

RAMOPAGE

St. Luke Catholic School Newsletter

Steve Weber, Principal

317-255-3912

September 30, 2009

Mr. Weber Says: During the month of October we are focusing on **kindness** as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. The old saying of “practice random acts of kindness” is a good one for us to follow. We do not know the impact of simply being nice or kind to another person may have. Folks have sometimes said that I did something that was very meaningful to them, and I had no memory of the act.

Our third graders’ recent retreat stressed, “I am third.” This means we keep God first, others second and self third. If we, as adults, are able to model this, then we tend to be aware of the needs of others. This makes us much more likely to respond in a kindly way. Our children model their own behavior after ours. Our actions speak much more loudly than our words.

Please help us in our quest to be good role models for our children. We, like you, are not perfect. If we are kind to each other, then we will see more kindness in our children’s actions.

The Lord is Good! Mary Bates is now Sister Mary Grace of Jesus. Sister Mary is a 1992 alumna of our school and a 1996 graduate of Bishop Chatard High School. She professed her Perpetual Vows as a Little Sister of the Poor on August 9, 2009 in St. Pern, France. She is the daughter of parishioners Carl and Margie Bates. Sister's new assignment is to the Home in Latham, New York. Please continue to keep Sister Mary Grace in your prayers. Please keep vocations to serve God and His people through the priesthood and religious life as a part of your daily prayer life.

Uniform Notes: Please remember that uniform shorts may not be worn after September 30. Only uniform slacks for boys or girls, or uniform jumpers or skirts for girls may be worn until May 1. Please consult page 18 in the school handbook for uniform pant, belt and other requirements.

The weather is cooler this week. Please be sure your child brings a jacket for outside play. Remember that only the new red or navy uniform sweatshirt or the “grandfathered” blue uniform sweatshirt with the embroidered church or navy blue uniform sweater may be worn in the classroom. Other items may be worn as outerwear for outside play but may not be worn for class.

Thank you for nearly complete cooperation and compliance with short and skirt “to the knee” length requirements. The students do look much better. Please be sure your name is in your children’s uniform items so they can be returned. The lost and found is starting to fill up!

Nurse's Notes: We are receiving notices of students with flu-like symptoms. We are told to assume they are H1N1. Please keep encouraging good hand washing practices. If you are working, please be sure to have a contingency plan if your child is sick with a fever of over 100 degrees or has active flu symptoms. Keeping them home is the best way to contain the spread.

Sick Child? Please be sure to call the office no later than 9AM to request homework for a child who is home sick. We cannot guarantee that work can be collected after that time. The assignments will be ready for pick up or delivery to the person you request at 3PM.

Cafeteria Notes: As you know, parents are always welcome to join a child for lunch. Please let the cafeteria staff know if you will want to order a cafeteria lunch. The adult cost is \$3.00. If you are bringing lunch please keep it healthy! Simply sign in and put on a nametag when you come.

When you have a cafeteria with 60-120 students at a time, it is important that we keep things calm and orderly. It will help if you review the cafeteria rule in the handbook (p. 6). One of our rules is no more than 3 students may sit on a bench. With four benches per table that means, no more than 12 students per table. This avoids overcrowding, and it helps to encourage students to sit with a wide range of students. We also need students to stay seated. Please review the guidelines and honor them on your visit.

Occasionally, a parent brings an especially attractive treat such as French fries. Generously, the parent offers them to other children around the table. Sadly, this can turn into an "animal house" feeding frenzy. This is not really conducive for the kind of manners we know that you want your child to learn. If you wish to share, please walk them around so you can control the amount students take. It is important that you expect them to say "thank you" since that is our expectation. Thank you and bon appétit!

Car Pool Notes: Please do not leave your car running or keys in your car if you are not in the car. This is especially true if young children are left alone in the car. The teachers noted several cases of the car left running and young ones loose in the car. We have already had a case of a child locking the parent out of the car. Take this simple step to avoid a far more serious situation. Thanks for supporting us in keeping all of us safe.

Virtus: Protecting God's Children Training: We require all who work with our children to take "Protecting God's Children" to learn how to keep all of our children safe from sexual predators. You may check at www.virtusonline.org for times and to register for the class. Mr. Weber will facilitate a session at Bishop Chatard High School on Tuesday, October 20 at 6PM. Please register at the above website. Staff, volunteers and coaches, etc are also required to have a background check before working with our children.

