

# SOTL School News

810-227-6473

“Inspiring Excellence, Nurturing Faith”

May 1, 2009

## Message from the Principal.....



As you read this message, I hope you are enjoying some beautiful spring like weather. After all, May 1<sup>st</sup> is set aside to welcome spring and the beginning of new life and new growth. It is a beautiful thing to look out the window and see God’s handiwork. I see His handiwork not only in the arrival of spring but in all things. I saw God’s handiwork last Sunday as SOTL welcomed 27 young men and women as communicate members of SOTL Lutheran Church. I have seen God’s handiwork as 146 students of SOTL Lutheran School sat at Jesus’ feet everyday school has been in session. How blessed we are to have faithful parents and teachers sharing the Gospel (the Good News) with their children and with the students. God continues to bless us even in these unsettling times.

Even in these difficult times God continues to bring many children to SOTL Lutheran School and more would like to attend our school but have hesitated to enroll for the coming school year because of the cost of tuition and registration fees. The fees for students attending SOTL Lutheran School grades K-6 are \$250 registration and \$3,250, member tuition and \$3,750 non-member tuition. The Pre Kindergarten registration fee is \$200 and tuition is \$2000 for the Monday through Friday half day program. The Pre School registration fees are \$150 and the tuition for 3 half days a week is \$1450 and the 2 half day a week program is \$1200. In these difficult economic times approximately 50 families felt they could not enroll in our school this year for the long term even if some help was available through SOTL Lutheran School Grant and Scholarship monies. At the present time requests for student aid have been received and will be honored based on needs and total monies available from our grant and scholarship funds. For this coming school year, there will probably be many more requests for student aid, more than there is available aid to give. It is our hope and prayer that more monies will be made available for families so they may enroll their students in our school. There are ways to help more students attend school. Ways to help may include the opportunity for individuals, a small group, a small or large business, a company, a foundation or some other charity that you may know of that would be able to sponsor a student or students so they could attend our school. If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, they will match up to 50% of a contribution made to SOTL Lutheran School. A gift to SOTL Grant or Scholarship Fund will go to help a needs based student attend our school. I am sure that there are other creative ideas you may know of that could help a student attend our school.

The school ministry at SOTL is a ministry that God has blessed and will surely continue to bless in the future. It is a growing ministry that takes great commitment and dedication on the part of SOTL Lutheran Church and its membership. The cost to give a Christian education to our students amounts to approximately \$1,065 a year for a preschool student and \$5,300 a year for students enrolled in our elementary school program including K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but it is worth it when you see students “**Grow Spiritually, Thrive Academically and Mature Socially**”

Ron Beardsley

## Temporary Housing Need



As you know, we have extended a Call to Dennis Schmidt to serve as our school principal. He is discerning whether to continue his current ministry in Auburn or to move to Shepherd of the Lakes. I've had the opportunity to meet with him and his wife, and believe the Call Committee did an excellent job in finding the right candidate. Dennis has articulated to me his excitement about the potential and possibilities of our school ministry.

One of the significant challenges he is facing as he seeks to make the decision is in the area of housing. As you know, he may be in for a long haul when it comes to selling his current house. Also, his wife will be leaving a full-time teaching position with no guarantee of employment here. They simply cannot take on a second housing payment.

Do you have, or know someone who has, a vacant home or apartment that could be rented at a minimal amount? Even better, are you gone for great lengths during the year and would like a responsible couple "house sitting" rent free? If you know of any possibilities that may make it more feasible for Dennis to accept our Call, please be in touch ASAP!

Pastor Milatz

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## Iowa Standardized Test Results Are In!

The Iowa Standardized Tests results are here. Students at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran School received outstanding results:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade Equivalent Average</u>
3rd Grade	4th Grade 6th month
4th Grade	7th Grade 2nd month
5th Grade	9th Grade 8th month

Specific areas of testing and building summaries will be charted and made available soon.

