



Blue Jay Briefings

Little Flower School Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2008

School News

Preschool program started

The early 1980s brought the kindergarten class to Little Flower, making the school kindergarten through grade 6. Now in 2008, the school board decided to add a preschool program for four-year-olds.

Rugby had been without a formal preschool for two years. There was community interest in preschool in a school setting. The school board saw this as an opportunity to increase enrollment at Little Flower, hoping that some of the students would continue to attend the school.

The preschool sessions meet twice a week, on days opposite kindergarten. The morning class has eleven children and the afternoon has twelve.

According to the teacher, Miss Rebecca Dobitz, "It is going great.

The children are so wonderful to work with."



New playground equipment installed

Students at Little Flower School began the year with new playground equipment. The previous playground equipment was 12 years old and in need of repairs or replacement. With the help of local organizations, foundations and individuals, LFS was able to replace the old equipment with a new play structure.

We are grateful to our donors: Frank J. Lewis Foundation, Knights of Columbus, Little Flower Christian Mothers, Otto Bremer Foundation, Rugby Eagles, Little Flower School PTO, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, Rugby Jaycees and Valentine Brossart Memorial.

We thank those who helped with the removal of the old equipment and the installation of the new playground: Gary and Suzy Kraft, Mark Voeller, Jim and Kris Blessum, Dale, Kris and Matthew Wangler, Al Blessum, Bruce Gannarelli, Steve, Scott, Gary, Jordan and Andy Brossart, Dale Fedje, Pat Kuntz, Dave Houim, Brad Odden and Pete Salwey.

Silent Auction

Little Flower School will hold its annual silent auction and supper November 21 at the Rugby Eagles. If you are in the area, please join us for a great meal, fun and fellowship.

Alumni are encouraged to donate new items for the sale. You may drop your item off at the school office two weeks prior to the auction. If you are not in the area, please consider a monetary donation or a gift certificate. Or, you may mail an item to Little Flower School.

2nd Annual Motorcycle raffle



The Little Flower School Board will be holding its 2nd annual Harley-

Davidson fundraiser for the 2008-09 school year. All proceeds help with the cost of running the school. The drawing will be held on Friday, May 1, after the school marathon. Only 600 tickets will be sold, at a cost of \$50 each.

If you would like to buy a ticket, please call the school at (701) 776-6258. Tickets will be available beginning in October.

Alumni News & Reflections

Little Flower School Alumni Association

The goal of the *Blue Jay Briefings* is to inform former students and friends of LFS about the exciting activities going on at the school and to fill you in on events in the lives of our alumni.

This is our second mailing. We mailed out 550 copies of the first *Blue Jay Briefings* last spring. We still have a number of addresses to verify. If you know of alumni who are not receiving the newsletter, please let us know.

From the newsletters, we hope that you will see that many things continue to change at the school since you attended. Still, the mission and role of our Catholic school in Rugby remains very important.

There are currently 65 students in grades K-6 along with 23 preschoolers.

Please feel free to stop by the school any time, or you may visit us online at:

www.little-flower.k12.nd.us

If your Rugby High School graduating class or family is planning a reunion, please let us know. We would be glad to open Little Flower School for tours during that time.

Where are the alumni?

Joseph Mack ('97) married Britney Sudmann of Bergen, Norway, on August 9, 2008. The wedding took place in Kaupanger, Norway in a 900-year-old *stave* style church. The couple is now living in Bergen but may return to the United States in a year or two.



Rachel Brossart Ormond ('92) married Jim Ormond September 27, 2008, in Rugby. They live in Aurora, Illinois. Rachel works as a real estate photographer.

Blake Schaan ('97) married Heather King August 30, 2008, in Rugby. Blake is employed by the ND Department of Agriculture in Bismarck.

Erica Fursather Serafini ('91), her husband Chris and children, Kaden and Addysen, have moved to Korea.

Shannon Swanson Halvorson ('99) married Joshua Halvorson August 2, 2008, in Rugby. Shannon is a student at Dickinson State University.

