



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.

MAY/JUNE 2007 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 7

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

President: Karen Ballard 429-1566
Vice Pres.:
Secretary: Cindy Adent 428-5276
Treasurer: Lee Ann Russell 429-6956

Current Events & Contacts

Used Uniform Sale: 6/7, 7:30am-7:30pm, ES
Drop-Off: 6/6, 7:30am-7:30pm, ES
Returns, Cash/Unsold: 6/8, am
Blue Tide Golf Outing: 8/6, Berrien Hills
Jeff Nuter: 269-849-3234 or
nuters8@comcast.net
Welcome Back Trivia Night: 9/29, 6-10pm, ES
Market Day: monthly orders
Kelly Spencer: 428-9556
SCRIP: year-round
Business Office: 983-5529
Sunshine Committee:
Chan Marzke: 429-3993
Welcoming Committee:
Michele Armstrong: 429-2510
LMC Fund-Raising & Alumni Coordinator:
Chris Glendening: 429-0227, Ext. 15

LMC Administrative Contacts:

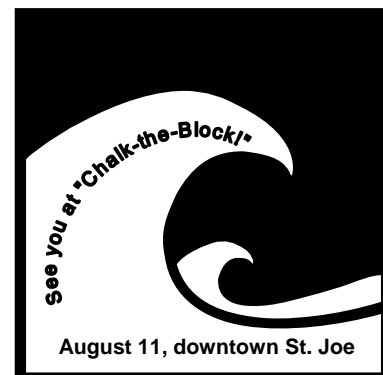
Mr. Berlin, *MS/HS Principal & Exec. Dir.:*
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Mr. Stefanich, *Ass't. Principal & Ath. Dir.:*
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Mrs. Payovich, *Business Manager:*
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Mr. Paul Maloney,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

Laker F.U.N. News & Events

The elementary students were blessed with fun and sun of their Field Days. On May 24th, K-2 students enjoyed 13 different stations of games and cooled off with sno-cones. Special thanks go to **Chan Marzke** for leading this event. The Upton Middle school track on May 25th saw our 3rd – 5th Graders participating in various track and field events. **Tricia Salvano** and **Karen Ballard** did an A-1 job as hosts for the day.

As we look forward to the summer and the next school year, please consider being an “Ambassador” family for new Laker families starting in our school this fall. Last year we had over 40 new families! We want all our newcomers to know and appreciate the many blessings our school has to offer. Please contact **Michele Armstrong, Welcoming Committee**, at 429-2510 for details.

As the 2006-07 school year ends, I want to thank all the parents, students, teachers and staff who made the numerous Laker F.U.N. events possible, friendly and fun. I especially appreciate my officers and those who regularly attended the meetings and gave me their support. Best wishes to **Karen Ballard** as she takes over the presidency in 07/08. We wish you a safe, enjoyable and blessed summer. See you in September!
Michele Armstrong



Elementary Essentials from Mrs. Maher

Wow! Have you noticed how beautiful our school looks these days? Due to the hard work of many, our landscaping looks great! A HUGE thank you goes to **Karen Dolohanty, Lynne Reuter, Cathy Mavis, Betsy Langbo, Bill Golden, Renae Starr, Lynn Hegg, and Laura Camburn**—this group spread 25 yards of mulch in what seemed like the blink of an eye. Our gorgeous flower beds have also been trimmed, weeded and had some new plantings added to an already lovely and welcoming main entrance. These volunteers are so thorough that they don't lavish all the attention on the front of the building. A walk around the south lawn to the gym reveals new plantings in just about every bed and corner. It is going to be a treat watching everything mature.

An additional thank you is due **Doug Ryor** of *Turfs Up* for the start of an irrigation system, which when complete will continue to keep our newly planted grass thriving! Lastly, a thank you goes to **Tom Peters** of *Pete's Hardwoods* for the refinishing of our gymnasium floor, work which will take place during our summer months. We are so blessed!

As we quickly head for summer vacation, take a minute to thank your sons'/daughters' teachers, classroom helpers, kitchen workers and office staff for another year filled with joy! Not every principal is as fortunate as I am to have a cooperative staff that anticipates each others' and the students' needs.

