



THE NAVIGATOR

LAKE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

LAKER FAMILY UNITY NETWORK: LAKER F.U.N.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2009 VOLUME 18, ISSUE 4

Laker F.U.N. Directory of Officers, 2008-09

President:	Karen Ballard	429-1566
Vice Pres.:	Connie Flood	429-8775
Secretary:	Jann Sullivan	428-0685
Treasurer:	Cindy Adent	428-5276

Laker F.U.N. News & Events

The weather report on the night of the Daddy Daughter Dinner was enough to take anyone's breath away: 15° and a 15 MPH wind speed to match. Chairman **Susan Latham and her crew** stood up to Old Man Winter by welcoming a crowd of lovely young ladies for an evening that had to melt quite a few hearts of the girls' dads. The dessert table alone should cause everyone to put an asterisk in their notes that this is an event to hold before Lent. The "Sugar and Spice" decorations were a beautiful and playful backdrop for an unforgettable night. Thanks to everyone involved from the planning stages through clean up after our special guests departed. No matter the weather, warm memories made for a cozy ride home. And dads...your girls are already a little bit older. Keep them and the memories close to your hearts.

Current Events & Contacts

Laker F.U.N. Meeting:	3/12, 6:30pm ES
Keepsake Raffle:	LMCES Library
On Display:	3/2 – 13
Drawing:	3/13, 1pm
S.C.E.N.E. Auction:	4/17 & 4/18
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
Welcoming Committee:	
Michele Armstrong:	429-2510
LMC PPT:	Tuesdays, 1:00 ES
Prayer needs?	prayerrequest@lmclakers.org
LMC Fund-Raising & Alumni Coordinator:	
Chris Glendening:	429-0227, Ext. 15

Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



Join the staff and students of LMCES on March 19th for Mass at 9:30 followed by Adoration in the Chapel. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed throughout the day. Guests are invited to visit for prayer. Benediction will take place at 2:15.

LMC Administrative Contacts:

Mr. Berlin, <i>Executive Director & MS/HS Principal:</i>	jberlin@lmclakers.org	983-2511
Mr. Heath, <i>Dean of Students & Athletic Director:</i>	gheath@lmclakers.org	983-3154
Mrs. Maher, <i>Elementary School Principal:</i>	catholicprincipal@yahoo.com	429-0227
Mrs. Ordiway, <i>Curriculum & Instruction:</i>	jordiway@lmclakers.org	983-2511
Mrs. Payovich, <i>Director of Business Services:</i>	cpayovich@lmclakers.org	983-5529
Mr. Russell Cutter, <i>President, CCEC:</i>	ndfan1964@yahoo.com	

Elementary Essentials from Mrs. Maher

We are now in the season of Lent, a time for reflection and sacrifice. Try to remember that we are preparing ourselves for the most joyful feast in the Church, Easter Sunday! All our efforts to prepare should focus around this joyful conclusion. When I prepare for my Lenten devotions, I am always thoughtful of what Jesus said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these members of my family, you did it to me." *Matthew 25:31-46* Making sure we take care of one another should be foremost in our minds, especially during a time when many families may be struggling with financial burdens, or the stresses of the times. At Lake Michigan Catholic Schools it is our mission to be there for each other; to be friend, advisor, confidante, helper, strength, listener, healer for those we meet in our daily lives.

Housekeeping Items

I have noticed that some parents when dropping students off in the morning are parking in the circle drive. This causes both back-ups and potentially dangerous situations, where parents have to back up in order to exit after dropping off children. PLEASE, we certainly don't mind you walking your children into the building but you **MUST** park in the lot either across from the school or at the south end of the building before walking into school.

I am also looking for a few additional volunteers for the cafeteria and playground on:

- Tuesday cafeteria from 11:00-12:15
- Thursday cafeteria from 11:00-12:15
- Thursday playground from 11:30-12:30
- Friday playground from 11:30-12:30

Please call the office to volunteer for any of openings. Thanks in advance!

Cloverleaf Spelling Bee: A Top 10 Finish

The first step on the way to the Cloverleaf Spelling Bee was our local school level contest that was held on January 19th at LMC Middle-High School. **Mrs. Karen Petsovich** served as the pronouncer for the contest that yielded **Sarah S., Nathan G., and Sarah H.** as the top three finishers moving on to represent LMC at the Cloverleaf Spelling Bee, the qualifying competition for the Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C..

Sarah, Nathan and Sarah were among a field of 67 spellers competing for the local title at the Mendel Center on February 10th. **Sarah S.** made it into the Top 10, placing 8th. **Coach Linda McPherson** is proud of all three students, and looks forward to working with them again next school year.

