

SOTL School News

“Inspiring Excellence, Nurturing Faith”

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November 13, 2009

MARVELOUS NEWS – ACCREDITATION PASSED



What is the meaning of all of the accreditation news? Well, it's like this. A group of regional educators come in with a defined protocol and assess our strengths and point out areas where improvements can still occur. The latter, of course, is most helpful since that is the whole point of this analysis.

STRENGTHS:

Mission and Vision – The congregation has affirmed the ministry of the school.

Relationships – The school staff and leadership have a healthy level of involvement within the ministry life of the congregation.

Leadership – Teachers and support staff have a personal commitment to the Christian faith and Lutheran education along with members, pastor and school administrator.

Personnel – SOTL is blessed with a caring and dedicated professional staff and a solid group of volunteers.

Curriculum – The teaching of the faith is integrated into the curriculum and achievement tests attest to excellent student progress. Reading and math are particular strengths.

Instruction – Teachers and staff offer a loving Christian environment with relatively small student to teacher ratios.

Student Assistance – SOTL School is able to assist children with varying educational levels, learning styles and abilities.

Health and Safety – SOTL has established policies and procedures that demonstrate positive steps toward managing health and safety issues of the children entrusted to their care.

Finance – SOTL has struggles and challenges similar to most Lutheran churches and schools. Tuition is in line with actual cost per student.

Many thanks for all of you who support and pray for our school. Your efforts help us to chart a path for generations to come.

Auction – Words can not describe the value of your support in terms of those of you who worked on the auction in so many ways and those of you who came to enjoy the evening and offered your financial support. You are clearly saying that ministry to our children is of critical importance. And I totally agree. Much more can be said, but that is a matter to be included in the next installment.

Dr. Jim



Building God's Workers

Our annual auction was a success last Saturday! As I write this, we haven't quite tallied the amount raised, but I can report that many of you showed up with generous hearts. The auction was well-organized, the food was good, the items were plentiful, and the fellowship was great.

A highlight was our teachers leading the attendees through a "mock school day." Watching some of you try to dance to "Singing in the Rain" is something I won't soon forget-- no matter how hard I try! Thanks to all who participated in any way!

Over the next few months we're going to be hard at work "Building God's Workers!" That happens each day in our classrooms to be sure. A great joy to report is that a few families will be joining our church on December 6, coming to SOTL specifically because of our school ministry.

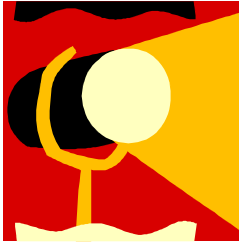
Our School Leadership Team is going to be hard at work planning for another great year. It's an awesome thing to say that we're preparing for growth and thinking about future expansion. God is building something great here!

One thing to keep your eyes open for is the series of information meetings we'll hold in January to share news about our school ministry and how it can be a blessing to you and your family. We'll be talking about our Christ-centered education, high academic standards and performance, and financial aid possibilities. If you haven't thought that a Christian school was for you before, please consider being open to learn more.

Pastor Milatz

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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.



Fundraising Spotlight on:

"Walls of Jericho" Paper Retriever Contest

It's the start of the Christmas season, and the mailboxes are stuffed full of catalogs. Instead of throwing them out, bring them to the church or school and recycle them. The students at SOTL will bring in their catalogs during the months of November and December. In January, we will build the "Walls of Jericho" in the Genesis Hall, and the class with the highest wall will win a special reward. The catalogs will be recycled in the Paper Retriever bins which earns cash for the church and school.

Even if you don't have a student at the school, you can help by depositing your catalogs (no phone books, please) in the Paper Retriever bins located in the parking lot.

Remember, your "junk" mail is our treasure, so please bring in all those catalogs, newspapers and magazines!

"Take Me Out" Tuesdays

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our "Take Me Out" Tuesday Fundraisers. They continue to be a success. Here is the regular schedule for the rest of the school year:

1st Tuesday of the month	Big Boy - Brighton
2nd Tuesday of the month	Leo's - Brighton
3rd Tuesday of the month	Pizza Hut - Brighton
4th Tuesday of the month	Olga's - Brighton
5th Tuesday of the month	Doodles - Hartland

Flyers are available at the school booth in the Commons or on the school website..

Upcoming Events

November 13	1/2 Day of School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 15	Elementary Students Sing @ 11:00 am
November 17	Pizza Hut Fundraiser
November 18	PTO Meeting @ 11:45 a.m.
November 22	Hartland Gym Family Fun Night
November 24	Olga's Fundraiser
November 26	No School - Thanksgiving Break
November 27	No School - Thanksgiving Break



Classroom News



Mrs. Choroba's 4 year old students have been learning about leaves, scarecrows and night animals such as owls and bats. They have met the letter friends A through F and enjoyed their songs. In Jesus Time, the Bible stories of Abraham, Jacob and Joseph were studied. The students learned of God's promise to always be with us and care for us. They are looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving and have been thanking God for their many blessings!

Mrs. Deheim's 1st grade students have been enjoying the Fall colors by gathering, pressing and doing projects with leaves! In Jesus Time, they have been focusing on God's gift of prayer and giving thanks. They are also excited to learn about the Pilgrims in "Pilgrim" school!

Mrs. Croucher's 4th & 5th grade students are concluding their unit on Moses in Religion and have been working on expository writing skills in English. In Science, the students are studying the characteristics of plants, trees, and shrubs. Next week, the students will be presenting and displaying their second Michigan History projects. Please take some time to view them next Sunday.

Miss Katie's Music students are busy practicing all their songs for the upcoming Cantata and Christmas Program. Both events promise to be full of wonderful music that praises our Savior.



It's Not Too Early to Start your Christmas Shopping with Scrip!

As we all know, one size does not fit all, so make gift giving easy this year with Scrip gift cards! A personal gift, because it shows that you know their hobbies and where they like to shop and eat, but flexible enough to indeed make it "one size fits all"! And it's a perfect gift for those people on your list that are hard to shop for. You can feel good about your gift giving because you know a portion will benefit SOTL Church and School.

Scrip orders will be placed every Monday throughout November and December, so there is plenty of opportunity to get your order in. See the school desk in the Commons for more information or a Scrip order form.