



Little Flower School Newsletter September 2003

From the desk of Mrs. Marino:

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful, smooth beginning we have had for this school year. Thank you for your attendance at the open houses. I hope you all had the opportunity to order the school shirts and sweatshirts you'll need for this year. Just a reminder: **All orders for these items are due in the office no later than September 5th.**

Our theme for this year is "*We are many parts; we are all one body.*" Our goal is to celebrate our differences and our various gifts and talents. Although we do not have a significant "bullying" problem, we are being proactive with our anti-bullying pledges. If you have not as yet signed and sent yours in, please do so right away. My definition for bullying is anyone who uses his/her power over another person to make that person feel less confident and less safe. This can be name-calling, teasing, pushing, shoving, neglect (treating someone as if he/she does not exist or has no importance), exclusion and so on.

On behalf of the faculty, I want to express our thanks to the Ladies Club for their generosity again this year. The teachers were able to receive so many items on their "Wish Lists". We are truly grateful.

THANK YOU for your cooperation at dismissal. It is going so smoothly. If you didn't receive the red note concerning dismissal procedures, please ask your child for it. I appreciate your patience, which helps to ensure our students' safety.

More information will be forthcoming about the dates of the Parent Human Sexuality Meeting and the Odd Girl Out book club.

If you are a family who is or has gone through separation, divorce, or death of a loved one, please seriously consider allowing your child(ren) to participate in **Kids in the Middle**. This is a 12-week program that addresses issues, concerns, fears etc. that children experience when there are changes in the family structure. Several of our teachers have been trained as facilitators and will lead a session once a week in their classroom during lunch. Students eat their lunches and share their feelings through this structured program. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to see that they are not alone and can present their feelings in a safe and non-judgmental setting. Please complete the portion at the end of this newsletter and return.

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Then we can order the materials and get started.

If you are reading this on paper and do have access to the webpage, **please, please** let us know so that we can cut back on paper and printing costs. The money we save can help alleviate a tight budget and provide more tangible materials for your child(ren).

If you signed up for cafeteria duty, never fear, I will be sending out a schedule. I like to do this task myself for the first few weeks to make sure the students are understanding the rules and procedures before I ask you to come in. I will be getting in touch in with you and I thank you in advance for your willingness to help with this duty.

I am so happy to be back to school this year. I look forward to an exciting year of growth and learning for all of us. God bless you.

Mrs. Marino

Pre-K

Welcome back to school. I hope everyone had a great summer. The Pre-k class will be busy the next few weeks making new friends and becoming familiar with our daily schedule. Please make sure your child has all of his/her supplies in by the end of this week. The monthly Faculty Meeting is Friday, September 26. The AM class attends.

Mrs. Amy Mechler

Kindergarten

The class is off to a great start! The boys and girls are practicing positive ways and getting to know all their new friends. Please return the kindergarten shirts. Also, notify the office at the end of the month informing us of the days your child will be participating in the extended day program for the upcoming month. **Thanks** to Colleen Williams and Pauline Gibbons for helping in the classroom. A special "thank you" to Nancy Burke and her boys for hosting the open house. Box Top dress down day is September 25.

Tab Top Pandemonium

Help us collect tab tops for Ronald McDonald House. It takes 1,267 tab tops to make one pound. The money is used to provide a "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill children receiving treatment in St. Louis. Please send the tabs to school for a special contest in October. Thanks for your support.

Mrs. Mary Collins

Grade One

The first graders have had a super start. They have been very busy learning about God, reviewing the alphabet letters and sounds, learning new words, practicing their printing, and working with numbers. They have also been learning about the calendar and bears. They have been very, very busy! Despite the heat, they have been real troopers surviving their long days. Thank goodness for our air-conditioners!

The class has "show and tell" on most Friday afternoons. The children may bring items in for this activity. Please schedule pets ahead of time. Book orders are due on Friday, September 5. Box Top play clothes day is September 30.

Mrs. Sue Renz

Grade Two

Welcome back to school! I hope your summer was fun, and a little bit restful. The children are excited and eager to get back to work. We will begin by reviewing reading skills and math facts. Please be sure to read with your child every night. Also, practice math facts, addition and subtraction, 20 minutes every night. The children will have homework almost every night. Be sure they check their backpack and folder every morning before leaving for school. If you need to get in touch with me, please leave a message on my voicemail, or send a note in your child's assignment notebook. I'm looking forward to a fun and productive year. We'll be seeing a lot of each other as the children prepare for their Sacraments.

