



# 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.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010 VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

Laker F.U.N. Directory of Officers, 2010-11

Laker F.U.N. News & Events

President: Kathy Quatrochi 429-0861  
Vice Pres.: VOLUNTEER NEEDED  
Secretary: Jann Sullivan 428-0685  
Treasurer: Cindy Adent 428-5276

## Current Events & Contacts

Fall Festival: 10/29, ES  
Chair: Mary Spiegel 925-2229  
Laker F.U.N. Halloween Party: 10/30, 6-8pm, ES  
Chair: Jann Sullivan: 428-0685  
Laker F.U.N. Meeting: 11/3, 6:30, ES  
Muffins with Mom: 11/19, 7-8am, ES  
Chair: Phil Hegg 983-5457  
Holiday Pie & Dessert Sale: 11/24 Pick-Up  
Chair: Jeanette Conklin: 429- 3886  
Cookie Walk: 12/11-12, Parish  
Chair: Julie Kessler: 429-1134  
Market Day: monthly orders  
Chair: Tracy Glotzbach: 428-8256  
SCRIP: year-round  
LMCES Office: 429-0227  
Sunshine Committee:  
Heather Chapman: 556-9395  
Welcoming Committee:  
Dot McNerney: 556-9667  
LMC Fund-Raising & Alumni Coordinator:  
Chris Glendening: 429-0227, Ext. 16

## LMC Administrative Contacts:

Mr. Berlin, *Executive Director & MS/HS Principal:*  
jberlin@lmclakers.org 983-2511  
Mr. Heath, *Assistant Principal & Athletic Director:*  
gheath@lmclakers.org 983-3154  
Mrs. Maher, *Elementary School Principal:*  
catholicprincipal@yahoo.com 429-0227  
Mrs. Payovich, *Director of Business Services:*  
cpayovich@lmclakers.org 983-5529  
Mr. Russell Cutter, *President, CCEC:*  
ndfan1964@yahoo.com

Thank you to all the parents who attended the first meeting of Laker F.U.N. this year. We are trying something different, vacillating the meeting times between morning and evening, in an attempt to accommodate both working and stay-at-home parents. Our first meeting was in the morning, and was well attended by both seasoned and new faces.

Speaking of new faces, a BIG thank you goes to our new parent, **Mary Spiegel**, who is taking over the annual Fall Festival for this year. Many parents are needed to help with this event that kicks off a fun-filled weekend, leading up to All Saints Day.

Also, the Halloween Party has been **RE-SCHEDULED for Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**. This is certainly coming together but we are still looking for help with games, kitchen and preparation work. As a wise woman once said, "**Many hands make light work!**"

Kudos to **Lynn Hegg and her crew** for doing a superb job (again!) running **Doughnuts with Dad** on October 15<sup>th</sup>. As always, this was a big success attended by many. Please mark your calendars for **November 19<sup>th</sup>** when it's time for **Muffins with Mom**, when **Phil Hegg and his team** run the show.

The **Homemade Holiday Pie & Dessert Sale** is on **Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>** and is graciously chaired by **Jeanette Conklin**. Our **Cookie Walk** is on the weekend of **December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**. **Julie Kessler** is kindly chairing this event once again. Watch for information regarding two of Laker F.U.N.'s biggest fundraisers.

Our **next meeting** will be **November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM** (social) with the meeting time starting at 7:00 pm. Those who couldn't make it to the morning meeting, please try to attend the evening meeting. It's a great way to stay involved in your children's education.  
*Kathy Quatrochi, President*

## Elementary Essentials from Mrs. Maher

Welcome back to another exciting school year. We're off and running! September was hectic but fun, and October always slows to a "we're in the routine" pace. This is the month of the Rosary, and I'm sure Mary has a hand in focusing our efforts and stilling our hearts.

This is also the month of MEAP testing for students in grades 3, 4 and 5. Although it's imperative to prepare them at home for this testing, the following hints should be followed daily to *ensure success for every student, every day* in school.

- Get to bed early to ensure quality sleep.
- Eat a substantial breakfast.
- Provide a protein-based snack.
- Encourage children to read carefully, concentrate, and put forth their best effort.

