



**LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2004**

From the desk of Mrs. Marino:

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2004-05 school year. The first week of school has gone smoothly, and the only tears have been shed by a few parents watching their little ones walk through the school door. Another "rite of passage" in their lives.



You will see the butterfly many times this year. As you many of you know, last year we were given a \$1000 grant to design and plant a butterfly garden. You can see this garden near the carport in the rectory yard. Based on this wonderful addition, our theme this year is SOAR (Striving for Outstanding Achievement and Respect.) Each member of the community is challenged to strive to use his/her gifts and talents to the maximum and to demonstrate respect in word and action.

This year we have four students who have severe allergies to peanuts and peanut products. Sometimes an allergic reaction can be life-threatening. To insure a safe school environment we will be implementing some very important accommodations.

- **A posted NUT FREE table has been established in the cafeteria. The school/cafeteria staff will be sure that this table is thoroughly cleaned of any food or food residue containing nuts because one of these children could have a life threatening reaction by just touching a small amount or peanut butter. Students sitting at this table cannot have peanut butter or snacks containing nuts, such as granola bars, brownies, cookies, or M&M's either plain or peanut. If an allergic child were to ingest peanuts, he/she can go into anaphylactic shock, which is a life-threatening allergic reaction. For this reason their parents will provide all snacks and food for this child. All children eating in the cafeteria at this time will need to clean their hands before going out to the playground to decrease the risk of accidental contamination of shared equipment or surfaces.**
- **Because of these risks, we are requesting NUT FREE snacks for kindergarten and pre-k students. (Please read all labels very carefully. It is surprising how many food products contain nuts!)**
- **We do have appropriate medication available in the kindergarten and pre-k classrooms and with the students, as well as an emergency plan. We are doing all we can to reduce the need to implement the plan.**
- **We appreciate your understanding and support in meeting these important accommodations. We anticipate a safe and healthy school year for all of our students.**

At 8:00AM, on Wednesday, September 15th, we will be taking the picture of all the students in a large group on the playground (weather permitting). If you have a pre-k student who does not normally attend on that day, please make an attempt to bring him/her by 7:50 so that we can include everyone. You can see last year's picture hanging in our school office. One of our dads, Jeff Saeger, has been kind enough to take the photo each year and to provide the print for us. Thanks again, Jeff!

It is very important that you read this entire newsletter. I am not repeating what the teachers have included in their columns, and there is some very important information throughout the newsletter. I know this one is quite long, but there's so much to tell you at the beginning of the year!

Please remember the importance of communication. The teachers are reachable by voicemail, e-mail and good old-fashioned written notes. Please allow 24 hours for responses on voicemails and e-mails as there are days when teachers have duties or no planning periods and are unable to check all electronic messages. But please let us know your questions or concerns. Early communication is key to a successful year.

God bless you!!
Mrs. Marino

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone had a fun summer! Pre-k classes begin on Tuesday, September 7. I am looking forward to an exciting school year!

The monthly faculty meeting is Friday, September 24. The AM class attends and the PM class has the day off.

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 and the All About Me poster.

Thanks to Jenny Williams and Megan Guinn for helping in the classroom and at Open House. Thanks also go to Fred Vargas and Chris Baker for their computer expertise. And a special "thank you" to Nancy Burke for hosting the open house. Box Top Play Clothes Day is September 23.

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, bears, and the Olympics. They have been very, very busy!

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 10. Box Tops Play Clothes Day will be on Tuesday, September 28.

Mrs. Sue Renz

GRADE TWO

WELCOME BACK! I am looking forward to an exciting year. Please remember to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. Box Tops Play Clothes Day will be on Tuesday, September 21.

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. The first weeks of school, the Third Graders will tend the butterfly garden – water and weed. They will make a sketch of the garden while learning the names and purpose of the plants. What a great way to learn about their environment. 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**. Each student needs 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. Box Tops Play Clothes Day will be on Friday, September 24.

