



LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2003

From the desk of Mrs. Marino:

Dear Parents,

Attached please find a survey. This has been written by Mrs. Julie Saeger for a graduate class that she is taking at UMSL. Mrs. Saeger has subbed for us for quite a while including covering maternity leave for Mrs. Wright last year. This information will be compiled for her class. Any names mentioned in the survey will be deleted before she hands in her findings. In addition to this benefiting Mrs. Saeger, we will also have access to the surveys and will use these for our own self-evaluation. Please take a few moments and complete the survey. **Please return them no later than Monday, November 10th.** Thanks for your participation.

If you have access to used paper that is clean on one side, we would appreciate your donating it to us.

Angela Hahn, a piano teacher, would like to offer piano lessons here after school. If you are interested, please contact her at 314-680-5021.

A big **THANK YOU** to **Mrs. Talasek**, mother of McKayla in sixth grade. Mrs. Talasek teaches art at Fontbonne University and has shared her time and expertise with our junior high students. Mrs. Talasek specializes in pottery and has generously donated all materials for our students to create their own pottery. In addition, she has fired the pieces for us as well. Thank you, Mrs. Talasek. We are grateful! If you have attended one of our all-school liturgies, you might have enjoyed hearing McKayla play the violin.

I hope you have taken some time to go over your child's report card with him/her. This provides the opportunity to discuss work habits, successes, and areas needing improvement and setting goals for the next quarter. If you have questions or concerns, please jot them down and bring them to your scheduled parent-teacher conference.

For November Giving Day, we will collect food and personal items for a food pantry. Grades are asked to bring the following items:

- PK Cereals
- K Canned Vegetables
- 1 Canned Meats (stews, chili's etc.)
- 2 Noodles, Pasta, Boxed Potato Mixes
- 3 Spaghetti Sauce
- 4 Canned meats (stews, chili's, etc.)
- 5 Condiments
- 6 Canned Fruit
- 7 Noodles, Pasta, Boxed Potato Mixes
- 8 Paper Products (paper towels, toilet paper, etc.)

On Friday, **November 21** at 7PM, we will have a **Trivia Night** in the school hall for all students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Admission is \$3.00. This includes a soda and snacks. Additional sodas may be purchased for 50 cents. There will be prizes. Please encourage your child to attend. We had a great time at last year's Trivia Night.

(Continued on Page 2)

Thanks to the Little Flower Knights of Columbus Organization. They have graciously offered to provide the postage for our report cards this year. If you have already stamped your envelope, stamps will be reimbursed to you. They also donated a large box of Tootsie Rolls for me to give out to the children. I think I'll wait until after Halloween since they will probably have their fill. It is so nice to have these treats available for the children for a special occasion or just as a surprise.

Thanks to **Mrs. Osterman** for again this year organizing the field trips and special presentations here at school for the children. This is a time-consuming job and she always does a great job. The schedule includes many interesting and enriching activities.

Thanks to **Mrs. Suzy Pfeifer** for chairing the school fundraiser. This is a time-consuming job requiring great organization skills. Thanks to Suzy's leadership, we raised \$8,700!!

Thanks to **Mrs. Renz** for organizing our special reading day on November 11th. She has lined up many readers, including the mayor of Richmond Heights, Mr. Tim Gallagher, Mr. Paul Lore, and Mr. Mike Jones, Richmond Heights councilmen.

Thanks to **Mark Connelly** who helped us get KTRS radio personalities, Margaret and Bridget Kelly and Kevin and Sue McCarthy.

Congratulations to **Mrs. Kientzle**, our third grade teacher. She will be receiving the Emerson Award in November for outstanding teacher. Mrs. Kientzle will be receiving her award at the Ritz-Carlton with other teachers from both public and private schools. We are proud of you, Mrs. Kientzle!