It was great seeing many of our new families at the Welcoming Committee's coffee. We're blessed with 34 new families this year. Veteran Lakers, please make sure you take time to get to know our newly minted Lakers!

### Market Day

Thank you for your Market Day order this month! We're looking forward to seeing you at our sale **pick-up on Tuesday, October 19th between 3:00 and 4:00.** You can find us in the LMCES cafeteria. In November, you can qualify for a FREE 4-Pack Chic-N-Steaks when you **order \$90 at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com) and enter promo code: NOV Bonus.** Look for your November order guide to arrive home soon or visit the Market Day website for more details and to place your order. If you have any questions please contact **Tracy Glotzbach at 428-8256.**

## Preschool with Mrs. Grundy, Mrs. Cutter & Mrs. Glotzbach

Between the morning and afternoon classes, 66 Little Lakers have jumped in with both feet, taking those early steps in the school experience.

Our 3-year-old preschoolers in Mrs. Cutter and Mrs. Glotzbach's rooms have gotten off to a great start this school year. They have adjusted well to being our newest Lakers by diving in to learning about God and how much He loves and cares for all of us.

We have discovered the gift of our five senses by listening to different musical instruments, making scented flower pictures, and painting with our fingers. We learned that apples are used to make many delicious treats, and can also be used to make fun art projects when dipped in paint! Our next unit explored friendship as we learned to care for each other. We made friendship necklaces and shared them with our new classmates.

The children have listened to many exciting new stories, and look forward to all of the new things we will do together this year. If you see us in the hallway, please say hello to our newest Laker friends. We're sure those adorable faces will make you smile!

What a great group of four-year-olds Mrs. Grundy has this year! Our unit on our five senses gave us a *sensational* start. As we studied about apples, birthdays and colors; we had a great time seeing, touching, hearing, smelling, and tasting our way through lessons.

This year, we have tried-and-true and brand new features in the 4-year-old curriculum. We are using *Zoophonics*, *Handwriting without Tears*, the McGraw-Hill *Mathematics for Preschool*, and a brand new religion program entitled *Stories of God's Love*. Now we are ready for everything that our new year brings.



Chase the chills away...  
donate your coats!

# Operation Coats

Share some warmth this winter. Drop off gently used coats in the collection box in the Multi-Purpose Room at LMCES.

## Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Fields

Within the first weeks of school, the Junior Kindergartners got into the swing of things, learning new routines, and making new friends in the classroom. Being in JK, we also travel around the building much more as we head down to Gym class, to Music, and to the Library to check out books, and later, Computers.. Our hallway manners are coming along. Walking together quietly is polite and helps us get from place to place efficiently; it also keeps us safe, which we learned at our first fire drill.

Among our new friends are some talkative ones—Mr. M, Ms. T, and Ms. F, who have a lot to say as they teach about the sounds they make. As the year progresses, all of the Letter People will make an appearance.

As they learn about each other, the children notice what makes each of them special; we look different, and have unique talents and curiosities. No matter how we differ from one another, the children have learned that God made each of them special, yet we are part of His family through the Sacrament of Baptism.

If the Walk for Catholic Education is any indicator, all of our excursions will be wonderful. We were right up front where we could see Bishop Bradley and all the priests—and they could see us, too! The JK children behaved very well at our first Mass experience as a class. Parents, you should be very proud of your children for handling all the new sights and sounds of a student Mass. Our next trip will be to Jollay Orchards to learn how apple cider is made. Bishop Bradley won't be at Jollay's but we'll still be on our best behavior.

## Kindergarten with Mrs. Kuehn

With a month plus under our very short belts, the Kindergartners have adjusted to the classroom routine that has a bit more structure and personal responsibilities than before, yet still has plenty of play-with-a-purpose. In spite of all the new procedures, Kindergartners have many daily successes that are key to developing an I-can-do-it attitude that will help them as they grow older. *Entering the building on their own, knowing where to go, remembering the morning routine, and preparing for the day*—doing these age-appropriate tasks confidently is a big boost to a young child.