I will miss all of you! Have a restful summer vacation; enjoy family and friends. See you in church throughout the summer and in school next September!



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.

Math Camp with Mrs. Pupilis: June 18-20

Any elementary student who is currently enrolled in Grades 1-5, and thinks numbers and the cool things they do is *mathtastic*, is welcome to attend three days of math enrichment with LMC-MS Math instructor, Mrs. Sandi Pupilis. The camp will be held on June 18-20 in the Art Room at LMCEs. Sessions for students in Gr. 1-3 will be from 10:00-11:30, followed by Gr. 4 & 5 from 12:30 – 2:00. The cost is \$50 per student per three-day session. **Contact Mrs. Pupilis at 983-2511 or spupilis@lmclakers.com.**

Summer Tutors Available

Tutors from LMC and our community invite parents to contact them to make summer arrangements. All details (financial, location, and frequency of sessions) are between the instructor and client.

Andrea Tomaszewski (LMCHS English instructor)
(269) 325-3376 (home) or (269) 983-2511, ext. 43 (school)
Age/Grade Preferred: Secondary
Subject Areas: English & History

Teri Deja (LMC alumna, certified teacher)
(269) 921-4618 (home)
Age/Grade Preferred: Elementary
Subject Areas: Reading & Math
Areas of Specialty: Learning Disabilities

Brandon Thornton (LMC alum., UM Engineering student)
(269) 429-6858
Age/Grade Preferred: any
Subject Areas: Math & Science

Laker Fund-Raising

Outward appearances might lead one to think that Laker fund-raising coordinator **Chris Glendening** has her feet up, deservedly, after a record-breaking S.C.E.N.E. Auction. Fact is she is busy framing all the events for the 2007-08 school-year. Already on the calendar is the **Walk for Catholic Education**, scheduled for **October 12th**, in addition to our traditional Innisbrook Gifts and magazine sales in September.

With the conclusion of the 2006-07 year, Chris extends her thanks to everyone who supported LMC Schools, whether through participation in our fund-raising events, by tithing to the parish churches, and praying for Lake Michigan Catholic to keep fulfilling its mission.

Laker Blue Tide Golf Scramble August 6th!

The 14th Annual Blue Tide Golf Scramble supporting Laker Athletics has been scheduled for Monday, August 6th at Berrien Hills. Dinner and awards will follow the 12:30 shotgun start. Blue Tide president **Tim Foley**, is proud to welcome renowned local chefs from **Bistro on the Boulevard, Tabor Hill, Timothy's, Tosi's**, as well as **Bit of Swiss**, who will prepare a "Taste of Southwest Michigan" dinner after the event.

The fee is \$130.00 per person or \$650.00 per team. Entry fees include golf with cart, lunch, and a cookout dinner immediately following golf. Special events will include closest to the pin contests for both men and women, closest to the line, and a long putt challenge. Non-golfers are invited to attend dinner for \$35 per person.

Anyone interested in being a team captain, or sponsoring a hole may contact **Cindy Payovich** at the LMC Business office (983-5529 or e-mail cpayovich@lmclakers.com). All proceeds benefit Laker Athletics—additional donations are welcome.

Registration forms may be downloaded at www.lmclakers.com – Athletics – Blue Tide Golf Scramble. Event chairman Jeff Nuter (269-849-3234 or nuters8@comcast.net) is fielding all questions—give him a call.



Winners: Look in the Classrooms First

The diamonds at Eau Claire High School were certainly the "friendly confines" for the Lakers as both the **Softball and Baseball teams won their district championships** there on Saturday, June 2nd. District play begins on June 9th. Good luck, Lakers, and thanks to our teachers and coaches who reinforce the idea that *if you don't perform in the classroom, you can't perform on the field!*

Soccer All Academic: Both the girls' and boys' Varsity Laker Soccer teams received Team All Academic Awards from the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association for the 2006-07 school-year. The boys' team GPA was 3.54, and the **girls racked up a 3.91, which was the highest team GPA for all divisions in the state.** Senior Boys' Individual All Academic Awards were issued to **Shane B., Eric H., Ben S., Jonas N., and Iain M.** Senior Girls' Individual All Academic Awards were earned by **Teresa D., Jessica B., Catie O., Caitlin K., Ashley R., and Alex P.**

Softball All Academic: The Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association has selected the LMC Varsity Softball team to receive a Team All Academic award. The 2007 Lakers had a **team GPA of 3.89**, which is the **highest team GPA for all divisions in the state.** This is the 2nd time that LMC Softball has been ranked the highest team GPA in the state, and the 15th year in a row that the Laker Softball team has earned All Academic honors.