Mrs. Collins shared an interesting article from the Post with me and I thought many of the facts were interesting and even alarming. According to 1,065 parents surveyed for the national study done by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Children's Digital Media Centers:

- 25% of children under the age of 2 have televisions in their bedrooms.
- 67% of children under the age of 2 use some kind of screen media (computer, DVD, television) on a typical day, for an average of about two hours a day.
- For children under the age of 6, the average of two hours a day spent with screen media is more than three times the amount of time they spend reading or being read to.

In a class that some of the teachers and I attended presented by the Learning Disabilities Association, it is speculated that children, particularly those with ADD/ADHD should never go to sleep with the television on. Even though they are sleeping, they are constantly bombarded by stimuli and the brain is continuously stimulated. Try a bedtime story, prayer, or quiet conversation and then allow your child to go to sleep in a quiet and non-stimulating environment.

Beginning November 17, students will no longer be wearing shorts. Please make sure slacks follow the uniform code. No cargo pants, please.

I wish all of you a blessed Thanksgiving. May it be a time of unity in your families and a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner!! God bless.

Mrs. Marino

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The 4yr. old classes had a great time at the pumpkin patch. We were blessed with a wonderful day. The kids enjoyed going through dark mazes, seeing live animals, and taking a wagon ride. Thanks to Mrs. Marino and all the parents who went on the field trip. Show-n-Tell will be this Wednesday, November 5 and Thursday, November 6. Each child can bring in a picture of his/her family to share with the class.

Snacks, for the month of November, are due by the end of this week. The monthly faculty meeting is Friday, November 21. The AM Class attends. A BIG thank you to our room mothers, Bea Pollard, Kathleen Dawson, Brooke Rintoul, Joann Grein, Jenny Workes, Melissa Menne, and Ann McDevitt for planning a spooktacular Halloween party.

Mrs. Amy Mechler

GRADE FOUR

In science we are learning about all types of animals. Next week, each student will be given the name of a vertebrate or invertebrate to research and a report requirement sheet. Due date information will follow. They may want to use the Internet or public library books for this as well.

In Reading we have begun to read the story The Hundred Dresses. It is a touching story about the effects of taunting and teasing and the lessons learned from it. We are reading it in class with many follow up activities done individually or in a group setting. They will have a final test on it Tuesday, November 11th. We will have our Box Tops play clothes day on Wednesday, November 5th. I hope your Thanksgiving holidays are filled with special times and great company!

Mrs. Christine Wright

GRADE FIVE

As November begins the students in grade five will have completed their first Halloween service project. They helped out in many ways in school or in the neighboring area. In reading they have begun the second theme and are reading selections about people who worked to reach their goals by using their talents. They are finishing their study of adjectives in English and will be using the knowledge to improve their writing skills. In science they are completing their study of life sciences and moving on to investigate elements. For their private reading they will choose a Newbery Award book to read. Upon completing it, the students will give an oral report. The Box Top play clothes day will be Friday, November 14.

Sister Jane Schaper

GRADE SIX

Isn't it amazing how fast time goes by, already the first quarter is over and we are into the second quarter! In Religion the class will continue their study of the Old Testament with the focus being on Moses and the Exodus story. Chapters 4 and 5 in Math will be on fraction theory and adding and subtracting fractions. Science class will focus on the study of rocks and minerals.

A big thank you to the following parents who drove and chaperoned the sixth grade on their service projects: Bradley Brauer, Jackie Gibbons, Judy Osterman, Joan Provaznik, Mary Sullivan, and Mary Tramelli. This project is a wonderful learning experience for the students and cannot be done without your help. Thank You!! Box Top play clothes day will be Friday, November 14.

Mrs. Rose Duncan

GRADE SEVEN

The News Bowl fall contest for 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grade Social Studies Classes will be November 3rd through November 26th. Each class team will take the fall contest exam on the Internet. The contest will cover news from September and October. Be sure to encourage your child to watch the news. Also, there is a free activity quiz page for students to do at home with parents at: www.newsowl.com. Bookmark this site and take the "Question of the Morning" and the weekly Mr. News Owl interactive family game that can be played between parent and child. Please participate in this fun activity with your child.