Small steps will become big strides in reading. The children have started to read their small books, and we have six words on our word wall. Their letter recognition and keyboard skills were impressive during Computers as nearly every Kindergartener was able to complete all their upper and lower case letters using an on-line letter sorter. Some students finished 2 sets of upper and lower case letters. They know that have to find the letters before they can write words, which will become sentences as the year progresses. Growing vocabularies are also evident in our Science curriculum's journal entries, which currently center upon our five senses.

It's not among the official five senses but we do have a sense of gratitude to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade neighbors in Mrs. Mills' class. They helped us assemble our rosaries, and Father Bill will be visiting soon to bless them. In the meantime, we are learning to pray the Rosary by listening to the older students who lead the Rosary every morning. This beautiful prayer becomes more familiar each day, and it won't be long until we know it by heart.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade with Mrs. Petsovich & Mrs. Faris

The children are doing a terrific job adapting to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade policies and procedures. Our theme this year is to remember that we are all gifts from God, and we show others that they are "special gifts" by being caring and compassionate to others.

Welcome to our new students, **Keely K., Darby M., Diego N., Maya S., Kyla B., Torrie P. and Jack S.** who join our Laker family for a wonderful year of following Jesus.

Our first field trip was to Stover's U-Pic. We listened to Mrs. Stover as she shared her expertise on the Potawatomi Indians who lived here before we did! We especially enjoyed our morning snacks of apples, cider and raspberries!

We have started reading our "books in the bag" and "yellow sheets." We will begin our hardback basal readers soon. The students are working on word processing skills using Word in Office 2010. Everyone knows home row, and their little fingers are certainly being stretched to their limits! We have learned to put our spelling words in alphabetical order, and are working diligently at Math Center this year too. Being a 1<sup>st</sup> Grader requires responsibility and good listening skills. So far, we're off to a great start in both areas!

*continued*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade with Mr. Deja,  
Mrs. Fish & Mrs. Mills**

Welcome back to a brand new school year! We have settled into 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade nicely, and are excited to embark on a new learning adventure. This year, we were fortunate to have three second grade classrooms, and welcome a new student to each room. We welcome **Braidyn B.**, **Cooper R.** and **Kylie A.**—we are so glad you have joined our Laker family.

We are beginning to learn all about the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, and **Mrs. Peggy Hanley** comes into each classroom once a week to talk with us about what we can expect and learn from this very special time. *Reminder:* To all those receiving First Holy Communion this year, continue working on the weekly Mass sheets. Turn them in at school, and they will be given to Mrs. Hanley.

Our spelling continues to improve as each week goes by, and we learn at least twenty new words to study for our weekly spelling test. These words will expand our vocabulary, and help us throughout the year in our many writing activities.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade with Mrs. Bodley & Mrs. Kurina**

The school year is well underway and we have been busy in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. Our new students, **Eileen S.** and **Renee F.**, have jumped right into the Laker routine. Welcome, Eileen and Renee!

In Science, we finished our first unit on light. We especially like using flashlights to make animal shadows! In Social Studies, we made Michigan books, and have been learning about our state symbols.

Along with doing all of our normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade lessons, the students are preparing for a new experience: *taking the MEAP tests for the first time.* We are doing some basic reviewing, and planning to do our best. When asked how they feel about the MEAPs, the response was uniformly, “I feel nervous but excited at the same time.”

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders started their first Christian service project called ***Trick-or-Treat So Our Community Can Eat!*** Outside our classrooms are boo-tifully decorated trick-or-treat bags waiting to be filled with non-perishable items. We are collecting canned soup, boxed macaroni & cheese, tissue, and toothpaste. Everything will be delivered to the Catholic Community Center on October 29<sup>th</sup>. We thank everyone for their kindness and generosity as we offer a seasonal assist to the CCC’s year-round program to help the hungry in our communities.



