calendar, *dads, reserve that date* for a memorable evening with your daughters.

Watch *The Navigator* and those backpacks for details about Laker Field Days, our final event of the school year. Taking place on two days to accommodate the lower and upper elementary students, Laker Field Days is an undertaking that takes "all hands on deck" not to mention prayers for pleasant weather. Anyone interested in volunteering may call **Michele at 429-2510**.

The officers of Laker F.U.N. wish everyone a most blessed Easter. We hope this holiest season of the Christian calendar brings joy in knowing that the resurrected Christ is with us always.

LMC Administrative Contacts:

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pmaloney@berriencounty.org



News from Our Principals: Mr. Berlin and Mrs. Maher on Accreditation

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 14 - 16, an accreditation team from the Michigan Non-Public School Accreditation Association (MNSAA) gave us a resounding “Yes!” to our system-wide accreditation effort. This marked the first time this association has attempted a system-wide approval.

The idea to undertake this process as one system arose as the elementary school’s date approached for reaccreditation. The pastors and principals discussed the importance that we be viewed as Lake Michigan Catholic Schools, not three individual schools as we had been looked upon in the past. Over the last many months, we worked on our self-study document. This alone was invaluable. Meeting with various groups throughout the system was an excellent learning opportunity. Our teaching staff especially enjoyed the time to share what we do to prepare the ‘whole child’ for the world we live in. The communication among faculty members at all levels produced a higher level of collegiality, and a fascinating document that gave us insight into the many wonderful aspects of our schools, as well as fine-tuning the areas we would like to grow.

The three-day visit at both locations was an enriching experience. The teams, comprised of educators from public and parochial schools, left here singing our praises, and we validated what we already knew: Lake Michigan Catholic Schools are second to none for the education of our children! Even the areas where growth is needed were exciting to us, as we always strive to be better!

Just as we will soon have a completed document back from these teams, the MNSAA will also be assessing the system-wide process to implement it throughout the state as able. The pastors and principals could not be more proud of our schools. Beyond meeting and exceeding educational benchmarks, one of the most important things we heard in both the elementary and middle/high school buildings is that “The Catholicity of Lake Michigan Catholic is felt from the minute you walk in the front door.” This affirmation of our mission is exactly why we are here!

A Letter from Our Pastors

Saints John and Bernard Parish and Saint Joseph Parish are truly blessed to be the cosponsors of Lake Michigan Catholic Schools. Of all our many ministries, a priority has been the funding and support of our local Catholic school. As Pastors of the parishes, we have been truly impressed with the growth and expansion of LMC—especially in the areas of weekly Masses and daily prayer. Enrollment this year was up some 7%, a testament to the fine job that is being performed by the entire LMC education family.

We invite all families who are in our Religious Education program, but not enrolled at LMC, to give us a serious look. Rest assured that we will do everything humanly possible to see that finances are not a barrier to enrolling your youngsters at LMC. If you would like a tour of the facilities, a meeting our administrators or grade-level teachers, please do not hesitate to give the school or rectory a call. This is your school—we invite you to prayerfully give it your serious consideration.

LMC students have consistently performed extremely well on all state and national standardized tests. This past year, a special needs program and an elementary foreign language program was instituted into the curriculum. Our athletic program is comprehensive and very competitive in all sports; our Fine Arts program continues to shine at all levels.

It is often said that if a Catholic school system operates to the optimum, there is no finer form of education, as you are nurturing the entire human person, body and soul. We read in Sacred Scripture, *“What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, if he loses his soul?”* As Pastors of the supporting parishes of LMC, we have truly dedicated ourselves to making LMC the very best it can be in all aspects of student life. We genuinely hold the education of each youngster as a “sacred trust” before God.

Please call our rectories (**SS John & Bernard: 925-2425 or St. Joseph: 983-1575**) if we might be of any assistance in your family’s decision-making process regarding Lake Michigan Catholic Schools.

S.C.E.N.E. Auction: "Anchored in Faith"

The culmination of months of work is at hand. The 21st annual S.C.E.N.E. Auction will take place on **April 20th and 21st** at the Elementary's IMH Memorial Gym. The name is the mission: **Strong Catholic Education Needs Everyone**. Invite friends and family to the S.C.E.N.E. Auction for guaranteed fun on Friday, Saturday, or both nights!