Monday, September 1, No school.

Monday, September 22, Standardized Testing ----- Continues through Friday.

Tuesday, September 23, play clothes day, \$0.50 due.

Friday, September 26, Faculty meeting, half-day, SHOW AND TELL!

Tuesday, September 30, play clothes day for Box Tops.

Mrs. Megan Spies

Grade Three

I enjoyed meeting with all of you at the Back to School Night. The Third Grade is settling in despite the heat. They are learning how to utilize the assignment notebook as a vital learning and organizational tool. Please, check and sign every night. You may write messages to me in it, also. We will begin mind mapping our summer vacation as a prewriting exercise. Using the writing process, the students will write a paragraph about one summer event. Each Monday, a Monday Folder containing student work and important information will be sent home. Also, located in the Monday Folder, will be a third grade newsletter, **The Third Grade Highlights**. The students need to bring to school an art shirt labeled with his/her name. This shirt will also be used as a lab shirt in Science. You should be working on addition math facts with your child. Remember your son/daughter should be reading for 10 minutes every night. With all of us working together, your child will have a successful year. Play clothes day for Box Tops is Friday, September 26.

Grade Four

The 4th grade is off to an excellent start. In math we are reviewing place value to the millions. Our 1st reading theme is American Stories. Currently we are reading Tanya's Reunion- a sequel to the 3rd grade story Patchwork Quilt. If anyone has a family quilt to send in for us to learn about and discuss, we would love it. We also made a classroom quilt with our names and personal information, which is hanging outside our room. Our Box Top play clothes day will be Fri. Sept. 5th. This year your child will also be taking the cognitive portion of the standardized test. This brings the total number of testing hours to eight. Please make sure your child gets extra sleep & a good breakfast & snack the week of Sept. 22nd.

Mrs. Christine Wright

Grade Five

The fifth grade students are off to a great start. In art they are drawing the front of their houses from memory. They are studying nouns in English and have completed a successful experiment in science. In math they are investigating large numbers and know that 2,000 reams equal a million sheets of paper. The students are also learning interesting facts about each country, and by the end of the year, they will have a map showing the first, second, and third world countries. Play clothes day for Box Tops is September 19.

Sister Jane

Grade Six

Welcome back! I hope all of you had a wonderful and relaxing summer, I know I did! I am looking forward to another great school year.

In Religion, the students will be studying the Old Testament with the main focus during the month of September on the creation stories. Math class starts with a review of place value, adding and subtracting whole numbers and decimals, and multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals. In Science, the students will begin their study of Earth Science. The first chapter will cover plate tectonics and then we will move on to the study of earthquakes and volcanoes.

We've had a wonderful start to the school year. The uniforms look great and it seems everyone has their supplies. It was wonderful seeing everyone at open house and I look forward getting to know each and everyone of you this year.

SEPTEMBER BOX TOP PLAY CLOTHES: FRIDAY, SEPT. 5

Mrs. Rose Duncan

Grade Seven

6th, 7th, 8th Social Studies

The curriculum for each of the classes this year is as follows. The 6th grade will study world history, starting with ancient cultures. The 7th grade will study world geography, the physical and cultural geography of the various regions of the world. The 8th grade will study American history beginning with the colonial government to the present. In addition to this each class will have a weekly news bowl. This current events quiz game is 74 questions and answers published each week for the News Bowl school members. The questions are assigned point totals for difficulty. There are many games and activities available with News Bowl Weekly. The main goal of News Bowl Weekly is to provide students with exciting fun activities that deal with current events. The questions are written so students can guess at the right answers and have fun. The activities are mostly cooperative learning with emphasis on social and communication skills for students. Play clothes day for Box Tops is September 19th.

Sister Janet Vietor

Grade Eight

The 8th grade Class of 2004 is off to a great start as leaders! We are serving on patrol duty, bringing up candles representing the gifts of the Holy Spirit at the first mass, and planning our Leadership Mass for Sept. 4 (please join us!). Students will really need to get out there and sell, sell, sell for the wrapping paper fundraiser as it will pay for Leadership Camp (Sept. 17-19). We will choose class officers after camp that will lead our class. If all goes well, students will get to design their class sweatshirts also. 8th graders will also earn money for their class trip by helping out with special lunches and selling ice cream. In order to prepare for Confirmation, students need to be keeping a log of service hours (total of 20) and begin thinking of a sponsor and saint name. This month, they will create spotlight posters for English/Writing class highlighting themselves, their grade school memories, and their goals for the future. If our class brings in 100 Box Tops, our Box Top play clothes reward day will be Sept. 29.

