



LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2003

From the desk of Mrs. Marino:

Dear Parents,

Thanks to all of you who took the time to complete the survey that was in last month's newsletter. I would like to share the results with you. I wish I had the space to share all the comments, but there are over ten pages! The percentage listed next to each question indicates the percentage of parents who are pleased or very pleased.

- 1) School rules and expectations for appropriate behavior are clear to students, teachers, and parents. 95% (3% no opinion)
- 2) Classes provide a disciplined learning environment. 96% (3% no opinion)
- 3) The atmosphere in classrooms is pleasant, encouraging and warm. 89% (8% no opinion)
- 4) Students are challenged to do their best in school 95% (2% no opinion)
- 5) Report cards give a good idea of the children's progress 86% (10% no opinion)
- 6) Students are learning about computers and the place of technology in their lives 78% (12% no opinion)
- 7) Students with special needs are getting the support they need (from parents with children receiving special help – 88% (12% no opinion)

The comments were extremely positive and the main comment that came up over and over concerned a "warm and caring" attitude and atmosphere found at Little Flower. The surveys, including all comments, have been shared with the School Board members, the faculty, and Fr. Benz. We appreciate your input.

MISSION RAFFLE As some of you, we make missions a very important part of Catholic Schools Week every year. This year will be no exception. We will be having a mission raffle during CSW, the last week of January. We would appreciate any donations you might have for this raffle. All proceeds are dedicated to various local and global missions. Gift certificates, toys, games, sports tickets and items, books etc. would be great. Thank you in advance for your help.

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STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES We have received our students' standardized test scores as well as the averages for the Archdiocese. Our students higher on over 95% of the subtests than the Archdiocesan average. The composite scores (total of all subtests taken) compared to the Archdiocese are as follows:

GRADE	LITTLE FLOWER AVERAGE %ILE	ARCHDIOCESAN AVERAGE %ILE
2	83	68
3	79	78
4	83	78
5	92	78
6	89	75
7	87	77
8	87	77

KIDS IN THE MIDDLE We have started this program for children whose family is experiencing or has experienced divorce, separation, or death. Mrs. Kientzle, Mrs. Spies, and I are the facilitators for the different grade levels. If you did not sign up your child but would like him/her to participate, or if you have any questions, please contact me.

THANKS to Meg Backus for all her hard work on the yearbooks. They came out recently and are wonderful. Meg is busy collecting pictures throughout the year and then compiling everything so that our students can have these great mementos. Thanks, Meg!

PE. UNIFORMS Please be sure to read Mrs. Saeger's input about the PE uniforms. There is some important information there.

GIFTED RESOURCE COUNCIL This organization provides a variety of activities for children. If you are interested in enrolling your child in this program, please see me for information on registration and enrollment. The activities cover all subject areas and interests.

CONGRATULATIONS to our BELLARMINE SPEECH STUDENTS who participated in the meet here at Little Flower in November. Collin McCabe, Amanda Elliott, and Brittany Ponzer won blue ribbons and Sam McCabe, Pauline Gibbons, Jenny Williams, and Gemma Gates earned red ribbons. Great job by all!! Thanks to Sr. Jane for all her help in organizing this program and the meet and for setting up (with the help of some of our

Wishing you a wonderful Advent season. Blessings on you and those you love.

Mrs. Marino

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The Christmas Concert is Tuesday, December 16 at 2 & 7pm. The Pre-K kids need to be in the classroom by 1:45 for the afternoon performance and 7:00 for the evening performance. Ms. Lisa has asked that the Pre-K kids wear nice, holiday color clothing for the concert. The children are looking forward to singing on the stage!

Show-n-Tell will be this Thursday, Dec. 4 and Friday, Dec. 5. Each child needs to bring in his/her favorite book to share with the class. December book orders are due by this Friday. The monthly faculty meeting is Friday, December 12. The PM class attends from 8-11:15. ***The Pre-K class wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!***

Mrs. Amy Mechler

KINDERGARTEN

The class is busy getting ready for baby Jesus' birthday by doing positive act of kindness for their Advent Secret Pal. Everyone is counting the days till the special event on the Advent calendar and praying the Advent wreath prayer each day. A guest speaker will be coming from American Red Cross to speak about healthy eating.

