



# THE JOURNEY

## LUTHER CENTER FOR LEARNING

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

♦ [www.LutherCenterForLearning.org](http://www.LutherCenterForLearning.org) ♦

### Teachers in the News

Teacher **Debi Crutchfield** has been selected as a recipient of the 2007 Founders Grant awarded by the ELCA Vocation and Education unit. Debi's nomination



distinguishes her in the vital areas of teaching effectiveness, Christian influence in the spiritual formation of students and a positive witness in the school community. Luther Center for Learning is indeed blessed by the presence of her teaching ministry.

The Founders Grant is intended to encourage teachers to continue to serve in schools affiliated with the ELCA by offering financial relief from educational loans. The program has been named to pay special tribute to the national school leaders who established this endowment fund when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was formed in 1988. Congratulations Debi!



Teacher **Robyn Meadows** was featured along with her fellow Klingons in the Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> issue of *The News Tribune*. Ms. Meadows and her

husband, Steve Greenfield, belong to the Imperial Klingon Vessel T'Mar group which includes members from as far away as Vancouver, B.C. and Portland. This group of Klingons focuses on fun and community service activities. Included in their many appearances are Muscular Dystrophy Association summer camps, the annual Heart Walk, the Relay for Life, and the MS Walk-a-Thon. They make formidable cheerleaders!

### Community Service Activities

**YES!** "Young Entrepreneurs Serve" (Y.E.S.) is the name **Gary Spang** and **George Larson** (two Luther Center board members) have given to a special community service project they have created. At the end of each



month students at Luther Center deliver surplus bakery items provided by the Oro Wheat Outlet Store to area care facilities, Life Care Community Services Foodbank and to Little Doves Children's Learning Center. In addition to helping with the delivery, Luther Center students inventory the items collected and distributed and determine their value. Mrs. Crutchfield's class and Mrs. Sinclair's class take turns working on this project.

**Relay for Life Lunch** On May 30 parents **Jeri and Dan Mundle** provided Luther Center students a hot lunch in exchange for donations to their Relay for Life team. Cancer is a disease that has touched most of us in very personal ways. This is an easy way for our students to do their part to support cancer research.

P.S. Our very own student, **Brianna**, continues her successful fight against her cancer!

### McDonald's McTakeover

Luther Center for Learning is "taking over" the Sedgwick Road McDonald's Restaurant on Wednesday, June 6. Everyone is invited to join us at McDonalds between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. for dinner. Luther Center will receive 40% of the total sales. In addition, 10% from the McTakeover sales will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington. We hope you will join us at the fun family-oriented fundraiser.

## Achievement Night



Students, parents, teachers all joined together to create a very special evening to celebrate our

learning successes this year. Parents provided a wonderful potluck dinner. Then the students performed expertly on the handchimes under the direction of **Norma Larson. Ms. Meadows'** students recited a poem honoring our school guinea pigs; **Mrs. Crutchfield's** students demonstrated their knowledge of the water cycle; and **Mrs. Sinclair's** students showed us the explosive power of volcanoes. Then everyone was encouraged to view the many displays showing student learning projects.

## In the Classroom

How far can you count in Japanese? How about Swahili? **Ms. Meadows'** kindergarten students learn a bit about many languages as they study various countries around the world. They are also champion Sudoku puzzle solvers, create amazing pictures with Chinese tangrams, and have learned to read and write in hieroglyphics. Of course, our kindergarten children are becoming fantastic readers in English and can solve double and triple digit math problems.

Walk into Mrs. Crutchfield's class and you are likely to witness all the children working independently as music plays quietly in the background. Her students have been reading E. B. White's book, *Stuart Little*. In addition to improving their reading comprehension and learning to answer questions with specific information from the book, they are also learning to define and spell words like *ominous* and *enormous*.

These students have completely memorized all 50 states of the United States, have learned about nutrition, including the role of the food pyramid and exercise, and can tell you all about the water cycle.



Four students in **Mrs. Sinclair's** classroom (**Whitney, Brittany, Kristie** and **Bridger**) created and published their own book. What a valuable experience in cooperative learning and creativity! Science has also been an important part of

Mrs. Sinclair's classroom. Students have learned all about various types of volcanoes, the solar system, and the human body (including its various systems—muscular, skeletal, digestive, cardiovascular, reproductive, nervous, endocrine, circulatory, respiratory, and immune) Oh yes, and the students are becoming poets as well. Can you compose an acrostic poem? Mrs. Sinclair's students can write beautiful poetry.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...” Galatians 5:22 This has been the theme for chapel this year. Students under the leadership of **Pastor Liz Engel** have focused on one ‘fruit’ each month. On the last school day of each month, students review what they have learned while enjoying a pizza party.

Music continues to play a very important role at Luther Center. Whether students are learning to dance in PE, sing in chapel, listen to music in their classrooms, or play in the handchime choir, students are learning to value and enjoy music of all kinds.



Students continue to enjoy regularly scheduled field trips. Visiting the Pacific Science Center and our state capital might be

considered the highlights. At the Pacific Science Center students enjoyed all the regular exhibits as well as the special *Grossology* display of the human body. Our visit to Olympia included a guided tour

of the state capitol building (including the House of Representatives and the Senate), the Supreme Court, and even a special visit to the Governor's home.

## Auction

Luther Center's third annual auction was by all measures a huge success. In addition to earning nearly \$9,000 for the school, the attendees had a great time enjoying a delicious LeGarmaché catered chicken with havarti and basil dinner and listening to the music of the Ramsey-Collins Band. Each table engaged in friendly competition for desserts, and everyone had an opportunity to bid in the silent and live auctions which featured some extraordinary items, including several exceptional quilts, a crab dinner for four, Mariners' Tickets, a handmade willow chair, floral arrangement, a catered dinner for ten, a guided salmon fishing trip, a weekend retreat, a tug boat ride, wine baskets, espresso beverages and a host of other things. Many thanks go to the hard working auction committee—**Don Hauelsen, Rich Wolfe, Dan Mundle, and Sonja and Jason Rangel**. We also want to thank everyone else who worked to make the evening so much fun and so profitable!

## Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Program

Luther Center has introduced a new community service project we call "Kindergarten Readiness Assessment." For only a \$20 fee, parents can schedule a 30-minute assessment of their pre-kindergarten child by our expert kindergarten teacher, **Robyn Meadows**. Although we typically think of kindergarten readiness in terms of cognitive ability, it is really much more. In addition to the assessment report, parents will receive a notebook of information about kindergarten and related activities. To make an appointment, call the school at (360) 895-1782. This assessment is done free of charge for families enrolling their child in Luther Center's kindergarten.

## Wanted: Treasures

Can you help us fill our treasure boxes? Each of our teachers rewards their students' achievements by distributing treasure box tokens. These tokens are

periodically used by the students to 'purchase' items from their teacher's treasure box. Teachers are always looking for 'treasures' to put in their boxes. So, if you're spring cleaning, visiting the Dollar Store, or otherwise discover treasures you would like to donate, our teachers would be most appreciative!



## Moving to Spirit of Life

Luther Center for Learning is moving to Spirit of Life Lutheran Church in September. This means that for the first time in its four-year history, Luther Center for Learning and Little Doves Children's Learning Center can easily team their services for families in our area. Little Doves is a well-established and respected preschool, daycare, and latch-key program (before and after school care). And now, beginning in September, Luther Center families who need extended daycare before or after school have the opportunity for that service in the same facility as Luther Center. Likewise, Little Doves families who desire a strong academic Christian school for their children can more easily enroll at Luther Center. "It's a win-win opportunity," says Little Doves board director, Marvin Lutz.

## Donations Help Make Our School Grow!

### Honor Roll of Donors

Luther Center for Learning appreciates the strong demonstration of support from the many individuals and organizations that have made gifts during the past year. These gifts have allowed Luther Center to operate an excellent educational program and to provide tuition assistance to families who need it. In the honor roll that follows, we are pleased to recognize those individuals and organizations that

share the school's commitment to a strong, independent, values-based education.

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Luther Center has made every effort to make certain that the information regarding our donors is correct. In the preparation of such reports, however, errors occasionally occur despite our best efforts. We welcome your corrections. Please call or write us.

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Mrs. Larson directs handchime rehearsals.