



Blue Jay Briefings

Little Flower School Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2012

School News **Flag Tradition**

The new American flag that is raised and lowered daily this year at Little Flower School flew proudly over the United States Capitol in Washington, DC, August 18, 2012.

The flag was flown at the request of the Honorable John Hoeven, US Senator from ND, for Little Flower School in honor of the school's 70th anniversary. The flag along with a certificate recognizing the 70th anniversary were sent to the school.

The privilege of raising and retiring the colors has long been an opportunity for students in fifth and sixth grade to gain a greater understanding of flag etiquette.

Thank you to the parishioner of Little Flower that contacted US Senator John Hoeven's office to share the news of our 70th anniversary.

Staffing

Charles "Charley" Epperson has been hired as the principal at Little Flower School. He also teaches the phy. ed. classes. Mr. Epperson is a graduate of Minot State University. He taught in Alaskan Eskimo villages at a state-operated boarding school in Sitka until his retirement in 2007. Since moving back to North Dakota he worked as the Director of Religious Education at St. Joseph's parish in Williston. He and his wife, Bev, live in Harvey. They have three

adult sons, an adult daughter, a 16 year-old daughter and three grandsons.

Laura (Blessum) Swanson ('75) is the preschool teacher for this school year. Laura is no stranger to Little Flower School. Laura taught fifth grade at Little Flower and is a Little Flower School graduate. She and her husband, Mike, sent their six children to Little Flower. Kelly and Jack are currently attending Little Flower.

The half-day preschool program was changed this year from two days a week to three days a week.

The preschool program currently has 13 students in the morning session and six in the afternoon session.

Miss Becky Dobitz, taught both preschool and kindergarten last year, but chose to stay with the full week kindergarten program. There are currently 12 students enrolled in kindergarten.

Other staff members include:
First/Second-Miss Samantha Prahm

Third/Fourth-Mrs. Nancy Graner
Fifth/Sixth-Mrs. Julie Moshe
Music-Glenda Mack

Secretary-**Rita Schneider Mitzel ('72)**

Custodian Harold Volk
Librarian/Religious Ed-Sister Jean Louise

Paraprofessional/Religious Ed-Sister Mary Ruth.

Foster Grandmother Volunteer-Eileen Jaeger

Bluejay Boosters

"Giving back with grace" is the motto of the newly formed Little Flower School Bluejay Boosters group. The Boosters aim to foster Catholic education in Rugby by focusing the efforts of alumni, friends, and benefactors. Participants in this initial meeting included long time former teacher, Irene Hager, Rita Bercier, whose nine children attended LFS, eight of them in successive classes, other parents of former Little Flower School students, as well as parents of current students.

Fall 2012 marks 70 years since Little Flower School began in 1942. Built from reclaimed brick and rationed scarce wartime lumber, the building showed the determination of Fr. Nicholas Cloos and his parishioners to establish a Catholic environment for the first years of education for parish students. The integration of life and faith was recognized by those present at this first meeting as key to their interest in wanting to promote continued Catholic education in Rugby.

Celebrating Little Flower School's 70th anniversary and looking to future vitality are goals for initial activities. A 70th Anniversary Open House event is planned for Sunday, October 7, from 3:30-7:30 coinciding with the annual Parish Fall Supper.

Historical photos, scrapbooks and other memorabilia will be on display for guests to view.

Boosters continued page 5

Alumni News & Reflections

Where are the Alumni?

Aaron Ferg ('90) married Jennifer Falasca on March 18, 2012, in Orlando, FL. Aaron is a manager at a Cheese Cake Factory Restaurant in Orlando. The Fergs live in Apopka, FL.

Stephanie (Hooker) Brossart ('98) and husband, Jerrod, welcomed their third son, Kendyn Thor, born December 30, 2011. Kendyn was 19.25 in. tall and weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. Kendyn's big brothers are Landyn, and Clifdyn. Kendyn has one sister, Madisyn. The Brossarts farm at Rugby.