The children will be going to Santa's workshop on Dec. 5. Please send money for them to shop with in an envelope marked with the age of their siblings. Special thanks to those who helped last month by driving to the field trip, baking for the Pow-Wow and cutting projects at home. Thank you Mrs. Thienes, Mrs. Carbrey, Mrs. Bax, Mrs. Cundy, Mr. and Mrs. Derry, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Huber, Mrs. Patton and Mrs. Verzino. The children also enjoyed listening to an Indian folktale told by Mrs. Morgan. Box Top dress down day is December 11.

Happy Holidays to all!
Mrs. Mary Collins

GRADE ONE

The first graders are using the songbooks during school song practices. They have difficulty finding the page numbers and following the words of the songs, so when your family attends Mass on the weekends, please help them.

Many children do not have adequate crayons, glue sticks or erasers. Please check with your child. They may begin using number two pencils in class. Please label everything, including pencils.

Santa's Workshop is on Friday, December 5. Children should bring money in an envelope with their name and the list of people for whom they are buying. Immediate family only.

The primary Christmas Program is on Tuesday, December 16. The performances will be at 2:00PM and 7:00PM. The children should be in the classroom at 6:45PM for the evening performance. Please refer to the Music K-4 insert in this newsletter for details. The December play clothes day for Box Tops will be on Tuesday, December 9.

Have a blessed Christmas,
Mrs. Sue Renz

GRADE TWO

A special THANK YOU to the families who donated books to the Second Grade: COOK, ELFRINK, SHELTON, VERZINO, MORAN, BAKER, SLATEN, BEAN, GREIN. We love reading them.

Reconciliation was a wonderful celebration for our children and their families. It was fun to find out who their Prayer Partners were. Remember that Advent is a time to prepare for JESUS' birth. Encourage your child to do good deeds everyday, as they get ready for Jesus.

The Second Grade is planning the Liturgy for Dec. 19. Please join us if you can.

Friday, December 5---Santa's Workshop

Tuesday, December 9---Play clothes for Box Tops

Friday, December 12---Faculty meeting, Noon dismissal, Show and Tell

Tuesday, December 16---Christmas Program, 7:00pm

Play clothes, Hats, Mittens, and Gloves etc.

Friday, December 19---Second Grade Liturgy

Have a blessed Christmas and a happy and safe New Year! See you next year!

Mrs. Megan Spies

GRADE THREE

December tends to be a very busy month. In Religion, we will discuss the Church's Liturgical Calendar and Advent. The students will present their biographies as oral presentations. Please check the schedule for your child's assigned day for his/her presentation. The students may read their report, but will receive more points if they can present a practiced report by using notes. I will videotape the presentations so that the students can view themselves and write a self-evaluation. The students will take turns bringing home the tape to view. On Thursday, December 18, 2003 the Third Grade will take a field trip to the Magic House. Mark your calendars. More information later. In Math, the Third Graders will add and subtract 2, 3, and 4 digit numbers. These operations are difficult for the students to compute, especially if they struggle with the **BASIC MATH FACTS. PLEASE, PRACTICE MATH FACTS WITH YOUR CHILD EVERY NIGHT, ESPECIALLY SUBTRACTION. MATH FACTS, MATH FACTS, MATH FACTS!**

I want to thank all the parents for the overwhelming response to help me with my graduate course. I greatly appreciate Mrs. Provaznik, Mrs. Cundy, Mrs. Hoffmann, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Osterman, Mrs. Sachs, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Burke, and Mrs. Hamil for observing and completing the observation sheets. I am thankful to the other parents that volunteered, but for one reason or another, the observations did not occur. I feel truly blessed. Box Top dress down day is Friday, December 12.

