



THE JOURNEY

LUTHER CENTER FOR LEARNING

P.O. Box 1018, Olalla, WA 98359 ♦ (360) 895-1782 ♦ Fall 2007

♦ www.LutherCenterForLearning.org ♦

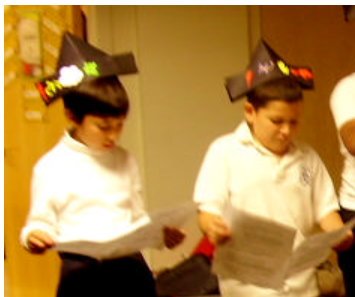
“Helping Children Discover Their Own Greatness!”

“Helping children discover their own greatness! That’s what Luther Center is all about. Teachers at Luther Center pack each and every day full of exciting learning opportunities and challenges. Students are encouraged to do their best. Luther Center for Learning offers an outstanding academic program featuring individualized instruction. This approach enables and encourages children to do their best work and progress as rapidly as they are able. Our small class sizes and friendly Christian environment make it possible for our students to achieve outstanding success.



Luther Center offers a complete academic program that includes all the basics as well as specific instruction in computers, PE, keyboarding, music, and Spanish. Kindergarten at Luther Center is rich in opportunities and adventures. Students are not only challenged as they learn the alphabet with simple words like

bear, cat, foot and love, but also with more challenging words like *butterfly, chrysalis, fossil and lambeosaurus*. Ms. Meadows often speaks to her students in French, and they understand her! Daily projects are so much fun, students never consider learning as ‘work;’ it’s just another great day of school.



In Mrs. Crutchfield’s primary class first graders have participated in reader’s theater while second and third graders have increased their literacy by enjoying *Charlotte’s Web*. Studying insects and spiders included a

catch and release observation and learning centers. At the centers students learned about lifecycles, diets, homes, groupings and venomous spiders. Students did research using nonfiction books to learn about insect and



spider diets. In preparation for their field trip to *Moneyville*, students got reacquainted with coins and paper money by doing activities associated with economics and commerce. Second

and third graders were challenged to produce 8 ounces by using 6-oz. and 10-oz. containers.

Mrs. Sinclair’s intermediate students are busy publishing their second book—a mystery-fantasy. This book is a sequel to the book they wrote last year called, *A Walk in the Woods*. They write the story and create the illustrations. Once they have carefully edited and gotten everything just right, they bind the book and then share it with the rest of the school. These students have also learned that the human body is made up of millions of cells, and it is the DNA in these cells that help determine what we look like. They are also journeying through time as they learn about the first settlers to the Americas.

This year Luther Center has two handchime choirs directed by Norma Larson and Barb Hauaisen. These choirs will be performing for chapel, Parent Partner meetings, the Christmas program, and local church congregations.

School field trips have included kindergarten students



visiting a local fire station and Peninsula Gardens’ Pumpkin Patch, primary students visiting *Moneyville* at Seattle Children’s Museum, intermediate students delivering bake

goods to local care facilities as part of the Y.E.S. program, and primary and intermediate students experiencing the Hunter Farms fall exhibition. Future field trips will include *The Nutcracker* ballet, Pioneer Farm, and the Pacific Science Center.

Spirit of Life and Luther Center Welcome New Pastor



Pastor Eric Allert has recently accepted the call to be pastor of Spirit of Life Lutheran Church. As such he also becomes the Corporate Secretary of Luther Center's Board of Directors. Pastor Allert is experienced in youth ministries and comes with a

big smile and warm heart. All are welcome to visit Luther Center at our new location—3901 SE Mullenix Road—just one mile east of Route 16 on the northwest corner of Phillips and Mullenix Roads. In addition to increased accessibility, Luther Center now offers before- and after-school care and a hot lunch option through the Little Doves Children's Learning Center (also located at Spirit of Life).

YES! Luther Center Students Serve



Primary and intermediate students participate in the Y.E.S. program (Young Entrepreneurs Serve) directed

by Pastor George Larson. At the end of each month students deliver surplus bakery items provided by the OroWheat Outlet Store to local care facilities, Life Care Community Services Foodbank, and to Little Doves Children's Learning Center.

Love and Logic Parenting Classes

Luther Center once again has been offering *Love & Logic* classes. This style of parenting is designed to give moms and dads practical skills that can be used immediately. Love and Logic is a proven approach to effective parenting that provides answers to timeless problems of getting children to bed on time, stopping children from bickering, or getting children to help with the chores without an argument. The next *Love and Logic* parenting series will be offered in the spring. Watch our website for dates and times.

www.LutherCenterForLearning.org

We Love Our Volunteers!



