

St. John

LUTHERAN
CHURCH &
SCHOOL

September/October 2005

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. Jennifer Stallman
Eighth Grade Aide

Mrs. Bobbi Sheffer
After School Care

Mrs. Jane Blechle
Music

Mrs. Cathy Eggers
Computer/Art

Lynn Powley
Office Administrator

Mr. Roy Fedderke

Mr. Charlie Mattingly

Mr. Dave Hoffman

School Custodians

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The Hornet's Nest

A bi-monthly Newsletter for the People of St. John Lutheran Church and School

Work Continues Towards a New Multi-purpose Facility

"Goal 1" Committee Meets

The 'Goal 1' Committee is a subcommittee of the Long Range Planning Committee. It is made up of individual whose main responsibility act on the result of a vote by the congregation last year.

The Long Range Planning Committee presented to the congregation, the result of a study to develop a set of long range goals for St. John for the next five years. The committee presented a number of goals to the congregation. This study and it goals were presented and approved at a Voters' Meeting. The goal that was the set as the number one goal was the building of a new 'multi-purpose' and the group working on it is as the 'Goal 1' committee.

The most recent meeting of the committee took place on Saturday, October 8. On that day, members of the committee traveled to Perrville ,to get information concerning cost, design, architects, construction, and may other things.

Immanuel built their new facility at a cost of 2.575 million dollars. The congregation, at the time the

decision was made, was \$100,000 in debt (general operating fund); and, they had collected no money in advance.

One of the tasks the committee was charged with was the development of a list of points that would indicate why the committee though a new facility would be beneficial to the congregation. That list you can find on the web at www.sjshornets.com click on the 'Goal 1' link.

St. John Shows It's Concern for Hurricane Victims

Once again, the students, faculty, staff and families of St. John showed their concern for the citizens of the gulf coastal region of the United States. Designating September as "Hearts for Jesus" month this year, students raised or donated their pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to show their compassion for fellow Christians who have lost everything they own as a result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

I am particularly proud of our

fifth grade students who came up with their plan to raise money. They did so by marching in the Popeye Picnic parade and manning an informational booth at the picnic raising over \$ 100. Even our littlest family members, our kindergarteners and preschoolers wanted to help in this ministry effort. The littlest lambs of St. John donated well over \$400 between the two grades.

When the month was over, The students brought in over \$2000. The final results between classes were the closest in history of the Hearts for Jesus campaigns.

To see the final standings class by class, and to read an update from our Southern District, go to www.sjshornets.com click on the Hearts for Jesus link.

Mrs. Mulholland Named “Chester Teacher of the Year”

St. John is pleased to announce the selection of Mrs. Lari Mulholland as the “Chester Teacher of the Year” Mrs. Mulholland has been at St. John for the last twelve years. She started at St. John as an aide for Mrs. Wendy Lochhead, kindergarten teacher and Director of the Early Childhood Program. More recently, Mrs. Mulholland has taken over the preschool ministry. Lari was nominated for the honor by one of her preschool students, Andrew Schwarting. Lari was one of several teachers nominated for the honor, but after reading Andrew’s nomination letter, Mrs. Mulholland received the honor. Final selection was done by the staff at the *Chester Herald Tribune*.

Mrs. Mulholland lives in Steeleville with her husband, Dave. She has two children, Kelly and Jeff. Both of whom are college students. Congratulations Mrs. Mulholland.

St. John Announces 2005 – 2006 Beta Club Nominees

On Friday, October 7, St. John announced its Beta Club nominees for the 2005-6 school year. The nominees are sixth graders Ben Asselmeier, Morgan Colvis, Christopher Dudenbostel, Dani Homan, Lauren Hoops, Kristen Maes and Taylor Marks. The 'Inductees-elect' were inducted into membership during an evening service on

October 19.



August and September Students of the Week

St. John is pleased to announce the selection of the following children selected as “Students of the Week” during the months of August and September. Students are chosen on the basis of their desire to learn, and their willingness help their teachers and fellow students.



August students are: Matthew Smith, Ellen Blechle, Jaclyn Colvis, Alyssa Hoops Megan Brockmeyer,xxxx, xxxx Marks, and Jacob Lochhead.



September – Ashley Wagner, Chris Lang, Hanna Sweizer, Shelby Kueker, Miranda Mueller, Sarah Hecht, XXXX,XXXXX,Josh Bierman,Teddy Knop,Nick Rinehart,Joseph Marks, Jared Johnson, Ben Miranda ,and Nicholas Gross

St. John Receives Gift from the Evans Estate

We are indebted to the late Pauline Evans. In her estate Mrs. Pauline Evans, who loved children, made provisions to a variety of organization, one of them being St. John. Periodically St. John receives funds from the estate to be specifically spent on the education of children. This year, Mrs. Evans funds will be spent on equipment for the preschool/kindergarten rooms and for the primary and upper grades, library books and Accelerated Reader materials.

Daysha Westerman's Work Published

St. John eighth grader, Daysha Westerman, a member of the St. John chapter of the National Junior Beta Club, is now a published author. Daysha's poem *The Man* was published in the latest edition of the club's magazine *The Journal*. Daysha is the second St. John student who has had her work published. The other student, Rachel Duensing, had her work published. Pictured are the two published authors.



Classroom News

Preschool - God has blessed our preschool program with 29 smiling, and energetic 3 and 4 year old's. Getting to know everyone and everyone learning the routine of school has been quite interesting. We have learned about creation, Adam and Eve and that "sneaky snake" during "Jesus Time". We have been practicing our colors,

shape and numbers. We are tracing some wiggly lines in practice of the exciting name writing! We love recess, and "Free play". The children are fast becoming great friends. We are looking forward to the leaves on the trees changing colors soon!

May God continue to bless our school and our class.

Mrs. L. Mulholland and the Preschool children

Kindergarten - "All your children will be taught by the Lord, and they will have much peace." **Isaiah 54:13**

The Kindergarten children have been busy - busy learning, busy discovering, and busy loving.

During **Jesus Time** we've learned that the Bible is divided into two parts - The Old Testament (stories before Baby Jesus was born) and The New Testament (stories after Baby Jesus was born). We've started 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 and Moses. 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've studied seven letters, memorized a phonics rule, studied word families, coded words, and learned one sight word.

We've started writing in our **Kindergarten Journals** which have included the entries: Me, You Are My Sunshine, God Bless America, I Love Apples, Fall, Owl Watching, and My Visit to the Pumpkin Patch. We are quite the authors and illustrators.

At this time we are anticipating two **Field Trips** during the month of October. We are picking pumpkins at the Colvis Pumpkin Patch (we made special shirts to wear on that day), and we are walking to the Chester Fire Station to learn about Fire Safety.

During **Math Readiness** we are writing numerals 1-10, rote counting 1-25, learning and creating math graphs for our classroom, and patterning our September and October days (with an ABAB pattern).

Our favorite time of the day, however, is **Jesus Time**. We love to sing praise songs to Jesus to begin our day. And as we leave - we carry home a love song to Jesus . . . in our hearts.

Keeping our hearts full - *of Jesus*,

Mrs. Lochhead and the Kindergarten Kids

First Grade - The first grade class of 2005-2006 is off to a great start. We have 2 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 first seven days of creation. I have challenged our class 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 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 on the St. John school sign in the front yard!) we shared a piece of gingerbread with all of our helpers we met along the way.

We also celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday, by watching a film strip, reading books, and cooking apple butter. The first graders were able to follow the recipe, and wash, peel, and cut the apples to make the apple butter. We enjoyed the warm taste on biscuits, along with fresh butter we made ourselves. We filled little jars of apple butter and gave those to our families to enjoy at home.

Our class is also benefiting from the help of several RSVP volunteers. Mr. Mattingly and Mr. Ralph Kipp have been testing us on our reading with the AR program on the computer. Pat McArdle and Bonnie Kipp are coming in to listen to us read. Anita Mueller and Eileen

Hasemeyer have also agreed to work with us this year. We love our volunteers so much.

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.

And finally we want to thank all the generous families and friends that bought books for our class from the PTL Book Fair. We have them in our room and are taking turns to read them. 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 birthday celebrated this quarter was:

Matthew Smith October 14th

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. I think the children have responded very well to the pre-class study time new implemented this year. The class is much more ready to begin the school day and are more focused on each day's activities.