**The Navigator was sponsored by  
the Quatrochi family,  
Chris & Kathy with Nick & Sydney**

**Welcome back to school, Lakers!  
Be sure to join us for some F.U.N.,  
Laker-style, this autumn and  
throughout the year.**

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade with Mrs. Binger & Mrs. Zetts and News Team 4

The new 4<sup>th</sup> Graders offered some enthusiastic comments on the year so far:

“I’m glad I came to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade.” **Evan O.**

“I like 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. Science is more elaborate and serious.” **Belle S.**

“I like the mealworms, earthworms, butterflies and walking sticks in Science.” **Sarah M.**

“Last year workbooks, this year textbooks.” **Anika G.**

“Science is way more fun! I like experiments, and we do a lot of experiments.” **Caleb C.**

“In 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, they expect you to do more and know more. There are more jobs to do so everyone gets a job. The name tags on our desks are nicer.”

**Simerjit K.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade is harder than 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade because there is more multiplication and division.”

**Henry L.**

“I like that there isn’t any Friday homework.”

**Mary Ellen N.**

Everyone agrees the best part of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade is getting our new students, **Gavin B., Ryan F., Tyler L., Caroline M., Ana N., and Michael S.** Reporters **Mary Ellen N., Catie H. and Megan Y.** interviewed the new 4<sup>th</sup> Graders, and asked them what they liked best about Lake Michigan Catholic. Gavin, who is from Indiana, likes Religion class and his new friends. Ryan is from Dowagiac. He thinks our school is very good because everything is organized. Tyler came to us from St. Joseph Catholic. He says he likes LMC because it is fun and big. Here, he said, he has nice friends, and he especially likes the gym and cafeteria. Caroline from Dowagiac thinks students are friendly here. Here everyone is nice, and she likes all the math we do. Ana came to us from Brookview Montessori School. She likes that this school uses computers and has fun science classes. Michael came from St. Joseph Catholic. He also likes the nice friends here.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade with Mrs. LaSata & Mrs. Miller

Welcome back! Our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade year has started off wonderfully, and everyone is getting used to all of the added responsibilities that come with this last year before entering middle school. With the new school year, we are excited to see some new faces in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. We all welcome **Sammi P., Sarah D., Lauren O.,** and new teacher, **Mrs. Miller** to our class!

The 5<sup>th</sup> Graders are deep into the writing process for our DAR essays on the “Memoirs of Paul Revere.” Students are writing a memoir reflective of Paul Revere’s life. They are enthusiastic about learning and writing about his experiences in the American Revolution. This project is also helping them learn how to write a formal paper with credible sources, complete with title pages, and bibliographies. Their editing skills are getting a workout, too, as every change brings them closer to the final draft.

In our Science class, we have started a unit on Life Science, which focuses on “Systems and Survival.” As part of this unit, we have “classroom pets” including tree frogs and hermit crabs. Over the next several weeks, we will be observing their behavioral and physical characteristics to understand the relationship between systems and survival firsthand.

### Physical Education News from Dr. Learman

We started the year off with some basic policies and procedures in Physical Education. The two big rules being: *one person talks at a time* and *keep your hands and your feet to yourself.* With the Preschool–2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, we worked on following directions, and upper elementary worked on the added element of showing self-control.

For Grades 1-5, we broke down leaps into five distinct actions that the children should be to demonstrate: *step, bend, push, reach & swing, and soft landing.* We also started working on Aerobic Fitness. Year-end goals range from 4 minutes of jogging for Kindergartners to 15 minutes for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders. While jogging students should: 1. work aerobically, 2. pace themselves, and 3. set a goal. Stretching was emphasized, and the students are encouraged to do the wall, quad and sit & reach stretches at home. Games are on tap, too. We are currently covering volleyball, and everyone K-5 is learning the underhand serve; 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders are also learning how to bump, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Graders are learning to bump, set, and overhand serve.

## Library with Mrs. Mathews

Last spring, students were encouraged to make their public libraries their “summer homes,” and take advantage of the programs that were designed for all ages. I am happy to report that 68 Lakers did just that. Virtual high-fives go to these Lakers who participated in St. Joseph and Lincoln Township’s summer library programs. Students with asterisks get a fist pump on top of the high-five for doubling up in both programs. Way to be aggressive readers!

