

THE HORNETS NEST

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY OF 2007

Mr. Christopher Urquhart
PrincipalMrs. Lari Mulholland
PreschoolMrs. Wendy Lochhead
KindergartenMrs. Connie Mattingly
First GradeMrs. Pam Sheely
Second GradeMrs. Jeanne Wagner
Third GradeMrs. Janet Baldwin
Fourth GradeMrs. Kathy Belcher
Fifth GradeMrs. Meg Knop
Sixth GradeMrs. Sabrina Jeremiah
Seventh GradeMr. Jason Stallons
Eighth Grade AideMrs. Bobbie Sheffer
After School CareMrs. Jane Blechle
MusicMrs. Cathy Eggers
Computer/ArtLynn Powley
Office AdministratorMr. Roy Fedderke
School Custodian
Church 618-826-3545
Fax 618-826-4804curquhar@randolph.k12.il.usWWW.sjshornets.com

COFFEE CUPS

Mrs. Lochhead shared this with me, so I thought I would share it with the rest of you.

A group of alumni, highly establish in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversations soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite, - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice-looking, expensive cups were taken leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourself, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. When all you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you unconsciously went for the best cups... and then you began eyeing each other's cups.

Continued on page 3

(Continued on page 3)

SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL ANNOUNCED

The following students have earned a place on the Honor Roll for the second quarter:

4.00 – 3.76 Britney Schroeder, Rachel Sheely, Benjamin Asselmeier, Morgan Colvis, Christopher Dudenbostel, Dani Homan, Lauren Hoops, Kristen Maes, Taylor Marks, Jenna Wingerter, Caleb Arbeiter, Chelsea Schroeder, Andrea Wagner, Bradley Asselmeier, Colin Canady, Jared Johnson, Jacob Lochhead, Joseph Marks, Justin Marks, Austin Redeker, Lacey Reynolds. (continued on page 2)

2007 BETA CLUB INDUCTION

On Monday, January 29, seven students, ranging from grades 6 thru 8 were inducted into the St. John Chapter of the National Junior Beta Club. The Beta Club is an academically based, service oriented, honor society. Inductees went through a screening process and spent one quarter of the school year on probation status until their final selection was approved.

The new Beta Club members for 2006-7 are Jaelee Fortner, James Brockmeyer, Jenna Wingerter, Jacob Cowan, Courtney Johnson, Christopher Schwartz, and Andrea Wagner.

EIGHTH GRADE CLASS SPONSORS TRIVIA NIGHT

Trivia Night

As a means of raising funds for their class trip, the eighth grade will be sponsoring a Trivia Night on Sunday, February 25, in the parish hall. Doors will open at 5:30 and the contest will start at 6:00. Entry fee is \$10 per person with a maximum of eight people per table. Bring your own food if you like but the concession stand will be open to purchase food and/or drinks. Come for an evening of fun and help the eighth grade at the same time. Cash prizes will be awarded on the basis of number of people entered.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

HONOR ROLL (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

3.75 – 3.51 James Brockmeyer, Jacob Cowan, Courtney Johnson, Hunterushman.

3.50 – 3.26 Elizabeth McClure, Nicholas Gross, Natasha Pulliam.

3.25 – 3.00 Jaelee Fortner, Hanna Knop, Shelly Lyons, Andrew Schlueter, Jesse Parks, Greg Rowold, Jocelynn Fortman, Solomon Mueller, Jonavon Richelman, Christopher Schwartz, Zane Wallace, Benjamin Miranda, Sarah Lochhead, Averi Mueller, Jessica Powell, Kaleb Vogt, and Kacy Westerman

PLANS ARE UNDER WAY FOR NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

The National Lutheran Schools Week Committee held its initial meeting to discuss plans for the observance of National Lutheran Schools Week 2007. This year's theme - Lutheran Schools - A Great Place to Grow is subtitled Transforming Lives based on Ephesians 6:18.

This year the celebration begins Monday, March 4, and continues thru Friday, March 8. Because we have chosen the theme Make Me a Servant this year, the committee felt that a week long project should be the centerpiece of this year's observation. So we have chosen Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary, a mission school in East St. Louis. We will be collecting much needed supplies for the school. Watch for more information.