Brad Wangler ('93) and his wife, Ashley, announce the birth of their son, Pendleton Bradley, born February 22, 2012. Pendleton weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. His siblings are Paisley and Pius. The Wanglers live in Colorado Springs, CO.

Michael Schmaltz ('01) and his wife, Christine, welcomed their daughter, Aubrie Ann, born March 29, 2012. Aubrie weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. and was 17.75 in. tall. The Schmaltzs live in Rugby.

Danny Schneider ('96) and his wife, Tallie, welcomed their son, Camden John, into the world April 19, 2012. Camden's birth weight was 7 lbs. 15 oz. and he was 21.25 in. tall. The Schneiders live in Rugby.

Jena (Suchor) Triplett ('99) and her husband Kurt announce the birth of their second son, Korbin Elliott. Korbin was born May 7, 2012. He weighed 9 lbs. 5 oz. and was 21.5 in. tall. Korbin's big brother is Kollin who was 2 years old on May 1. The Triplets currently live in Bismarck. Jena is a Pampered Chef Consultant.

Elizabeth Mack ('02) graduated from the University of Mary in May with a degree in Music Education. She is currently teaching K-12 music at Wilton Public Schools in Wilton, ND.

Cassandra (Blessum) Zwingel ('02) and her husband, Mike, welcomed their first child, Finnley Jo, born July 21, 2012. She weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20 in. tall. The Zwingels live in Rugby.

Erin (Wangler) Schubert ('96) her husband, Alex, welcomed baby girl, Maleah Kristin born August 2, 2012. Maleah weighed 5 lbs. 15 oz. and was 20 in. tall. The Schuberts live in Canby, MN.

Alyssa Bednarz ('01) married Alex Joppru September 22, 2012, at Little Flower Church in Rugby. Alyssa is the First Assistant at Maurices in Bismarck, ND. She has worked for Maurices for four years.

Those we will miss

Joseph Welk passed away December 23, 2011, in Fargo, ND. The funeral was Wednesday, December 28, 2011 in Fargo.

Joseph Buchl passed away April 6, 2012, in Fargo, ND. The funeral was Monday, April 9, 2012, at Nativity Catholic Church in Fargo.

Ashley Houim ('07) passed away June 17, 2012, from injuries sustained in a car accident. Ashley's funeral was June 21, 2012, at Little Flower Church in Rugby.

(Year refers to graduation date from LFS)

Little Flower School, Strong at 70

School history calendars available

Cost \$15.00

plus \$5.00 shipping and handling

Annual Fund sets \$70,000 Goal!

Help Little Flower Catholic School update our computer lab! Our computers are getting to be about 10 years old and Microsoft will stop supporting the Windows XP operating system they run on this winter. It's time for an update.

Your gift of \$70 to our annual campaign in honor of our 70th Anniversary will go a long way to updating a seat in our computer lab or a classroom. As a way of saying Thank You we will send a copy of the 70th Anniversary Calendar to anyone who donates \$70 or more to the Annual Fund. Our goal is \$15,000 for computers and related technology.

Half the funds over \$15,000 will be added to the Little Flower School Endowment to provide future income for the support of Catholic education. The other half will be used for special projects at the school – new emergency exit doors, new classroom lighting, finishing classroom ceilings, and windows for the basement offices are on the priority list.

Dear LFCS Bluejay Boosters

I value my Catholic School days and want others to have the opportunity that was provided to me. Enclosed is my contribution for the 70th Anniversary Annual Fund campaign.

Circle one: \$70 \$100 \$140 \$210 \$280 \$350 \$420 \$490 Other _____

My donation is \$70 or more. Please send me a copy of the 70th Anniversary Calendar!

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Years attended Little Flower School _____

My employer matches charitable contributions. Please contact me to benefit from this generous program.

Return your contribution to: Bluejay Boosters Annual Fund, c/o Little Flower School, 306 3rd Ave SE, Rugby, ND 58368.