- **Friday, April 20th, S.C.E.N.E. Take I:** The Silent Auction tables will be a virtual showcase of local merchants' products and artists' creations. Along with bidding, take a chance on **Prize Balloons, Lucky Keys, and Door Prizes**, which include **6 \$500 Tuition Grants**. Friday's event is **free and open to the adult public**.
- **On-Site Babysitting Available Friday, 4/20:** During Friday's Auction, Laker seniors will provide babysitting at a cost of \$10 per child from 6:30 – 11pm in the After-School Care Room #7. Interested families may call **Ashley Mayle, 269-876-7543**, by **April 16th** to register children.
- **Saturday, April 21st, Oral Auction & Dinner:** Enjoy a dinner like no other and take part in exciting bidding in the Silent and Oral Auctions. Invitations have been mailed but additional invitations for friends and business associates may be requested by calling **Yvonne DesJardins, 428-3415**, who will also take seating preferences.

Questions? Contact **Chris Glendening** at **429-0227**, or via e-mail at **cglendening@lmclakers.com**. Visit **www.lmclakers.com** for updates and while you're there, look at that menu—*it's irresistible!*



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.

Daddy Daughter Dinner Dance

Dads, take your best girl or girls out for an evening of dinner and dancing to the sounds of the '80's. Show the light(s) of your life a great time, and of course, how to be treated like a lady. Pull out those old Cavariccis, skinny ties, and pencil thin belts, or go preppy with a polo shirt and a sweater around your neck, but please, leave the mullets at home; some things are truly better left in the past. And remember, this dance only happens every other year, so please join us for what we hope to be a sweet memory for you and your girl(s).

WHEN: Saturday, April 14th

WHERE: LMCES Multi-Purpose Room

TIME: 5:30 pm - 8:30pm; Dinner: 6:00 pm

COST: \$ 20.00 per family

R.S.V.P: Kathy Urrea, 429-3104 or
Penny Truini, 428-0566

And When You're Done with Those Ties...

Old ties, preferably dark in color, are needed at the Middle/High School to replenish the emergency supply that is tapped when students forget to wear a tie to Mass. Send them in, **Attn: Mary Nielsen**.

A Heartfelt Thanks from Laurie Marszalec

I do not have enough words to express my thanks for the prayers and support of the students and staff of Lake Michigan Catholic, and that of our priests and parishioners, in the time before and after the death of my mother, Donna Erikson. The depth of concern for me, my husband and children, in dealing with this loss was, and remains, a source of comfort.

Another consolation was the response of my students, who raised \$810 as a donation in my mother's memory to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, which educates women about early detection and provides mammograms for the poor. I am proud of them for their maturity and awareness, and that they sought to find a way to help other women and their families.

Preschool with Mrs. Grundy & Mrs. Holbert

Preschool students are enjoying a new area rug in the classroom. Our friends at **Carpet Unlimited** were kind enough to donate a lovely solid beige rug which makes it much easier for our youngsters to focus during circle time. We also received a wooden stove and sink for our dramatic play area. They were donated by **Stephanie Vreeland** of California. She is a relative of the **Agay family**. Thank you very much. These new items are wonderful additions to our classroom.

March came in like a lion, but that didn't hold us back. We learned about good foods to eat, explored outer space, considered what I want to be when I grow up, and prepared for Easter. All these concepts were introduced by our Zoophonics friends robbie rabbit, sammy snake, timothy tiger and umber umbrella bird for our three-day and five-day classes. Our two-day students continue to mature. They have learned that God wants them to laugh, celebrate, move, and prepare for Easter.

All the Preschool children are learning and exploring their gifts—how appropriate in this time of witnessing the greatest gift of all—forgiveness through Jesus Christ!

Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Fields

Though the Junior Kindergartner's are a busy bunch, they are also very observant. They demonstrated that when they noticed several deer browsing right outside our window! In the past we have spotted them moving through the wooded ravine behind the school but this time they were right out in our yard! We were able to quietly observe them for a long time. After the deer moved gracefully from view, our resident groundhog appeared prompting **Elena P.** to exclaim "Wow! We really had a nature day!" The children were so in awe of God's beautiful creation.