Kylie A.	Ryan L.
Andrew A.	David M.
Jaclyn B.	Luke M.
Alex B.	Sarah M.
Anna B.	Nick M.
Elli B.	Nicholas M.
Max B.	Peter M.
Myles C.	Anne Marie N.
Megan C.	Bridget N.
Nathan C.	Christine N.
Kristin D.	Mary Ellen N.
Sarah D.	Katie O.
Angela G.	Michael O.
Andrew G.	Tommy O.
Kelley G.	Jack P.
Michael G.	Jessica R.
Leo G.	Madelyn S.
Salvatore G.**	Sydney S.
Ainsley H.	Jesse S.
Ellie H.	Sami S.
Grace H.	Sarah S.
Jack H.	Bailey S.
Max J.	Noah S.
Tia J.	Allison S.
Noah K.	Andrew S.
Samuel K.	Hayden S.**
Anna K.	Holly S.**
Chloe K.	Elizabeth S.
Melanie K.	Joshton S.
Matthew L.	Caroline T.
Kate L.	Cole T.
Henry L.	Hannah W.
Maguire L.	Carter Y.
Ethan L.	Megan Y.

With the ever-accelerating shift to electronic media, libraries across the nation, both public and within schools, are redesigning their collections. In some cases, school libraries are being decommissioned. While the idea may be startling, it is a reality that has its good and bad aspects. No matter what form the library experience takes in your community, your patronage keeps public libraries viable and vibrant.

## Laker Drama with Marty & Wendy Golob

Auditions were held for Laker Drama’s first show, *A Night of One Acts and Improv*. Rehearsals have started, and the cast will take the stage on December 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11, with all shows at 7:30 pm. The performances will highlight Laker Drama in a number of short skits and improvisation games. We guarantee that no two nights will be exactly the same.

As we work on one show, we get ready for the next one: LMCES’ Little Laker Drama’s production of *A Twist of the Tongue*, a pun- and fun-filled musical about old high school rivals, Sally Seashell and Mr. Roses, and Sally’s quest to win the tongue twister tournament trophy for Bitter Batter School, where she is the new principal. Sign-up sheets will go out at the end of October and auditions will be held in mid-November. This will allow all cast members to have their materials over Christmas break so they can be ready to start rehearsals in January. Show dates are **Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm for the dress rehearsal, and Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am for family and friends.**

A bit of practice, perhaps?

Betty Botter bought some butter.  
"But," she said, "this butter's bitter.  
If I put it in my batter  
it will make my batter bitter.  
But a bit of better butter  
will make my batter better."  
So she bought a bit of butter  
better than her bitter butter  
and she put it in her batter  
and it made her batter better.  
So, 'twas better Betty Botter  
bought a bit of better butter.

**Don't fall behind!**

Visit [www.lmclakers.org](http://www.lmclakers.org)  
often to stay up-to-date  
with school news.

# Scouting Around at LMCES

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Brownie Troop #30522:** Whew! What an incredible start to our first year as LMC Laker Brownies! For starters, we have already earned our "Swim Safety" Try-It badge this past August at the Point O' Woods swimming pool. **Ms. Liz Emrich** showed us techniques used to help a swimmer in trouble, and how to get a distressed swimmer to the water's edge quickly. Our own skills were tested by swimming laps and performing jumps and dives off the diving board. The girls also discussed how to conduct ourselves around the pool. We're keeping it fun and safe.

The scent of delicious cupcakes was in the air at our cooking class at Perennial Accents. **Mrs. Sheila Banasik and her daughter** showed us the tricks to make an ordinary cupcake into a "puppy"! It was loads of fun having to work with frosting, marshmallows and candy. We didn't mind if we got dirty on this job! It was a fun way to earn our "Make It, Eat It" Try-It badge.

What's next on our agenda? Hayriding and stargazing—*perfect events for the fall*. Our troop will experience the crisp air and the twinkling stars and learn how to guide ourselves using the night sky.