Mrs. Elaine Kientzle

GRADE FOUR

This is an exciting month for us as we are busily singing our hearts out with Mrs. Vonder Haar in preparation for our leading roles in the Christmas Musical. We can't wait for you to watch us shine! Don't forget science animal reports are due December 8th! ***Please make sure to sign all papers in your child's Monday folder regardless if the word sign is missing. Writing this 100 times a week, I may miss a few here or there. Thanks. ***

Today I will be sending home a booklet of prayers for your family to use each day of Advent. I hope you find them useful. As a class, we will be reflecting on different prayers each day while waiting for the coming of the Christ child.

- ☺ Many Thanks to Mrs. Jill Droege, Mrs. Gibbons, Mrs. Ferry, Mrs. Bean, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Dageforde, Mr. Bean and Mrs. Storey for chaperoning and driving us to the Art Museum. We couldn't have done it without you. ☺ Our Box Top play clothes Day will be Friday, December 5.

I am wishing you & yours a joyous holiday season.

Mrs. Christine Wright

GRADE FIVE

The students in grade five are studying the sacraments including the rites of each sacrament. In November, they enacted the rites of Baptism and Confirmation. During December, they will be concentrating on Eucharist. When they complete this, the students will have a special class Mass with Father Benz.

In math, the class has begun a study of short and long division. (Reviewing multiplication and division facts is needed for this.) They have reached the seventeen hundreds in social studies and are investigating the differences of the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies. The students have begun their study of physical science by looking at the periodic table and researching elements on the Internet.

The Box Top play clothes day will be Tuesday, December 9.

Sister Jane Schaper

GRADE SIX

Can you believe it is already December?! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. The sixth grade had a great time at Trivia Night. They would like to thank Mrs. Zacher and Mrs. Mauk for taking the time to gather all the goodies for the night. Thank you to Mrs. Brauer for the Cardinal baseball ticket vouchers; they were a big hit as the final attendance prize.

In Religion class, the sixth grade will finish the second unit of their book. There will be a test on this unit the second week of December. The focus in Math class will be on adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers (Chapter 5). We will also begin Chapter 6 before the Christmas break, which will be on multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. In Science, the class will finish the Earth Science book studying rocks in the last chapter. December Box Top play clothes day: Friday, December 5.

The sixth grade class would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs. Rose Duncan

GRADE SEVEN

5th, 6th, 7th, 8th News Bowl 2003 Fall Contest

These classes have successfully completed the News Bowl 2003 Fall National Contest Exam, a 50 multiple-choice question contest that reviews the news events of September and October. The following is a list of the student teams and scores. Scores with an asterisk denote Benchmark scores for their grade level. Notice that each of our school teams reached the benchmark for their grade level. Each contest team that achieves a grade level Benchmark Score as listed in the Teacher's Guide wins a popcorn party. Each member of the top team in each grade will receive a certificate for an out of uniform day of his or her choice.

5 th Grade:	LF5	33/50*
6 th Grade:	Fatal Complaint	37/50*
	The Magical Cows	38/50*
	Social Failure	35/50*
7 th Grade:	Arsenal	39/50*
	Flaming Hot Cheetos	32/50*
8 th Grade:	Beast	35/50*
	Melon Heads	37/50*

All students had a wonderful time and are looking forward to the next contest. Remember to consult the Newsbowl Website www.newsbowl.com for fun family news games.

The National Geographic Bee

The next fun activity scheduled for the upper grades is the National Geographic Bee to be held in the school hall on Thursday, December 11, 8:15-9:30 AM. The social studies classes prior to the Bee will focus on geography and will have classroom contests to determine the school team.