C TEAM WINS TOURNAMENT

On Saturday, January 13, St. John hosted the 15th annual St. John Invitational C Team Tournament. Participating schools were: Prairie du Rocher (4th place), Chester Public (3rd place), and St. Mark's (2nd place), a St. John Chester (1st place).

COFFEE CUPS (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

Now consider this: life is the coffee; the jobs, the money, and position in society are the cups. They are just tools that hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us." God brews the coffee not the cup... Enjoy your coffee!

"The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make

the best of everything."

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God. You are the miracle, my friend. Your life either shines a light - or casts a shadow.

Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

IN THE CLASSROOM

PRE-SCHOOL

We came to school after the Christmas Break excited to see our friends again.

We continued our "Time with Jesus" talking about the "Special Baby Boy" who was born to be the King! We are learning about how he grew up to teach others about his love. We have had letters Aa-Pp in the alphabet. While we were on the letter "Nn" we had a very special day planned. We did our own version of the story "Stone Soup". Each child was asked to bring in a small baggie of their favorite "N"oodle. After each child brought in the baggie of noodles we put them in a big bowl.. We then found out that if everyone would bring in a small amount of noodles we would have a whole lot! We made a large pot of Chicken Noodle soup and shared it! The 3 year old class invited the 4th grade to share soup and to be our reading buddies. The 4 year old class had the 5th grade class to share soup with and they also were our reading buddies. It was a fun day! We are planning another "Cooking Day" where we are making a "P"ersonal "P"an "P"izza. We are always busy, we enjoy creating special projects, singing and reading stories. We are also having a great time doing larger puzzles.

We have made some snowmen, mittens, and other snow projects while we patiently wait for some "White Stuff" to fall.

KINDERGARTEN

"God loves each one of us, as if there were one of us." - Max Lucado -

Jesus loves you! The Kindergarten Classroom has started the New Testament during **Jesus Time**. We are learning all about Jesus and His miracles and ministry. We have also learned the praise song, "Shout To The Lord!" God's Spirit is growing in our classroom - and in our hearts!

During **Phonics** we are starting to put individual sounds together to make words. We are also putting these words together to make sentences - and putting

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

these sentences together to make stories. In short, we are in the process of learning to read! It's exciting! It's awesome! Our readers include - An Ant Nap, The Hill, Tim's Lost Fan, and The Milk Spills.

At this writing we are anticipating our **100th Day of School Celebration!** We have made T-Shirts to celebrate this day and many other activities have been planned. We are bringing in 100 items to help us understand the value of "100." This day has always been a special day in the Kindergarten classroom.

Our **Kindergarten Journals** are getting bigger and bigger. Some of our entries include: Just My Dog and Me, I Like My Hat, I Have a Cozy Little Quilt, January First - Jesus First, Unto Us a Child is Born, The Christmas Cat, and I Can Count My Blessings - just to name a few! We are quite the authors and illustrators!

FIRST GRADE

The first grade class has enjoyed the months of November and December. We enjoyed studying the Thanksgiving stories and preparation for our Christmas service and special projects. Our children's Christmas service was the real highlight of our season. All of our students studied hard and practiced until we knew it oh so well! We were ready to tell the good news of Jesus' birth!

We have studied the Old Testament stories of the children of Israel's journey into the Promised Land. These included the 12 spies, Joshua, and the fall of Jericho. We also studied Daniel.

Then we switched to the New Testament to study the birth of John the Baptist to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We celebrated the birthday of our Lord Jesus. We had a Christmas party on our last day of school in December. We exchanged gifts with our secret friends at our Christmas party, and remembered to sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus, our best gift of all! We want to thank all our parents for providing a wonderful Christmas party.

Our math lessons covered the adding one facts, counting backwards, and counting by 10's, and by 2's. We also counted money with dimes and pennies. We learned to tell time to the hour. Finally we covered subtracting 0 and subtracting a number from itself, and adding and subtracting 2's, from even and odd numbers.

Our phonics lessons have covered every letter except Q. We have learned to

detect the vowel, consonant, vowel pattern. We played out the sneaky e character, scaring the vowel into saying its name. We also covered contractions and digraphs oo and sh. We learned the “floss” rule and how to identify final stable syllables. We are reading and spelling compound words. We can read really

L - O - N - G w o r d s n o w .

We are reading more and more books every day and continue to move forward into more challenging vocabulary.

With Winter’s mild days, with so little snow, we made our own snow. We had fun spreading “snow” on our outdoor art scenes. We remain hopeful that a few snowy days still await us.