A Tree in Support of Mrs. Mathews

Donations are being accepted by Laker F.U.N. through spring for the purchase of a tree to be planted this spring on the LMCES grounds in support of our librarian **Jan Mathews**, who was diagnosed with breast cancer. Our sincere thanks go to those who have already contributed to this effort to provide a beautiful and strong focal point for her, the students, and others in the Laker family affected by breast cancer. Donations may be sent to school to the attention of **Rochelle Clarke**.

Key Club Blood Drive: March 6th

The LMCHS Key Club will be hosting a blood drive on **Friday, March 6th from 10am – 7pm at the Rose Center** on Wayne Street in downtown St. Joseph. Donors must be healthy, at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have donated whole blood in the prior 8 weeks. That description sounds like most everyone, so be sure to stop by. Donation takes little time yet can return a lifetime to someone in need.

Knights of Columbus "Lenten Dinners"

Fridays at LMCES, 4-8pm

Preschool with Mrs. Grundy & Mrs. LaSata Co-Starring Mrs. Holbert & Mrs. Allen

Since returning from the Christmas holidays, our Preschoolers have jumped in with both feet. Missy mouse introduced music to our four-year-olds. They learned that music comes in many forms, and they enjoyed using the rhythm sticks to create their own.

We discovered that good nutrition leads not only to healthy bodies but also healthy hearts and minds. Our well being can be fostered through loving and caring for all of God's kids. Dr. King's influence has reinforced the concept which we experienced Valentine's Day.

Our three-year-olds experienced that same love through sharing, smiling, and talking with one another. They are interacting more with their classmates, and are discovering how to play together rather than beside each other.

Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Fields

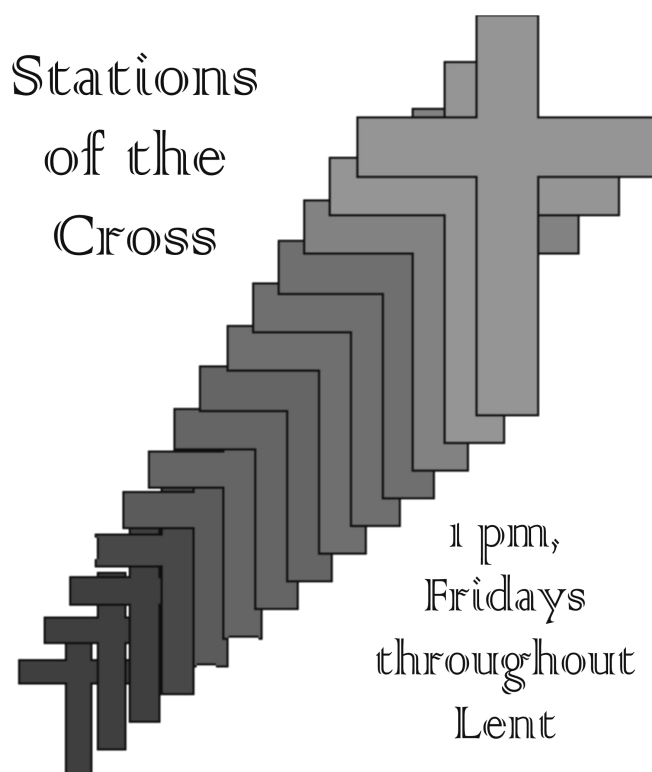
Junior Kindergarten has met more of our Letter People friends. We had so much fun marching to Ms. V's song in the vegetable vests we made. We have learned about groundhogs, presidents and about loving one another. Our computer skills are improving each week under Mrs. Mathews' instruction. She particularly likes the JK's listening skills, ability to watch and remember the steps demonstrated on the projector, and the respect shown for the equipment.

Winter has begun to wear a little long but it has been filled with so many wonderful moments. Valentine's Day was celebrated with a party, games, and, of course, yummy snacks. Thank you to all the moms who helped plan a perfectly timed party. Our field trip to the Mendel Center at the end of the month was an exciting one as we joined the Kindergarteners to watch performers bring some of our favorite literature to life on the stage. Most important of all is learning about and preparing for Lent and the Easter season. Winter may carry on for weeks yet but at the end of Lent, warm or not, we'll be ready to celebrate the most wonderful moment that ever was.

Kindergarten with Mrs. Hanley, Mrs. Kuehn & Mrs. Mills

The snow was blowing and the Kindergarteners have been taking full advantage of the fun both outdoors and indoors. We had fun making snow people of ourselves and "climbing the hills" in the hallway. Catholic Schools Week ended January with a blast. We loved showing our Catholic identity and praying the Rosary every morning. The cupcakes were delicious. Thanks to the moms and dads for baking them for Student Appreciation Day. We all loved the puppet show—the wicked witch was a bit scary at times!