(Year refers to graduation date from Little Flower School.)

RHS All-School Reunion

The community of Rugby is beginning to plan for the celebration of 125 years as a town. The celebration is scheduled for July 1-3, 2011.

At that time, there will also be an all-school reunion for Rugby High School. This will be a great opportunity for any former Rugby resident, who may not have graduated from the High School, to visit with former neighbors and Little Flower classmates.

The planning committee is currently collecting addresses and thinking about activities. A website has been designed to help in the communication efforts. It is:

<http://rabelle.com/rhs2011>

If you are interested in helping with the reunion, you may call Rugby High School at (701) 776-5201.

Share your news & reflections!

Are there any recent milestones, weddings, births or special awards in your life? Do you have memories or reflections from your time at Little Flower School? Please let us know (contact information is on the back) so we can share them with fellow alumni in our next issue of *Blue Jay Briefings*.



Memories from Judy (Busch) Werner ('58)

I remember Sister Albertine playing softball with us out behind the school. Sister would pick her habit up and run like heck when she hit the ball. I must have been in the 5th or 6th grade.

Sister Hildeberga had plants in the classroom, and one day she found aphids on them. She asked the boys if there were any volunteers who might want to light up a cigarette and blow the smoke on the leaves to kill the aphids. I think we had quite a crew going for a while!

Fr. Kalenberg and Msgr. Cloos were always very good about coming over to the school and being available to the kids. Fr. Kalenberg was a kind man who held the CYO meetings in the church basement. What a great guy for us older kids to talk to!

How could one forget the bazaars which were held in the basement of the church? The wonderful fishing pond and delicious meals! That basement was so huge! How did it become so small after I grew up? The Christmas concerts were held down there too.

Reflections from Blake Schaan ('97)

I have very fond memories of school life while attending Little Flower. I vividly recall assembling on the second floor with the teachers and students and starting and ending each day with prayer. I always looked forward to recess, phys-ed and Mass each Friday. I recall the fun days of movies, working on projects with classmates, computer class and waiting eagerly for the book fair so I could buy all the *Goosebumps* books my parent's money would allow...and I can't forget playing kickball with Sr. Donna.

Many of the values I hold today were first formed during the seven years I spent at LFS: being able to stand up to the flag and state "...one nation under God..." and praying with both friends and teachers without thinking twice about it. This is what true freedom is all about. I praise and thank God for the true blessing of LFS and all the wonderful experiences it brought.

Finally, my experience at Little Flower Catholic School will never be forgotten or kept silent. I feel that my learning experience there was greatly enhanced by the environment

of love and true friendship I was in. I wish every child had the opportunity to attend such a quality school. I want to personally thank all those involved with keeping LFS going and encourage them to never give up.

Memories from Rollie Schell ('66)

I remember: the chalkboards that would open up to hide the cloak closet, brown paper bags of peanuts and candy at Christmas from Msgr. Cloos, playing soccer on the playground. I especially remember a classmate losing her skirt coming down the slide during a fire drill.

Teachers that made an impression on me were: Sr. Albertine, Sr. Alma and Sr. Frances Cabrini.

Memories from George Gillies ('66)

There were two hot lunch cooks that kept us fed. One of them was Mrs. Tom (Christina) Jundt. The other lady was Mrs. Helen Volk. I remember getting tapped two or three times per year to dry dishes for a week after hot lunch. Friday, the reward for drying dishes was getting an ice cream sandwich!

The mission of Little Flower Elementary School is to provide a Catholic atmosphere that educates each child to his or her fullest potential: spiritually, academically, physically, socially and emotionally.

Receive *Blue Jay Briefings*
by email!

Would you like to have *Blue Jay Briefings* sent to your email account rather than receiving it via postal mail? If so, please send an email to:
lfsalumni@goNDTC.com.



Service opportunity

Would you like to give back to Little Flower School by serving in our alumni association? Please let us know if you have talent and time to share.

*Blue Jay Briefings is
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