We want to thank Sharon Misuraca, and Mr. Mattingly, for donating an hour, or more, each week to read with us and test with us in our Accelerated Reader Program. We really appreciate our kind and helpful volunteers.

We celebrated Birthdays with Emily Atchison, December 17, Amanda Fricke, December 21, Joey Reid, December 24, Jessica Kattenbraker, January 20, Madelyn Kueker, January 21, and Clayton Richelman, January 29.

SECOND GRADE

For the past few months, the 2nd grade class have been spending time in learning about service to God and His people as we continue with this year’s theme: “Make Me a Servant”. In November, the class was eagerly involved with the school project of collecting cans of food for the church food pantry. Though the class did not take the top honors of collecting the most food, the children enjoyed the project in understanding when Jesus said, “When I was hungry, you fed me.” In December, even though we couldn’t visit those in the nursing facilities, Pastor Willig and Vicar Standfest delivered Christmas cards and Christmas pictures that the children colored. Jesus said, “I was sick and you visited me.”

During this month, the second graders have been learning how to pray. Yes, they learned how to pray aloud. We prayed for people in our family. We prayed for ourselves. Then, each child had to pick a classmate’s (or teacher’s) name from a container and pray aloud for that person. We also had thank you prayers. It is really amazing how some young children are God’s witnesses of the faith! Keep on praying.

In Math, the second graders are enjoying their time at the chalk-board and showing how they can add 2 digit numbers. It takes practice, but the children enjoy the sense of accomplishment when they successfully “carry their

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

one” and complete the problem.

In handwriting, we are into cursive which is exciting to the kids. The children very much enjoy learning to write their cursive letters. I don't see any future doctors in my class - their handwriting is much too neat. Sorry, parents!

In religion, we have started reading the stories of the New Testament of the Bible. The children enjoy learning about the miracles of Jesus Christ.

Finally, we just finished our science unit on light and color. I think the children learned a lot from this unit. I know they enjoyed the experiments we did with flashlights, making shadows, making rainbows and mixing colors.

Happy New Year and God's blessings to everyone.

THIRD GRADE

The holidays were filled with family and the joy of Christmas. I hope that your holidays were holidays to remember. It's hard to believe that our year is half over.

The children have finished a unit of Aesop's Fables. They have learned a lot and had a lot of fun discussing and writing about the fables.

We are continuing with the story of Jesus' birth and life. What an amazing story! The children are learning about the disciples and their role in the story of Jesus.

In math most of the children have learned their multiplication facts.

We have been studying perfect squares, fractions, measurements, and some division.

Social studies will be taught this semester. We will begin with life in communities and move on toward the founding of the 13 colonies.

We are almost finished with the grammar section of our English book. We will now be focusing on writing paragraphs and stories. The third grade will participate in the Young Author Contest.

Every year all the third grade classes in Randolph County participate in a poster contest. The theme is "What Does Agriculture Mean to Me". Friday, Kendra Heaton will visit our class to talk about agriculture in our area. Hopefully this will inspire the artists in our classroom.

FOURTH GRADE

The third quarter will be quite busy for the fourth grade. First, the third and fourth grades are responsible for the Devotional at the February PTL meeting. February is also "Hearts for Jesus" month and several students are planning to earn money for this project. We are also busy planning and developing Young Author

stories which are due the first of March. Along with the Young Author project, several students are competing in the Poetry Contest at Southwestern Illinois College in Red Bud. The deadline for this project is Feb. 21. The fourth grade students will also be taking the national Stanford Achievement Test the end of March. This is the first time students will experience this type of test. A week of testing is exhausting at any grade level. With all of the above activities to keep us busy, we will also start practicing for the Talent Show which is a part of Lutheran School Week. And I have no doubt that these fourth grade students can accomplish all of the above, and enjoy doing it.

FIFTH GRADE

The fantastic Fifth Graders have been busy preparing stories for their First Grade friends. They were invited to have soup with the Preschoolers on Wednesday, January 10, and they read to the little ones too. While there, the 5th Graders got some ideas to help them write their stories. On the Tuesday before, each had interviewed a First Grader about his or her likes and dislikes. Now they are incorporating those ideas into a one-of-a-kind story just for that child. This activity will help the students understand the steps involved in story writing and illustrating. This teacher is fortunate to have 18 students, which is an equal match to Mrs. Mattingly's 18 First Graders.