Kindergarten with Mrs. Kuehn & Mrs. Mills

The Kindergartners made it 100 days but we are not stopping there! March brought the celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday with the added fun of the 50th anniversary of the publication of the venerable and valuable *The Cat in the Hat* for which we created our own personal *Cat in the Hat* head gear. We even made *and enjoyed* our one fish, two fish in blue jello. Hurray for Dr. Seuss—we wonder if he knew how many children would learn to love reading from his timeless rhymes!

The Kindergartners were living in the ocean as we studied marine creatures and transformed our rooms into underwater environments. We concluded our ocean unit with a beach party on one of the coldest days of the year. The temperatures outdoors didn't put a chill on our indoor sand and water fun as we played and sipped our orange slushies. The Kindergartners moved from digging in sand to digging up the past as we studied the prehistoric ages and their prominent residents, the dinosaurs.

Mrs. Lynn Reuter has been joining us for Junior Achievement. She is teaching us about different career opportunities. Considering how fast time flies, understanding the many choices the students have is a good idea. After all, here we are in the 4th quarter already, and Mrs. Kuehn and Mrs. Mills are encouraging that personal growth and curiosity that will prepare the students for next year, and beyond.

1st Grade with Mrs. Petsovich & Mrs. Faris

March was a month of great growth both spiritually and academically for the 1st Graders. We have been continually reminded of our Lenten promises by making individual Stations of the Cross booklets and attending Stations each Friday. On St. Patrick's Day, we learned how St. Patrick used shamrocks to teach the pagans in Ireland about the Holy Trinity. We went cross-curricular with our unit on the Solar System, and learned about St. Joseph on his Feast Day this month. We also celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with many fun stories and activities. We concluded the month by making individual Flat Stanleys which will accompany us to many wonderful places over Spring Break. We are so thankful that the snow has melted and we look forward to our *New Life* unit after Easter.

2nd Grade with Mrs. Hanley & Mr. Deja

Wrapping up the 3rd quarter, the 2nd Graders finished our section about American presidents. We learned many unusual and humorous facts about each president. Did you know that President Taft was so large he got stuck in the White House bathtub?

We have now moved on to the era of pioneers. Though many of us have traveled west on family vacations, those trips don't compare to the adventures of Lewis and Clark. They braved many challenges to open the trails so many of the early settlers could travel west to find a new life and the promise of gold. We read stories and discussed what life would be like in a covered wagon. Pioneer life was not one big camping trip—it was full of hardships and danger. We decided that our modern way of living is much more comfortable. We concluded our unit on pioneers with a trip to Sarett Nature Center to learn how maple syrup is made and what the “real thing” tastes like. **Naturalist Chuck Nelson and his staff** do a great job with all of Sarett's programs. It would be a wonderful place to revisit over Easter Break.

The 2nd Graders would like to thank **Mr. Todd Starr** and **Mr. Art Stolte** for graciously volunteering their time as our JA instructors. They taught us about all the different people that it takes to run a community—from the baker to the tax collector. We will conclude our Junior Achievement unit with a trip to downtown St. Joseph to visit the **Broad Street Cafe** and the **St. Joseph Fire Department**.

3rd Grade with Mrs. Bodley & Mrs. Bruder

Thanks to the Math Center volunteers, the 3rd Graders are enjoying math fact drills each Thursday. Speed and accuracy on basic facts are a must! Practice makes perfect!

Lent is another form of practice—in patience and self-control. Studying about the Stations of the Cross every Friday helps us to realize the need to make sacrifices. We are trying our best to keep our Lenten promises.

We continue to work on reading and writing. Both 3rd Grade classes have been studying folktales. The unit was so popular that the students wrote and staged their own puppet shows using the stories as source material! Folktales provided more than entertainment—they taught, and we learned, many important life lessons but in a fun and memorable way.

Junior Achievement has ended for both classes. We enjoyed visiting the **St. Joseph City Hall** and the **Herald Palladium**. Thank you to **Mr. Ken Glowacki** and **Mrs. Maria Kibler** for their time and efforts.