7th Grade

In social studies classes the 6th Grade has finished studying Ancient Greece and will begin studying Ancient Rome. The 7th grade has begun their study of Europe with the United Kingdom & Scandinavia. In their study of American history, the 8th Grade is studying the years just prior to the Civil War. December Box Top play clothes day: Friday, December 5

Sr. Janet Vietor

GRADE EIGHT

Happy Holidays! Congratulations to Ben Clark who won third place in the St. Patrick Center “Essays to End Homelessness” Contest! (There were over 100 entries from area schools!) The 8th graders look great in their new class sweatshirts! Thank you for sending in all the paper products for November Giving Day, as well as supporting your child in donating blankets for Energy Care. We’ve had a great response! The students will sell raffle tickets (.25 each or 5 for \$1) Dec. 1-5 at lunch to raise money to purchase bikes for the boys of our adopted family for Christmas. Prizes include candy-filled piñatas donated from World Market (thanks to Mrs. Wright) and four front row reserved seats for the Little Flower Christmas Program. Students have also volunteered to bring in nonperishable food, small gifts, and candy for the children in the family (we will need these by Dec. 9).

The Veterans Projects in the hallway were well done and really are a nice tribute to those who served our country! We are focusing on developing story elements in our writing, which will result in the writing of their “best short story.” Adjectives are our focus now in grammar. In Religion, through liturgy groups, we have planned our Dec. 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Mass. Please join us! Students will be asked to research a few saints in preparation for Confirmation (they will be given written guidelines). The week of Dec. 1-5, the students will be taking part in the Right S.T.A.R.T. program sponsored by the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office (which focuses on pro-life and sexuality issues). Please send in your Box Tops for play clothes day on Dec. 5.

*****6th-8th:** All students who are writing essays for the County Library’s “Dream Weavers” contest (celebrating Black History Month) need to turn them in by Dec. 2 for extra credit so I can deliver them to the library. Also, I’ve encouraged all students to consider submitting original poems for publishing in *A Celebration of Young Poets* (they can win prizes, too!)—Poems are due Dec. 1 for mailing.

7th Grade English & Literature: We enjoyed our trip to Cahokia Mounds to enhance our Native American literature unit and have finished *Walk Two Moons*. We are working on using vivid vocabulary and will apply this through creating pop-up storybooks next. In English, we are completing the pronoun chapter.

6th Grade English & Literature: We have finished our novel and are focusing on stories in the Literature textbook. In English, students have been tested over the first half of the pronoun chapter.

Have a wonderful and Merry Christmas, and a peaceful New Year!

Mrs. Julie Purschke

COMPUTER



The computer lab now has a SMART Board. The SMART Board is an interactive device and with the combined power of a projector and a computer, it can do everything you do on your computer and more. The SMART board will be used with students as well as teachers as an interactive working, training, and learning tool. It works by simply touching the SMART Board and you can highlight key points, access applications as well as web sites. Notes may also be written on the SMART board by using specific electronic ink.

Mrs. Jacqueline Campbell-Lawrence

LFPE NEWS

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have a lot to be thankful for, especially our children!

*I am growing out of closet space at school and no longer have room to store extra PE uniforms. Therefore, we have been in contact with the Catholic Supply Store to handle all of our PE clothing (in all sizes). I will set a date this month to sell the remaining pieces that I have. Until further notice.

Just some suggestion to keep your children active during this Holiday Season:

1. **Jumping rope**-is not only a great aerobic exercise, but it will also increase your jumping skills in basketball.
2. **Christmas Caroling**- walking around singing Christmas songs, not only for exercise but also because it's spiritual.
3. **Playing cards or board games**- stimulates the mind and is fun!
4. **Walking through your neighborhood to look at all the beautiful Christmas lights. Make it a game, find the house with the most lights.-**
5. **Dancing - turn on some fun music and see what happens**
6. **Going to The Heights; swimming, basketball, Christmas camp?**
7. **Inviting a friend over to play**
8. **If weather permits- biking**
9. **Ice-skating**
10. **Planning dinner and taking turns cooking**

Have a wonderful, Merry Christmas and I will see you in the New Year.

