

The Falcon Flyer



December 2009

From the Desk of Mrs. McNeal

December brings a time of hustle and bustle around home and community. You never have enough time to handle all the activities and obligations that families seem to have going throughout this Advent Season. The bright lights. The carols. The crisp snow that will be coming. The anticipation and excitement of Christmas eve and brightly colored gifts under the tree. Through all of this, take time to remember to prepare your hearts for the coming of the Christ Child, God's perfect gift to all of us. He will bring you light, peace, and hope for the pathway we will travel in 2010. May God bless each of you as together we travel this road with Him. Merry Christmas!

First & Second Grade



The first and second grade students are enjoying their new pet fish named Bubbles! Bubbles is teaching them the responsibilities of having a pet. In science, the boys and girls are learning about the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates.

Destination Imagination

Destination imagination with the 3rd and 4th grade students is going to be an exciting time this season. The team meets on Monday nights at the school. During the meetings there is a heavy concentration on team building through the activities that also help with time management and organization skills.

One of the activities that the students work on is a performance piece. They have about 5 minutes to think up and story line and characters. Then they get about 2 minutes to perform what they came up with. During the last meeting the team members had to use their imaginations to come up with a plan to escape from a birdcage. They did a wonderful job with this. Everyone made sure that all the students had a part and what they should be doing.



For the task activities the students are supposed to plan and build some sort of a bridge or tower. This last week the team members worked a task were they had to build a bridge from one table to another. During the 5 minutes the group worked very well to-

gether and made an extremely successful bridge. Markers were placed on it to bridge to test the weight limit and we ran out of markers before they bridge broke!

With all the team members working very hard to make sure all the ideas are being heard, the performances are getting better and better. I cannot wait to see what is to come!

Ms. Lake

3rd and 4th grade D.I. Manager



This year's 5th & 6th grade Destination Imagination team is Brooke, Alex, Meghan, Allie, Emma, Nadji, and Joshua. The coaches are Patty Huizenga and Cinnamon soul. The team has chosen "DI-BOT" as their challenge. They are going to make a robot! The robot will solve a problem or make life easier in some way. This team has some great ideas for their challenge and will be very competitive.

Computers

We have been very busy in the computer lab! The students have been working on basic skills and computer knowledge. Power Point is the first program we have started using. Students have been using many different internet websites to practice their skills and work on various subjects. In order to complete all of these tasks, every student works on their own computer as we learn together. We have the use of 29 computers. As we continue growing, we are adding a printer and always looking for more ways to promote learning. My upcoming plans include; learning how to use Mi-



crosoft Word and Excel and continuing our understanding of the Michigan Education Technology Standards. Please feel free to stop by and see how we are growing!

Miss Morris

Parent - Teacher Conference



Parent-Teacher conferences were very successful this semester with a solid turnout. 100% of Pre School 3/4 parents attended conferences. 78% of our Pre School 4 parents came to talk with the teacher. Turnout for Kindergarten was 88%. Grades 1/2 turnout was 89%. Grades 3/4 had a turnout of 96%. And 100% of the parents of students in grades 5 & 6 attended conferences. Overall turnout averaged 91.8%!

December 9, 2009 6:30 p.m.

*First Confession for
Second Graders*

Kids On The Block



Caron Wootten, Penny Marino and Dan Comet enjoy the Craft Show.



Kindergartners use a hornet's nest in their study of science.

Carrie Fodo



Hello! My name is Miss Carrie Fodo and I am so blessed to be teaching here at Our Lady of Fatima School. I am a graduate of Michigan State University where I majored in Elementary Education and Integrated Science. I have taught abroad in Australia and Malaysia.

I currently live in Lansing and am engaged to be married in September. I have a beautiful Golden Retriever puppy named Petosky.

Thanks to everyone who has welcomed me to Fatima. I look forward to getting to know all of you.

Miss Fodo

Holly Engemann



Hello Fatima families! My name is Holly Engemann and I am the new 3rd/ 4th grade teacher here at Our Lady of Fatima! I am so excited to finally have a classroom of my own. This has been the answer to my prayers. Everyone has been so welcoming and always willing to help me when I needed it.

Thank you! I am

originally from Grandville, MI (near Grand Rapids) and graduated in 2008 from Grand Valley State Uni-

versity. I am a newlywed, married to Mr. Scott Engemann as of August 8th. I have a beagle-basset hound named Mickey and a cat named Simba. They keep me busy when I am not preparing fun, learning experiences for my students! We have moved to Jackson, MI so I don't have to travel as far to get to school or church! In my free time, I enjoy running, scrap booking, traveling, taking pictures, and of course reading! If you haven't seen yet, I have filled our classroom with lots of reading materials! I look forward to becoming more active as a community member here at Fatima. Make sure you say "Hi!" and introduce yourself when you see me around. Again, thank you for making my first month so successful!



Students participate in a play about Jacob's deception against his brother Esau to gain his father's special blessing.

Christmas Show



Students practice their choreography for the annual Christmas Program Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.



Cathy Mathews (top) along with Brooke Huizenga, Sister Brenda and Chris Chames (bottom) work on Advent wreaths the students will take home for Christmas.



Brooke Huizenga holds the \$50 gift card while her mother holds the certificate Brook was awarded for her winning entry in the Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest.