

Mr. Christopher Urquhart

Principal

Mrs. Lari Mulholland

Preschool

Mrs. Wendy Lochhead

Kindergarten

Mrs. Connie Mattingly

First Grade

Mrs. Pam Sheely

Second Grade

Mrs. Jeanne Wagner

Third Grade

Mrs. Janet Baldwin

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Kathy Belcher

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Meg Knop

Sixth Grade

Mrs. Sabrina Jeremiah

Seventh Grade

Mrs. April Schwarting

Eighth Grade Aide

Mrs. Bobbi Sheffer

After School Care

Mrs. Jane Stallman

Music

Mrs. Cathy Eggers

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The Hornet's Nest

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FALL 2007

Be Thankful for What You Have

Recently Nancy and I had the opportunity to attend a church service with my daughter Amy and granddaughter Lily. They are members at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Des Peres. I have not experienced a service like this before. It was called a "Service of Wholeness" and was attended by about 30 people, all of whom were experiencing, or were with someone experiencing one sort of physical disability or another.

The service itself was not a long one. Pastor spoke for only about 10 minutes or so. He spoke on Luke 17:11 and following. In Luke 17 the Gospel writer recounts Je-

sus' meeting with 10 lepers on His way to Jerusalem. This is traditionally the scripture lesson that is read on Thanksgiving and tells us of the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus and only one came back and gave thanks. Jesus' response to him "go, your faith has made you whole."

Following the message, an elder of the congregation gave communion on one side of the church and on the other side Pastor Miller stood. After individuals and families took communion they lined up on the other side and pastor talked with them about their illness and prayed with and for them. It

was a very emotional time for me particularly when my daughter took Lily up to the pastor and, I can only assume, prayed for Lily and for strength for Amy to get her through the next few months of weaning her off of the Ketogenic diet.

The message that pastor spoke on was simple. There are two levels of healing. One being physical, the other spiritual. Nine out of the ten lepers were healed on the physical but only one was healed on the spiritual level. "Go, your faith has made you whole."

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Beta Club Candidates Announced

In October, the names of the 2007-08 probationary candidates for the St. John Chapter of the National Junior Beta Club were announced. The students will be under close observation during the second quarter to see if they exhibit the criteria looked for in Beta

members; those criteria being honesty, achievement, responsibility, vision, enthusiasm, sincerity, character, service, and Christ-like behavior. At the end of the quarter each candidate will be evaluated and a final decision on permanent membership will be

made. Candidates are : Caleb Arbeiter, Brent Knop, Brad Asselmeier, Hunter Cushman, Nick Gross, Jared Johnson, Jacob Lochhead, Austin Redeker, Lacey Reynolds, Rachel Simmons, and Kacy Westerman.

Thankful

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Everyone I know that prays for Lily and her mom and dad, pray for her physical healing. But all of us know that the only one who can do anything about it is our Heavenly Father. We know deep down that it may not be what God has planned for Lily, but we also need to realize that the

healing on the spiritual is more important. Faith, the ability to step back and say "Lord, not my will but Thy will be done."

There is a message in this for all of us. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have a healthy family need to be thankful for it and to express our thanks to God. Those of us who are coping

with a sickness, illness or other physical infirmity, need to remember healing on the spiritual level. We need to remember our faith. The faith that God will always be with us and will never abandon us and that he never gives us more than we can handle.

First Quarter Honor Roll Announced

St. John is please to announce Individuals who have earned a place on the Honor Roll for the first quarter of the 2007-2008 school year.

4.00 – 3.76

Ben Asselmeier, Morgan Colvis, Christopher Dudenbostel, Dani Homan, Lauren Hoops, Taylor Marks, Jenna Wingerter, Caleb Arbeiter, Jacob Cowan, Courtney Johnson, Elizabeth McClure, Andrea Wagner,

Brad Asselmeier, Colin Canady, Hunter Cushman, Nick Gross, Jared Johnson, Jacob Lochhead, Sarah Lochhead, Joseph Marks, Justin Marks, Lacey Reynolds, Megan Brockmeyer, Brett Bunselmeyer, Liam Canady, Madison Kueker, Danny Moeller, Chloe Wallace, Mallory Westerman

3.75 – 3.51

Austin Redeker, Rachel Simmons, Kacy Westerman, Lindsey Hammel,

Deanna Hohgreffe, Sarah Liefer, May McBrien

3.50 – 3.26

Kristen Maes, Chelsea Schroeder, Josh Bierman, Tyler Knop, Nick Rinehart

3.25 – 3.00

James Brockmeyer, Raelyn Rosendahl, Brent Knop, Solomon Mueller, Christopher Schwartz, Zane Wallace, Averi Mueller, Jessica Powell, Natasha Pulliam, Kaleb Vogt, Logun Deere, Matthew Meyers

