



# Blue Jay Briefings

*Little Flower School Alumni Newsletter*

*Fall 2009*

## **School News**

### **Welcome Back to School!**

School began August 26, 2009. Enrollment this year is 61 students, kindergarten through grade six. There are also 19 preschoolers at Little Flower School. The students are enjoying their new teachers, meeting friends again, and using their new school supplies. They have been busy with a variety of special activities and projects.

Sr. Jean Louise, librarian at the school, held a Scholastic Book Fair in the church basement. Over \$1800 in books were sold.

The third graders performed the play *Stone Soup* for friends and family. Third and fourth graders were entertained by singers from the Norsk Hostfest.

Fifth graders have started band. They also have made Native American displays which were viewed by visitors. Sixth grade have begun their weekly visits to the Long Term Care residents at the Heart of America Medical Center.

LFS students are selling candy again. Each year the students sell World's Finest Chocolates. They come in bars and boxes and are favorites of all chocolate lovers! If you are in the area stop in the school or contact a student to purchase some chocolates.

November 20 will be the LFS silent auction and chicken supper at the Rugby Eagles. This is always a

great event and many people come for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship. We are always looking for items for our silent auction—crafts, gift certificates, or other unique items. If you have something to donate, contact the school. We look forward to another exciting year at LFS filled with many events!

### **Little Flower School PTO Second Annual Raffle**

#### **Grand Prize:**

Samsung 46 inch LCD TV

**First Prize:** \$500 cash

**Second Prize:** 2-night hotel stay at CanadInn in Grand Forks/4 water park passes/\$50 restaurant gift certificate

**Third Prize:** 2-night hotel stay at Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo/\$50 restaurant gift certificate

**Fourth Prize:** 2-night hotel stay at Seven Seas Inn in Mandan/\$30 restaurant gift certificate

**Fifth Prize:** Apple I-pod Touch 32 GB/\$60 Napster Music gift cards

**Sixth Prize:** 1-year subscription to Netflix

**\$10 per ticket**

**Drawing January 31, 2010  
During Catholic Schools Week**

Ticket sales begin in November. To purchase tickets send a check payable to Little Flower School ATTN: Raffle 306 3rd Ave. SE Rugby, ND 58368

Please provide us with a phone number and your mailing address. Tickets will be mailed out to you.

### **LFS "Pupil's Pen"**

*Rebekah Wangler ~  
Grade 6*



### **What LFS Has Meant to Me**

LFS means a lot to me! Over the years, my teachers have taught me to be responsible, respectful, and hard-working. LFS has also taught me morals and values such as treating others the way that you would like to be treated.

We at LFS can show kindness towards others by including everyone in activities, not teasing and making fun of others, and not bullying but working together as a team.

If I'm ever faced with difficult choices, I ask myself, "WWJD?" (What Would Jesus Do?) Asking myself this question helps me make better decisions when it comes to treating others equally and to be more like Jesus in all that I say and do.

With the guidance and teachings of LFS and knowing that Jesus is watching over me, I have faith that I will succeed as I continue through my school years and through my adult life.

### **New Faces at LFS**

Darcy Martin is the new custodian at the school and church. He took over after the retirement of Harold Volk.

Sister Maria Veronica, novice with the Franciscan Order of Sisters, is under the guidance of Sister Genevieve.

# Alumni News & Reflections

## Where are the Alumni?

**Donovan Voeller ('96)** and his wife Crystal were blessed with a son, Kyle Duane, born March 21, 2009. They live in Grand Forks. Kyle is the first grandchild of **Margaret (Schneider) ('62)** and Duane Voeller.

**Sara (Volk) Halvorson ('95)** and her husband Tyler are the proud parents of a son, Kasen Gene, born August 10, 2009. Kasen's big brother is Talan. They live in Minot.

**Maureen (Blessum) Fritel ('98)** married Bradley Fritel June 20, 2009. They live north of Rugby where they farm. Maureen works at the Hair Emporium in Rugby.

A baby girl, Addison Jean, was born to **Jolena Volk ('91) Hagen** and her husband Nathan May 23, 2009. They live in Sandy, Utah.

*(Year of graduation from Little Flower School.)*

## Class of 1951

Lucille Bosch\*  
Carol Ebach Brown  
Bernice Heintz Niederkrome  
Cecil Hilzendager\*  
Deanna Hornstein Hamel  
Beatrice Koenig\*  
Bernadine Koenig Volk  
Richard Kraft  
Louise Lesmeister Wirrell\*  
Wayne Loisella\*  
Benny Lund\*  
Albert Scheet\*  
Francis Tuchscherer\*  
Fred Vetsch\*  
Conrad Voeller\*  
Daniel Volk  
Richard Volk  
Peter Wangler\*  
Daniel Wentz



*(D) denotes deceased.*

*\* denotes missing address.*

## LFS a Family Tradition

Tradition begins with Little Flower School for **Margaret (Schneider) Voeller ('62)**. She is the oldest child of Magdalen and the late Leo Schneider. Margaret and her 12 brothers and sisters all graduated from LFS. Margaret remembers that as a sixth grader she attended the public school for one year. At that time LFS students were able to ride the bus at no charge to the family if a family member attended the public school. Her sister attended the public school for two years and Margaret returned to LFS.