Sports Camp Central: www.lmclakers.com

Details about Laker sports camps for area elementary, middle and high school students can be found at www.lmclakers.com, then clicking on "Summer Sports Camps" under Athletics. Downloadable forms (.pdf) are available at the same link. There's something for everyone—join us!

This month's Navigator is co-sponsored by the Iman Family, Jim and Lisa with Madi, Meghan, and Alex.

***There are 87 days between June 9th and September 4th!
Make every day of summer count! Get going! 87, 86, 85, 84, 83...***

Market Day: Summer Orders & Hours

Market Day sales continue through the summer. **Pick up dates will be June 26th, July 24th, and August 21st.** Please note the time change: **pick up your orders in the Elementary multi-purpose room from 12 noon-1pm.** June order forms will be sent home with Elementary students the last week of school. Forms for July and August will be available at the previous months' pick up day, and there will be extra forms in the elementary office all summer. Completed order forms and payments can be turned in at the Elementary office by **June 19th, and August 14th.** **July forms, due 7/17, should be taken to the Business Office** while the Elementary Office is closed for that month.

Middle School Theology Retreats

Every year, LMC middle-schoolers look forward to class retreats that combine fun and the opportunity to learn more about each other and their faith in a new setting. Learning to put faith and trust into action in a different environment can offer some challenges—and that's an important and lasting aspect of attending retreats.

The 6th Graders trip to Camp Friedenswald continues to give us two wonderful days of archery, canoeing, candle-making, and overcoming “Barriers and Bridges.” The survival game was a hit as well. Our chaperones, **Mr. Stice, Mrs. Marciniak, Mrs. Rizzo, Mr. Roden, Mrs. Agay, Mrs. Kibler, Mrs. Alsbro,** and **Mr. Vojtko,** were up to the job *and up early in the morning* to help make the trip a memorable one.

In early May, the 7th and 8th Grade classes participated in the NET Retreat. The NET Ministry consists of groups of young Catholics between 18-30 who travel throughout the United States with the mission of “challenging young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church.” Our retreat days were wonderfully faith-filled and provided a lasting memory for each student who attended. On behalf of the students and the NET Team members, we extend our thanks to the host families, **Steve and Kelly Alsbro, Patrice Schroeder, Paul and Kim Landeck,** and **David and Chris Collins,** who opened their homes to our guests, and to dinner organizer **Elaine Theisen and her volunteers,** who fed our guests for four days.

From the Mathews Family

Thank you all for the prayers on behalf of my mother and stepfather, who were hurt in a serious car accident in April of 2006. The death of my stepfather this past April marked the end of a long year that was alternately happy, as my mother recovered, and sad, knowing that my stepdad would not. I am grateful for the sensitivity of the students, and support of Mrs. Maher, Mr. Berlin, and all of the staff, and volunteers **Lee Ann Russell, Martha Schueneman,** and **Sue Zilke,** who made so many accommodations through the year when I was with my mother and sisters. *Mrs. Jan Mathews*

From the Zetts Family

I deeply appreciate all the lovely flowers, cards and notes sent upon my father's death. The heartfelt words of sympathy meant a lot. I feel truly blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring group as the LMC family. *Mrs. Paula Zetts*

Stuff to Save this Summer

During the summer months, keep collecting these items to support Lake Michigan Catholic Schools and the Catholic Community Center.

Campbell's Labels for Education Logo: Ask friends and family to save the UPC with the “Labels for Education” logo. Remember that Campbell's has changed this program and no longer accepts the front labels – only the UPC with logo is allowed. Collection containers are located in each church.