In social studies class the 6th grade class has begun the study of ancient China. The 7th grade is studying the cultures and geography of the continent of South America. The 8th grade has covered the founding of our country, the Presidency of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson. They continue their studies with Madison, Monroe, J.Q. Adams and Jackson. In Art Classes, all students have been creating some form of Mosaic. In addition, the 6th grade has been very busy continuing their projects in clay. November Box Tops play clothes day for 7th grade will be on Tuesday, November 4th.

Sr. Janet Vietor

GRADE EIGHT

Hopefully you have been receiving my parent letters every other week or so with important information. Please check with your child. Congratulations to our class officers: Helene Sargent (President), John Gibbs (Vice President), and Maggie Biller (Secretary)! We have finalized our sweatshirt designs and the students have agreed to pay \$10 towards the total cost of \$20. The 8th graders worked hard selling raffle tickets at lunch and helping out at the Fall Festival! Great job! They raised \$245 for their class trip and sweatshirts! Thank you to the parents who helped. There are still many opportunities for service to our parish throughout the year (Ladies Club babysitting, bulletins for the parish on Fridays, special lunches, speech meet on Nov. 8, etc.). The students have volunteered often! Please remember to sign up for conferences and that your child attends with you to go over the high school application process. Students are currently working on their Veteran Projects that we will display as a "Wall of Honor" for Veterans' Week. If we meet our goal of 100, Box Top play clothes day will be November 17. High School Open House, November 2; Cahokia Mounds field trip, November 14; High School applications due, November 19; Right S.T.A.R.T. parent meeting, November 24.

7th Grade English & Literature: We are studying pronouns and the writing process. Students have turned in their Native American legends and we continue to read *Walk Two Moons*. I will be collecting their reading response notebooks. Thank you for working with them on the parent reading assignments! We will be visiting Cahokia Mounds on Nov. 14 to enhance our Native American Literature Unit.

6th Grade English & Literature: We have been preparing for our "How To" demonstration speeches and writing (due Nov. 10) and are studying pronouns. The students have finished *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and are working on culminating activities.

Mrs. Julie Purschke

FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL GRADES 6-8

CONGRATULATIONS!!

SIXTH GRADE

FIRST HONORS

Austin Brauer
Pauline Gibbons
Megan Guinn
Danny McCarthy
Jenny Williams

SECOND HONORS

MaryEllen Carmody
Michael Dryden
Zack Mills
McKayla Talasek
Dominic Tramelli

SEVENTH GRADE

SECOND HONORS

Robby Connolly
Amanda Elliott
Catherine Gould
Matthew Storey
Amanda Tivoli
Nicholas Troll

EIGHTH GRADE

FIRST HONORS

Ben Clark
Steve Portnoy
Helene Sargent
Kelley Storey

SECOND HONORS

Charlie Backus
Timothy Gallagher
John Gibbs
Hannah Murray
Jessica Slattery
Tom Weber

To make the First Honors list, a student must have all A's or above in every subject area (including all special areas, i.e. art, computers, P.E., and music).

To receive Second honors a student must have all B's or higher.

Congratulations on accomplishing such a feat!

COMPUTER

Fall is here and students in the lower grades are busy working on a variety of autumn and Halloween activities. The upper grade students are busy perfecting their skills in keyboarding and Microsoft Works, but they also get a chance to work on some holiday activities.

One of the sites our younger students visited was <http://www.halloweenkids.com/> We did the coloring and game activities. There are several other activities that students can work on; you can also find safety tips as well as costume and pumpkin decorating ideas.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and so I would like to include these websites. The first is a crossword puzzle for the upper grade students and the second is a word search puzzle for the younger students.

<http://homeschooling.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.sunniebunniezz.com/puzzles/thankcr.htm>

<http://www.billybear4kids.com/games/online/search/thanks.htm>

Mrs. Jacqueline Campbell-Lawrence

LFPE NEWS

The Kindergarten class just finished their "Locomotive Skills Train" meaning they passed their motor skills testing on which we have been working. Congratulations! If they want to color their train and turn it back in I will display them. Since the beginning of school we have been working on stretching. In October we practiced throwing Frisbees and had a Frisbee contest. Frisbees were flying everywhere! Once we finished up our soccer unit we went into our team sport running games. So they have been getting good exercise this month.