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 Chief Mike Lochhead. 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 from Chief Lochhead about fire safety and prevention. Thank you, Chief Lochhead, for your time and thanks also to all the parents and grandparents who assisted with escorting the children on the field trip. Later, 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 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. The boys have won more than the girls but I believe the girls will make a come-back. In the end, everyone wins!

We have also been working on our monthly story books. The class has been writing a short story and drawing a picture for each month during the school year. The children will be bringing their books home in May.



Finally, the second graders participated in a project for "Make a Difference Day" by picking up the litter around the school grounds and the Parish Hall. The children worked hard and diligently and really did "make a difference." I'm very proud of the class who learned about service to the Lord.

See you at the Parent/Teacher's Conference!

Third Grade - The third graders welcome 3 new students to our school this year. Gabrielle Kueker, Philip Denault, and Matthew Myers. This brings our class total to 21 students.

We are studying life cycles of animals. Soon the cheeping of chicks and turkeys should fill the third grade classroom. Our chicks should hatch on October 25. Each child has a mealworm to take care of and measure on a weekly basis. The children are hypothesizing about the next stage of development. We have a cricket home and are watching the cricket's life cycle. The painted lady butterflies have completed their life cycle. We received 5 caterpillars and watched them grow, form a chrysalis, and emerge as butterflies.

The third graders are working hard to memorize their multiplication facts. Hopefully

they will know them well by Christmas.

Fourth Grade - This year, most of the students made the transition from Primary to Intermediate Level easily. At the fourth grade level, publishers reduce the size of the print and also have more text and fewer pictures. This adds up to a lot more reading in Social Studies, Science, English, and Religion. Also, more assignments are in the book and have to be copied on paper instead of having a worksheet, even in Math. I was very pleased and proud of how rapidly these fourth grade students responded to the longer lessons and harder work.

Fifth Grade - The 2005-2006 5th Grade is 18 students strong. They are a classroom full of strong minds and energetic ideas. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans this class of concerned souls wanted to do their part. They had so many thoughts on how we could help we nearly ran out of class time. In the end the class decided they wanted to do a fund drive.

To accomplish this, they chose Chelsea to make a bucket (which Janelle Knowles donated). The bucket was to be placed at the Fall raffle stand at Popeye Picnic. The students thought it would be good to advertise their bucket in the Popeye Picnic Parade. Therefore Chelsea, Jocelynn, her mother, Katie, Courtney, Christopher, and Andrea volunteered to walk in the hot parade with their teacher to hand out pamphlets about "The Hearts for Jesus" campaign. Mrs. Schroeder and friends at the stand kept an eye on the students who showed up to work a shift with the bucket at the stand. Thanks to the hard work of several students, help from some moms and the kind generosity of good people the students felt they had done well.

Fifth Grade is quite an adjustment. Learning to be more responsible while taking on more assignments and privileges can be daunting. We have several athletes and band members in our class. They are trying to make the adjustment. I am proud of all of the students at this point. Each has made contributions to St. Johns and our classroom.

Sixth Grade - The sixth grade recently visited the Sparta National Guard Armory for an all day safety workshop on everyday situations such as law mowing, riding ATVs, pet care, and a hands-on tour of a medical helicopter. The weather was rather unpleasant but everyone seemed to enjoy at least

some of the presenters.

We are already on our second book in literature, *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Our first book was by Andrew Clements, titled *Frindle*. We tried some of the techniques in the book that Nick used, several of the students were threatened with detention. We decided that we could feel Nick's pain and could relate to what he was going through. As we read these books we talk about setting, characters, plot and how these items are used in good literature.

In religion class we are working our way through the Sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper. We are reviewing the Old Testament promises and how they were fulfilled in the New Testament through Jesus, the Lamb.

"Time flies when you are having fun" is a saying that really applies to this class. It has been a first quarter of sheer bliss and I'm loving it! God's Blessings from Mrs. Knop and the sixth grade.

Seventh Grade - The 2005-06 year is off on a great start. The 7th graders have been busy learning about the basic building blocks of life, cells. We have painted the cell cycle, viewed yeast cells under a microscope and turned starch black through a Ziploc bag of iodine!