Mrs. Elaine Kientzle

GRADE FOUR

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer. I am so excited to be here at Little Flower. As many of you know, I have been a substitute teacher for Little Flower over the past few years. I also filled in for Mrs. Wright when she was on maternity leave two years ago. I know we are going to have a great year.

In Math, we will begin the year with a review of place value. Our Reading theme will start off with stories about journeys. Box Tops Play Clothes Day will be on Friday, September 10.

Mrs. Julie Saeger

GRADE FIVE

Welcome to fifth grade!

On Friday, August 27, each student will be asked to discuss a book that he or she read during the summer. This will, hopefully, make others want to read more.

Students will begin the year in social studies investigating the fifty states and sharing the information with their classmates. This will be accomplished by using the *State-by-State Atlas* found in the classroom. This will reinforce their social studies class that begins with the geography and regions of the United States.

The first unit in science deals with living things and ecology. The class will include many simple experiments that will reinforce the concepts

Please continue to collect and turn in Box Tops for Education. Our first Play Clothes Day will be on Friday, September 10. I am looking forward to a great year.

Sister Jane Schaper

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. Looking forward to seeing everyone at open house and getting to know each and every one of you this year.

The 6th grade class will be preparing and participating in the Liturgy on Thursday, September 23rd. Box Tops Play Clothes Day will be on Friday, September 10.

Mrs. Rose Duncan

GRADE SEVEN

7th Grade

The 7th Grade class began the new year by taking a quiz on our Catholic Doctrine. The students surprised themselves at how well they did on this. The focus of this year's religion studies is The Story of Jesus as revealed to us in the New Testament, particularly the Gospels. The 7th Grade welcomes Jack Newsham to our Little Flower School community.

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 event quiz game contains 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. Box Tops Play Clothes Day will be on Friday, September 3.

Sr. Janet Vietor

GRADE EIGHT

Welcome back to school! My name is Mrs. Lucier (that's loose ear) and I am really excited to be a part of Little Flower School! My family and I have just returned to our beloved Saint Louis after a thirteen year stint in Dallas, Texas. Although Dallas was wonderful to us, we are thrilled to be back in Cardinals/Rams/Blues Country! I'm looking forward to Leadership Camp, Confirmation, and all of the other 8th Grade activities that we have planned. Hang on....we're beginning the fastest year of your life! Box Tops Play Clothes Day will be on Friday, September 10.

Mrs. Margaret Lucier

LEARNING CENTER

Stomach cramps, sweaty palms, and shortness of breath; don't let this be your child. Standardized tests are the week of Sept. 20-24th and are used as a tool to best know your child's strengths and weaknesses. Listed below are some reminders to help alleviate the anxiety of testing week.

1. Stick with your usual bedtime routine, no late nights.
2. Be sure some breakfast is eaten before school. Be creative if you need to because this meal is very important.
3. Don't plan "extra" extra curriculum activities that week.
4. Encourage your child to do their best. Let them know they already have a lot of information. Send them off with a positive attitude on testing.
5. Avoid scheduling doctor's appointments as it disturbs the testing schedule.
6. Homework will be at a minimum that week so allow your child some down time.
 - A special note to 8th Grade Parents: Remember these scores are transferred to desired High Schools and can affect their applications

Mrs. Janet Mohler & Mrs. Pat Bubash

Computer News

Welcome back to the 2004-2005 school year. Hopefully you have had a wonderful and restful summer.

Thanks to the very hard work of **Fred Vargas** and **Bill Weiss** over the past eighteen months, the computer lab now has Windows 2000 Professional refurbished computers with Microsoft Office 2003.



The 8th grade class will be using A Guide to Microsoft Office 2003 to learn applications such as Word, PowerPoint and Excel. All the Right Type is used for our keyboarding classes which will be the main focus for the 5th, 6th and 7th graders. The 3rd and 4th graders will be using books called Computers Made Friendly for beginners and intermediate levels, as well as Kid Pix and Kidspiration. K-2 will be using programs such as Baileys Book House, Kid Pix and Sammy Science which is designed to enhance the basic skills for early learning.

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 me 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.