The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders went bowling and I/we would like to thank: Mrs. Matula, Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Mary Connelly, Mrs. Cundy, Mr. Elfrink, Mr. Brauer, Mrs. Tramelli, Mrs. Talasek, Mrs. Provaznik, Mrs. McCabe, Mrs. S. McCarthy for driving and the teachers for adjusting their schedules. We bowled 2 games and I think the students had a nice time. A "thank you" to all the 8th grader captains that did a wonderful job at the bowling alley. I appreciate your help keeping your team well-behaved.

The LF Pro bowlers this year is:

- 7th grade- Joel Saeger with a 183 Congratulations!
- 6th grade- Austin Brauer with a 152 Congratulaitions!
- 8th grade- Maggy Biller with a 125 Congratulations!

Now that the weather is changing and the children have to remember they have a jacket or coat to be responsible for, it is advisable to print their name on the tag. These items get left everywhere and end up in the "Lost and Found"! I've seen very nice clothing left that no one claims. Also, I still see LFPE uniforms without names!!! Please check those.

Mrs K. Saeger

Tips for Parent-Teacher Conferences

Just as a teacher must prepare for the conference, so should a parent. Here are some tips for how to make the most of your time.

1. Talk to your child before the conference.

Ask your child what he/she would like you to discuss at the meeting. One way is to say, "I'm going to a meeting with your teacher; what will she tell me?" Your child's response will give you ideas for what to discuss with the teacher. If your child responds, for example, that the teacher will say she is struggling in math, or that she talks all day long, then you should address these issues in the conference.

2. Ask questions.

Come to the conferences with a list of questions regarding your child's academic and social issues. Some good questions to ask include:

- * What are my child's strongest and weakest subjects?
- * What can I do at home to extend my child's learning?
- * Is my child working up to his or her ability? If not, what can we do to change that?
- * How well does my child get along with classmates?
- * How do you evaluate my child?
- * How can I challenge my child if he is excelling? How can you support my child if he is falling behind?

3. Share information about your child.

Teachers need your help as they educate your children. No one knows your child better than you. The more you share about your child- both strengths and weaknesses, medical and social issues and family home life- the better the teacher will successfully meet his/her needs.

4. Raise issues of concern.

Plan ahead of time how you will raise issues of concern. When expressing concerns be tactful, but not so much that you don't communicate the problem clearly. Listen to the teacher's response to the problem. Then work together to find a solution.

5. Take notes.

Write notes during conferences especially if you have multiple conferences.

6. Make the most of your time.

Conferences are brief and scheduled. Arrive on time and try not to bring babies or young children to the conferences as they can cause distractions. Then remember to share what you have learned at the conference with your child. Focus as much as possible on the positive aspects. It is essential that your child understand that you and the teacher work as a team to support him/her and to make his/her school experience the best it can be.

Mrs. Janet Mohler

PRE-K THROUGH 4TH GRADE MUSIC

Tryouts for 3rd and 4th graders for parts in the Christmas performance have already begun. If your child gets a part, please make sure to work with him/her to learn the part. This helps tremendously in the outcome of the performance. All of the 3rd and 4th graders will need a flashlight for the performance. They will need to have them in before Thanksgiving. Please make sure they have fresh batteries, and that they are marked with your child's name. (I am hoping to have the 1st and 2nd graders use flashlights, too; but have to work out the motions with the 3rd and 4th first to make sure it will work). I will also need some parent help to cut out LARGE stars for the students to then decorate and wear for the performance. I am waiting to see what kind of "boards" we are able to get donated to use. If you have access to any form of used foam/poster board that we could use, please let me know. Also, please let me know if you can help cut out stars.

