



THE JOURNEY

LUTHER CENTER FOR LEARNING

P.O. Box 1018, Olalla, WA 98359 ♦ (360) 895-1782 ♦ December 2006

♦ www.LutherCenterForLearning.org ♦

Christmas 2006

"*Signs of Christmas*" was performed by Luther Center students on Thursday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Elim Lutheran Church sanctuary. The Christmas story was told through a combination of delightful songs and drama, and included musical performances by our student hand chime choir. In spite of the threat of a fierce windstorm, nearly 100 family members and friends were in attendance. The lights stayed on until we finished the program!



The featured activity at our November Parent Partners potluck was the packing of Christmas gift boxes for our soldiers in Iraq. Each box contained an assortment of paperback books, gum, candies, socks, tool kits and other items, along with a handwritten letter from a student. Parent, **Thelma Day**, then sealed and shipped the boxes to Iraq. Soon the students were thrilled to open letters of thanks from the soldiers who received their gifts.



Luther Center students also distributed free hot chocolate and nearly 500 candy canes to community folks who participated in Port Orchard's annual tree lighting festival on December 2. Once again, it was our parents who coordinated this activity, along with board member, **Carol Foley**.

"Bearing Fruit" Breakfast

Luther Center for Learning's Annual Breakfast, held on Saturday, November 11, was a time of inspiration, celebration and fellowship. The theme of this year's event was "Bearing Fruit," celebrating Luther Center's fourth year as a school. The audience watched videos from previous years, remembering the children, teachers, staff and events that made up our first years.

Current students sang several songs, including one in Spanish. The Spanish song showcased their increasing knowledge and skill of a language they now study and use on a daily basis. Parent speakers, **Ronni Wolfe** and **Denise Frankel** shared their pleasure and satisfaction with their children's progress and emphasized how much they appreciate the individualized attention and academic excellence that are trademarks of Luther Center. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet our outstanding Principal and teaching staff.

Pastors **Liz Engel** and **George Larson** and teacher **Debi Crutchfield** shared their insights and observations about Luther Center, emphasizing how richly we have been blessed over the past years and pointing out the wonderful abundance of "bearing fruit" that occurs in the hearts and lives of students. People were challenged to participate in the continued growth of the school, working toward the time that children from Kindergarten through Grade 12 will be attending the school.

Guests were assured that Luther Center for Learning appreciates all gifts shared with the

school. Prayers, student referrals, positive words in the community, donated supplies, coupons and volunteer hours in the classrooms are some of the ways that people give support. Monetary gifts fill the gap between tuition and the actual costs of educating a child. These gifts also allow us to give financial assistance to families who qualify for assistance. Thanks to a grant from **Fred Meyer of Port Orchard** and donation from **Betty Kintz** that covered our expenses, we are most grateful to report that Luther Center raised \$6,500 in cash donations, and pledges totaling more than \$64,000 were recorded. Luther Center for Learning is profoundly grateful for the love, kindness and generosity of our friends!

In the Classroom

On October 11 nurse, **Rachel Spang**, visited our school and taught the students about how germs spread and make us sick. She then had all the students practice washing their hands properly to remove all the germs. Don't underestimate the



power of hand washing! The few seconds you spend at the sink with your child could save you trips to the doctor's office.

Kindergarten is so full of learning adventures. At Luther Center the

letter 'G' doesn't stand just for ordinary words like goat or glass. In **Ms. Meadows'** class you crack open geodes and learn the rules to games like *Guess Who?*. When you get to the letter 'S' you begin learning sign language and learn to solve Sudoku puzzles using shapes. Did anyone notice the artwork



displayed at the Southworth-

Fauntleroy Ferry dock created by our kindergarten students?

In **Mrs.**

Crutchfield's class students take turns being the "Star Student" of the month. The Star Student gets some special privileges and can bring pets for show-

and-tell, invite their parents to lunch, make a special display poster and other things that make a child feel as special as they are. All students participate in Readers' Theater four times each week. This drama experience provides students a fun way to practice cue readiness, fluency, and reading expression. Once perfected, students perform puppet shows for the younger students. Science units have included the solar system and amphibians. Ask the students how a Venn Diagram works.



Mrs. Sinclair's students worked hard to learn letter writing skills and have entered the *Letters About Literature* contest. Students used their imaginations in writing and publishing their own poems. They also made their own rain gauge

and recorded our record rainfall and have learned about the forces that shape our earth.

All students have been learning about various cultures—traditions, similarities and differences. Recent field trips include pumpkin patches at Peninsula Gardens for kindergarteners and Hunter Farms for older students, Ted Brown Music in Tacoma for kindergarteners, and *The Nutcracker Ballet* for everyone.



Our First Recipe Book

Luther Center's first cookbook was published just in time for our November 11 fundraising breakfast. This book contains many 'kid friendly' and tasty recipes as well as recipes for ornaments, playdough, modeling clay, and homemade

window cleaner. Cookbooks sell for only \$7 each and may be purchased in the Luther Center office.

Love and Logic at Luther Center

Imagine teaching and parenting without getting angry or raising your voice. Imagine having energy at the end of a day working with children. *Love and Logic* techniques for parenting and teaching help adults place the responsibility of problem solving where it belongs—with the owner of the problem—while at the same time being attentive and caring.

Carol Foley, Vice President of Luther Center's Board of Directors, along with **Cheri Riehl**, did an outstanding job training Luther Center parents and teachers and Little Doves staff in Jim Fay's techniques for building children into successful, competent adults. Watch for a repeat of this training in 2007!

