



# 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.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011 VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2

## LAKER F.U.N. DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

President:	Kathy Quatrochi	429-0861
Vice Pres.:	Jillian Baliunas	408-1397
Secretary:	Cindy Adent	428-5276
Treasurer:	Gretchen Busch	556-9909

## CURRENT EVENTS & CONTACTS

PIZZA HUT NIGHT (St. Joseph):	1/9 & 2/6
ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT (Adults):	1/21, ES
Lynn Kalamaros @ 849-7022 or pekal@comcast.net	
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK EVENTS:	1/29-2/3
BURGER KING COUPON SALES:	2/2 start
MOTHER/SON ND BASKETBALL:	2/11
LITTLE LAKER DRAMA:	2/24 & 2/25
"Once Upon a Leprechaun"	
S.C.E.N.E. AUCTION:	4/20-21, ES
Committees forming now! Call Chris G.!	
MARKET DAY:	year-round
Chair: Tracy Glotzbach	428-8256
SCRIP:	year-round
Orders to LMCES Office	429-0227
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:	
Gabriela Estrada	408-8688
WELCOMING COMMITTEE:	
Dot McNerney	556-9667
LMC FUND-RAISING & ALUMNI COORDINATOR:	
Chris Glendening	429-0227. X16

### LMC Administrative Contacts:

Mr. Berlin, <i>Executive Director &amp; MS/HS Principal:</i>	jberlin@lmclakers.org	983-2511
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Mrs. Maher, <i>Elementary School Principal:</i>	jmaher@lmclakers.org	429-0227
Mr. Larry Glendening, <i>Director of Business Operations:</i>	lglendening@lmclakers.org	983-5529
Mr. Russell Cutter, <i>President, CCEC:</i>	ndfan1964@yahoo.com	

## Laker F.U.N. News & Events

Talk about "making a list and checking it twice!" That's what the Laker F.U.N. event chairpeople did, as one fall event after another—the Halloween Party, Fall Festival, Doughnuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, the Pie Sale, and the Cookie Walk—was checked off the list for another year. A mix of new leadership with the veterans who conducted our fall events, and the infusion of new ideas with the tried-and-true helped fulfill Laker F.U.N.'s mission of providing activities that both support and unify our school community.

Before our next kid-centric activities during Catholic Schools Week, a night of fun for the adults is set for **January 21<sup>st</sup>**: a trip back to the 1980s at the uproariously entertaining **Annual Trivia Night!** All the information you need is posted on the school website at [www.lmclakers.org](http://www.lmclakers.org), including the **downloadable registration form**. It's the most fun you can have for just \$10 per person. Round up a team of up to 10 members from your friends, coworkers, and neighbors, and join us recalling trivial facts, and remembering what we tried to forget: post-punk vs. pop vs. metal, pastels vs. neon, and rat tails vs. regrettably poufy hair.

The Christmas and New Year's holidays find us in many places, near to home and far away. Wherever you celebrate the miracle and promise of Christ's birth, we wish the blessings of peace and joy within your families.