***For more information and grade 6 & 7 language arts tidbits, log on to my website:
www.expage.com/mrspurschke

Mrs. Julie Purschke

LFPE

I'm looking forward to PE this year! I want to thank The Ladies Club for supplying me with new equipment. I'm sure the student's will be glad to see some new pennies, balls, and cones. I am sending 2 forms home, one is your child's Injury/Illness form that is required to be filled out and turned in. This information is very important to me, so please make sure you fill this out. Secondly, there is a form for 4th - 8th grade parents, which allows your child to walk down to Richmond Heights Field with their class to use the facilities.

PE classes are Monday and Wednesday. Please make sure your child has the proper attire; LFPE uniform and tennis shoes. The uniform only pertains to the 3rd-8th graders, but everyone requires tennis shoes. We advise K-2nd grade girls to wear shorts under their jumpers on PE days. Please NOTE: we cannot accept PE clothes dropped off at school after 8am. I allow your child to miss 3 times per grade period before it affects their grade.

The determination of grades can be difficult in Physical Education class. The philosophy of the S.H.A.P.E. Program, for which I work, emphasizes participation rather than ability. If the child is willing to participate, tries hard, displays proper behavior, wears the PE uniform, and shows good sportsmanship the results are rewarding. Sportsmanship in class is of the utmost importance! I stress the difference in PE class where we have fun, exercise, and learn new games to the competitive weekend soccer games...

Mrs. Kathi Saeger

COMPUTER

Welcome back to the new school year, I am hoping you have all had a wonderful summer. We have two new programs that the students will utilize this year. They are "Inspiration" and "Kidspiration". Inspiration is a visual learning tool that can be used across the curriculum for Brainstorming, Critical Thinking, Organizing, Mapping concepts, Diagramming, and Outlining. "Kidspiration" is an easier version of Inspiration created for younger students in grades K-3. As students use "Kidspiration" to organize and create stories; it helps them build strong thinking skills with visual learning. Fifth graders will be starting their formal Keyboarding lessons. Sixth and Seventh graders will be continuing their keyboarding and the Eighth graders will be starting out with Introduction to computing using Microsoft Works.

I am at School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. I am available for students needing additional help during my lunch period. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to leave a message on my voicemail and I will get back to you. I am looking forward to another wonderful and productive year with the students.

Jacqueline Campbell-Lawrence

MUSIC 5-8

Welcome back everyone! Students in grades 5-8 music are off to a great start!

8th grade will be beginning the year studying different styles of music – and about the cultures from which they come. Some examples are reggae, African, and Western Music.

7th grade will begin the year dealing with time signatures of duple and triple meters. They will also be exploring the popular styles of music. We will begin the Music Ace computer program soon!

6th grade will begin the year with an exposure to different types of musical groups or ensembles – the band, marching band, orchestra, rock group etc. They will be exposed to much of the music these groups play – including some from the 1920's and 1930's!

5th grade is off to a great start – we will begin the year being exposed to some different musical customs from different cultures (including our own), including various processions. Also – students will be learning about some different kinds of instruments from other cultures. We will also begin the Music Ace computer program soon!

The Little Flower Choristers (Children's Choir) is now in its 3rd year. This year it will be open to 3rd through 8th graders. The choir serves the parish and school community by singing every few weeks at a Sunday Mass and periodically at School Masses. It's great fun! There will be a flyer coming home soon! Looking forward to another great year in upper grade music!

Mr. Barreca

WELCOME TO PRE-K THRU 4TH GRADE MUSIC!!

I look forward to another wonderful year with your daughter/son. I will give you a brief overview of the year. The main question I continue to get from parents is "what is music theory?" The easiest way to understand what your child needs to learn for music theory is to review the study guide I gave out on the first day of school (to grades 1 – 4). Your child should have it in her/his music folder. We review these terms in a variety of ways such as playing games, doing theory papers, incorporating what we've learned in the songs we sing, and using instruments. I also give "tests" on these terms a few times throughout the year; but always give at least a week's notice so that they know to study.

Another common question is "WHY do they need to learn theory?" I will quote some information from "Don't Forget to Teach Music" to better answer this question. "A quality music program is made up of several components, the most important being the teaching of basic music concepts, or "music theory." This includes notes, rests, and symbols that are the basic "language" of music. Greater enjoyment of music comes from **performing** it, and students are better able to perform music when they have mastered the musical language that enables them to perform competently."