A reminder to all 3rd Grade moms: *Mark your calendars for our Mother's Day Mass. It will be on May 11th.*

This edition of *The Navigator* is sponsored by
Karen Ballard, your local representative for

Kelly's Kids

**featuring Kelly's Kids Spring & Summer Clothes Trunk Sale,
available April 18-April 25. Call Karen at 429-1566 for a
catalog, home party, or private showing.**

4th Grade with Mrs. Binger & Mrs. Zetts and the 4th Grade Writers' Consortium

There were two big events in March, the Oprah Show and Science Olympiad. After reading, researching and studying people who have made a difference in our country, Mrs. Binger's class had the Oprah Show, hosted by **Jackie C.**, and Mrs. Zetts' class had the Harpo Show hosted by **Andrew B.** Both shows were a big hit. Some of the guests were Louis and Clark, Sacagawea, Sitting Bull, Theodore Roosevelt, and Albert Schweitzer.

On March 13th, the halls of Lake Michigan College were bustling with great scientific minds in action. Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School brought 23 of our finest to compete in the Science Olympiad, where we met students from 30 other schools for a day of science challenges. Students at the elementary level compete for their personal best. Once again our team used their brains and good decorum to wow the crowds.

The team and Mrs. Binger thank all the chaperones, **Kim LaSata, Kelly Spencer, Julie Berendsen, Renee Hardman, Deb Stolte, and Dave Marszalec**, who took us from event to event, and the Lake Michigan Catholic freshmen, **Evan T., Ian S., Nick S., Brad S., Megan K., Amanda E., Elizabeth G., and April P.**, who ran our school event. Our thanks also go to **Brian Matheny**, Taylor's dad—who would have thought that he would end up being our class couturier, delivering our team shirts? Among our school staff, we thank **Mrs. Mathews** who arranged for our high school helpers, **Mrs. Pangilinan** for making our attractive and informational nametags, and **Mrs. Zetts** for supervising our event and our busload of students. It goes to show that *no scientific achievement is ever a solo endeavor!*



5th Grade with Mrs. Kurina & Mrs. Fish

Thanks to all who came to the annual 5th Grade Science Fair! The teachers could not have been prouder of the students. Here are some results, for your edification, in case you missed out:

- **Andrew C.:** His experiment “rocked.” Plants *do* grow better with rock music.
- **Justin S.:** How about a little *Hawaiian Punch*? Stay away! It makes teeth decay!
- **Katie G.:** Lost your charge? Choose *Duracell* for a battery that lasts.
- **Ryan A.:** Want the best energy drink? *Vault* your way to success.
- **Marie A.:** Have a stain that won't come out? *Tide* stain remover will get it done!
- **Collin H.:** Do you fear acid rain? Use auto and latex paint - and rusty it “ain't.”
- **LaQuasha W.:** Want to spice up your smile? Use *Colgate Total* with spice. It will make your teeth look nice.
- **Jordan H.:** Have a toothache but can't figure out what you ate? Maybe it was something you drank. *Coke* and *Mountain Dew* are high in sugar.

Outside the realm of science, the 5th Graders attended Laker-to-Laker Day at LMC Middle/High School. The students were properly impressed with the classes, teachers, *and* lunch. Many hands went into planning their day, and the 5th Graders appreciate everyone who made the day an exceptional one.

Our March project is poetry! Students are creating springtime verses of all types. Here's a limerick to get the ball rolling:

*There once were some very young poets
Who could write prose and didn't know it.
They wrote 'til they ached
For the grade they would make
'Til they yelled, “Spring break! Please let's quit it!”*

Attention: 5th Graders & Parents

Don't forget about the **LMC Sports Physical Clinic** with Drs. Proos and Heenan, which has been **rescheduled for May 9th**. Every student-athlete needs a physical on file to participate in summer camps and extracurricular sports in Middle School. Request an MHSAA physical form from the Elementary office, and **call Mrs. Nielsen at the LMC Athletic Office, 983-3154**, to schedule a time. At \$15 per student, attending the LMC clinic saves a lot of money! If families prefer to use their own physicians, remember that the MHSAA requires that physicals be dated no earlier than April 15th, and an MHSAA form must also be completed.