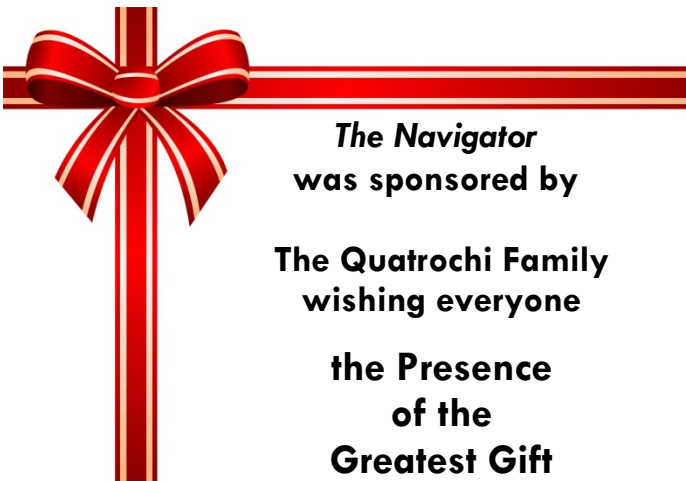


## Elementary Essentials from Mrs. Maher

Our all school Mass of thanksgiving was a joyful celebration of 20 years here at Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary on Washington Avenue. Mass was concelebrated by **Fr. Jim, Fr. Bill, Fr. Mike, Fr. Alphonse, Msgr. Sears and Deacon Mike**. Our gymnasium was filled with not only the entire student body, three-year-old preschoolers through twelfth graders, but also by many friends and family! Many of those who attended were instrumental in the building of this school through gifts and prayers. It was a true Laker celebration, singing and praying together in thanks for the many blessings we share. Our gratitude goes to **Mrs. Gallagher** for her hard work preparing, organizing and leading the Mass.

We are now in the season of Advent, the season of waiting; waiting for the Christ Child. I am reminded of our bishop's motto, *Waiting in Joyful Hope*. One of the many blessings I have is watching as our students prepare a place in their hearts for Jesus. They are aware of who we are waiting for and readying a place in their hearts through Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation. Even though the holiday brings gifts aplenty, they are acutely attuned to the realization that December 25<sup>th</sup> is the birthday of our Savior.

All of us at Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School would like to wish the blessings of the season to all our families. Have a prayerful, restful, joyful holiday with those you love.



***The Navigator***  
was sponsored by

**The Quatrochi Family**  
wishing everyone

**the Presence**  
**of the**  
**Greatest Gift**

## Market Day: Full Freezer = More Efficiency

Efficiency isn't just about loading up your freezer to prevent that unwelcome heat exchange when you open the door. It's also about making the most of your time by keeping staples on hand to build great meals. Help support Lake Michigan Catholic and keep your freezer full of high quality, versatile foods by simply placing your order online at **www.marketday.com**. During January, you can receive a **FREE Eat Well Guide** with any purchase. Jumpstart your New Year's resolution with this 36-page, full-color guide filled with recipes, serving suggestions and healthy eating tips.

Order online at **www.marketday.com** until 11PM on January 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, you can call **Tracy Glotzbach at 428-8256**.

## Laker Fund-Raising: Busy Months Ahead

The **S.C.E.N.E. Auction** has a theme; we'll be **Under the Tuscan Sun** on **April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**. The decorating committee, newly chaired by **Amy Hake**, has already met and roughed out plans, including multiple hand-painted murals. Amy's goal is to have everything ready to go several weeks ahead of the Auction. Volunteers for this effort and all the other S.C.E.N.E. jobs are needed now through April. **Chris Glendening** can match anyone to any job. Contact her at **429-0227, Ext. 16** or **cglendening@lmclakers.org**.

In other fund-raising news, **Pizza Hut Nights** are slated for the **1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month**. Drop by the restaurant at **2049 Niles Rd. in south St. Joseph on Mondays, January 9<sup>th</sup>, and February 6<sup>th</sup>**, present the coupon at the time of order, and help us earn 10% of the Laker coupon sales. Carry-out, delivery and dine-in orders qualify. Watch for the coupons in your students' backpacks and on the school website

The **Burger King Coupon Book Sale** starts on **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week. Anyone who would like more than 10 books may request a larger supply by calling Chris Glendening.

**'Twas the Weeks before Christmas  
3-Year-Old Preschool Spin  
with Mrs. Cutter & Mrs. Mills**

'Twas the weeks before Christmas  
as the Preschoolers play,  
Learning of Baby Jesus, gingerbread,  
Santa and his sleigh.  
Homemade ornaments hung on the tree with care  
to remind us of Jesus whose Birthday was near.  
It was fun in the kitchen  
with children rolling dough with their hands  
while visions of eating sugar-cookies  
danced in their heads.  
The children all thought  
of Christmas wishes this year  
in hopes that dear Santa would be able to hear.  
They spoke of pretend puppies and kittens,  
babies and dolls from the store,  
Star Wars and Pillow pets, cars,  
candy canes and more.  
Filling the manger where Baby Jesus would lay  
by doing good deeds,  
working with others,  
saying "thank you" and "please."  
Now to our wondering eyes would appear  
the reason for the season: Jesus Christ it is clear.  
Giving thanks for our families  
and friends that we meet,  
Practice sharing with others,  
what a wonderful treat.  
And then, in a twinkling,  
the year is halfway through  
but we continue to learn a lot...  
our shapes and colors too!  
From our families to yours  
(don't eat too much fruitcake...)  
Merry Christmas to all  
and have a safe and wonderful break!