Recorders are used by the 3rd and 4th grades. This is a great way for them to integrate what they've learned in theory, and to hopefully be able to "perform competently." In order to play an instrument, they need to know that notes are written, how long to hold each note, and how to count each measure. This should give them quite a sense of accomplishment! A few students have a great deal of difficulty with the recorder largely due to not understanding their theory. These students will need to work harder and practice at home. I know this can be "trying" to those at home, but please try to tolerate it as in the end they usually do sound quite good. At the end of the year I do have each student play something individually for me... this plays a major part in each 4th grader's grade.

If I have the class play in a performance, I also test them to make sure they can play the piece. If they can't, and are unable to come to me before the performance to show that they've learned it, then I'm afraid that they are not allowed to play in the performance. This may seem harsh, but it's very difficult for the other students to keep on track if someone next to them is playing the wrong thing. (I do send home a note prior to this if your child is having difficulty so that hopefully she/he can practice more at home to get it down.)

Throughout the year every class is exposed to a variety of songs, many of which we either play instruments to or dance to (as well as singing to them). Most of November and December is used for learning the songs for our Christmas performance. I can always use help with the performance, so if you would be able to help, please send in the form located on the next to let me know. I usually need help with costume ideas, stage "set up," and working with those students who are doing readings. I hope your child enjoys music class as much as I enjoy teaching them!!

Mrs. Lisa Vonder Haar

Fall Fling November 8, 2003

The First Annual Little Flower Fall Fling will be held on November 8, 2003 at St. James the Greater School Gym. This event is like no other and its success depends on you. A small group of volunteers have met throughout the summer to insure an evening full of surprises. Entertainment is being provided by THE FACTS OF LIFE. This is a popular local band offering a medley of oldies but goodies. Also, Marty and Julie Carbrey have coordinated games for the evening. We have Mouse Races, Pro Golf Challenge, Pop a Shot and a Bubble Hockey Tournament. The Bubble Hockey Machine will later be raffled off to a winning ticket holder.

Mary Troll has contracted Russo's Catering to provide appetizer stations along with a dessert and coffee bar. The menu includes; BBQ Shrimp, Spring Rolls, Beef Tenderloin Sandwiches, Veggie Wraps, Sesame Chicken Skewers, Chicken Chipolte Quesadillas and Pot Stickers. A full service bar will be provided with two options available for your choice. Ticket price with a cash bar is \$25 and ticket price with a full open bar is \$35. In order to maintain a moderate price, ticket price only includes the actual cost of the event. **The ability for the event to raise funds is dependant on donations from both our church and school families which will be auctioned off that evening.**

Many of you have already or will soon be contacted by a neighborhood representative for items to contribute to baskets, which will be auctioned off during the evening. Vikki Dryden, Joy Kiefer, Amy Humber, Dona Glomb and Missy Bax have all spent a great deal of time coordinating this and the baskets' themes sound absolutely wonderful. Judie Lore has spent her summer soliciting local businesses asking for their support. Suzy Pfeifer, head of parish solicitation, and this committee need **your support**. If you have access to tickets for sporting events, golf excursions, leisure activities or any new items, please consider contacting Suzy @ 781-2790. It is our goal to provide a fun filled evening offering our adult parishioners and school parents an opportunity to get to know one another in a more casual setting. Dress is strictly blue jeans! But we also need to make this a financial success to help defer costs for school families.

If you would like to obtain more information about the Fall Fling, or would prefer to volunteer to work the event versus attending, please contact Kim McCabe @ 645-0965. So remember, mark your calendar, call a few friends and watch your mailbox for your invitation to the First Annual Little Flower Fall Fling.

Garage Sale

Little Flower is hosting a parish wide garage sale on October 4. Items for donation are still being collected. The next drop off date is Saturday, September 6, 2003 at the north entrance of the church basement from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A pre view sale will be held on Friday, October 3. If you need assistance with items or would like to volunteer to help with this sale, please contact Beth Chmelir

KIDS IN THE MIDDLE

____ I would like my child(ren) to participate in the Kids in the Middle Program. I understand there is no charge involved for participation.

Parent Signature

I HAVE READ THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

FAMILY NAME (please print)_____

PARENT SIGNATURE_____

Mrs. Lisa Vonder Haar

I would like to help with the Christmas performance. Please list times/days that are better.

NAME: _____ Phone: _____
(Please print)

Day

Time