The majority of class time in the coming weeks will be spent learning songs, movements, etc. for the performance. If you have time to help with speaking parts, or are creative with "staging ideas" for the performance, please let me know. Some of the students in 3rd and 4th grades are struggling with their theory. Please take time at home to review their study guides with them. I have found that making flash cards can be a very beneficial study tool for them to use. I can give them handouts of all the things they need to learn so that all they have to do is cut them out and paste them on an index card, and then use their study guide to write the definition/description on the other side of the card.

Mrs. Lisa Vonder Haar

MUSIC 5-8

Our first quarter has been great!

8th grade has just completed their Unit 1 exam, which contained important music vocabulary terms and a large listening section getting them to differentiate between and identify major styles of music and their similarities and differences. They will begin working on the Spring musical around Christmas time.

7th grade just completed their Unit 1 exam, which contained important music vocabulary terms and the listening identification of dynamics, musical texture, syncopation, and tone colors of orchestral instruments. We will begin the Music Ace computer program in November!

6th grade will take their Unit 1 Quiz the last week of October. This mostly involves listening identification of musical ensembles/instrument families, and music vocabulary. To further reinforce music reading, we will be working with the colored plastic "BOOMWHACKERS" in various lessons throughout the year – these are fun and very educational!

5th grade just completed their very first Unit Quiz with an analytical listening section as well as music vocabulary. Their first Unit covered melodic direction and rhythmic dictation. We will begin the Music Ace computer program in November!

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 (Children's Choir) did GREAT at their first weekend Mass! I'm so proud of every one of them! It's going to be a great year!

Mr. Barreca

OFFICE NEWS

- Buzz Book Update: Rick and Sally Peat (daughter Maxine), 1489 Remington Oaks Terrace, Fenton, MO 63026, 636-225-8417.
- All school play clothes giving day: November 25
- **Box Top play clothes dates:**
Kindergarten: November 20
1st grade: November 18 5th grade: November 14
2nd grade: November 17 6th grade: November 14
3rd grade: November 21 7th grade: November 4th
4th grade: November 5 8th grade: November 17
- **Thursdays Hot Lunch Menu:**
November 13- Chicken Tenders (2), chips, carrot sticks (3) w/ranch, brownie
November 20- Taco Boats and 2 cookies

- **November Field Trips:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Place/Event</u>
November 11	Kindergarten	Visiting the <i>Arch Museum</i> to see "American Indians"
November 13	Fourth	<i>St. Louis Art Museum</i> /Arts in the Basic Curriculum Program
November 13	Grades K thru 6 th	<i>History Museum to Go</i> presenting "River Roads" at school
November 14	Third	<i>St. Louis Zoo</i> "Insectarium"
November 14	Seventh & Eighth	<i>Cahokia Mounds</i>

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Santa's workshop will be Friday, December 5. Collection baskets for donations will be in the school and church the first week of November. As always we are in need of gifts for Dads and boys. A note to our newest families; Santa's workshop is an opportunity for our children from Pre-school to 4th Grade to shop for their families. Every item will be \$1.00 or less. A large portion of the items is donated, which helps to keep the cost down. Volunteers will be needed once again with the set up on Thursday and the sale on Friday. If you are able to help, or if you have any questions: please call, Margaret Watkins 647-6514.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The second grade Brownie troop 1604 will be collecting eyeglasses for the needy through November. The collection will go to the Lions Club and they will distribute the glasses. Please donate your used glasses in the boxes at the doors of the church or at the school entrance. We would really appreciate it. Thank You.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The 3rd Annual Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the school hall on Nov. 5-6 during conferences. The students will be given the opportunity to fill out wish lists on Tuesday, November 4 and Wednesday, November 5. The teachers fill out wish lists of their own. Please consider purchasing a book for your child's classroom or the school library. Proceeds benefit the school library. Sales tax will be collected on purchases. Any questions call Joan Provaznik 645-2479 or Sarah Condit 645-8072.

THANK YOU!!