**4-Year-Old Preschool with Mrs. Grundy**

Advent is a time for waiting. It's such an exciting time, and it is not always easy to wait for Jesus' birthday. But wait, we did, marking the days with stories and activities to help keep Jesus first in our thoughts.

Using many of the aspects of the Christmas season, we are learning our letters and numbers. During 'j' week, we realized that Jesus' birth is the reason for all our celebrations. We did kind acts as presents for Him. The letter 'k' brought kitchen fun, making delicious breadsticks in the shape of a k for our snack. The letter 'l' reminded us to show love as we made secret gifts for our parents, and practiced the songs we sang for them at the Christmas program. Finally, what better way to honor our Lord and show His love than by helping the smallest of the small as we collected baby supplies for Birthright?

Our December field trip to Sarett Nature Center was so much fun. Our curious 4-year-olds listened and learned about how animals prepare for Michigan's cold months. Whether it is by hibernation, camouflage, or going south for the winter, animals in our area are well prepared for the long months ahead. Our Little Lakers will handle the Michigan winter by bundling up! See you all in January!

**January 29th-February 3rd**

Faith. Academics. Service.

**Catholic Schools**

## Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Glotzbach

Junior Kindergarten had a wonderful time celebrating Thanksgiving by sharing God's love with all of those around us. The children expressed how thankful they are for their families, friends and even some food, too. Just days later, we found ourselves in Advent, and there was much to learn with patience being just one important part. Waiting for Jesus' birthday is certainly very hard. We are using our Advent chains and Presents-for-Jesus trees to count down the days.

The Letter People are multiplying in our room. We look forward to meeting a new one each week. Their special songs are very entertaining, and the children are building quite a repertoire.

As the first part of the school year winds down, the Junior Kindergarten students would like to thank **Mrs. Amanda Hirsh** and **Mrs. Kristin LaFlamme** for being our parent helpers. Their extra hands and kind hearts are very much appreciated, and we look forward to welcoming other parents as they join us later in the school year.

## Kindergarten with Mrs. Kuehn & Mrs. Petsovich

The Kindergarteners are in the holiday spirit! We have read and learned about Advent, the birth of Jesus, the shepherds, the wise men, the angels, and the Holy Family! We've also made many art projects to get ready for Christmas.

Oh, the happy excitement over having homework! The children are now reading homework books-in-the-bag EVERY night! How proud they are to take this big step. Teachers and students alike are so thankful for the wonderful parents who volunteered to read with us! The ready recall of letters and their sounds are emerging with increasing ease. When it all comes together to form recognizable words, it is magical...*we are learning to read!* Center time is our favorite when we listen to stories, write, make a project, and work on the computers, too!

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Our field trip to Sarett Nature Center was great. We learned about the Native Americans, how they played, worked, and lived in southwestern Lower Michigan. We even went into a wigwam, and heard a story just as the Native Americans shared stories with each other. We constructed a hacky sack from cornhusks, and learned to play like children did long ago. Every day at Sarett is beautiful but we were grateful for a clear and sunny day to "travel back in time."

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

Everyone in Room 1 is thankful for many things during this holiday season, especially our new student **Elvie**. Elvie and her brother Demitrios in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade are from Aurora, Illinois. We are happy to welcome them into our Laker family. The students also expressed gratitude this season by writing the things we are grateful for on feathers to dress the naked turkey that was lurking about the room. The turkey was resplendent in feathers of many colors and sequins, not to mention our many blessings such as school and family.

In this season that brings many visitors, Gingerbread Fred has been a guest in our homes. Each day Gingerbread Fred embarks on a new adventure, which the children write about and read to the class. The adventures will be compiled to create a book that will be available for your enjoyment at the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Book Show in May.