Grant Brings New Technology to Fifth Grade

Over the last two years, St. John has been the recipient of a great deal of new technology. St. John was included in a grant through Chester School District 139. As a result of the grant the school has received technology for two classrooms. Last year the eighth grade

classroom was the recipient of this technology. This year, the fifth grade received the equipment. Included in the grant are the following items—five desktop computers, a laptop computer, a smart board, an LCD projector, a color laser printer and a digital camera

plus furniture. This year the eighth grade received six hand-held GPS receivers, another digital camera, five more desktop computers, and an optical reader in addition to all the other items received by fifth grade.

Student of the Month Announced



the selection of four students as the "Students of the Month" for September. These students are chosen by their teachers because of their cooperation, helpfulness to classmates and teachers, friendliness to others,

treated to a lunch off campus at their favorite eating establishment.

September recipients include Mallory Westerman, Lacey Reynolds, Andrea Wagner, and Jenna Wingerter.

Students select for this award

St. John is pleased to announce receive certificates and are

Helping Hands Program

The First Baptist Church in Chester is implementing a "Helping Hands" program with the cooperation of all schools in Chester. Their initial target group is students in grades 7-12

who are struggling with homework assignments and/or need additional instruction in a specific subject area. Classes are to be held every Tuesday from 5-6:30 P.M. The initial meeting of

the group is scheduled for November 6. If you have a child that you would like to enter in the program, please call the school office for a registration form.

Preschool News

Our first Day of preschool was on Tuesday August 22. Our year has started with 30 smiling energetic 3, 4 and 5 year old children. Each day in Preschool is always exciting and different. Each day we usually have a few tears, lots of laughter, and new friends to be made.

We love to sing, and we have learned several new songs this year! Learning about Jesus and his love for us is the focal point of our class. Each day we have a "Special Project Time", our favorite activity is painting, of course! And as most young children believe,

you can never use too much glue!
We have enjoyed learning our colors, shapes, name writing, and numbers. We also have had enjoyed lessons about dinosaurs, fall colors. We have just finished a unit on "Me and My

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Kindergarten News

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing." Psalm 127:3

The Kindergarten children have

been busy - busy discovering, busy exploring - and busy loving.

During **Jesus Time** we have learned that the Bible is di-

vided into two parts - The Old Testament (stories before Baby Jesus was born) and The New Testament (stories after Baby Jesus was born). We have started

Classroom News (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

at the beginning of the Old Testament with the stories of Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, The Tower of Babel, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Esau, Joseph, Moses, and Joshua. This is a special time for us - learning about Jesus, singing praise songs to Him, and loving Him more and more each day.

In **Phonics**, we have studied seven letters, memorized a phonics rule, studied word families, coded words, and learned two sight words.

We have started writing in our **Kindergarten Journals** which have included the entries: Me, You Are My Sunshine, God Bless

America, I Love Apples, My Visit to the Pumpkin Patch, Columbus Sailed the Ocean Blue-in 1492, and Fall is Fun. We are quite the authors and illustrators.

During **Math Readiness** we reviewed old shapes - circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval and diamond. We learned new shapes - hexagon, trapezoid, rhombus, and parallelogram. We worked on patterning skills, rote counting, ordinal positions to the fourth, and writing numerals 1-10. We also studied attributes of shapes, color, and size - and worked on graphing skills.

During October we went on two **Field Trips**. We picked pumpkins at the

Colvis Pumpkin Patch (we made special shirts to wear), and we walked to the Chester Fire Station to learn about Fire Safety. Mr. and Mrs. Colvis and Fire Chief Lochhead are very special friends to us.

Our favorite time of the day, however, is **Jesus Time**.

In our happy moments - we praise God.

In our difficult moments- we seek God.

In our quiet moments- we worship God.

In our sad moments- we trust God.

And every moment- we thank God.

Keeping our hearts full - of Jesus,

Mrs. Lochhead and the Kindergarten Kids

First Grade News

The first grade class of 2007-2008 is off to a great start. We have 7 boys and 7 girls in our class. We are reading and writing and learning phonics and math skills every day. Our math lessons have taught us to detect some, some more stories from some, some went away stories. We can write the number sentences and even solve them. Our phonics lessons are very intense. We are learning all the letter sounds plus how to code and use extensive

word attack skills. We are taking trial and final tests in spelling using our phonics skills. Our Jesus lessons have taught us the Bible stories from creation through the stories of Moses and the Ten Commandments. Each first grader made a creation book entitled "In the Beginning" to record the seven days of creation. We will soon be challenged to learn all of the Ten Commandments.