Winter Conditioning Program at LMC

If you drove by LMC Middle/High school on Wednesday mornings at 6:00 am, you may have wondered what all of the commotion was at such an early hour—it was Winter Conditioning, a series of drills designed to improve speed, quickness, explosiveness, the ability to create and use leverage, and mental and physical toughness. This is the second year of the program at LMC. Students making every session were **Caitlin K., Jessica C., Sarah C., Lucas C., Eric, S., Ben B., Eric H., Nick S., Michael C., Anthony P., and Vinnie H.** The ability to offer the program doesn't come single-handedly. Coach Learman was assisted by coaches **Tom Eversole, Phil Hegg, Gerald Heath, Ed Maher,** and **Jerry Bagierek**. While the kids and coaches brought the energy, **Tim Foley of Bit of Swiss Bakery** provided the fuel by donating muffins and cooking breakfast for everyone.

Winter Conditioning is open to all students in grades 8-12. Several premier schools around the state, including 6 of the 8 state champions in football, run a similar program. As coaches, we want to give our student-athletes a chance to reach their potential and be the best they can be. It is very rewarding when students make the sacrifice and reap the benefits of a program like this.

Off-Season Weight Training with Coach Learman

Student-athletes at LMC Middle/High School are strongly encouraged to take advantage of our excellent weight room. Football players who do not have Advanced Physical Education as a class and are not in-season with a sport are asked to show up and weight train Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday after school from 3:00 – 4:30 pm. Three student-athletes who have taken the biggest advantage of this great opportunity are **Nick B., Austin J., and Eric S.** Additionally, the freshman class of 2007, as a whole, has done a great job in the weight room and I am looking forward to watching them develop. As a coach, every once in while you are lucky enough to get a group of students who will devote themselves to doing everything they can for four years to earn a state title, and this group has the potential to do that.

Laker Girls' Soccer Returns...Strong

The Lady Lakers return 13 letter winners to start another exciting season of girls' soccer on the road and at their home turf at the Laker Field at St. Bernard's. **Coach Ed Maher** has been getting the girls into playing form; among them, another strong freshmen class joins the 7 sophomores and 6 seniors from last year's team. The girls play a very tough schedule packed with Lakeland Conference teams, which include Bridgman and River Valley, who are usually among the best teams in the area. Also on the schedule is perennial Class B power, South Haven. Last season's highlights included beating a then ranked River Valley in a driving rainstorm 1-0, and being very competitive in a loss to South Haven. Coach Maher is looking forward to his 4th season as Varsity Coach and invites everyone to come out and cheer the girls on!

**Hit the road with the Lakers!
Get the full updated spring
athletic schedule at:**

www.lmclakers.com

Link at "Athletics"

Laker Drama

Jungle Book for Kids – Fun for All Ages!

The Little Laker Drama production of Disney's *The Jungle Book for Kids* was a hit on every level—with the performers, the middle and high school helpers, and the audiences. With 54 students from the elementary, middle and high school, we truly had an *all school* production.

Highlights of the show included great performances by our main characters: **Ryan C.** as Mowgli, **Michael A.** as Baloo, **Juliet G.** as Bagheera, **Will L.** as Shere Khan and **Grace S.** as Shanti. **Ellen P.** took the lead as Kaa the Snake with **Emily M.**, **Hannah M.**, **Jaclyn B.**, **Lyndsay P.** and **Rebecca B.** as Kaa's Coils. **Jackie C.** did a great job leading a herd of elephants as Col. Hathi, and **Ryan S.** monkey'd around as King Louie.

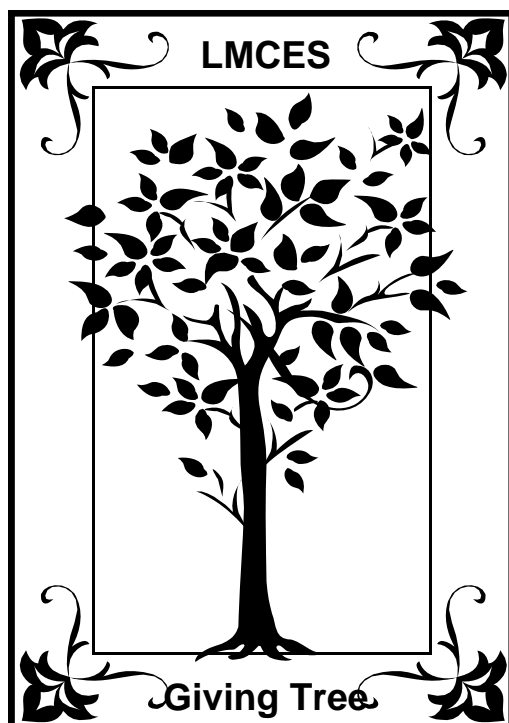
As choreographers, senior **Megan H.**, assisted by 6th Grader **Kayleigh K.**, did a wonderful job sharing their expertise with our young performers. The older students who lent a hand backstage and in technical capacities demonstrated teamwork that impressed the importance of every job.

