

# SOTL School News

“Faith, Knowledge, Discipleship”

(810) 227-6473

May 14, 2010

## LOOKING FORWARD AT OUR SCHOOL



MIMIO – Some time in the future, one could dream about the internet being displayed on a classroom whiteboard. For many of the students at our school, the future is this coming this fall as follows:

- A social studies class could include maps of anywhere in the world.
- Science instruction could include a simulation of a human heart in operation.
- Religious instruction could include a scale model of the temple in Jerusalem or viewing an archeological site of the battle of Jericho and its implications.
- Instruction would not be limited to a textbook, but only to the imagination of the students and instructors.

EXPANDED COMPUTER INSTRUCTION – We currently have limited computer resources available in our classrooms. We plan to update our computer lab resources to significant increase computer accessibility to our grade 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> students.

ONE WAY YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP - During the summer Thrivent will be informing members about Choice Dollars. Members will have an opportunity to share their designated dollars to a school or church of their choice. Our computer endeavor could be one conduit for these dollars.

SCIENCE CURRICULUM – Our new science curriculum for 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades will focus on the visual side of learning by bringing the internet into the classroom. A weakness of current educational practices is that much of what is done is textbook driven thereby undermining the education of both students who learn primarily through reading and those who learn most effectively via visualization. How can this be? Students who learn primarily through reading require the balance of developing their visual processes also, whereas visual learners benefit most by enhancing their strengths in this area via a teaching approach that provides a reasonable balance between learning through reading and observing, which typically does not naturally occur in classrooms.

Dr. Jim



## Plans

If there is one thing I've learned during my time at SOTL, it's that a lot of you like to ask, "What's the plan?" The School Leadership Team, as well as myself and Dr. Jim have been mulling this over a lot as of late. The "plan" is not finalized, and in many ways it will always be fluid, but here are a few answers to frequently asked questions:

- Our plan will include going to the 8th grade.
- Our 5 year plan will not include a proposal for any new buildings. A building addition is still a desired outcome for our long-term future.
- Our focus will be on making SOTL school the best school it can be through addition of high quality curriculum and new co-curricular activities.
- A one year goal will be the completion of a modern, fully-equipped and high-level computer lab.

Some people will ask, "How can you go to 8th grade without building a new building?" First off, there are some things we can do in our existing facility to create space. We'll be working with Bill Chauvin and others to determine how. Secondly, we will mainly be using combined grades (with the exception of 1st grade, which will stand alone).

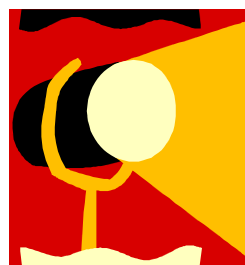
The planning continues. There will always be challenges. But the opportunity God gives us to teach young people to know Jesus is worth all the work!

Pastor Milatz



### Our Mission

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



Fundraising Spotlight on:

## Summer Fundraisers

School is almost over and summer is just around the corner. Even though the kids are on summer vacation, our fundraising continues. Keep in mind that these programs run throughout the entire year:

Scrip  
Paper Recycling  
Box Tops for Education  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Ink Cartridge Recycling  
Campbell's Soup Labels

Thank you for supporting Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran School by participating in these programs!

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NEXT ORDER DATE: MAY 24



## Upcoming Events

May 15	Golf Outing
May 18	Bennigan's Fundraiser
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
June 4	Last Day of School
June 21	Scrip Order Due



## Classroom News



**Mrs. Tatterson's 3 year old students** are studying about ocean life. They will continue to review the sounds to letters A—W, and learning the sounds for letters X, Y and Z. During Jesus Time, the students will hear stories about how Jesus Calmed the Storm, Jonah and the Whale, and I Can Pray to Jesus Anytime and Anywhere.

**Mrs. Hawker's 4 year old students** will focus on pond life, and learn the difference between reptiles and amphibians. During Jesus Time, they will look at and study the different parts of the Lord's Prayer.

**Miss Schwecke's Kindergarten students** will learn about Peter in Prison, Paul's Conversion, and Timothy. Kindergarten will do simple addition and subtraction, continue to measure items using standard and non-standard units of measure, and count various coins. They will learn new digraphs and practice reading with their leveled readers. The students will explore the ocean and the season of summer!

**Mrs. Wilkin's 2nd & 3rd grade students** have enjoyed finishing their letters about their Flat Stanley characters. They are awaiting responses from around the country (and Germany, too!). Many of the students are continuing to improve their Accelerated Reading levels. They have been working on their Literature Circle groups and are enjoying reading together. They are finishing their sound, heat, and light unit in Science. In Religion, the students are reading about and learning from many of Jesus' parables like The Lost Son. Math has the 2nd graders working on multiplication, angles and story problems. The 3rd grade students are learning division, fractions, volume, and geometric shapes.

**Mrs. Gaertner's Spanish students** in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades are experts at labeling colors in Spanish. Ask them! They are finishing their last chapter for the year. Soon the students will review some of the questions and answers they know. I am very proud of all they have accomplished this year!

Students in 4th and 5th grades finished a chapter on careers. Now they are identifying buildings. They made a large map of a city and labeled people, places, and things in Spanish. Soon the 4th and 5th graders will start the end of the year review. Wow! They have learned a ton!