On behalf of the boys of Little Flower Cub Scout Pack 337, we would like to thank everyone who purchased glow necklaces from us this month. With the new Tiger Cubs joining our pack, we will have over 30 Cub Scouts and Webelos here at Little Flower! The money raised from this fundraiser and others throughout the year will help us offset the financial burden of our yearly re-chartering fees, training and registration fees for the many volunteer leaders, to Boy Scouts of America as well as enable us to provide our boys with the many unique experiences that only Cub Scouts can provide. The adventures are endless and priceless! If you and your son are interested in joining Cub Scouts, please contact Matt Verzino @ 647-8407. Again, thank you for your support.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Beginning with the November 10th meeting, the Little Flower School Board will meet the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the school music room. All meetings are open to the public. If you have an item for the School Board, please contact Mrs. Marino at 781-4995 or Bob Shelton at 647-5807. School Board agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the Web site at www.little-flower-parish.org.

Please join us for the November

LADIES CLUB MEETING

When: Monday, November 3rd

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

7:15 - Welcome - in the School Hall

7:30 pm - Meeting

Our November meeting promises to be an exciting one! First, Mr. Steve Portnoy will be joining us to demonstrate techniques of self-defense and safety awareness.

Mrs. Jenny Works is a representative for PartyLite candles; she will give a brief presentation, with orders being returned in time for the holidays.

The Book Fair will also be set up for anyone who wishes to make purchases. As always, there will be pot-o-gold, refreshments and lots of socializing. We hope to see you there!

Milk Money For Nov-Jan

Please complete the bottom portion of this form and return it,
with payment, to school by **Friday, November 14, 2003.**

Current Charges as Follows

Chocolate Milk \$6.37
White Milk \$6.37

Note: One Form per Family Please!!!
(Detach and return lower portion)

Student's Name	Grade	Type of Drink	Amount
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
Total Due:			_____

Please make checks payable to **Little Flower School Committee**. Families with more than one student can pay with a single check. Kindergarten is required to have a drink for their snack. Extended kindergarten may order a drink for lunch.

Extended K - Monday 1.30
 Tuesday 1.30
 Wednesday 1.30 White Choc
 Thursday 1.17 (Circle One)
 Friday .65

Please add the amounts for the days your child stays and add that to the snack amount.
Any questions, call Joan Provaznik @ 645-2479.

PLEASE ATTACH EXTRA PAPER FOR
RESPONSES IF NECESSARY

How many children who live in your home...

- 1 Attend this school? _____
- 2 Also receive special education assistance and have an IEP? _____

Please rate the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5...

5- if you are **PLEASED** i.e. "You really like the way the school does this."

4- if you are **SATISFIED** i.e. "You think the school is okay here."

3- if you are not sure, or if the statement does not apply to you.

2- if you are **CONCERNED** i.e. "You think there are problems here."

1- if you are **VERY CONCERNED** i.e. "You think the school does not do this well, and that there are serious problems here."

		CIRCLE ONE				
		Very Concerned	←-----→			Pleased
		1	2	3	4	5
3	School rules and expectations for appropriate behavior are clear to students, teachers and parents.	1	2	3	4	5
4	Classes provide a disciplined learning environment.	1	2	3	4	5
5	The atmosphere in classrooms is pleasant, encouraging and warm.	1	2	3	4	5
6	Students are challenged to do their best in school.	1	2	3	4	5
7	Report cards give a good idea of the children's progress.	1	2	3	4	5
8	Students with special needs are getting the support they need.	1	2	3	4	5
9	Students are learning about computers and the place of technology in their lives.	1	2	3	4	5
10	Other	1	2	3	4	5
11	How do you know if there is a problem with your child's learning? How do you find out more if you are concerned?					
12	Do you feel there is a sufficient amount of communication between parents and teachers? How would you like to improve or increase the communication?					
13	What are some strengths of the teaching staff (including the principal) at Little Flower?					

14 In what areas would you like to see improvement with the teaching staff (including the principal)?

15 Any other comments?

Thank you!!