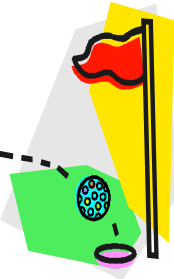
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## Our Mission

*Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran School nurtures children with Jesus’ love to grow spiritually, thrive academically, and mature socially.*

**Golf Outing Deadline is May 6, 2009**

It's not too late to sign up as a golfer or sponsor for this SOTL School benefit taking place on May 16, 2009. Information sheets and sign-up forms are available at the table near the Church mailboxes, or at the School office. Please call 810-227-6473 with any questions. Support the school and enjoy a great day of golf, food and fun!



**Classroom News**



**Mrs. Tatterson's 3 year old students** will finish their Ocean Life unit. They will review the sounds of the letters A - V, and learn the sounds to the letters W, X, Y, and Z. During Jesus time, the students will hear Bible stories about the Lost Sheep, the Wise Man and the Foolish Man, the Good Samaritan and the Armor of God.

**Mrs. Hawker's 4 year old students** will be talking about the Lord's Prayer and what it means. They will also learn about amphibians, reptiles and butterflies. The students will practice songs and create homemade gifts to give to their Moms at the Mother's Day Tea Party.

**Ms. Schwecke's Kindergarten students** will learn about Peter's sermon, Philip and the Ethiopian, and Peter in Prison. They will begin to explore tangrams and continue to measure items using standard and non standard units of measure. Kindergarten will learn new combination letter sounds and continue reading leveled readers. In music, they are practicing for the spring musical.

**Mrs. Wilkin's 3rd & 4th Grade students** are learning about Jesus as our Savior in Religion. They are also enjoying reading about the Easter Victory. The students have started Literature Circles with the 5th Grade. In Science, they are learning about the Sun, the Earth and the Moon. Mrs. Mizuno has been a very enjoyable guest speaker.

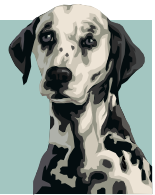
**PTO NEWS**

Elections for PTO Officers will be held during the next meeting on May 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. The PTO consists of volunteer parents who raise funds, organize fun events and provide educational enrichment programs. The monthly meetings are open to all interested parents. Please try to attend this important meeting, and cast your vote. Remember: studies show that children do better in school when their parents are actively involved in their education.

**Teacher Appreciation Week is May 26-29, 2009**

If you would like to volunteer to help show our appreciation for the dedicated teachers of Shepherd of the Lakes School, please contact Suzanne Spewock at [suzyspewock@mac.com](mailto:suzyspewock@mac.com).

**.Dog Wash to Benefit SOTL School  
May 23, 2009**



Spring Cleaning? Don't forget "Spot"! Call now and book an appointment to have the family dog spruced up for spring. Services include bath, ear cleaning, nail trimming and teeth cleaning.

Proceeds will go toward technology investments for the school. Tell all the dog lovers you know about this opportunity to pamper their pet!

Contact Andrea at (517) 518-2001 to schedule a time. Alternate dates are available.

**Upcoming Events**

- May 4 Beekeeper Event for Preschool & Kindergarten Students
- May 5 Beekeeper Event for Elementary Students
- May 12 PTO Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
- May 14 School Leadership Team Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- May 16 Golf Outing
- May 25 No School - Memorial Day
- May 26 Teacher Appreciation Week Begins
- May 29 Art Fair and Spring Musical @ 6:30 p.m.

**Art Fair and Spring Musical  
May 29, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.  
Mark Your Calendars!**



Please be our guest for a wonderful performance of "God's Army" by Shepherd of the Lakes School children. Afterwards, stroll our hallways decorated with the children's art, and view the unveiling of the children's Tile Art Masterpiece. Light refreshments will be served throughout the evening. This is a night sure to be enjoyed by the whole family and your friends.

There are also opportunities available to sponsor a child's tile. For a \$20 donation, you can help ensure that all SOTL School children have the chance to show off their artwork and be represented in this piece of school history.