



THE JOURNEY

LUTHER CENTER FOR LEARNING

P.O. Box 1018, Olalla, WA 98359 ♦ (360) 895-1782 ♦ March 2008

♦ www.LutherCenterForLearning.org ♦

Science Fair & Open House – April 11



How long does it take for water to go from a solid to vapor? How does a butterfly differ from a moth? Which brand of chewing gum

keeps its flavor the longest? What color do I get if I mix red and blue? Friday, April 11, Luther Center students will be displaying their science fair projects for all to see. Come to Luther Center at 6:30 p.m., enjoy a light supper, tour the school, meet our teachers, and see what the students have created. All are welcome!

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. 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.

Fourth Annual Auction and Dinner—Saturday, April 26

Mark your calendar for an evening of fun, fine cuisine, live entertainment, and terrific auction opportunities. Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, 3901 SE Mullenix Road, is the location (entrance is on Phillips). Enjoy a catered dinner by Capriccio Catering. Listen to live entertainment by Magical Strings. Bid in silent and live auctions offering many outstanding items—including hand-made quilts; gift baskets galore (Webkins, anyone?); be a passenger in a tugboat race; spend a weekend in Seattle that includes accommodations, dinner at a 5-star restaurant, and theater tickets; enjoy goods and services from local merchants and much more. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are only \$30 and may be purchased in the school office or by calling the school at (360) 895-1782.

We can still use additional items to auction. If you have something you can donate, we want to hear from you. Donate sports or event tickets, arts and crafts items, a basket of your favorite foods or other items, homemade jams, or how about the promise of a pie a month for several months. You can put on a dinner in your home or organize a party of three or four to do some spring yard work. Wash windows? Or maybe you have a special talent that you could share, like painting or sewing. Let us know. Talk to Sherri Cooper at (360) 895-5663 or Barb Hauelsen in the school office about any ideas you might have. Deadline for bringing auction items to the school is April 11.

Love and Logic Parent Training

Imagine 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 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. Would you like some new tools that might work in your family? *Love and Logic* provides practical skills that can be used immediately. Sign up for a three-hour introductory course (focusing on toddler and preschool parenting techniques) being offered Saturday, April 19 at 1:00 p.m. Cost is only \$20 for one parent or \$30 if both parents enroll.

In the Classroom



Luther Center for Learning is a very special place for kids. We have outstanding, enthusiastic teachers who make each day at Luther Center an exciting academic

learning adventure. We feature an all-day kindergarten and an integrated and individualized curriculum. Our rigorous academic program challenges students to meet their potential. Children are engaged in reading, math, and science projects plus arts and crafts and more. Music enlivens every day. And we seamlessly integrate all this in an environment that emphasizes God's love and grace. Field trips are an important part of the Luther Center experience. Students have been to the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, *Bad Boy Beethoven* concert performed by the Bremerton Symphony, Concordia Lutheran School in Seattle, and the Marine Science Center in Poulsbo.



March 3-7 was Spirit Week at Luther Center. Students came dressed in their pajamas one day, styled crazy hair another day, and wore their uniforms backwards another day. The *real* Cat in the Hat (along with

Thing 1 and Thing 2) came to a special assembly of Luther Center and Little Doves students on March 4 in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Kindergarten and primary students participated in our annual Iditarod/IditaRead race. Students earn miles to race along the Iditarod trail from Anchorage to Nome by reading. When the race was over, students celebrated their accomplishments with ice cream!



Kindergarten students have been having fun learning to solve Sudoku puzzles using shapes, creating a rainbow using only primary colors and mixing them as necessary, celebrating Groundhog

Day by learning about shadows, practicing the word "symmetrical" in creating special projects, bringing to school 100 things to count to celebrate the 100th day of school, and adding the words "carapace," "plastron," and "scutes" to their vocabularies while studying turtles. Kindergarten students can distinguish a boy crab from a girl crab. Can you?