Mrs. Jacqueline Campbell-Lawrence

LFPE NEWS

Welcome back to Little Flower PE class newsletter. I am happy to be back and I am looking forward to a great year! We are starting off with our Soccer Unit this month. The younger ones will be learning and practicing skills while the older ones will be working the soccer ball, either at Richmond Heights Field or on the school lot.

Any child (grades 4th - 8th) that is on an asthma **Inhaler needs to be aware that if we go to the Richmond Heights Field they are responsible for bringing it or using it before we leave, if needed. Please inform your child to feel free to come to me with any problems whatsoever without hesitation. **ALL HEALTH INFORMATION FORMS THAT I SENT HOME NEEDED TO BE FILLED OUT AND SENT BACK BY FRIDAY AUGUST 27TH.** It is important to me because it is important to you...Also I sent a form home to the 4th -8th grade parents to be signed that gives us permission to walk to Richmond Heights Field as a class throughout the year.

Just a reminder - PE is on Mondays and Wednesdays; please help your child get on a schedule with their PE uniforms. If they miss PE Class twice in one grade period you will receive a warning note to inform you of their zeros. Please sign that immediately and have your child put it in my mailbox before the next PE Class. If a child misses and receives 1 more zero in that grade period, it will affect their grade for that period.

If you have any questions please email me at www.little-flower-parish.org under teacher staff and I will get back with you as soon as I can. Good Luck to all the Little Flower Soccer Teams this season! Teamwork is the name of the game...

Thank You for your attention,

Mrs. K. Saeger

MUSIC 5-8

Welcome back everyone! Hope all have had a great summer.

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 with 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!

7th and 8th grade will be participating in the Archdiocesan Elementary Song Festival this coming spring. I'm getting excited about this already!

The Little Flower Choristers (Children's Choir) program is now in its 4th year. It will again be open to 3rd through 8th graders. The program will be structured a bit differently this year, with some additional singing opportunities available. The children's choir program serves the parish and school community by singing every few weeks at a Sunday Mass and periodically at School Masses. It's great fun! More info coming soon! Looking forward to another great year in upper grade music!

Mr. Barreca

PRE-K THROUGH 4TH GRADE MUSIC

I look forward to another wonderful year with your child. I will give you a brief overview of the year. Your child (grades 1-4) should have a music folder for class. He/she will be given a theory study guide on the first day of class that should be reviewed throughout the year. The terms on the guide are used and reviewed during the year through various papers we do; games that we play; and incorporating what we've learned in the songs that we sing, and the instruments that we use. I also give tests on these terms throughout the year; but will always give at least a week's notice so that the children have time to prepare. Every class is also exposed to a variety of songs, many of which we either play instruments to or dance to (as well as singing to them.)

Many ask, "Why do children need to learn theory?" I will quote some information from "Don't Forget to Teach Music" to better answer that 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 when they have mastered the musical language that enables them to perform competently."

In order to play an instrument, they need to know what notes are written, how long to hold each note, and how to count each measure. Recorders are learned by the 3rd and 4th grades. This is a great way for them to integrate all they've learned in theory and to hopefully enable them to "perform competently." 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 the theory. These students will need to work harder and practice at home. I know that this can be trying to those at home, but please try to tolerate it so that they can achieve that sense of accomplishment. (Imagine a whole classroom filled with a class playing recorders!) At the end of the year I do have each student play something individually for me... This is a major part in each 4th grader's final grade. I often have the class play the recorders during one of our performances. I test them prior to the performance to make sure they can play the piece and participate in the performance. In the event a student is not ready for the performance, I will send a note to you ahead of time so you can help them.

The 2nd grade class will be playing kazoos. I've used these the last couple of years, and the students really enjoy them. The fourth grade class will once again be making rain sticks. This is a project each fourth grade has greatly enjoyed. I need much parent help in this project, and a note will go home after the first of the year explaining the project, and asking for help. (Without parent help I would not be able to do this project!) I also hope to have the other classes involved in making some kind of instrument after the first of the year.