Joseph – A Story for the Ages

The first two weekends of May bring the Laker Drama production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. **Megan H.** will narrate this great story of sibling rivalry. **Phil S.** will take the lead as Joseph with **John G.**, **Patrick P.**, **Janine G.**, **Chad R.**, **Anthony P.**, **Iain M.**, **Frank D.**, **Eric H.**, **Kyle H.**, **Jonas N.** and **Michael P.** as his brothers. **Terence T.** will do double duty as Jacob and Potiphar, with **Devyn S.** as his wife in both parts. **Max S.** will be one to watch as Pharaoh.

Rounding out the cast will be: **Alex P.**, **Natalie M.**, **Alex S.**, **Maria W.**, **Angel B.**, **Maggie F.**, **Alexa P.**, **Caitlin R.**, **Tabitha W.**, **Hailey S.**, **Cathrine S.**, **Amy B.**, **Sarah B.**, **Gina G.**, **Jami H.**, **Ali S.**, **Valerie M.**, **Ella D.**, **Jessica P.**, **Franny S.**, and **Nick S.** as the various wives, choir members and guards.

Watch *The Navigator* next month for more information on show times, ticket prices and a couple of inside scoops created just to get you to come and see the show.



**Look for the LMCES 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

1st Grade Brownie Troop #590: It has been an eventful 2007! We had our first overnight experience at Camp Shiawadasee. The 4th Grade girls were kind enough to be our hosts and show us the ropes. We spent a great deal of time in January and February studying Brazil as we prepared for the International Bazaar, making crafts and foods from that culture. A special treat was a visit from a Brazilian citizen, who spoke about her country. We are thankful for Brownie moms **Kim Matheny** and **Karen Garavalia** who helped us on our projects, as well as the many parents who helped us make Brazilian recipes. The girls did a wonderful job selling their food and crafts at the Bazaar. This allowed us to raise money for the Juliette Low Fund, which spreads Scouting to countries all over the world.

Leaving sunny Brazil, the Troop found time to go on a snowy winter hike through Knauf Park, located right behind our school. That proved to be one of the girls' favorite meetings. Later, we partnered with another Girl Scout troop in St. Joseph to send cookies to our military troops, who are stationed abroad. We collected donations of boxes as we sold cookies, and were able to donate 3 cases just from our Troop 590.

The girls experienced some fine arts and had a great time at **Gotta-Go-Pottery** in downtown St. Joseph. Each girl chose her own ceramic piece to decorate. Ahead on the agenda is a Sock Hop at St. Joseph High School with the other troops in our service unit. While the girls dance up a storm, the parents have been asked to participate in a small silent auction held at the same time to raise money for our service unit. Rock on, girls!

3rd Grade Brownie Troop #555: Our girls got the ball rolling in 2007 with a trip to a Notre Dame Women's Basketball game, and were able to meet and get autographs from some of the players. That set the pace for a lot of action, which included the delivery of Girl Scout cookies, coordinated by **Mrs. DeFay**, whose box-handling skills could translate to the basketball court!

We had a great turn out for the Girl Scout **He-She Dance** held at Pebblewood. The girls and their best guys had a lot of fun dancing and having a nice dinner. All the girls looked so beautiful! **Julianne U., Kristen and Sarah D., Sarah H., Sarah M., Monica M., Rebecca D. and Genny P. all tore up the dance floor.** Julianne was even able to get her best brother Kristopher out there dancing!

During one of our meetings, we had a **3rd Grade Brownie Talent Show**, thanks to the coordination of **Mrs. Hamrock** and **Mrs. Schueneman**. The girls had an opportunity to show off their talents! There were beautiful piano players, dancers, singers and girls who read poetry. We also saw the talents of the MC's as well, who kept everyone on track with snappy humor! Though earning a Talent Show Patch and Try-It for their efforts was the goal, most of all, it was nice seeing all the girls show support for one another.