With February the hearts rolled in. We enjoyed all the projects that helped us celebrate the month. Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Black History Month, Dental Health month...wow, so much to learn! Thanks to all the parents who made our party a success. The Kindergarteners would also like to thank **Dr. Strickler** for sharing her knowledge, and teaching us how to keep our teeth healthy! The curtain closes on February with our field trip to the Mendel Center for a live performance of several of our favorite stories! We have already brushed up on our theater manners so we'll be ready when the curtain goes up!



1st Grade with Mrs. Petsovich & Mrs. Faris

We are growing by leaps and bounds both spiritually and academically. Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 25th, when we made our Lenten promises. We will work very hard to remember them. Making our individual Stations of the Cross Booklets and attending the Stations each Friday during Lent will certainly help us!

Mrs. Golob, the Little Laker Drama advisor, has some impressive talent on the horizon. **Jayden B., Oliver C., Luke C., Tia J., Cici S., Lily F., A.J. F., Bailey S.** and **Thomas Z.** all shined in the LMCES performance of “**The Universe and Other Stuff.**” It took a lot of practice and cooperation to put on the show—both wonderful skills to use every day.

The month of February also marked our 101st day of 1st Grade. We spent the day doing many activities that had to do with the number 101. We timed ourselves to see what we could accomplish in 101 seconds. We “guesstimated” which jar had 101 items. We sang songs and read poems that had the number 101 in them. We drew pictures of what we will look like when we’re 101 years old. We wrote about how we would spend \$101.00. We created collages and experimented to see if we could stay silent for 101 seconds. Our day was fun-filled with excitement and learning.

We also studied penguins and presidents this month. We learned about Abe Lincoln’s tall hat and his beard. We realized that our school is on *Washington* Avenue and that many of us live in *Lincoln* Township.

Whew! We’re glad our busy month is over. Now we have our Cinderella unit, St. Patrick’s Day, Dental Health, spring, and Dr. Seuss’ birthday and the remainder of Lent to look forward to!

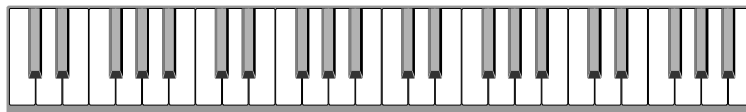
2nd Grade with Mr. Deja & Miss McDonough

Wow! This year is really flying by. We are already moving through February and have just celebrated the 100th day of school. To commemorate this special day, we read for 100 minutes, wrote stories about 100 things, and did 100 piece puzzles. Everyone said it was one of the best days we have had so far this year. We would also like to thank **Mrs. Langbo, Mrs. Yacobozzi, and Mrs. Tan** for putting on a great Valentine party this year. We all enjoyed the many snacks along with the cute little crafts that everyone got to take home. These moms are the greatest!

Besides all the fun activities we have been doing, we are still managing to challenge our minds in math and science. The new science program has been a huge hit with the entire 2nd Grade. We have moved into a new unit called “Measuring Matter.” There are many exciting hands-on activities in this unit and one of our favorites so far has been creating and testing our own paper airplanes. We learned all about measuring speed and distance, and then graphed our results. Whoever thought learning could be this much fun? Everyone has peeked ahead in their science activity book to see all the “cool” things we will be doing in the next couple of weeks. Science is truly one of the subjects we look forward to every day.

As the month of February concludes we are preparing ourselves for the Lenten season. We are learning the many ways we can make sacrifices so that we all may become better children of God. We look forward when we meet together for the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. Together, we are all reminded of the sacrifices Jesus made for each one of us.

This month’s *Navigator* was co-sponsored by
the Tan Family: Stephanie, Seng Hock, Matthew and Noah



“Happy 8th Birthday, Matthew!”

3rd Grade with Mrs. Bodley & Mrs. Bruder

The 3rd Graders continue to work on memorizing multiplication facts for speed and accuracy. We practice our best cursive writing as we learn new capital letters each week. Mrs. Bodley's class presented biography reports to the class. Each student dressed as a famous person and we learned many important facts about each person's life.

Catholic Schools Week was the perfect time to be thankful for the wonderful staff, parents, and students at LMC. We are very blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring Catholic school. We think LMC is special because...

Everyone is nice to each other because we are friends. **Anna L.**

We have Mass every Tuesday and Thursday. **Connor C.**

It is a Catholic School; not a lot of schools are Catholic. **Katie S.**

It has Drama plays that are fun. **Leo C.**

Father Dan visits our classrooms. **Addie P.**

It has a chapel with a cross that we worship. **Corey S.**

We talk about Jesus and we can have communion at Mass. **Matthew M.**

We take turns doing things. Everyone is fair. **Jesse S.**

We wear uniforms, and people know we are Lakers. **Matthew A.**

February brought the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day. We would like to thank all of the parents for organizing our parties and for preparing such delicious snacks and games. You truly are a blessing to us. With Ash Wednesday we entered the season of Lent; we are remembering the importance of daily prayer and devotions. We will do our best to "do what Jesus would do."