General Mills Boxtops for Education: Check cereal boxes and other GM brand products for the Boxtops for Education coupon. These may be placed in the collection containers along with the Campbell's logos.

Brown Paper Grocery Bags: Summertime is when the Food Pantry at the **Catholic Community Center** needs the most brown grocery bags. Without our year-round collections, supplies must be purchased. Request paper at the grocery store, then send bags into LMC MS/HS or Elementary. Volunteer **Mary DeFrancesco** will be picking up bags periodically and delivering them to the CCC.

Preschool with Mrs. Grundy & Mrs. Holbert

The month of May has been so much fun for Preschool. With the change of weather, we're getting outside more and enjoying God's gift of fresh air and sunshine. The **Ballard family** graciously donated a new sandbox with fresh sand for our backyard, and the children love it.

The four-year-old classes have finished the alphabet with the help of 'yancy yak' and 'zeke zebra.' These fun zoo friends taught us about farming, mothers and babies, and zoo animals. We will finish the year out by exploring pond life, bird's nests and eggs, and camping along with other summer fun activities.

The three-year-old class has realized that God allows us to make things, have feelings, and to learn. What a generous, loving God we have!

Our year will end very soon. The three-year-old class has a special "Bubbles Day" scheduled on June 5th, which is their last day. The four-year-old classes will join the Junior Kindergarten on a picnic to be held in the backyard on Wednesday, June 6th.

Thank you, parents, for all of your support and prayers throughout this year. It has been a privilege getting to know you and your children. Have a blessed safe summer.

Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Fields

It is hard to believe that the end of school is just around the corner. The children have grown so much over the course of the year. We have learned so much and experienced countless things. To a person, they have:

- learned to respect each other's ideas.
- shown extraordinary kindness toward each other.
- lived the greatest commandment *to love one another*.

Each day has been an adventure in learning. Their can-do attitude was wonderful—they never hesitated to show what they could already do yet they were not afraid to try new things. "I can't" was not part of the JK vocabulary.

Though the school-year was silky smooth, summertime can make some skills a little rough and rusty. Regular visits to www.starfall.com, a terrific phonics-based site designed for PS – 1st Grade, can keep letter skills sharp. With very little commercial content, it is a concise and gentle way to keep the JK'ers letter and sound recognition up to par so they'll be ready for mastering letter formation, and move right into pre-Reading and Reading in Kindergarten.

Kindergarten with Mrs. Kuehn & Mrs. Mills

During this month we have been working hard to conclude our Kindergarten experience. We celebrated Yy week with Mrs. Yacobozzi, who came to teach us some yoga moves. We learned how to stand tall and sway like trees, and stretch like the animals do. The next few weeks found us moving, stealthily, through the rain forest. The students learned the four layers of the rainforest and which animals live on each layer. After some time spent in that humid place, we returned to the land of four seasons, Michigan. We learned about our state's symbols: the American robin as the state bird, the apple blossom as the state flower, the brook trout as the state fish, and the painted turtle as the state reptile to name a few.

Those studies fit nicely with our field trip to the Krasl, where we learned about the history of art and animal sculpture, and had the chance to create our own bird in its habitat, using colored pencils and oil pastels. For some of the Kindergartners, the Krasl visit was their first "invitation" into the rich arts community that exists in southwest Michigan.

Congratulations to Mrs. Kuehn and Mrs. Mills, who have been awarded the inaugural **Rosalie Capizzo Professional Development Scholarship**, which they will use to enhance their early childhood education skills.



1st Grade with Mrs. Petsovich & Mrs. Faris

In May, the 1st Graders are very egg-cited about our Religion/Science unit, New Life! We hatched eggs in our incubators. The greatly anticipated date of hatching was May 21st and, we must say, our chicks were an impatient brood, arriving one day early! Our *Chicks Have Arrived* flag flew proudly as we welcomed a total of 15 black, brown and yellow fuzzy friends. In their own ways and at their own pace, chicks and students are growing toward independence. Our chicks are thriving in their new home at the McPherson's, and the students are ready to make the move to a new place next fall, the 2nd Grade.