PTO Recognizes Families

PTO has started a new tradition at Little Flower School. Families who have sent children to Little Flower and are graduating their youngest child will be recognized at 6th grade graduation. PTO wishes to thank all families who have sent their children to Little Flower and plan to display those families' names this school year as the 70th anniversary of Little Flower is celebrated. The following parents were presented a statue of St. Therese in honor of the commitment they have given to Little Flower School:

Brock and Tammy Haman sent two children to Little Flower School for 11 years.

Ken ('74) and Angel Hoffert sent four children to Little Flower School for 17 years.

Rick and Denise Lagasse sent one child to Little Flower School for 7 years.

Galen and Glenda Mack sent six children to Little Flower School for 21 years.

Brad and **Laurie (Schell) Odden ('82)** sent two children to Little Flower School for 11 years.

Brian Odden and Dana Lemar sent three children to Little Flower School for 10 years.

Edwin Pfeifer ('79) and Carissa Allan sent four children to Little Flower School for 12 years.

PTO extends membership to all these parents in a newly formed "We Care Club" for Little Flower School. The group will consist of alumni family members that would like to continue support for the school when needed.

What I will miss about LFS

By **Maria Mack, Jace Odden, Mariah Pfeifer, Seth Jaeger, and Nate Haman ('12)**

I miss nap time and buddies in kindergarten. Kindergarten was a fun year with snacks and the loft. It was also the first year of ABCs and reading .

In first grade I remember reading *The Boxcar Children*. We had bigger lockers. It was Miss Dobitz's first year.

In second grade I remember going to the museum. We went on cool field trips. We had Mrs. Klebe and started adding and subtracting numbers. We had *Word of the Week*. We also started reading bigger chapter books.

I miss the fish tank, foosball table, field trips and all of the plays in third grade.

In fourth grade I remember reading *Where the Red Fern Grows* and *Hatchet*. I remember going to KXMC News and then going to Planet Pizza. In fourth grade we had Mrs. Graner. No more phonics and new vocabulary. I remember when Mrs. Graner would lose her glasses. I will remember Mrs. Graner and her back rubs.

In fifth grade I remember going to Lucy's Amusement Park. We had our first year of band. I remember Mrs. Mosher letting us listen to music.

In sixth grade I remember going to the Minot Air Force Base and Market Place for Kids. We went to see the senior citizens at the hospital in Rugby. In sixth grade you are the ones the younger kids look up to and that's a great feeling. I will miss the marathon. I will miss getting Mr. G wet with

water guns and water balloons. We had lots of fun.

I will miss Little Flower School. I'm going to miss the teachers and the lunch. I'm always going to remember Little Flower because it is a part of my life.

The Sixth Grade Graduation celebration took place at the 9 am Mass May 25. Twelve students joined the ranks of Little Flower School Alumni. There was a social for family and friends in the church basement following the Mass.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten graduation was held on Friday, May 18. There were 5 students in kindergarten last year. All 5 students took part in the celebration of the Mass with reading petitions and Prayers of the Faithful as well as bringing up the gifts at Offertory. Congratulations to the students on a great year.

Happy Birthday, Irene

Irene Hager, Mrs. Hager to all her former 5th graders, celebrated her 90th birthday, June 10, 2012. Irene and her husband, Frank, moved to Rugby from Towner in 1961. Irene taught 5th grade at Little Flower School for 12 years. Her sons, **Delby ('62)** and **Delwyn ('63)** attended Little Flower School. Their wives, **Janice Richter ('63)** and **Jeanne Hornstein ('64)** also attended Little Flower. Irene has five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Irene continues to be active in the church and the community. She volunteers as a greeter at the Heart of America Medical Center and does the monthly activities display calendar at the Haaland Home. Irene may be found most days visiting and having lunch with friends at the Rugby Senior Center.

28+4+3+1=36

Twenty-eight years in sixth grade, four years in fourth grade, three years in second grade and one year teaching the first/second combination class equals 36 years at Little Flower School. Vernice Brossart began teaching at Little Flower August 1976. Her first contract was \$6,600 a year. It wasn't the money that kept her at Little Flower for 36 years but the benefits: good students, strong support of both Little Flower Parish and Little Flower School PTO, and being able to ensure a Catholic education for her own four children. Vernice felt at home at Little Flower and because of her loyalty to students, parents and the school she stayed for 36 years.