Mrs K. Saeger

Parent Homework Tips:

1. As much as possible, establish a Homework Schedule wherein your child does their homework the same TIME and PLACE each evening.
2. Assist your child in prioritizing or ranking assignments. Oftentimes, a student will waste time trying to decide which assignment to do first or often leave to last a lengthy project.
3. Be a homework resource...not a partner. Don't sit next to your child as she completes her homework. Go about your activities and have your child call you or come to you if they need assistance. Check in chunks, look at her paper half way through to avoid having to do the entire assignment over.
4. When checking your child's homework accentuate the positive. (" Maria, these eight spelling words are perfect and neat. But I think you will want to take another look at these two...")
5. Homework should not take all evening. The child needs some rest time. If the assignment takes all night, notify the teacher and inquire about the assignment.
6. Discuss the study or review questions with your child BEFORE she reads the chapter. In that way, she is better able to comprehend material.
7. Remain calm during the homework time. Keep in mind homework is given to review and reinforce that day's schoolwork.

Happy Holidays!
Mrs. Janet Mohler

PRE-K THROUGH 4TH GRADE MUSIC

IMPORTANT INFO ON THE CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

The performance is on Tuesday, December 16th at 2:00 and 7:00. The students are to wear nice Christmas clothes (no jeans), except for the few 4th graders whose parts require something else. Every child in the 1st – 4th grades needs to have a flashlight with fresh batteries, and marked with his/her name by December 3rd. Also, if you have any battery-operated candles that we could use for the performance, please send them in. Again, please make sure to mark your name on them. The night of December 16th the students are to be in their rooms at 6:45. (The doors will not be open until that time). Thanks for your help and cooperation with all of this!

PLEASE make sure to work with your child to memorize the songs for the performance. They have been assigned a song or two a week to be working on so that after Thanksgiving we won't have so much of that to worry about. Zade Dirani (the pianist from Jordan who played for us Friday, Nov. 21st) was fantastic again. The children (and parents who attended) seemed to enjoy all that he had to share with us. He is such an incredible individual, and is an inspiration when you think of what all he's accomplished in his 22 years of life!

Please save any cardboard tubes from wrapping paper for our 4th graders who will be making rain sticks from them after the beginning of the New Year. Send them to me in the music room. Thanks to those parents who have been able to help with the Christmas performance. It definitely takes some of the pressure off me, and enables me to concentrate on the production.

Have a wonderful and blessed holiday season!
Mrs. Lisa Vonder Haar

MUSIC 5-8

8th grade has just completed their Unit 2 Exam – covering understanding of time signatures and mixed meters. They have also been exposed to theater music and jazz, specifically the music of Dave Brubeck. Also – they have learned how to conduct patterns in 2, 3, 4, and 6, as well as compound and irregular meters.

7th grade has been studying about the rhythm, specifically, sixteenth notes and faster rhythms. In doing so, they have also been exposed to more African-American spirituals and the early 20th century style of ragtime, and the composer Scott Joplin. 7th grade has also been working hard at the Music Ace program!

6th grade has been working hard learning about the major scale and the basics of the piano keyboard, dealing with half steps and whole steps. They also have had practice playing along with melodic accompaniments for a couple of famous works of music like the Can-Can (Offenbach).

5th grade has been studying about the pentatonic scale and continuing their knowledge of solfegge (do-re-mi-fa-sol-la-ti-do!) They are learning about partner songs and about African-American spirituals and Jamaican calypso music. 5th grade is also doing great at Music Ace!

All students, while continuing their experience of sight reading, will again this year be learning about famous classical tunes from our heritage and some fun facts about them!

The Little Flower Choristers (our parish children's choir grades 3-8) continues to sing very well for the glory of God. I am so very proud of all of them!

Miss Angie Hahn now teaches some piano lessons at Little Flower School on certain days at selected times. If interested, students should call the school office to get her phone number. Thanks to Miss Hahn for offering lessons at our school!