As our 1st Grade experience comes to an end, we would like to thank all of our parents who have given so generously of their time and talents to help us: reading parents, party planners and food and paper goods donors for our classroom parties, lunchroom and playground supervisors, Brownie and Tiger Cub leaders and helpers, those who supported our fund-raisers, and everyone who had a hand in our Cinderella play. You have all contributed to make our year a successful one. **We thank you one and all!**

2nd Grade with Mrs. Hanley & Mr. Deja

The end of 2nd Grade is the time of year to focus on our natural habitats, and their unique plants and animals. We have been busy learning all about the different animal classifications along with their habitats. This always seems to be our favorite science unit, especially with our end of the year trip to Binder Park Zoo.

The 2nd Graders proudly celebrated our First Communion & May Crowning Mass on May 9th. We enjoyed sharing this memory with many of our family and friends. We would like to give a big thank you to **Father Bill Jacobs** and **Mrs. Peggy Gallagher** for all the time they spent helping the children prepare for this wonderful day.

As we close out this school year, Mr. Deja and Mrs. Hanley along with all the 2nd Grade students would like to thank our parents for all their help and support throughout the year. From helping with parties to volunteering to type our books, someone was always willing to step forward and pitch in.

3rd Grade with Mrs. Bodley & Mrs. Bruder

With the school year swiftly coming to an end, some of our current students wanted to give the incoming 3rd Graders some advice, which they deem as **“What Every 2nd Grader Should Know about 3rd Grade.”**

Sarah H.: It is awesome in 3rd Grade.

Issy S.: You learn interesting things like Social Studies and Science.

Charlotte L.: You have student planners, and you learn multiplication and division.

Quinn K.: You need to stay organized.

Vernon U.: You go swimming.

Emily M.: You do lots of projects.

Manraj T.: Make sure you start on your projects the first day, or else you might forget what you were going to do.

Julianne U.: It is the first year you have Art with Mrs. Dudding.

Molly B.: Ask questions! Ask questions because then you'll know more!

Ryan C.: If you are done with everything, do not do nothing!

Nick H.: You should know that you will become smarter.

Jaclyn B.: You will have more responsibility, and you will have to use your best handwriting.

Hanna C.: On Field Day, you go to Upton Middle School, and Mrs. Bruder and Mrs. Bodley are nice!

Kevin P.: You should know how to write and remember your name on your paper. Most important, treat everyone the way you want to be treated.

Dana I.: You should always have two pencils on your desk, sharpened before school starts. Be prepared!

Kristen D.: It is time to take responsibility, and you eat lunch later.

Ryan S.: It is hard work, has nice teachers, and it's fun!

Christine N.: You need to be a good listener, and use your time wisely. Stay organized!

Maggie S.: It is much easier than you think. This is nothing to be afraid of. You can have fun and work at the same time.



4th Grade with Mrs. Binger & Mrs. Zetts and the News Team 4 Correspondents

A lot happens in May and June in 4th Grade, and there's no maybe about it.

In Science we went from weather to the rainforests in North and South America. To help save the rainforest, we had a bake sale to purchase rainforest land through the Earth Foundation. Now we are learning about eyes from the inside out by dissecting sheep eyes. We are also raising 35 Painted Lady butterflies, about 30 walking sticks, and some guppies to sell on our mall day. We started the year with biology, and now we are ending with biology, which is cool because bio=life and life is fun.

In Social Studies we had a time traveler, who was a voyageur, visit and talk to us about his life. We also performed a play about the history of Michigan. Many interesting characters helped to form our state. We had to learn some of their weird songs and dances, and we hope the audience went away humming a few.

Two history trips mark the end of the year. First we went on a trip to the Berrien County Courthouse Museum. There, we each played a part in a mock trial. It let us experience the judicial system in the United States, and see the differences between now and the way it was back in 1830. Our final trip was a canoe trip on North Lake with the naturalists from Sarett Nature Center. We found out first hand what it was like to be a voyageur when Michigan was known as New France. We also studied the wildlife and plants of North Lake.