Welcome: We welcome the Freese family to our school community. Kaitlyn Freese will be in first grade starting on Monday, October 5. Please make them feel welcome at St. Luke.

School Commission: Please join the School Commission for a “meet and greet” this coming Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30PM. Join is in the Reception Room. Meet your commission members in an informal setting before our meeting begins at 7:00PM. The meeting will be held in the Parish Hall Meeting Room.

Flu Shot Clinic: The Archdiocese is sponsoring a flu shot clinic for all school and parish families. The clinic will run on Friday, October 9 from 2-4PM in the Reception Room. The cost for the flu vaccine is \$25, and the pneumonia vaccine is \$45. There is no cost for people on Medicare, but your Medicare card is required. Please note that this is the standard flu vaccine and not the H1N1 vaccine.

Let’s get Focused: Our school social worker, Michelle Fisher and parent, Jenny Daniels are offering to start a support group for parents with children who have or may have ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). The purpose is to help provide support and resources for families. The organizational meeting will be Wednesday, October 14 at 8:15 AM in the school library. Contact Jenny at jennydaniels@att.net or Michelle at mfisher@stluke.org, if you have questions.

Trash Bag Thanks: We want to thank all who participated in the PTO trash bag sale. This is the major source of funding for all that the PTO does for our children and teachers. We will recognize our top sellers and have fun for all at 2:15 on Friday, October 9. You are welcome to park in carpool lines and join us in the gym for the celebration.

Spirit Day: Spirit Day is Thursday, October 15. We do have an early dismissal that day at 2PM. Please alert your carpool.

Mary’s WAY: You are invited to join the women of the parish and the community for dinner and a spiritually invigorating program on Thursday, October 15 at 6:45PM. Details are in the parish bulletin and available in the Narthex or call Teresa Schutzman at 439-1836.

Living Rosary: You are invited to come and pray the rosary with us on Tuesday, October 20 at 2:15 PM. Please park in carpool lines and come in to pray with us. Our students in the middle school will lead us in this scripture based rosary.

End of First Quarter: The first quarter report cards come home on Friday, October 16. First quarter conferences for grades 7 & 8 will be held from 3:15-5:15 October 19 and 20, then from 8:00-3:30 on October 21. Conferences for grades K-6 will be held on Wednesday, October 21 from 8:00-3:30. There will be no classes held on October 21, just conferences.

Cursive Writing: Given the recent media attention on the decision by Brownsburg to drop cursive writing, I asked Mrs. Kelly to go over the well researched reasons we teach cursive it first grade.

“Why cursive writing in first grade? It helps reduce the likelihood of letter reversals. Production is quicker and easier since each letter is linked to the next one. There is no question as to where each letter begins-it begins on the line. Spelling is fixed more firmly in the mind if the word is formed in a continuous movement rather than in a series of separate strokes with the pencil lifted off the paper between each one. In first grade, we focus on a multi-sensory approach to teach spelling and phonics, which includes the teaching of cursive writing.”

Even though we can use a calculator to help us solve math problems, we still need to know basic math facts. We expect all of our students to become competent in their use of the keyboard and all modern technology tools as they mature, but we still need to know how to write!

Lands End: All day on October 4th, save 20% on all Lands' End children's uniforms and regular apparel. Starting Oct.1st - 15th only, save \$25 off any Lands' End purchase of \$100 or more of regularly-priced items. Savings available in-store and on Landsend.com. Come in to the store to receive free shipping to your house on any online order.

Community Notes:

Brebeuf Prep School will host an information session at St. Luke on Monday, October 5 at 7:00PM in the Fr. Courtney Reception Room. Please contact Brebeuf Jesuit to RSVP at 524.7151 or admissions@brebeuf.org.

Bishop Chatard High School will have an information session at the home of Mark and Lola Paras (7475 Holliday Dr. E) on Monday, October 12 at 6:30 PM.

Cathedral High School will present “The Jungle Book” on Sunday, October 4 at 1 and 4 PM. St. Luke grad Lucas Beheringer has a leading role. He got his start playing Jesus in “Godspell” at St. Luke.

North Central HS: St. Luke's middle school liaison for North Central High School is Janine Bercovitz. She is available to answer questions that you have regarding NCHS. If you are interested in having your child shadow at NCHS this fall, please call Mrs. Laura Brandenburg at 259-5346 to request an application. The NCHS open house is on Sunday, November 1 from 2:00-5:00. Janine's contact information is 253-8964 home, 752-0484 cell.