Our Christmas performance is on Tuesday, December 14th. We spend most of November and December learning the songs that we'll sing. Only the Pre-K thru 4th grades are in this performance, so they all really shine in it. We learn a couple of songs at a time, and the students are given the words to these to learn for "homework" so that by the beginning of December we no longer have to have them holding the words during practice. Since it is the 4th grade's last year with me, I always highlight the class by giving every student some kind of special part. (More information on that will be sent home to 4th grade parents by the beginning of November). I greatly appreciate any parent help that I can get in putting on the performance. I can use ideas for simple costuming ideas (and help putting them together), decorating the stage, working with speakers, etc. Please consider volunteering to help, and send in the form below if you can. I hope your child enjoys music class as much as I enjoy teaching them!!

Mrs. Lisa Vonder Haar

Please sign and return bottom of page. Thank you.

YES, I can help with the Christmas performance.

NAME _____
(Please print)

PHONE _____

Days/Times that is good _____

OFFICE NEWS

- **GREAT NEWS!!** Mrs. Mary Connelly has volunteered to be our school nurse. She will be available in the office most days, except for Wednesday, from 12:00 to 1:00. Mrs. Connelly will dispense medication, fix scrapes and bruises, take care of all paper work, and be available for any questions or concerns the office may have regarding the care of a student. This is a great asset for our school! **THANK YOU MRS. CONNELLY!!**
- A big **THANK YOU** to Mrs. Joan Provaznik and Mrs. Nancy Burke for all their help selling the supplies for the students!!
- All school play clothes giving day: September 14 *****FUNDRAISER RAISER BEGINS TUESDAY, AUGUST 31!!**
- **Box Top play clothes dates:**
 Kindergarten: September 23
 1st grade: September 28 5th grade: September 10
 2nd grade: September 21 6th grade: September 10
 3rd grade: September 24 7th grade: September 3
 4th grade: September 10 8th grade: September 10
- **Thursdays Hot Lunch Menu:**
 September 2 - Chicken Tenders (2), rice, applesauce, and dessert
 September 9 – Macaroni and Cheese, salad w/ ranch, Italian bread, and dessert
 September 16 - Taco Boats, and dessert
 September 23 – Hot Dog (1), chips, corn, and dessert
 September 30 – Toasted Ravioli (5) w/ spaghetti sauce for dipping, carrot sticks (3) w/ ranch, and dessert
REMINDER: Lunch order forms are not accepted after the due date. These lunches are ordered in advance to insure that there is enough food available for those that have ordered.

Tip: Before you return your special lunch order form to school take a moment and write down on the monthly calendar the meals you ordered for your child(ren).

DISMISSAL AND MESSAGES: If you need to get a message to your child(ren) through the school office, please call the office no later than 30 minutes before dismissal. All notes to the teachers or students are picked up from the office at 3:00 p.m. on regular dismissal days, 11:50 a.m. on half days, and 2:20 p.m. on Tuesdays (song practice). We realize that things pop up at the last minute but it is very important that you try to call in advance. It is important for the teacher and students to have the last ten minutes of the day uninterrupted as this is when all important information is handed out and students are packing up to go home.

On Tuesdays the students have song practice. They leave the building at 2:30 p.m. If you are picking your child up early please send a note to the teacher. The teacher needs know if the student is to stay in the school office or go to church for song practice (you will need to sign your child out at the office and then walk over to church and pick him/her up).

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.

I HAVE READ THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

FAMILY NAME (please print) _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

Yes, I have the Internet and I will not need a newsletter sent home beginning the month of October _____

No, I do not have the Internet and will need a copy sent home each month _____

FAMILY NAME (please print) _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

VOLUNTEERS

Little Flower School and Parish is blessed to have an abundance of volunteers willing to help with our children in many, many ways. In order to do our best to protect the children, there are 3 requirements all school parents and volunteers, who work with children, need to complete. This coming December, each parish of the Archdiocese will be audited to be sure we have completed the following elements:

- First, **all** volunteers must attend a Protecting God's Children workshop. Many of you have already done this. If you are a new volunteer, or if you have not attended a program, you must do so **before November of 2004**. Please check the attached schedule of upcoming dates or check the website, <http://www.archstl.org/children/children.html>. Please let Maggie Storey (781-8490) or Pat Williams (647-0826) know which session you attended.
- Second, **all** volunteers must complete a background screening request form for a Child Abuse-Neglect/Criminal Record check. Many of you filled this out with your school registration packet last spring. If you did not fill this out, please contact one of us and we will send another copy. Please complete and send to school immediately.
- Third, we need **all** volunteers to **read and sign** the "Code of Ethical Conduct for Clergy, Employees, and Volunteers Working with Minors" attached to the back of this newsletter. Please return the signed form immediately. Anyone who has not completed all **three** requirements by mid-November, 2004 will not be allowed to volunteer with the children.

Please help us to accomplish this major task and do our best to keep our children safe. If you have any questions about the forms or requirements, please call Pat Williams or Maggie Storey. Thank you.

TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER

Within the week a statement will be sent home showing the amount your rebate will be from April 15 to August 30. Attached to the newsletter each month is an order/tuition rebate form. Fill them out and send to the office in an envelope addressed to Mrs. Provaznik. Thank you for your help in making this program a success!

Summer Bowling

Results - This summer 36 students participated in the Summer Bowling League. The results were - **First Place Team/Bumpers** – Madeline Nathe, Joey Pinkowski and Jack Gallagher. **First Place Team** – Austin Brauer and Carolyn Brunsen. **High Games** – Joey Pinkowski 122, Ellen Dryden 120, Collin McCabe 168 and Ashley Slatinsky 140.

SIGN UP FOR CUB SCOUTS

WHEN: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH @ 6:00 PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH AFTER 10:30 MASS IN THE SCHOOL HALL

More info will be sent home with your son from school prior to these dates. Please contact Matt Verzino 647-8407 or Melissa Menne 647-8145 with any questions.

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the room parents, in order to defray the costs of Halloween treats, Valentine treats and decorations for the school picnic float, we are asking that each child bring in six (6) dollars. **GRADES K-8.**

- \$2.00 Halloween treat
- \$2.00 Valentine treat
- \$2.00 School picnic float

Also, if you would like to take care of Christmas gifts at this time, you may contribute whatever you would like for the following:

- **Classroom Teacher's Christmas Gift** Enter amount \$ _____
- **Teacher's Appreciation Gift** during Catholic Schools Week Enter amount \$ _____

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The Fall Fling committee this year has asked that each student donate one (1) dollar for the purchase of theme baskets to be auctioned off at the Fall Fling. This event is a fundraiser for the parish.

Family Name _____ Enter amount \$ _____
(Please print)

You may pay for the gifts and Fall Fling by check
Make checks payable to:
LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Any question or comments please call Nancy Burke@ 314-781-7131

Return to school Friday, September 3. Thank you!

**Little Flower School
1275 Boland Place
Richmond Heights, Missouri 63117**

August 30, 2004

Dear Parents,

Little Flower school is able to provide a truly quality education for many reasons. One of the reasons is the money you help to provide for the parish and school. There are three major fundraising events held throughout the year. The first is Help Our Children Grow. At this point, this is funded primarily by our alumni and seniors from the parish. Our raffle, Give From the Heart, was supported last year by approximately 15 school families.

The third event is the Fall Fling which will take place on November 6. This outstanding evening was first presented last year and was a great fundraiser and a really fun evening for all who attended. ***We ask all of our families to participate in some way.*** We first ask for your physical presence at the Fall Fling. You will experience great food, drink, and socializing as well as the opportunity to bid on exciting items. We ask for your help, too, by working. There are a variety of ways to help prepare for, implement, and close down this event.

We are seeking donations for the baskets that are auctioned at the Fall Fling. No donation is too large or too small. Please donate an item for a basket, or make a cash donation. These baskets are wonderful and varied and really help to bring in money as auction items.

Full participation will guarantee a successful Fall Fling. Mrs. Kim McCabe, Fall Fling Chairperson, thanks you in advance for any help you can provide.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Debbie Marino
Principal