With the year coming close to an end we want to say thank you to all the people who helped us to have a great 4th grade year. We want to give a special thanks to **Mrs. Mathews**. Besides all the Computer lessons and classes she created and lead us through, she also gave us extra time to finish reports and research.

Finally, it's time for the 4th Grade Mall – our annual fun-with-economics extravaganza. *If it's funky, fun, or fascinating, you can find it in the 4th Grade hall at the First-Rate 4th Grade Mall.* How's that for marketing?

5th Grade with Mrs. Kurina & Mrs. Fish

Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

Thanks for sharing your children,
and for the help you've given this year.
When we remember all the kids we've taught,
We will hold them oh, so dear.
From the lessons learned, to laughter shared,
from projects big and small,
we know they're ready for middle school,
when they attend this fall.
Enjoy the coming summer months,
build family memories to share,
and through all of your activities
May God keep you in His loving care!

Love,

Mrs. Johnette Kurina & Mrs. Linda Fish*

* A resounding “whoop-whoop” to **Mrs. Fish**, along with **Mrs. Rugg** and **Mr. Jarvie** at LMC MS/HS, for winning the Frank and Charlotte Lahr Award.

After-School Care News

We have had a wonderful year in After-School Care. During the month of May, we have been concentrating on improving our manners. We're trying to remember to “pack” our manners and take them with us wherever we go. Hopefully the “upgrade” has been noticed around school and the improvements have carried over to home. While we are on manners, a sincere thank you is in order for our LMC senior helper this year, **Darcie D.**, who read, played games, pushed us on swings, and helped in countless other ways.

Registration for next year's program is in full swing and filling up fast. If any families would like to sign up, forms are available at the Elementary office. Questions may be directed to **Sue Zilke** at szilke@lmclakers.com.



How “Art” Thou, Lakers?

Fabulous—thanks for asking. During the Berrien County Arts and Science Exposition recently, 4th Grader **Carolyn H.** won a Third Place award for her woven purse, and 5th Grader **Katherine N.** won Honorable Mention for her chalk drawing. Only fourth and fifth graders are eligible for the elementary portion of the contest. Others who entered projects in the Arts Expo include **Marie A., Benjamin B., Joel C., Kyle F., Juliet G., Lauren G., Harpartap B.,** and **Sarah S.** We are so proud of all the students who participated in the Expo. Their hard work and creativity shone among the hundreds of entries at the event.

Sincere thanks go to **Mrs. Kelly Spencer** and **Mrs. Renee Hardman** who graciously helped us to tie-dye our T-shirts, a traditional end-of-the-year project. The students’ unique designs made an especially bright uniform for their Field Day activities.

Thirty students are registered to participate in the seventh annual LMC Elementary School Art Camp this summer. We’re looking forward to crafting some fun projects together. For more kid-friendly fun, stop by the **Kids Zone tent at the Krasl Art Fair in July.** Mrs. Dudding will be there along with other local artists with lots of fun little projects for children of all ages to enjoy.

Mrs. Dudding wishes everyone a creative summer while you appreciate the beautiful signs of His Most Creative Love for Us.



Library with Mrs. Mathews

The Scholastic Book Fair held in the early weeks of May was well attended, netting \$2,900 for book acquisition at the LMCES Library. All of the success in this and past years falls squarely upon parents who are so supportive of the School and encourage their students reading habits.

In his book *A Light in the Attic*, published back in 1981, poet and wise guy Shel Silverstein included a quite prescient poem called “Channels,” which goes:

Channel 1’s no fun.
Channel 2’s just news.
Channel 3’s hard to see.
Channel 4 is just a bore.
Channel 5 is all jive.
Channel 6 needs to be fixed.
Channel 7 and Channel 8—
Just old movies, not so great.
Channel 9’s a waste to time.
Channel 10 is off, my child.
Wouldn’t you like to *talk* awhile?

Silverstein probably would have been horrified by the prospect of writing a rhyme for every channel available now. Whether there are 10 channels or hundreds, the poem is food for thought. This summer, disengage from the electronics and connect with the real world—run, work, rest, read, create, give—essentially, *live*.