Have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas!
Mr. Barreca

OFFICE NEWS

- **PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION....**Pre-K registration for the 2004-2005 school year, will begin on Monday, January 5, ending Friday, January 16. If you are interested in enrolling your child in Pre-K, please call the school office to pick up a registration packet or have one sent home with an older sibling. **You must have your registration packet, with the registration fee, to the school office by Friday, January 16 to secure a spot.** There are limited spots available and we do have a long waiting list for the Pre-K program. Registration for children entering grades K-8 will begin March 1, 2004.
- The price of graph paper has been raised from \$.75 to \$1.00.
- All-school play clothes giving day: December 16 –
Please send in Hats or Gloves as your donation. Thank you.
- **Box Top play clothes dates:**
Kindergarten: December 11
1st grade: December 9 5th grade: December 9
2nd grade: December 9 6th grade: December 5
3rd grade: December 12 7th grade: December 5
4th grade: December 5 8th grade: December 5
- **Thursdays Hot Lunch Menu:**
December 4th- Chicken Tenders (2), chips, carrot sticks (3) w/ranch, brownie
December 11th- Taco Boats and 2 cookies
December 18th – Toasted Ravioli (5), sauce for dipping, carrot sticks (3) w/ranch, brownie

Hot Lunch reminder: Orders will not be accepted after the due date unless a child is absent the day the order form is due. Any orders turned into the school office will be returned.

- **December Field Trips:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade(s)</u>	<u>Place/Event</u>
December 18	2 nd & 3 rd	<i>Magic House/Classic Tour</i>
- **HELP!!**
We are in need of Band Aids (plain and assorted sizes), Q-Tips, Dixie Cups, ketchup packets (it takes 8-9 packets to make "ice bags"), and re-closable sandwich bags. If you would like to donate any of these items to the school office, we would appreciate it. Thanking you in advance.

I HAVE READ THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

FAMILY NAME (please print)_____

PARENT SIGNATURE_____



C.Y.C. BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

When: Sunday, December 14, 2003

Time and Location: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.—School Hall

Prices: Adults- \$4.00 Children- \$2.00 (pay at door)

Menu: scrambled eggs, ham, doughnuts, coffee, milk, and juice

****BRING YOUR CAMERA****

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE DECEMBER

LADIES CLUB MEETING

When: Monday, December 1st

Time & Location: 7:00 pm - Pray the rosary in the church

7:15 – Welcome – in the School Hall

7:30 pm – Meeting

December is the annual Ornament exchange. To participate, bring an ornament (\$10 limit, wrapped) with you to the December Meeting. This is always a fun event that is sure to get you in the holiday spirit!

We will be hand-painting ornaments as our craft for the evening. There will be an assortment of ornaments from which to choose; supplied by Paint-Me-Pottery, who will also be firing them. The cost per ornament is \$10.00. All ornaments will be ready for pick-up at the Ladies Club Luncheon, December 7th. (If you need your ornament earlier, please indicate so at the meeting.)

We are also offering this craft activity to your children. If you would like your child/ren to paint an ornament, bring them to the school hall from 5:30 – 6:45 pm on December 1st. An adult must accompany them and supervise this activity. They will be able to choose and paint their ornament at this time. All children must be gone by 7:00 for our general meeting. There will be babysitting in the music room starting at 7:00 for everyone with a need.

If you are interested in having your child/ren participate in this activity, please sign them up (a sign-up sheet will be in the school office & in the St. Joseph chapel), or contact Melissa Menne @ 647-8145.

As always, Pot-O-Gold, refreshments, holiday appetizers provided by the board and Holiday Cheer!!

Please invite a friend. All are welcome

PTA NEWS

On behalf of the PTA I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Fall Festival and the Halloween mixer a success. I especially want to thank Betty Dageforde for organizing all of the volunteers, Meg Backus for donating the 8th grade raffle prize, Meg Backus and Kelly Maduekwe for setting up, working and cleaning up at the Fall Festival, Maggie Storey for shopping for all of the food, the Shelton's and the Bax's for loaning us their grills to grill the hot dogs and a big thank you to Jeff Saeger for getting the hay wagon and spending his evening giving hay rides. I also would like to thank Rich and Erin Provaznik, Mia Elfrink, Eric Tivoli, Brad Brauer, Mary Sullivan, Bill and Ellen Carmody, Maggie Storey, Suzy Pfeiffer and Tracy Hornsey for spending their Halloween night working the mixer and cleaning up afterwards.

Thank you so much, we couldn't have done it without you!

Mrs. Betty Ponzer