Thanks to the creative minds at work at the Krasl Art Center, the 1<sup>st</sup> Graders' field trip to see the exhibit "Flow" was an eye-opening experience that explored water as an artistic medium and source of inspiration, and taught about safeguarding this essential natural resource that shapes our land and lives. The Krasl artists instructed basic watercolor techniques and the students created a collaborative seascape.

Understanding that they have received many gifts, the 1st Graders expressed their gratitude to God through their Advent project. Each student did chores around the house to earn five dollars. This chore money was given to **Sister Paulita Walters** for the Readiness Center in Benton Harbor, which does so much to help children and their families.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade with Mr. Deja & Mrs. Fish

*Dear Santa,* I, Horatio, your elf, felt compelled to write you this letter. Do you remember me? I am the elf you took from toys and placed in the Mechanical Division that deals with electronics and other doo-dads after I made that comment about your weight. No offense was meant. I still think you look jolly. My job is not *so* bad, really.

I know that you are having trouble seeing with those trifocals and bushy eyebrows...or should I say eyebrow? When you are looking at your Kid-o-Meter to decide who was naughty or nice, I wanted to remind you—not that you are forgetful—how wonderful the kids are at LMC, especially the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade class. Kind souls, they were involved in many community service projects: Birthright, Christmas gifts for soldiers, and Somalian Relief.

When they were taken to Sarett, their teachers were thanked for bringing in such a fun and respectful group. Even at the Fall Festival, led by the hardworking **Mrs. Baliunas**, they were terrific. It was so much fun. Ahh, I remember when I used to have fun... Pardon me, where was I?

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade is preparing for many faith-filled activities. With the expert guidance of **Mrs. Gallagher**, the students joyfully prepared for their Christmas program. They are also quickly picking up the new words in the liturgy. The students are continuing to ready their hearts and minds for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Forgiveness is a thing we really need to remember, Santa.

Don't forget to add three more Lakers to your 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade list. **Rachel** is already with here, and **Cadence** and **Sophie** are, like you, gearing up for the big day when they arrive. Also, remember that **Keely** will be moving north to Petoskey. Pop in on the way back to the Arctic.

Finally, I wanted you to know that one of the things the kids are working on is class volume. Wonderful as these children are, they don't have volume knobs like I have in the Mechanical Division so they are working on using indoor voices during snack break and dismissal. They are in no way as loud as your "Ho, ho, ho!"—*not that there is anything wrong with that*. I must return to my labors. I do thank you for your consideration. *Your elf, Horatio*

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

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders were amazed by the rapid arrival of December, and in recent weeks, the arrival of two new students, **Demitrios** and **De'Mia**. As we welcome Mitri and De'Mia, we also say good-bye to **Gabi**, who is returning to Brazil. We will miss her but it will be kind of neat to look at the globe, and know we've got a friend a continent away.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders have been moving along strong and steady with their academics. They have been working on their writing skills through creative story writing, *and what creative minds they have!* They have written stories about aliens, saints, and a day in the life of a third grader, and created short plays that taught a meaningful lesson. Their plays were performed with the most charming puppets since Kermit and his friends debuted. Jim Henson must be smiling somewhere. Thanks to everyone who came to watch the shows. We would like to give a special thanks to **Mrs. Chris Glendening** for the long hours she gave sewing our puppets. We truly could not have done it without her.

The holiday season kept us busy by practicing and performing for our Christmas program. We would like to thank **Mrs. Tan** and **Mrs. Gallagher** for the extra practices they scheduled with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders. The hard work certainly paid off because it was a great performance by all the students at LMC. In addition, we all enjoyed our Christmas parties. A warm thanks to **Mrs. Latham**, **Mrs. Golden** and **Mrs. Tan** for planning and attending the festivities. In the midst of the fun, we still maintained generous spirits. During Advent, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders learned the true meaning of giving to others. We gathered gifts for the children at the Catholic Community Center because we know that where there is truly charity and love, there if God.