Mrs. Binger & Mrs. Zetts and News Team 4 Erin S., Brianna A. and Madeline J. Contributing Journalists

The 4th Grade spent most of January Spaced Out. We spent the whole month getting ready to go into Space. To go to space, we had to do a lot of work like write a research paper on a planet by reading books, news articles, and using the computer encyclopedia and the Web. We had seven tasks to do and two tests. I liked having a light lab where we made shadows. Then we built our space shuttles out of big boxes that really nice parents got for us. We put blankets, snacks, and decorations inside. The next day we had to work by flashlight and use walkie-talkies to talk to people in other shuttles. We had a lot of work to do in space. Most of it was Math with astronomical numbers with decimals. We had to use calculators that were solar powered, *which means teamwork with flashlights*. Each space shuttle had a commander who earned the spot by working hard on the seven tasks. In Mrs. Binger's room the commanders were **Sarah K., Sam H., Molly C., and Emily Z.** In Mrs. Zetts' room the commanders were **Hannah S., Madi M., Madeline J., and Erika S.**

Now we are getting ready for Science Olympiad and our Oprah Show. You'll have to wait for the next *Navigator* to hear about those.

**The *Navigator* was co-sponsored
by the Sullivan Family,**

Jann, Sean, Allysun & Katie

**This Lenten season,
remember that...**

**in the darkest corners,
the coldest soil,
and the most humble places,
beauty can be found
if you just look.**



5th Grade with Mrs. Fish & Mrs. Kurina

The 5th Grade is proud to announce that **Jessica R.** won the second place prize for the DAR essay: "The Ideals of the Gettysburg Address." Jessica's formal report covered the meaning of Abraham Lincoln's famous speech at Gettysburg and its relevance today. This contest was county wide and Jessica's was chosen from hundreds of essays. Congratulations, Jessica!

To celebrate Catholic Schools Week, the 5th Graders were invited to the Joyce Center at Notre Dame for a special Mass. The **Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy** presided with over twenty concelebrants. Several area Catholic Schools gathered to worship. The theme was "Celebrate Service," which has been a big part of our year. We were happy to share in this awesome celebration.

To our delight, **Sarah H.** placed third for the LMC team to enter the Cloverleaf Spelling Bee that was held on February 10th. She joined LMC Middle School students **Sarah S.** and **Nathan G.** to represent our school at the competition. Congratulations to all the students who practiced and participated.

Finally, the 5th Graders are getting ready to prepare for what may be our biggest Science Fair ever. Many new ideas and experiments will be shared on Monday, March 23rd. **Quinn K.**'s idea is to test which cup will keep your coffee the hottest while driving to work. Parents will really want to see the results of that one! **Olivia C.** is testing green bags, while **Alex L.** is experimenting with flower preservatives. **Ryan S.** is comparing short term memory between boys and girls. **Kristen D.** is testing band aid durability. **Jaelyn B.** is testing the effects of caffeine to the speed and accuracy of typing. Please save the date. We'll look forward to seeing you!

News from the 5th Grade Girl Scouts

Junior Girl Scout Troop 30555 has enjoyed the first few months of 2009 selling Girl Scout cookies, camping, and preparing for the International Bazaar. Cookie orders can be taken through March 9th, so you can still place an order, if you wish, with any 5th Grade Girl Scout or by calling our troop "Cookie Mom" **Tiffany DeFay at 208-6728.**

The troop held a candlelight badge ceremony in January to recognize each girl and the badges she has earned during this school year, which for most girls includes the *Pet Care* badge, *Art in 3-D* badge, *Plants and Animals* badge and fun patches for Scrapbooking, Winter Fun, Pizza Party and Movie Night. During the ceremony, each girl lit a small candle and shared her favorite part of being in Girl Scouts.

In early February our troop ventured to Camp Soni Springs and had a great time camping in the heated "Tea House." Eleven girls and eight mothers attended and went sledding, took a moonlit night-time hike, and a daytime hike through the snowy woodlands. The girls planned and prepared the meals and worked on the *Becoming a Teen* badge with mom **Tami Brandt.** They also were busy preparing Brazilian crafts with the help of mom **Michaelynn McCoy** to sell at the International Bazaar on February 28th. The girls made tissue paper flowers, jeweled hair combs and sewed fabric flowers on barrettes.

Finally, the girls are getting trained to begin an on-going community service project at the Whitcomb Residence—they will be taking turns going to the Whitcomb to care for the two birds that live in cages in the Whitcomb's library. More details for follow in the next issue of the *Navigator*...



COOKIES COOKIES COOKIES

Order yours through March 9th!