We completed our Outer Space unit in Science having "boldly gone where no one had gone before." It was lucky for us that the Space Shuttle Discovery launched during our chapter of study. My husband faithfully taped each day's NASA coverage so I could bring it in for the 5th Graders to watch. We were all home for the Holidays when the Discovery Crew landing back safely on Earth. However it did make our study more interesting.

We are learning about the brave men and women who rebelled against Great Britain and King George III. The students are reading about and discussing the elements of the Declaration of Independence. It is so very important for them to embrace the ideas for which this country was founded. Hopefully you are passionately and eagerly helping your child understand and appreciate that for which so many have given their lives.

The Fifth Graders are preparing to perform their first Chapel Service. I have given them several ideas for scriptures and such but beyond that they vote on which they most wish to bring to the school body. The message they are discussing is a secret. They have wonderful hearts and phenomenal insights. I look forward to hearing their message. I hope you'll join us on February 28, to hear it with me.

Blessings! Mrs. Belcher

"It is so very important for them to embrace the ideas for which this country was founded"

SIXTH GRADE

We finished reading "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. We took it slowly and discussed each section as we traveled through the past, present, and future with Scrooge. The class enjoyed the book even though it is written in a style and language pattern that is sometimes very difficult to understand.

We wrapped up this literature unit with the movie "The Muppet's Christmas Carol" and were also able to watch a newer version of "A Christmas Carol" starring George C. Scott.

History finds us in the ancient empire of Greece. We have followed the conquest of Alexander The Great and his down fall. One of the extra lessons in our History book is on personal opinions, and appreciating how other people's opinions and values can, and will be different from our own, but not necessarily wrong.

We are continuing the study of Jesus life with His disciples as they journey toward the cross. We are enjoying the parables that Jesus told, and are applying them to our own lives.

SEVENTH GRADE

!!!Welcome 2007!!!

Wow, it's hard to imagine that over half of the school year is already past! 7th grade has been very busy lately. Our Life Science class is leading us on the path of various bacteria and viruses. Did you know that encephalitis is a viral infection of the brain? We're never too old to stop learning.

Studying this chapter has proven to be quite helpful since cold and flu season is upon us. Discovering what medications will and will not help you get better has been quite interesting. No matter what the commercial claims, antibiotics will never rid you of a virus! The recommended remedies are plenty of rest, nutritious foods and lots of liquids. So rest up, and keep those viruses at bay!

We will culminate this unit of study with a nutritious, delicious lab of mozzarella cheese making! Of course, we'll be using our newfound expertise of bacteria in this tasty experiment.

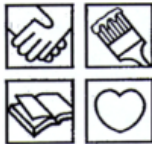
Now we'll shift to the Civics side of things. The 7th graders are studying our Federal Constitution, as their 8th grade counterparts learn the ins and outs of the Illinois Constitution. The classes seem to enjoy the break from the Social Studies text for a while. We find ourselves daily comprehending and realizing exactly why our country and state operates the way it does.

The 7th grade and I hope that this issue finds you well, and happy in 2007. We thank you for all of your love, support and prayers to our mission in Christian education. May this be a year of peace, hope, love and prosperity to you and yours.

EIGHTH GRADE (CONTINUED ON LAST PAGE)

"MAKE ME A SERVANT"

JEREMIAH 33:22



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL

2006—2007

St. John Lutheran School

302 W. Holmes
Chester, Illinois
62233

Phone: 618-826-4345
Fax: 618-826-4804
Email: curquhar@randolph.k12.il.us
Website: www.sjshornets.com

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Chester, Illinois 62233

Permit #76

Car. R. T. Presort

Address Service Requested

EIGHTH GRADE

The eighth grade has been working diligently on their writing and grammar skills. Recently, they have written a mystery-themed paper, which I encourage parents to read after they are returned. With their daily journal writings, I believe the class is becoming more at ease with writing whatever comes into their thoughts. Their increased spontaneity has produced some extremely creative papers ranging anywhere from two to eight pages in length. Currently, the class is focused on submitting their American Legion Essay, with a few students working on their 2007 Young Authors paper. In English, the class has just finished covering punctuation and capitalization, and is starting to learn about pronouns.

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/School. Click on the "Principal's Page" link, then click on "contact me".