Led by **Mrs. Vedette Cordes** with **Mrs. Susan Latham** as co-leader, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Laker Brownies meet every other Monday in Mrs. Fish's classroom. We will focus this school year on leadership, guidance and learning new life skills. We look forward to sharing what we learn with others and focus on our Girl Scout motto "Be prepared."

**Thank you,  
Laker families and friends!  
\$12,048 was raised at the  
Walk for Catholic Education.**

## Attention: Scout Leaders

We want to know about the exciting things the boys and girls are doing in Scouting, and help you promote participation and special events.

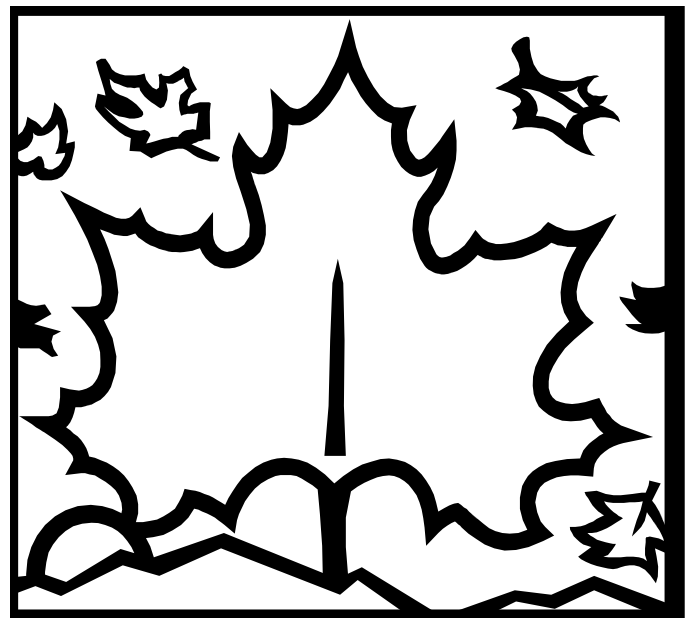
Send your personal e-mail address or designate a "communications officer" for your troop/den.

Send the address to:

[jmathews@lmclakers.org](mailto:jmathews@lmclakers.org)

to get e-mail notifications of *Navigator* deadlines.

## Color me... grateful!



# UP-COMING EVENTS ~ October



## HALLOWEEN PARTY

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm  
LMC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Wear your costumes!



MUSIC - GAMES - PRIZES  
HOT DOGS & SNACKS

There is still time to volunteer. Even half an hour would be a big help. E-mail [jannsully@hotmail.com](mailto:jannsully@hotmail.com) or call 428-0685.

## Fall Festival

October 29<sup>th</sup>

To volunteer  
to help at this  
seasonal event,  
call Mary LaSata-  
Spiegel, 925-2229.



## Donuts with Dads

OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>

COME TO SCHOOL EARLY AND ENJOY  
A DONUT WITH YOUR LAKER

**Laker F.U.N. Meeting November 3**  
**6:30 Social ~ 7:00 Meeting**

## HELP WANTED

Look no further ~ here are some ways you can get involved  
at your child's school and get to know other LMC families.

### LAKER F.U.N. VICE PRESIDENT

Searching for a parent willing to attend Laker F.U.N. meetings, assist with activities, and share ideas. This is a GREAT opportunity to get involved with other Laker Parents and your children's education. Very few meetings: November 3, January 5, March 2 and May 18. No experience necessary.

### PIE SALE HELP NEEDED

**NEEDED:** Organization of pie sale. Mostly administrative work that can be done from home!

Please contact **Kathy Quatrochi**,  
429-0861 or [kquatrochi@yahoo.com](mailto:kquatrochi@yahoo.com).

### WINTER FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup>

Volunteers are in place but a coordinator is needed to make calls and set up a volunteer schedule. Please call Sara Duris 463-3542

### HALLOWEEN PARTY STILL IN NEED OF HELP

**Games:** Kathy Quatrochi, 429-0861  
**Kitchen:** Janet Sullivan, 428-0685  
**Prep & Decorations:** Cindy Adent, 428-5276  
or Jen Gaska, 428-1461