Volunteering at Luther Center is both fun and rewarding. We salute the following people who have donated their time to our school and students as tutors,



committee workers, field trip drivers, recycling project, parent group leaders, lunch room supervisors, teacher's helper, repairman, chapel leader, and whatever else is asked of them. —Phil Pollard, Mary Heaney, Jean Osborn, Chris Billings, Stephania Benavidez, Idalia Benavidez,

Chrystal LaPorte, Don Hauelsen, Cathy Oyler, Bridget Gronberg, Shawn Wilson, Pr. George Larson, Darren Koenen, Nichole Lundberg, April Whittaker, Thelma Day, Meredith Jones, Heather Bowden, Scott Oyler, Pam Ren, Dan and Deborah Neal, Michelle Koenen, Christine Johnson, Norma Larson, Carol Foley, Pr. Eric Allert, and Pr. Liz Engel.

Contributions/Donations—Refrigerator from Jim Lankford; playground equipment from Bridget Gronberg; playground structure from Melinda Ness; professional services from Chris Beckham, CPA of Southard Beckham Atwater and Berry; school supplies from Karen Spellman, Mary Heaney and Tami Keehn

Pledge Reminder Letters

November is the month during which Luther Center will be mailing statements regarding annual pledges. Luther Center celebrates its many loyal donors who have made multi-year pledges. Thank you for your commitment to the success of our school!

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

In late September, the U.S. Department of Education released the 2007 results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP, also known as the Nation's Report Card, informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. The Nation's Report Card compares the performance among states, urban districts,

public and private schools, and student demographic groups.

The scores of private school students increased in both mathematics and reading.

Grade/Subject	Type of School	At or Above Basic	At or Above Proficient	At Advanced
8th Grade Reading	Public	73	29	2
	Private	89	51	7
8th Grade Math	Public	70	31	7
	Private	83	45	12
4th Grade Reading	Public	66	32	7
	Private	81	46	13
4th Grade Math	Public	81	39	5
	Private	90	48	6

Additional information on NAEP is available on the web at <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Would you like to know if your child is on target for kindergarten? Call Luther Center for Learning for a professional kindergarten readiness assessment by teacher Robyn Meadows. For only \$20 Ms. Meadows will evaluate your child's development in five areas: physical, health, and motor development; social and emotional development; approaches toward learning; cognition and general knowledge; and language, communication, and literacy. To make an appointment, call Luther Center for Learning at (360) 895-1782.

Luther Center Launches the Gideon Project!

By Pastor George Larson



Luther Center is itching to go and grow. Every itch needs a good satisfying scratch. The Luther Center Board of Directors has taken a big step of faith to do just that.

Luther Center for Learning is growing!

It is great to have a new school space.
But it is already too small!

It is great to be five years old with a full time volunteer director.

But the administration, team building and community interface functions need to be divided to become even more effective.

It is great to see the daily progress in our students as they "discover their own greatness".

But how will we grow the teaching team, move to a facility that will allow growth in numbers, develop more of the awesome potential of our parent base, build a broader more committed baseline of support, upgrade to even better teaching tools and technologies?

The happy answer is that there is an exciting initiative called Project Gideon that is ready to launch, raise funding and build the foundation to undertake these necessary next steps. It took God at work in just 300 people to gain the victory for Gideon's army. We are out to model the Gideon story at Luther Center.

Luther Center has defied all the odds of ever becoming a school. Like *The Little Engine That Could*, Luther Center keeps on chugging and delivering the goods of happy, curious children going about the daily adventure of learning. Through faith, prayer and perseverance, great things are happening. There is no "can't" in the Bible. There is one big "can", however. "We 'can do' all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Philippians 4:12-14

Just like the story of Gideon in *Judges 6-7*, we see how God causes great things to happen when a few people trust in God's faithfulness and step out to accomplish incredible things.

During the months of October, November and December you will be noticing some new things and you will be asked to help. The financial goal is to raise \$100,000! The friendship goal is to grow an active corps of people who want to leave a legacy of "helping children discover their own greatness" in a Christ centered learning environment.

What you will see:

- Project Gideon logos everywhere
- Our student ambassadors going with Pastor George and Norma to area churches to tell the story of Gideon and Luther Center
- A new LCL website is being developed
- A spring musical of the Gideon Story is in the offing

What you will be asked to do:

- Become Prayer Partners with the Project Gideon Team

- Share names of people you or the Team will contact
- Contribute your volunteer time to help guarantee a successful outcome for Project Gideon
- Make sure your child will be participating in Project Gideon events

Project Gideon is giving visibility to Luther Center. Our base of support has grown beyond Spirit of Life to

include Elim Lutheran and First Lutheran congregations of Port Orchard. We have friends and advocates in the Lutheran congregations in Belfair and Bremerton as well as several congregations where our Luther Center students and their families attend.

With a lot of 'scratch' and Gideon's Torches, the itch at Luther Center will feel real good!



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