After graduating from Rugby High School and marrying Duane Voeller, they were blessed with 10 children. Their first son, Mike, started school at LFS in 1979 and their youngest twins, Sharon and Steven, graduated from Little Flower in 2002. They had six children attending LFS at one time. During that time Duane served on the LFS Board for two terms and Margaret remembers making Valentine boxes, helping with homework and PTO projects.

Margaret recalls her older children telling her, "Mom, you should come and cook at the school." Margaret began working as a cook at LFS in January 2001 and became the head cook at the school the fall of 2003. When she first started cooking at the school they prepared over 100 meals each day. Those numbers have dropped to around 70 today. Students' favorite meals today

are pizza, chicken nuggets, and hot dogs.

Margaret likes working at the school for many reasons. She enjoys the kids and the days go by fast. She is able to work with her sister **Rita (Schneider) Mitzel ('72)** who is the school secretary and with her mother, Magdalen, who volunteers at the school.

Margaret and Duane are happy that their children were able to attend Little Flower School. "It was the right choice for our family."

## Reflections from Janice Lee (Volk) Schmidt, ('54)

I will never forget Sister Hildberga. The Haman boys were in my class. They would make noises like the wind, birds or whatever, and Sister just couldn't quite figure out where the noise was coming from. Finally after a few more noises she realized it was the Haman boys, and they got some type of punishment. It could have been a slap with a ruler, or a pull of the ears, ha ha... I am so grateful that my parents sent me to Little Flower School. Fifty-five years later, I still remember those good old days.

## 100th Anniversary

2010 marks the centennial of Little Flower Church. Activities are being planned to celebrate this milestone. We will update with more information in the winter edition of the newsletter or check for more information online at [www.littleflowerrugby.org](http://www.littleflowerrugby.org).

## **Message From the Principal**

As I write this article, the 2009-10 school year is well underway, and by all accounts, students and teachers are busy doing what makes school worthwhile, coming together every day for activities involving teaching, learning and faith. It is with the thought of “faith,” that I reflect back on my past eight years as principal of Little Flower School, and ask the question: Why did I choose Little Flower Catholic School, and as alumni, why should you continue to choose a Catholic school for your child, whether in Rugby or elsewhere?

While all Catholic schools share a common mission as part of the Church’s educational ministry, every Catholic school is a unique community, as I’m sure you are well aware, as alumni of Little Flower School. As a parent or guardian, one of your most important responsibilities is to choose a school that “fits” your child’s personality and learning needs, as well as your family’s practical needs and educational priorities.

In your parents electing to send you to a Catholic school, (Little Flower) and hopefully you electing to send your child to a Catholic school, you have already made some very important choices. Most importantly, you have chosen to blend your child’s academic and

spiritual development in accordance with the educational mission and ministry of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. A vital premise underlying that mission is that every child has strengths, talents, and interests to be encouraged and developed. Equally important is the commitment to an educational approach that nurtures “the whole child” in an environment of spiritual development, academic excellence, moral values, respect, and safety. Catholic schools provide that environment, treating each child as a special “gift” that will flourish with individual care and attention.

Give thanks to God that Little Flower Catholic School continues this tradition.....

Yours in Christ,

Bruce Gannarelli, Principal  
Little Flower Catholic School

## **Vernice Brossart Reflects on her Years at LFS**

I take great pride in having been part of Little Flower School for—well, just say—many years. Having gone to a Catholic high school for two years, I felt right at home at LFS. Truly, LFS has been my home away from home.

Looking back to my first years at LFS I recall Sr. Carolyn as principal and the primary teachers being all Sisters. Mrs. Dolores Aas took me under her

motherly wing showing me the ropes and offering help, advice, and ideas to the many questions all new teachers have.

I have seen many changes in the years I’ve been at LFS. The hardwood floors were covered with carpets, doors were replaced for fire safety, and the green plastic curtains were removed when new windows were installed.

LFS has expanded to include kindergarten and more recently preschool. Computer classes and Life Skills have been added to the curriculum.

I have taught many students, mainly sixth graders, including my own four children. I am proud to see my former students as strong parish and community members here in Rugby.

I continue to have high expectations of my students as they prepare for junior high. And yes, children are a lot different than when I first started teaching.

What remains the same after all these years is the spirit of St. Therese present at LFS, parents and parishioners that strongly support the school, and the joy I get accompanying the children singing, “They’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.”

Please pray for the future of LFS.

*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.*

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**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.

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