Along with our every day studies, we have gone on some special adventures. We read the "Gingerbread Man" story and then made a Gingerbread man. Mrs. Knowles offered to bake him for us in the kitchen when we later went to retrieve him we found he had run away from us, too. We searched every where for him. We met all of our St. John staff and saw how God extends our families in our school and church to give

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First Grade

(Continued from page 4)

us a loving school family here each day. We know they will help and guide us whenever we need them. When we finally found our little "Runaway", (sitting in our school library reading the "Gingerbread Man"!)

we shared a piece of gingerbread with all of our helpers we met along the way.

We enjoyed our 1st field trip this year to the Bi-County Conservation Day held at Du Quoin state fair grounds. We were blessed with terrific weather, wonderful presenters, and gracious parents to take us, and spend the day with us. We really appreciate our parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, giving their time to us!

We are also enjoying the friendships made with our Eighth graders. They are our Primary Partners at

chapel. They sit with us and help us follow along in our "All God's People Sing" hymnals. We are very thankful to them for being so kind to us.

We love books and are having many opportunities to read them. We have added another set of books to broaden our reading instruction, reading one each week. We enjoyed the PTL book fair, where we could choose our own favorite books to buy. We thank the PTL and parents for donating many books to our classroom book shelves!

We are reading books-180 minutes of reading per student -to participate in the Pizza Hut sponsored Book It program. Each student will be awarded a free personal pan pizza after meeting each months reading goal. We are also reading and taking Accelerated

Reader tests on the computer. Mr. Mattingly, has been our computer helper to administer the computer quiz to our students. Thanks, Mr. Mattingly! We love reading and we love books! They take us on even more adventures than we can imagine.

We have enjoyed a very productive and fun first quarter, and can only expect more adventures ahead!

The first grade birthdays celebrated so far this year were:

Janelle Downey
August 21
Drake Bollman
September 25
Jacob Wingerter
September 27
Lexi Rushing
October 11
Jacob Lodge
October 28
Randy Kueker
November 2

Second Grade

It's hard to believe that we are already through the first quarter of the school year. Time has just flown by but we have been very busy! The class has worked hard and have enjoyed the new challenges of the second grade.

October is Fire Prevention Month and the second grade class took time to learn about the important of fire safety. We visited the Chester Fire Department

and received a guided tour from Assistant Chief Jerre Atchison and Fireman Lorin Mott. The children were able to get a first hand look at all the fire trucks and the fire fighting equipment. The class learned many things about fire safety and prevention. We even had a chance to hold the fire hose and "shoot" the water. Thank you, Jerre and Lorin, for your time and thanks, also, to all the parents who

assisted with escorting the children on the field trip. Also, the children enjoyed making mobiles of Sparky the fire dog during Fire Prevention Week. The class did a great job!

In the classroom, the second graders have been learning about the Old Testament and the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses and the children of Israel. The class has spent

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Second Grade (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

discussion time talking about the importance of God's Laws to all the people of the world even though the Commandments were handed down thousands of years ago.

In Math, the class has been studying their addition facts by using flash cards. The children have enjoyed the challenge of a friendly competition between the boys and the girls. These competitive matches helps

to strengthen their skills while bolstering their confidence. In the end, everyone wins!

Finally, be good stewards of God's earth. Please remember to recycle! Think green!

Third Grade

It's already the middle of October! First quarter has flown by quickly. The weather has been unseasonably warm but we have managed quite well.

We took our first field trip to DuQuoin for the Conservation Fair. The weather was beautiful. The children not only enjoyed the trip but also learned a lot.

We read a story about horses and gauchos, cowboys from Argentina. Jesse

Parks brought in different types of lassoes and a practice steer. He explained about the different types and when they are used. Then Jesse helped the children rope the steer that he had brought in. We had a great time. The children had a wonderful hands-on experience. THANK YOU, JESSE!

Mr. And Mrs. Knop brought in one of their horses, Bailey. The chil-

dren learned about halters, bits, saddles, how to care for a horse's hoof, how to shoe a horse, food that is eaten by a horse, some of the shots that horses need, their teeth, how to measure a horse, and even some of the diseases that horses can get. This was the first time that some of the children had ever been close to a horse. THANK YOU, MR. AND MRS. KNOP AND BAILEY!