History has taken us to far and beyond places. The students started off the school year by studying the very first Americans that traversed to our continent via land bridge. We then wandered to down to South America. There we learned the ancient Aztecs thought the fair-haired Hernan Cortes was a god! (He was actually a young, headstrong noble from Spain.) They presented him with gifts and gold, but the honeymoon period didn't last long when Cortes conquered the Aztecs and built present-day Mexico City on their capital's ruins.

7th grade is looking forward to a great rest of the year. We are also welcoming another student to our class. We would like to welcome Brittany Hormann and Steven McIntyre. Welcome Brittany and Steven, we're glad to have you in our St. John Family.

Eighth Grade - We have been busy with a variety of things this past month. We have been

working on our Confirmation/Graduation banners. We have been working on it in stages with the final banner due the day before Christmas vacation begins. Other activities include things to raise money for our class trip to Chicago. We have sold candy and we are taking orders for Tupperware, and we have scheduled a day to rake leaves in the fall order to raise money.

School Bus Transportation Reimbursement Information

Parents or legal guardians who must provide transportation to and from school **because free transportation is not available for their children** may be eligible to to receive money from the state to help offset some of the cost.

If you can answer yes to the following questions for the 2005- 6 school year you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for providing such transportation:

1. Will the pupil be under the age of 21 at the close of the school year?
2. Is the pupil a full-time student in grades kindergarten through 12?
3. Does the pupil either live 1 ½ miles or more from school but **must be transported** due to a serious safety hazard approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation?
4. Does the pupil attend a school within Illinois which meets the Illinois compulsory attendance laws?
5. Does the parent/guardian incur transportation expenses resulting from transporting the pupil to and from school?
6. Did the pupil not have access to transportation to and from school provided entirely at public expense?
7. Did the parent/guardian reside within Illinois during the time period expenses were incurred?

If you answered yes to the above questions, lived in Illinois, and wish to file a claim, you must come in by June 30, 2006 to submit claim information.

St. John Students to Participate in Team Quest

On Wednesday and Thursday, October 19 and 20,

students from the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades traveled from throughout the schools of the Southern Illinois District to participate in an academic program called "Team Quest". Team Quest is a program produced by the organization Adventures in Learning.

Team Quest is a series of challenges involving team work to complete engineering skills and higher level thinking skills.

On Thursday, the eight grade team worked through a series of challenges including a math, music, and general trivia portion of the competition. They also were assigned the task of creating a new game, develop rules, and create a stadium in which the new "sport" was to be played. However, even though they worked hard and were committed to the day, they were unable to place.

Eight grade team members were Rachel Duensing, Brittany Hammel, Aaron Grah and Daysha Westerman.



The previous day the sixth grade worked through a series of challenges and was more successful. They won their age group by two points. Having done so, they qualify for the regional finals which will be held later this spring.

Students from the sixth representing St. John are Ben Asselmeier, Greg Rowold, James Brockmeyer, Christopher Dudenbostel.



Third Annual Dinner Auction a Success

After months of planning and hard work, St. John held its third annual "Harvest Festival Dinner Auction" on Saturday, October 22.

Those that were in attendance expressed how much they enjoyed the evening and many who had been in attendance at previous auctions commented that "this was the best one yet".

Financially speaking, it was. As of this writing, the final net total is expected to be over \$32,000. In the short history of this event, the auction has brought in nearly \$100,000 toward the reduction of the debt and operational expenses.

Members of St. John and the business community at large were very generous with both their donations and their bidding. One example of the generous bidding was Betty Congelton's quilt with a likeness of St. John embroidered on the front. This quilt was chosen as "Best of Show" at the DuQuoin State Fair and was purchased for \$1700.

St. John's Parish Hall was beautifully decorated for the evening by Brenda Owen, Donna Young and their committee. Barb Welge and Tammy Grah did a masterful job again this year with the silent and live auctions respectively. St. John staff members served the excellent meal prepared by Anne Ebers, Barb Fricke, and their committee.

Thank you to everyone who made the evening a success.



*Lutheran Schools: A Great Place
to Grow*



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2005 - 2006

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