Middle School: A Literary Launch

Though the year has not officially ended, the Middle School students have been working on the beginning of next year’s collaborative chapter story for the *Herald-Palladium*. Our 8th Grade students, **Annie B., Emily C., Rory C.,** and **Jessi H.** came up with the concept for the new story, and titled it “Never Coming Back.” They also wrote the first chapter, which is based on an actual shipwreck that took place off the St. Joseph pier in 1898. Other students who have written chapters to be published next fall are **Kate C., Kiera O., Jack H., Makenzie O., Sam M., Cathrine S., Frank M., Allison S.,** and **Anthony S.** Congratulations, Lakers, for initiating such a rich topic that will allow students throughout the county to explore local lore and history as they research and add their own chapters.

Scouting Around at LMCES

2nd Grade Brownie Troop 542: The highlight of the girls' month was fulfilling the purpose of our cookie sale special project—sending Girl Scout cookies to the soldiers in Iraq. With the generous help of our customers, we had close to five cases of cookies ready to send. As part of their senior exit project, LMC Seniors **Jessica B.** and **Ben S.** helped us get them where they needed to go by packing care packages for our local troops in Iraq. The girls were thrilled to present Jessica and Ben with our cookies to include as a special treat in those packages! The seniors spent some time with us explaining their plan for the packages, and the girls were very excited to work with them as part of this very important project.

We have completed our final two Try-Its of the year: Citizen Near and Far, and one of our favorites this year, Art to Wear. The girls also made good on their beginning of the year commitment to help others with half of our dues. They have voted to make donations to the Humane Society and the Pediatrics Department at Lakeland. We look forward to our final meeting of the year as we apply our artistic talents at Gotta-Go-Pottery.

It has been a busy year, and the Brownies wear their Try-Its, patches, and Family of God medals proudly. We would like to thank all of the parents that have enhanced our Scouting experience this year, with a special thanks to **Lynn Hegg** and **Kellie Craig** for their attendance and help at our meetings.

3rd Grade Brownie Troop #555: The LMC 3rd Grade Brownies are now officially LMC Juniors! Our Troop had a beautiful Fly Up and Bridging Ceremony at the Mansion Grille where the girls celebrated their 3 years of Brownies and “bridged over” to the rank of Junior Girl Scout. We appreciated the attendance of our family members as well as the 4th and 5th Grade Juniors who celebrated our girls' achievements and welcomed us to a new level of Scouting.

The Brownies, under the guidance of **Mrs. LeeAnn Russell** and many parents, completely surprised Troop leader, Mrs. Urrea, with the most beautiful and precious scrapbook of pictures from all the Scouting activities from Kindergarten, when the girls were Daisies, through the entire three years of Brownies. It truly was a gift to last a lifetime and will be treasured forever. The girls worked very hard on the special *and secret* scrapbook, which truly touched Mrs. Urrea's heart.

Recently, the girls received their Cookie Sales award from cookie mom **Mrs. Tiffany DeFay**. Our Troop sold over 1000 boxes this year—quite an accomplishment—and we thank everyone who purchased cookies from the girls.

Our Troop is ending the year with some fun activities to carry us into summer! We will be going to Hug and Stuff to make a special stuffed friend and to Captain Mike's in Bridgman for a day of fun! When school begins in September, the girls will be ready for everything that Junior Girl Scouting offers to enhance our minds, bodies, and spirits.

3rd Grade Bears: The Bears have spent the last couple of months doing a variety of activities. They worked on tracking animals in back of the school, learning what animals make the tracks they found, and making a plaster cast. The boys also learned how to play chess, and held a tournament in which **Ryan C.** and **Benjamin A.** faced off. While Ben has been playing chess for awhile, Ryan picked up the complicated game quickly, and gave Ben some tough competition.

After seeing a Boy Scout project involving duct tape, the Bears decided they would spend a meeting working with the tape as well. Each boy chose their color of tape and made “fabric” out of the tape. Then with some folding and more taping, they created a wallet for themselves—some boys took it to another level and included extra pockets!

While den meetings are done for the summer, that doesn't mean the boys will be done. There will be summer camp, and some of the boys may even get a head start on their Webelo I requirements!