Fourth Grade

A new addition to the fourth grade curriculum this year is a creative writing notebook. The paragraphs and stories are related to the subject matter in Reading, Social Studies, and English. The students are very excited about being able to express themselves so easily through their creative writing notebook. The literature they have been reading has ranged from Greek myths to Science fiction.

Other genres have also been explored such as personal anecdotes, poetic nonfiction, and biographies. One personal narrative taken from the book FROM FAMILY PICTURES written by Carmen Lomas Garza is also the selected literature that accompanies the first unit in Social Studies on the Southwest. Each Unit in Social Studies begins with a literature selection which introduces the

students to a particular region in the United States. We are just beginning Unit 2, the Southeast and of course the literature selection is from MARK TWAIN AND THE QUEENS OF THE MISSISSIPPI. What could be more appropriate!

At the end of the semester, we hope to complete a map booklet of the regions of the United States along

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Fourth Grade (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

with interesting facts from each region.

Most of the first quarter in Math has been centered on review work in addition and subtraction, along with

word problems. The second quarter will deal mainly with multiplication, division and some fractions.

We have completed two Units in Religion. Unit 1 covered the Ancient People

of God, and we just finished Unit 2, The Patriarchs. Unit 3 begins with the birth of Moses and takes us through the parting of the Red Sea. God's Blessings from Grade 4.

Fifth Grade

The 5th Grade room has gone high tech. Instead of the chalkboard and dry-erase board, we now have a SmartBoard. The Fifth Graders also have computers in the classroom to use for internet and a wide variety of other uses as the year progresses. We're ironing out the glitches right now but mostly it is about learning how to use our new tools. We are very blessed to have these new classroom instruments.

Earlier in October the students had a Medieval Unit of study to prepare for

Columbus Day and their studies of Explorers to the New World. Each pupil researched a figure of the Middle Ages and wrote a report. The child gave an oral report as well. They finished up the unit with a Medieval Faire complete with scones and Wassail during which groups reported about weapons and diseases of the period. We have already plenty of illness in our class this year BUT nothing like they did during the Dark Ages. All agreed that living during that time period would not have been fun. "Gally

Loo!!!" (Just ask a Fifth Grader to explain....)

The Fifth Graders enjoy doing experiments in Science. Sometimes the lab does not turn out the way it should, but that does not deter the enthusiasm of these wonderful students. We are learning patience and perseverance to achieve our goal and this not only in Science but in many of our subjects. I am so very proud of these lovely ladies and gentlemen. Each has already shown such growth of character and academics. God does bless and reward us!

Sixth Grade

Finally it feels like what it should at this time of the year. I have put off a Fall art project until the weather was more "fall like" and finally it is here. The change of season makes teaching easier, because my students aren't constantly wishing they were outside. We will take a break next week from our scheduled

Religion lessons to spend some time discussing Martin Luther and his struggle with the practices of his beloved church, and his findings as he studied the Bible. We will discuss the courage that he needed to challenge the church leaders of his time. The sixth grade is still travelling through the cradles of

human development and cultures. We have discovered several common factors that were necessary and helpful for a new existence to survive. We are observing a jar of Mississippi water to see the silt accumulation that was so vital to the early begins of civilizations. In English class we are

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Sixth Grade (cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

practicing color coding of the principle parts of a sentence and then placing them

in a diagram. This class has done very well with this new skill. I keep telling them that we will finish our

class diagramming the Pledge of Allegiance. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving! Mrs. Knop and Sixth Grade

Seventh Grade

7th Grade is Off to a Great Year

We have been busy studying foundations in Science and History. Every aspect of "life" has touched our Science class. In late August, early September we hatched wild monarch butterfly larvae Brent Knop found. Art has also merged into Science, as we used Sculpey clay to form plant and animal cells. P.S. Ask any 7th grader you see what

does vinegar do to a raw egg???

History class is laying the framework for our fine nation we call home. Just last week, we learned of the lost colony at Roanoke, near the present-day North Carolina coast. Over 100 men, women and children were "lost" over a period of 3 years time. Their actual whereabouts is still a mystery today.

We did multiple activities

surrounding the Roanoke mystery. The students wrote their version of what really happened to the missing colonists. They also illustrated their story endings, and some even chose an extra credit drama option to act them out! Stop in and see us any time, we love visitors! Also thanks to Dave Rowold for providing us with dry ice, what an awesome lab day it was!

Til next time!