The International Bazaar was a lot of fun this year and the country of Russia piqued the interest of many Girl Scouts! Our thanks go to **Mrs. Pinkowski and her team, Mrs. Kunst and Mrs. DeFay**, who organized our Troop's participation in the event. Mrs. Pinkowski made authentic Russian food, brought items from Russia to share, and taught the girls all about their country. Many girls also attended the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, featuring a musician who presented classical Russian music to augment our learning. It was the first symphony experience for some of us and that was exciting!

During the last few weeks, we also earned the Space Try-It! **Mrs. Russell and her team**, who demonstrated astronaut food, and designed fun space projects, deserves astronomical amounts of praise for planning the day.

Our future plans include a restaurant tour hosted by **Mrs. Salvano**, and as spring approaches, we are anxious to see the fruits of the girls' labor in the gardens last fall under the guidance of **Mrs. Dolohanty and Mrs. Langbo**. We await the emergence of the bulbs we planted and their colors that will brighten the landscape.

Jr. Girl Scout Troop #558: The girls went to Timber Ridge, took a skiing lesson, and actually learned how to ski. For many girls, this was their first ski experience, and hopefully another sport that they will add to their repertoires for life-long fitness. We appreciate all the dads and moms who came along to help the girls. **Mrs. Gail Bruce** tapped her personal interest in music and dance to teach the girls about music, helping them earn the Music Fan badge. We also had fun learning about Brazil for the 2007 International Bazaar. Thank God for **Mrs. Jann Sullivan** and **Mrs. Cindy Adent** for their fourth consecutive year heading up this big winter project.

1st Grade Tiger Scouts: The boys have had an exciting few months. We visited a local fire station and learned about their vehicles and equipment they use to fight fires and protect us. The boys and their families got to ask lots of questions and really enjoyed the visit. Then many of the boys built and raced cars in the Pinewood Derby held at the elementary school. Everyone enjoyed the racing, eating and fun. The Tigers sent more cars into the finals than any other den. Way to go, and look out for next years cars! Most recently, the boys participated in the Blue and Gold banquet, receiving their Tiger patch. They have worked hard and had fun all year—this is a big step along the path to Eagle Scout. We have a farm trip, a fishing trip, and perhaps a trip to visit our local radio station coming up. Later this summer we hope to have lots of the boys attend summer camp in Kalamazoo. Congratulations to all the boys and their families for all they have accomplished this year.

News from Pack 624: The Pack celebrated the Birthday of Cub Scouting in February. Scouts invited their families to the Blue and Gold Banquet which included a dinner and awards ceremony. The boys were recognized for their hard work this school year as they were presented with their badges of rank, which included Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and the Arrow of Light. **Michael A., Ryan A., Ben B., Collin H., Jordan H., and Kristopher U.** received the Arrow of Light, which is the highest award in Cub Scouts. Congratulations to these boys. The Pack wishes them well as they crossover to Troop 624 to continue their Scouting journey with the Boy Scouts. Many thanks to the **Golob's and the Drama Club, the Boy Scout volunteers, Pack leaders and parents** for helping to build the set for our awards ceremony.

In March, Pack 624 hosted the Pinewood Derby for the Wabano District. Representing 13 different Packs, Cub Scouts who placed in the top three in their own derbies all met at LMC on March 10th to determine who was the fastest. After the time trials, which included all 35 racers, **Joe H., Philip D. and Kris U.** were all in the top 8 and continued to the double elimination race. Joe and Phillip met once again in the championship race with Joe winning both heats to claim the trophy.

The combined 1st and 2nd place finish along with strong showing by Kris U. and Best of Show entries by **Andrew D. and Nathan G.** elevated Pack 624 above the rest to once again bring home the traveling Pack trophy. A proud racing tradition continues with three straight District champions coming from Pack 624, and the traveling trophy residing in the LMCE library for 3 of the last 4 years.



*Pray
for
vocations*

Make a special commitment to pray for

- Men to be called to the Priesthood.
- Women who are called to religious or consecrated life.
- Men who are called to the ordained ministry of service, the Diaconate.