Primary students have worked with "Frog and Toad are Friends," "Charlotte's Web," and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

Related learning includes writing poetry (list poem, acrostic,

limerick, etc.), learning the elements of a story (characters, setting, plot/problem and solution), how to develop a character in a specific setting (time and place), creating a graphic organizer, Venn diagrams for comparing and contrasting, and letter writing. Science topics include practicing the scientific method in preparation for science fair projects, force and motion, bones and muscles, animal classifications (e.g., vertebrates and invertebrates).

Intermediate students have studied the Civil War, Washington State and the Pacific Northwest including a special wall mural showing the differences between the Coastal and Plateau Native Americans. Students also have studied erosion, earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis. Computer and keyboarding skills are being further developed as students prepare *PowerPoint* science presentations. Writing activities include writing cinquain poems and detailed instructional paragraphs. How would you write the instructions to teach someone how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?



From the Student's Pencil—A Great Influence

Although there are many people who have influenced me, Tara Kirk, a great swimmer, has done

it the most. First, she said not to be jealous. One example of being jealous is when someone is faster than you in a stroke or all the strokes. But if you're jealous, you are being a bad sport instead of a good sport. Second, she said to never give up and I have three examples to show why. Number one is that I would like to keep going with swimming and see if I could get to the Olympics some day. The next example is when you've had a bad day and your time didn't go down in any of your swims and you want to give up. The final example is when your friend is better than you. This is how Tara Kirk influences me. –Whitney, age 10

Gideon Project

Luther Center is currently in the midst of a very significant fundraising campaign, the Gideon Project. Now in its fifth year, Luther Center is ready to move ahead into a new phase of its existence, preparing for additional classroom space, looking to hire additional staff, in particular a principal and/or clerical assistance, and other program and equipment additions and improvements. The Gideon Project will enable us to make progress on many of these priorities. It will help us turn the page to a new era for Luther Center. During our initial five years, we have become a place of quality education in a Christian environment that lives out God's grace on a daily basis, helping each child discover his or her own greatness. The success stories of Luther Center students during our first five years are many. Differentiated learning challenges each student to progress as rapidly as he or she is able, and the individual attention has met the needs of children in ways that a more traditional educational environment could not. The results are a daily reminder of the significance of what goes on at Luther Center and daily encouragement to continue.

The metaphor for our campaign is the story of Gideon in the Old Testament book of Judges.

Gideon defeated a very large army of Midianites with a carefully selected band of just 300 soldiers, armed with trumpets, clay jars, and torches. The trumpets were sounded, the clay jars broken, and the torches revealed to rout the Midianites. We are looking for a small group of supporters to invest in 300 torches valued at \$350 each to reach our goal of \$100,000.

If you have already contributed to the Gideon Project, thank you! If you have not, please consider giving a torch, or two or three, to the cause. You can be certain your contribution will be used well. It is, after all, about kids and about education.

The campaign will run through the end of this year. There will be a donor recognition event along with a permanent pottery display at Luther Center including all the names of those contributing a torch to the campaign. We hope you will want to be counted among our "soldiers!"

Thank you

Southard Beckham Atwater and Berry, Certified Public Accountants for completing all our year-end financial reports as well as our tax exempt tax returns.

J&B Cleaning Services for their superb job shampooing carpets.

Darren Koenen of Speedy Excavating for preparing a place for our new outdoor play structure.

Many others who have donated their time and skills including Mary Heaney, Chris Billings, Gary Spang, Phil Pollard, Don Haueisen, Dan and Deborah Neal, Sherri Cooper, Doug and April Whittaker, John Rodriguez and Debra Rygg, Pam Gooler, Thelma Day, Stephania Benevidez, David Howarth, Steve Larson, Carol Foley, George Larson, Christine Johnson, Nicki Lundberg, Pam Gooler, Bridget Gronberg.



Summer Science Camp
July 21 to 25
Noon to 2:30