

# SOTL School News

“Faith, Knowledge, Discipleship”

(810) 227-6473

April 30, 2010

## PERFORMANCE: 1-2 YEARS ABOVE GRADE LEVEL



One measure of an excellent school is student performance. Recently, we received the results of our Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The class average for our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students was approximately one grade above their grade placement. Our 4<sup>th</sup> graders outdid themselves by performing two grades above grade level, namely, at a sixth grade and seventh month level. This is an incredible two grades beyond their present grade placement with their most effective performances occurring in reading, language and science.

But why is this happening? Simply stated, it relates to excellent teachers and an excellent curriculum. Within our elementary school we have Miss Schwecke, Mrs. Decheim, Mrs. Wilkin, Mrs. Croucher and myself. This staff has more than a century of experience in education, with a preponderance being within Lutheran schools.

The foundation of our program is based on an intense program in reading, math and English. Reading progresses seamlessly from dealing with sound, phonetics (sound and symbol relationships), fluency and comprehension via the Saxton Reading curriculum. Secondly, Saxton Math is also a top of the line program that offers a balance between computation and application, along with a progressive review of concepts taught. Shurley English is the last of that dynamic trio. Those of you that recall “School House Rock” may have some insight into what is happening within our English program on a daily basis, namely quality stuff.

What do outsiders say about our school? I have only heard a pattern of ongoing positive comments. What an opportunity for our children: a quality education offered within the context and also receiving a Christian education!

Dr. Jim



## Student Aid

One of the obstacles to Christian private education is the funding. It is a challenge for churches to make it affordable for families. In this economy the definition of affordable for many families is changing. That's why student aid is so important to our school's future.

100% of the proceeds from this year's school golf outing will go to our student grant fund. This fund provides the resources for the many discounts that are available to all students, as well as the need-based assistance that we provide to an increasing number of families. Because of the generosity of many members and the success of events such as the golf outing, we have the ability to provide help where needed.

It's important that prospective school families understand that there is student aid available. If money is your only obstacle, don't let it be. Requests for aid are confidential.

If you'd like to give to the student aid fund you can do so by using the special envelopes in the pew backs and marking "student aid."

Pastor Milatz



### Our Mission

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

**DON'T FORGET YOUR SCRIP!  
NEXT ORDER DATE: MAY 10**



*SOTL 4th Annual Golf  
Scramble  
May 15, 2010*

*It's time for our Annual SOTL Golf Outing. The event will be held at Dunham Hills Golf Course on Saturday, May 15, with registration beginning at 11:30 a.m. The fee is \$105 per golfer, and includes 18 holes of golf, light lunch, full course dinner, awards and prizes. Don't golf? There are sponsorship opportunities available starting at \$150 (donations towards this event are tax deductible). There are also volunteer positions that need to be filled. All of the profit from this event will benefit the ministry and children of the SOTL School. For more information or to sign up for golf or a sponsorship, please pick up a brochure at the school desk in the Commons or contact the school at (810) 227-6473.*



**Mrs. Choroba's 4 year old students** will conclude the school year with units on birds, flowers, Mother's Day, farms and butterflies. They will enjoy a "Tea" with Moms, field day and a "Spring Fling" lunch celebration. In Jesus Time, the students will talk about the first Christians and review the Lord's Prayer.

**Mrs. Deheim's 1st grade students** are learning about living with Jesus as they study God's grace in changing Paul. They are looking forward to the art fair and are busy practicing for the spring musical. In science, they are enjoying working with compasses, and in social studies they are studying American history.

**Mrs. Croucher's 4th & 5th grade students** visited Lansing on Thursday (4/29). They enjoyed a guided tour of the Capitol and met with Representative Cindy Denby. The students also viewed the Michigan History Museum and the Hall of Justice. What a great experience this was! The students eagerly anticipate their class trip to Mackinaw on May 20th - 21st. They recently visited Grow Green in downtown Brighton with the 2nd and 3rd graders and look forward to seeing how their strawberry plants have grown since planting the seeds on April 22nd. These will be delivered to the class soon.

**Mrs. Bogg's Music students** are ALL hard at work on their Spring Musical on May 14th called "Kids Telling Kids" They are doing a great job! You are going to LOVE IT!



### Upcoming Events

April 1—30	Re-enrollment Period for Kroger Community Rewards Program
May 4	Big Boy Fundraiser
May 6	Golf Registration Deadline
May 7	Spirit Wear Order Due
May 10	Scrip Order Due
May 11	Leo's Fundraiser
May 11	Cub Scout Pack Meeting
May 14	Art Fair and Spring Musical
May 15	Golf Outing
May 18	Bennigan's Fundraiser
May 19	Staff Appreciation Lunch
May 24	Scrip Order Due
May 25	Olga's Fundraiser
May 26	Spring Fling Celebration Lunch
May 28	Field Day
May 31	Memorial Day—No School



### Kroger Community Rewards Program UPDATE

Everyone currently participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program must re-enroll during the month of April in order for SOTL to earn funds during 2010 program year (which runs from May 2010 to May 2011). Unfortunately, we will no longer be able to scan our group barcode at the registers or service desk. You must re-enroll online. Please visit the school desk in the Commons for instructions on re-enrolling, or if you have any other questions.