Student Computers are Networked

Thank you **Mark Camp, Paul Camp, Travis Sinclair**, and teacher **Jennifer Sinclair** for networking all our student computers for printing services and the internet! This was most gracious of you all, and the students will certainly make great use of your efforts. All of our computers are gifts. If you have a computer you would like to donate to Luther Center, please contact the school for



specifications.

Thank you parent **Joel Day** for our new desk storage units!

Spring Auction Coming in April

Preparations are underway for Luther Center's third annual spring Dinner and Auction. Building on last year's incredibly successful event, this year promises to be even more fun. Auction items are currently being accepted. If you'd like to offer an auction item, please consider an attractive theme basket (cheeses, layette, games, coffee, pastas, wines, etc.) or skillfully made arts and crafts or a weekend getaway or fishing/crabbing trip. You might also consider donating theater, sporting, or event tickets or a gift certificate for a dinner or a massage. In any case, you won't want to miss this fun-filled evening and help us celebrate and

promote the wonderful things happening at Luther Center.

Student Weavers Need Looms

Weaving is practical, artistic, useful and fun. Luther Center students are learning about weaving and are in need of a number of potholder looms to give them some practice. Please let Barb Hauelsen know if you have some of these looms that you would be willing to donate.

Helping children discover their own greatness!

Dear Friends of Luther Center for Learning,
We recently finished a long political campaign and cast our votes. However, the voting season is not over. This past Christmas Season reminded us of the affirmative vote God gave us through the birth of Jesus. Our future is God's gift to us. All that we do in life is our response to this gift.

You and I pass this affirmation on each time we invest in a child who will be going into a future that we will never see. When this child gets there, will this child have you to thank for being a participant in making it a positive journey?



At Luther Center we are now in our fourth year. Every day we see the results of people like you who help grow the dream where we are free to incorporate values, faith and knowledge into educating the whole person

Your New Year pledge or gift to Luther Center for Learning will help furnish a classroom in the new facility where we soon will move.

Your affirmative vote for children who are learning the love of passing forward what they receive will

grow a legacy of blessings that you have helped begin.

You are invited to visit Luther Center in person or online at www.LutherCenterForLearning.org.

—Pastor George Larson, Board Member

Luther Center Board Meets for Retreat and Planning



Luther Center for Learning has much to celebrate. Our fourth year has begun, and the first semester is almost complete. I am so thankful

for our principal, teachers, parents and volunteers who teach and nurture our children and cheer them on as they learn and discover their own greatness. A very special thank you is also given to our Board of Directors who so faithfully meet and work on behalf of the school. Their wisdom, time, energy and visionary leadership keep us moving forward to the goal of the Kindergarten through Grade 12 school we will become.



The Board met for a most important retreat in August. Our goal was to look at how far Luther Center has come and set the vision and plans of where we want to be in the years ahead. It was a great day spent in hard work, discussion and

decision. Our facilitator, **Gary Polain**, affirmed the wonderful work that has been done in building the school and current student body. He challenged the Board to plan strategically for the future, ensuring that the community would embrace and know the wonderful gift of Luther Center for Learning and students would fill the classrooms from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Reaffirming commitment to that end, the Board adopted and is actively working on three Strategic Initiatives to move forward.

1. **Marketing:** A sub-committee of Board members, Luther Center parents and community members meets regularly to address marketing issues. The school's Vision, Mission and Values statements have been revised and adopted. Updated marketing materials will be designed to reflect the revised statements. A marketing plan and timeline are in place with focus on our positioning, potential markets and need for increased enrollment. The target enrollment for school year 2007-08 is thirty students.

Committee Chair: Carol Foley

2. **Friend/Fund Raising:** The Raising More Money Fund Raising Model (now known as Benevon) has been in place for several years. It will be reactivated and more carefully followed. The Spring Auction will continue as a main fund raising event and more parent/friend-led fundraisers will be encouraged. Grant writing will be explored and used. Long-term fund raising strategies will be initiated to allow for Capital Funding, and the possibility of establishing a Foundation and/or a Luther Center Endowment Fund will be explored.

Committee Chair: George Larson

3. **Infrastructure:** This Committee will oversee the development of a site plan for the future school and any necessary interim building plans. They are also to identify and oversee the upgrading of Luther Center's technology base, including the website and any addition of PC hardware. A sub-committee for personnel will also be formed to look at staffing needs, teacher retention and the recruitment of future Board Members.

Committee Chair: Don Hauelsen



We planned to be in our new home at Spirit of Life Lutheran early this school year, but unfortunately plans for completion were delayed. Elim Lutheran has been a most generous host

and we thank them for their kindness. We have been in close discussion with Spirit of Life regarding our ability to move into the building and are hopeful things will be completed shortly after the first of the year. There will certainly be opportunities for painting, cleaning and moving assistance in the weeks ahead. Your help will be appreciated.

Board Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. Our usual meeting time is the second

Thursday of the month, at 7 p.m. at the school. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to share them with me or any other Board Member. Thank you for your support of Luther Center for Learning.

—Norma Larson, President, Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Norma Larson, President
Carol Foley, Vice President
Barb Hauelsen, Treasurer
Liz, Engel, Pastor

Ron Coen
Don Hauelsen
Gary Spang

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For more information or to learn how to enroll your child at Luther Center for Learning, visit us at Elim Lutheran Church, 5911 East Hillcrest Drive, View our website at www.LutherCenterForLearning.org, or call us at (360) 895-1782.