In January the students are looking forward to writing all their assignments in cursive. In addition, they will be working on memorizing their multiplication facts, and will challenge themselves to do their best on daily timed tests. Everyone will have to work hard to push through the first semester, and keep the momentum going for the second half of the school year.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade with Mrs. Binger & Mrs. LaSata

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade year is moving quickly. The new rules and expectations are second nature to us now, and we are ready to take on all the challenges that the second semester brings. We are so ready that our month-long study of space, which usually begins in January, has been accelerated. The 4<sup>th</sup> Graders are getting a head start on the space race by reading science fiction and non-fiction astronomy books over Christmas break, and will return to school knowing enough of the fundamentals to jump back into our space research and writing.

Immigration is an important part of not only Social Studies but of our Reading unit. We have read many wonderful books from the *Dear America* series. Each of us read a book of our choice and presented the main character's experience to the class. The lesson continued in Social Studies, where we became the diarists, choosing an ancestor to research, and exploring the country of origin and speculating on the journey to the United States. Learning about our ancestors was fun but we also gained an understanding of how different life was in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and of the difficulty of making the passage and establishing a new life in an unfamiliar land. Creating suitcases that contained our ancestors' most dear and necessary possessions helped us understand the humble beginnings of many immigrants' lives in the United States. Returning to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we hope **Bia** has enjoyed her family's 2-year experience in the United States. We have learned a lot from each other, and wish her well as she and her family move back to Brazil.

*continued...*

Given the amount of observation, dissections and discoveries the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade has done, we should consider filming our own television show, *CSI: LMC*. We have dissected owl pellets, sheep eyeballs, and fish. Our forensic assistants, **Mrs. Siglow, Mrs. Stockton, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Hegg, Mrs. Kalamaros, Mrs. Strickler and Mrs. Schley** helped us with our sheep eyes, and encouraged us to explore in the name of science. Among the living, our wriggling mealworms have transformed into scurrying beetles, and soon, they'll be off to the races!

With the lighting of the fourth candle on the Advent wreath and by experiencing the sacrament of Reconciliation, the 4<sup>th</sup> Graders are prepared for the celebration of Christ's birth, and ready to start the new year with clear consciences, open minds, and loving hearts.



**5<sup>th</sup> Grade with Mrs. Miller  
with Newswire 5 Reporters  
Nathan, Matthew & Megan**

Happy 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, LMCE! This year, we have had the honor of being a part of 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration of our beloved school. It's difficult to imagine that just 20 years ago this building didn't exist! To celebrate, we had an all school Mass in the gymnasium. We were excited to be celebrating such an occasion, and are thankful for the people that made 20 years possible! We are very proud for our school.

Lake Michigan Catholic 5th Graders captured the top 3 spots in the Algonquin Chapter DAR essay contest! **Sarah** came in 1<sup>st</sup> place, **Matthew** 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and **Cole** in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The topic was *Young America Takes a Stand: The War of 1812*. Students were to pretend they were alive during the War of 1812 and had a friend who became famous in history because of standing up for America during that exciting but dangerous time. They had to describe the person and how he or she stood up for America. Sarah's 1<sup>st</sup> place essay will now be sent to the state level for judging. She will also present her essay at the Algonquin Chapter meeting at the Whitcomb in February.

As Catholic school students, we often have the great opportunity to enrich our faith. Last month, for example, **Joe Mileski**, a seminarian, came in to teach us about angels. He taught us a lot of information and followed with an in-depth discussion on the properties of angels. We were also able to get a headstart on the new translation of the *Roman Missal*. We started learning the new music in the beginning of the year, and the other new parts of the Mass the first part of December. We didn't have much trouble with the new music since we practiced with Mrs. Gallagher. We used St. Joseph's new music until Christmas, and then we will start using St. Bernard's new music. So far, we have had only had one Mass using the new translation. Mrs. Gallagher led with the new words, and we repeated after her. We'll likely continue doing that until we get used to the new translation.

*continued...*

One of the most exciting things that happened this year was **Mr. Philip Brooks'** visit to our classroom. Mr. Brooks is the author of the book *Maroon Knights*. He came into our classroom to talk about his book and the writing process, and taught us the parts of a novel, which include the theme, setting, climax, conclusion, and much more. After hearing part of his book during his visit, we just had to hear more. Mrs. Miller picked up a copy of his book, and we read it as a class.