Eighth Grade

I would first like to share my enthusiasm as I am once again teaching at St. John School. It has always been a very rewarding experience to teach in such a positive, Christian environment. This year holds special significance as our son, Andrew, is starting Kindergarten at St. John. The sixth grade students have impressed me with their knowledge and skills as we have been reviewing adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers and money amounts. They have also been learning about linear measure, perimeter, scales and graphs, place value, and negative numbers. Recently, the sixth grade stu-

dents have been determining averages, factors of whole numbers, and greatest common factor. We are now focusing on the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions. Starting the second quarter, students are learning to convert improper fractions and mixed numbers. It is truly a pleasure to teach them. The eighth grade students are improving their spelling by learning words with irregular spellings and words with double consonants, digraphs, Greek word parts, and irregular plurals. They are also reviewing the grammar, usage, and mechanics of the English language as they review sen-

tence structure including subjects, predicates, compound sentences, conjunctions, complex sentences, and nouns. The eighth grade students have impressed me with their writing skills on their opinion essays. Currently, the eighth grade students are working through the writing process to complete a persuasive essay. The topics and audiences they have chosen are very interesting. The students are also given the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings through weekly journal entries. I am very pleased with their progress, and it has been a blessing to teach them.

Third Grade (cont.)

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During fire prevention month, Mr. Lochhead came to our room to answer questions about fire safety and the jobs that a fireman must learn how to do. He brought in a camera that detects heat. This is valuable to the fireman in detecting persons still in a burning house as well as detecting how hot the fire is in front of them. Each child

also received a book about fire safety. The book came from the Chester Fire Department and was sponsored by several businesses in Chester.

We started our religion classes this year with Genesis and the creation of our world. We are studying Moses and the wandering in the desert. We stopped our regular lessons to begin a study of Martin Luther in preparation for the anniversary of the Reformation.

sary of the Reformation.

In math we are working on addition and fractions. We have started memorizing the multiplication facts. Hopefully everyone will have mastered these facts by Christmas break.

The children have had a lot of practice in writing letters, thank you notes, and sympathy letters. They have done such a good job. Their strong belief in God is evident in all that they do.

Choir Notes

District Solo and Ensemble Date , Location Set

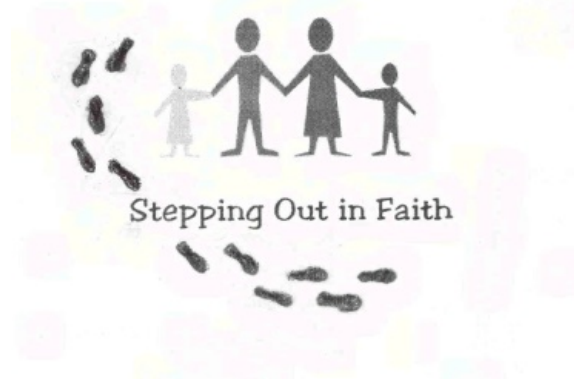
At a recent meeting of the Illinois Grades School Music Association (IGSMA) music directors, it was decided to hold the District 3 Solo and Ensemble Contest on Saturday, March 14, 2008, at the Sparta Grade School. Members of our junior choir are eligible to participate in the vocal solo and ensemble competition, and parent letters will be sent home soon to help determine which students would like to attend.

“Once I get the parent letters back”, said Mrs. Stallman, “then I can start with the process of choosing and practicing songs with the students. Songs are chosen from an IGSMA approved list.

The junior choir will NOT sing on Sunday, November 25 (the Sunday after Thanksgiving). Instead, there will be a special guest soloist at 10:00. Please mark your calendars.

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Alumni News

Let's Hear From You!

Tell us about your life, (formal or informal) or other news. Or tell us about your self on line at www.stjohnchester.com/School. Click on the "Principal's Page" link, then click on "contact me".

Preschool (cont.)

Family. Mrs. Bobbie, Mrs. Chung, Mrs. Korando, and Mrs. Eggers were wonderful help. They all helped in some way with the tracing, painting, face drawing or cutting out of the life size drawing of each child. We have them displayed in the hall outside our classroom. We have been on two field trips. We went to "Colvis Pumpkin patch" where Mr. and Mrs. Colvis told us how wheat and pumpkins are grown. They also took us on a hay ride and allowed us to take a pumpkin "that we could carry" home with us.

We also went on a field trip to the fire station where we saw the trucks and learned more about fire safety. We are having shirts made. Each child has drawn their face. We are patiently waiting for them to be ready to wear. Our days are always a new adventure. Learning new things, making friends, singing, reading, and knowing that Jesus always loves us! Smiles and laughter, Mrs. Mulholland and the Preschool crew.