Vernice credits her colleague, Delores Aas, as the person who taught her a lot when she first started at Little Flower. Delores was a mentor, a mother figure and a friend. She instilled in the young teachers the idea of service to others. Vernice has continued many of the traditions promoting the school and helping people in the community. Her classes have made numerous cards and treats for homebound Rugby residents.

When asked what her plans were for retirement, Vernice replied, "I don't have any plans—do I have to?"

No, Vernice, you don't. Enjoy every day. Thank you from all the Little Flower students and parents whom you have helped in your 36 years.

Everyone knows Vernice will stay very busy with her gardening for the farmers market, making homemade jellies and baking. PTO presented Vernice with a red wheelbarrow complete with an apple

tree and other perennials to plant at her home.

Vernice is married to **Mike Brossart ('65)**. They have four children, **Elizabeth ('91)**, **Rachael ('92)**, **Rebekah ('97)** and **Mike ('98)**. They have one granddaughter, Ava Rose.

"Kids First" Principal

Principal, Bruce Ganerilli decided that after 11 years at Little Flower School he was ready for a change. He admits that it is the kids that he will miss the most. His philosophy has always been to do what is best for the kids.

Along with being the principal at Little Flower School Bruce taught phy. ed. Each phy. ed. class included a walk to the Memorial Hall. Especially with the younger students that walk often became an exploration of the dandelions and the mud puddles along the way.

One of the biggest changes Bruce has seen at Little Flower over the last 11 years has been the declining enrollment that has led to the combination classrooms. The goal of the school remains the same, to offer a quality Catholic education to all students who attend Little Flower School.

Bruce has started a new adventure with the North Central Area Vocation and Technical Center. He is teaching Welding I and II to juniors and seniors at 12 area schools. This is a new program through the Vocation and Technical Center and Bruce has the responsibility for developing and carrying out the curriculum. There is currently a high demand for workers with vocational training in the state. The welding skills that the students will learn will help them at technical colleges and in the

workforce of manufacturing and oil exploration in the state.

Bruce is not a stranger to secondary education, as he was an assistant principal in the Rugby Public School System.

Kids will still be important to Bruce. They will just be older and at a different stage in their education. A few of them may even be some of those first and second graders who accidentally splashed muddy water on Mr. G when they were exploring mud puddles.

Boosters continued page 1

The Boosters are planning to sell a 70th anniversary fund-raising 2013 calendar with class photos and snapshots of activities and key figures that tell the story of Little Flower School past and present.

Future activities were discussed at the August meeting. Visibility in the community and pride of participation were key motivating factors in conversations that included recruiting, community service, an annual banquet, endowment funding, classroom volunteer opportunities, development of a Bluejay Boosters logo and a continued alumni newsletter.

We know there are many people with a heart for Catholic education and Little Flower School in particular. We hope by forming this group we will be able to focus the efforts of those who join us in providing a vibrant and faith-filled learning environment for each family whose students pass through our doors.

Contact Fr. Tom Graner if you are interested in being involved with this group.

Newsletter Opportunities

The first edition of the *Blue Jay Briefings* was written the spring of 2008. Since then we have had several alumni or alumni parents submit information or reflections to be shared.

Our goal in publishing this newsletter is to let alumni know what is happening at LFS and to provide a link to alumni. **We are looking for people to submit memories as well as current events in their lives.**

Please continue to share those stories with us. We know that others enjoy reading about the school and the alumni.

We are currently looking for someone to take over the job of editing this newsletter. Contact Father Tom Graner at 776-6388.

Updates

Please let us know when you move so we can be sure we have your new address and you receive your alumni mailing.

*Enjoy your Alumni Newsletter,
Blue Jay Briefings!*

Current Resident or

*Blue Jay Briefings is
a publication of*
Little Flower School
Alumni Association
306 3rd Avenue SE
Rugby, North Dakota 58368
lfsalumni@goNDTC.com

Little Flower School
Alumni Association
306 3rd Ave. SE
Rugby, ND 58368