LMC was filled with people young and old at this year's Christmas pageant. **Mrs. Tan** and **Mrs. Gallagher** helped us learn new songs and dances to prepare for the pageant. We learned several new songs, including *Feliz Navidad* (Calypso version), *Star Power*, *Shine Though Me*, and *Christmas is OK!* Some 5<sup>th</sup> Graders were embarrassed to perform *Christmas is OK!* since it included a unique hoedown that we performed. "I'm certainly scared!" said **Megan** before the performance. The new songs and dance were not what made this year's show the best. This year we combined machine and man to make an epic show, and it was fantastic.

### **Musical Notes with Mrs. Gallagher**

The sounds of Christmas joy echoed throughout our hallways well before the leaves had fallen from the trees. After weeks of practice, the children's excitement kept growing in anticipation of performing at our annual Christmas programs. Their energy and exuberance could barely be contained, and I offer my most sincere thanks to **Mrs. Stephanie Tan** for her help in channeling the children's energy to create what can genuinely be called a Christmas Spectacular. **Mrs. Tan and her family** shared their musical and technical talents, and brought out the best in all of our students.

As a worship community, we extend our thanks to **Fr. Bill Jacobs** for his gift of a beautiful new *Roman Missal*. The children are doing very well with the "new Mass." On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, they offered up their gifts of prayer and a day of silence as a very special way of preparing for the birth of our Savior. I thank God for these children who have helped me smile through some challenging months—they are the source of my strength and joy, *and they make me laugh!*

## Merry Christmas from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Brownie Troop #30522

Our Brownies have accomplished so much in such a short time. Good job to those who participated in our Fall Nut & Candy sale. We reached our Troop sales goal of \$1,000. Thank you for your efforts!

Several girls donated needed items to Goodwill, and received their "Giving to Goodwill" patch. The girls continued to work in that vein when they participated in the Diocese of Kalamazoo's program, *Mission: Impossible without Christ*. The girls deepened their knowledge of Christ, and how they can act like Him by helping others when they see a need. We spent the day making fleece blankets for children, made beeswax candles for Catholic Ministries, prepared birthday bags for the Catholic food pantry, and created Christmas cards for inmates of a local correction facility. Practicing our Catholic faith through good deeds feels good and compassionate acts can truly make a difference in ways we will never know.

Continuing on our mission to grow in faith, several Brownies are participating in the *Family of God* program. This is a learning tool to further their knowledge of their families, themselves, and how God is interwoven in both. The program ends in the spring when we'll celebrate at the Bishop's Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral.

Members of the Knights of Columbus were our guests of honor at the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The Brownies pledged to help around their homes in order to earn \$1.00. These earnings will be donated at each troop meeting to sponsor the gift of a K of C "Casey, the Brown Bear" to give to a sick child in the Pediatrics Department at Lakeland Hospital.

Our Brownies are a well-rounded group, and in the midst of faith-building and service projects, we spent time experiencing the theater arts in various formats. As audience members, we enjoyed live performance by attending the Kids on Stage production of *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*, and then cinema by seeing the film *Happy Feet 2* on Mom & Me Movie Day. After that it was time to get out of the audience, and get on stage—a puppet stage to be precise. The girls are writing plays, creating the stage, and crafting puppets in order to earn the "Puppets, Dolls & Plays" Try-It badge. As anyone in theater can tell you, it's handy to know how to sew. The "Stitch It Together" Try-It helped the girls learn basic sewing skills that are both creative and practical.

The new year brings incredible events as the Girl Scouts celebrate 100 years with many special events to mark this milestone! It wouldn't be January without GIRL SCOUT COOKIES so save some room in your tummy because we got some yummys coming your way. Tea is a nice accompaniment for cookies so Mrs. Latham and I are trying to coordinate a tea party with the ladies of Whitcomb Tower Retirement Home in January. This gathering is part of our Brownies next Try-it, "Listening to the Past."

Girls, it's never too late to participate in our Brownie Troop's adventures. All 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade girls are welcome to attend a meeting—we know you'll love it.

**Mrs. Vedette Cordes, Leader**  
**Mrs. Susan Latham, Co-Leader**

