

RAMOPAGE

St. Luke Catholic School Newsletter

Steve Weber, Principal

317-255-3912

September 16, 2009

Mr. Weber Says: Our focus for this month has been patience. I'm beginning to understand how hard it is to be patient! We worked hard on many school improvement issues last year. While progress is being made, things always take longer than planned and other issues seem to get in the way of the big things.

This struck me when listening to this past week's Gospel. Jesus was frustrated with Peter because he didn't get what Jesus was asking. How many times do we too miss what Jesus may be saying to us? Are we being too literal or too busy to get on board with His plan for us? Is it "all about me," instead of all about Jesus and His call? Christians are called to be active in our faith. The Epistle from this past weekend from St. James says that faith without works is a dead faith. It is hard to be faithful without working at it. We don't get good at anything in our lives if we don't work at it. This applies to sports, learning, jobs, family AND faith.

The parish offers many opportunities to explore and grow. Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) has one-night retreats adults. Being a sponsor or taking part in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a great way to find our more about our Catholic Faith. Service based programs such as St. Vincent de Paul, Lord's Pantry or Food Link allow for more hands on experiences. Joining the choir to share musical gifts is a wonderful way to make liturgy joyous. Contact the church office can give you details on all of these opportunities.

The real point of all of this is taking time to grow in faith and build joy. We cannot deny pain in this world, but even from the cross, Jesus promised us true joy.

Progress Reports Home: Mid-quarter reports will be sent home Thursday, September 17. Please review the report, sign and return on Friday.

Retreats: Please keep our fifth graders and third graders in your prayers as the spend time in prayer and reflection with half-day retreats today (5th grade) and tomorrow (3rd grade). The goal is to set a positive tone and direction for the year.

Spirit Day/Early Dismissal Day: Tomorrow, Thursday, September 17 will be a Spirit Day and a 2PM dismissal for a faculty meeting. Students may wear St. Luke spirit wear tomorrow.

ISTEP+ Results: Results from the spring ISTEP+ testing are now posted on-line. Use the access information sent home in the last family packet. Below is a chart of basic results for last spring's testing. A more detailed report will be presented after we have had time to review results and look for areas of improvement.

Grade (3/09)	Language Arts	Mathematics	Sci. or Soc. Studies
3	99% pass	96% pass	NA
4	97% pass	96% pass	99% pass (Science)
5	100% pass	97% pass	97% pass (Soc St)
6	96% pass	100% pass	92% pass (Science)
7	95% pass	97% pass	92% (Soc St)
8	95% pass	99% pass	NA

One good piece of news was that in almost all areas and grades the passing rates increased from the fall testing. Overall scores improved as well.

St. Luke Youth Minister: A wonderful welcome to Mary Barnstead, who will be our new Youth Minister for our parish. Mary is a former parent and very active in the parish. We welcome her leadership and vision for our youth.

School Commission: The School Commission Survey Results are available on the St. Luke website. Please go to stluke.org. Click on the 'School' tab on the left. Then click on 'Commission News'. Currently, the draft of our September minutes is posted, as is the survey from last school year. Thanks for your patience as we work to get these items and more available to you. Please check back periodically for more additions and updates.

We would also like to invite you to meet your School Commission members prior to the October School Commission meeting. We will meet in the Fr. Courtney Reception Room at 6:30pm on October 6th. Let us answer any questions you might have, share what we are doing this year with School Commission and hear from you. The monthly School Commission meeting will follow at 7pm in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.

Art on the Web: We were able to post several art pieces under student work on the school link to the website. These were selected from work submitted for last year's literary and arts journal.

Speaking of the literary and arts journal, we are excited that the PTO arts and enrichment group will sponsor a second edition for this spring. Watch for information coming out in the October 14 family packet.

Bully No More Notes: We'd like to share some acronyms used during the presentation to grades 1-5 this week. Students are asked to "Be S.A.F.E or Stand Tall, Ask for Help, Figure Out Options, End it Calmly." They are also called to "Be a H.E.R.O., Help Out, Empathize, Report, Open Communication." You might stress these concepts with your children.

Colts Big Blue Camp: Students in grades 2-5 will participate in a special fitness and skills camp on Tuesday, September 23. Parents must sign a release to allow their child to participate in the camp. While there will not be Colts players at the camp, it is run by former Colt and St. Luke AD Mike Prior.

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting: Parents of second graders who will be preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation have an information meeting on Sunday, September 27 following the 9AM Mass. The meeting will begin about 10:10 in the parish hall cafeteria. It is important to have at least one parent at the meeting.

Grade 5 Flat Rock Camp: The fifth grade goes to the YMCA Camp at Flat Rock for an overnight September 30 to October 1. They will study outdoor education and great physical and team challenges. The \$55 fee is due to be paid online by Friday, September 18. Contact Sue Reynolds at ext 217 if you have problems with the online payment process.

Block-tober Fest, Sept 26: Join the rest of the parish for a fun picnic and learn about service opportunities available at our parish. The event follows 5:30 Mass on Saturday, September 26. Students needing parish service hours may sign up with Mrs. Hartley in the parish office thartley@stluke.org or 259-4373 x 248 to help with this event.

Picture Retake Date: The date for school pictures for make up or retakes is Thursday, November 12.

Wellness Notes: We cannot stress enough basic health care standards. Hand washing is a critical practice. Sneeze or cough into a sleeve, not a hand. Do not send a child to school with a fever or with clear flu like symptoms. Follow vaccination recommendations. Children need rest and good nutrition to stay healthy.

Welcome: We welcome **Emma Baldwin**, who is moving with her family to Indianapolis from Little Rock to fifth grade on Monday, September 28

Community Notes:

Bishop Chatard High School invites eighth graders to join their freshman for a dance following the football game on **Friday, September 18 from 9:30-11**. A \$3 donation will help the Dance-a-thon for Riley Hospital.

First Quarter Conference Child Care: The eighth grade parents and students will provide child-care during the **fall conferences October 19, 20 and 21**. Your donation will help the class cover class expenses. Child-care will be in the south gym with coloring, games, physical activities, homework help, and more.

Flu Shot Clinic: The Archdiocese is offering a flu shot clinic at St. Luke from 2-4PM on **Friday, October 9** that is open to all school and parish families. There is no need for an appointment, just walk in. The cost for a flu shot is \$25. There is no charge for those on Medicare. They only need to bring their Medicare card.