



# Blue Jay Briefings

Little Flower School Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2012

## School News

### 2nd Annual Cookies for a Cause: Brazil

The 5th & 6th Graders of Little Flower School, under the direction of Mrs. Mosher and Sister Jean Louise, raised over five hundred dollars for the second year in a row to send to the Franciscan Sisters in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Sisters who serve in Brazil provide food and educational opportunities, day care and after-school care for countless orphans who live on the streets of the favellas (slums).

This year an estimated 80 dozen cookies, bars and popcorn balls were made, packaged and sold Wednesday afternoon and again Thursday evening during Catholic Schools Week Open House. Many students, families and parishioners helped support the Cookie Cause by not only baking and packaging the treats, but then also by buying them. The actual profit this year was \$560.00 which was given to Sr. Donna to transfer to the Sisters in Brazil.

Thank you to all those who baked and bought cookies so we could once again have such a successful fundraiser. If anyone is interested in helping support this cause, please contact Sister Jean Louise at [ndfranciscan@yahoo.com](mailto:ndfranciscan@yahoo.com) or check out the website for the Franciscan Sisters: [www.dillingenfranciscansusa.org](http://www.dillingenfranciscansusa.org).

### Catholic Schools Week 2012

Catholic Schools Week was held January 29 through February 3. Some of the week long events included a children's Mass and the carnival on Sunday, hot lunch with a hero on Wednesday, open house at the school on Thursday night, and a family Mass and dance on Friday.

The children always look forward to the carnival on Sunday afternoon. There have been many changes to the Little Flower School carnival over the years. Many of you may remember the carnival was held at the school and each classroom offered a different game. Some carnivals were held at the KC Hall with bingo in the basement. The carnival is now held at the Rugby Armory. This year the carnival hours were from 12-3 providing lunch for those who came to the armory right after the 10:30 Mass. Bingo was played in the south room of the Armory. The cake walk was entertaining and held on the stage of the Armory. Instead of a lot of small games, huge blowup "rides" were rented that the children could slide around and bounce on.

Do you have memories of the Little Flower School carnival? We would love to hear how it used to be. Send us your memories so we can include them in a future edition of the *Blue Jay Briefings*.

### Staff Resignations

Little Flower will once again see some changes in staffing when classes resume in the fall. Bruce Gannarelli has resigned his duties as principal and phy. ed. teacher to seek other employment. Classroom teacher, Vernice Brossart, will retire at the end of the school year. Vernice is currently teaching a 1st/2nd combination classroom.

We will share more of their plans in the spring edition. If you have a reflection or special memory about Bruce or Vernice, please send them to us to be included in the spring edition of *Blue Jay Briefings*.

The School Board is currently exploring staffing options. A search committee including parents, staff and parishioners will work together toward the goal of hiring a new principal and a teacher for the 1st/2nd combination class.

The Board has decided to move to a 3rd-4th combination classroom. The kindergarten three day program will move to a 5 day program in the fall.

There are also changes planned for the preschool program at LFS. The program will be expanded from 2 half days per week to 3 half days per week. Rugby Public School does not currently offer a preschool program so the preschool program at LFS is valuable to the entire community.

The Board is advertising for a teacher for the preschool program.

# Alumni News & Reflections

## Where are the Alumni?

**Donovan Voeller ('96)** and his wife, Crystal, welcomed their daughter, Amanda Louise, into the world May 18, 2011. Amanda's birth weight was 6 lbs. 14 oz. and she was 21 in. tall. Amanda's older brother, Kyle, is two years old. The Voellers live in Grand Forks. Amanda's grandmother is **Margaret Schneider Voeller ('62)**.

**Lindsay Brossart Geisinger ('95)** and her husband, Chad, are the proud parents of baby boy, Ethan James. Ethan was born Sept. 23, 2011. He weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz. and was 19.5 in. tall. The Geisingers currently live in Minot, but are planning to move to Fargo. Ethan's grandfather is **Maurus Brossart ('70)**.

**Lindsey Wangler Anderson ('94)** and her husband, Jason, welcomed son, Zeyan Torge, into their family Dec. 23, 2011. Zeyan weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and was 21.5 in. tall. Zeyan's older sister is two year old, Rhilyn. The Andersons live in Canby, MN.

**Darren Selenksy ('94)** and his wife, Lindsay, are the proud parents of baby girl, Karlee Ann. Karlee was born Oct. 27, 2011. She weighed 8 lbs. 12 oz. and was 21 in. tall. The Selenskys live in Rugby.

**Riley Schaan ('94)** and his wife, Erin, welcomed baby, Isaiah John, to their family Feb. 10, 2012. Isaiah weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and was 21 in. tall. Isaiah's siblings are brother, Caleb, and sister, Megan. The Schaans live in Rugby.

Chelsea Beth Blessum was born to Alan and Karleen (Axtman) Blessum on Sept. 28, 2011. She weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20.5 inches. Chelsea joins her proud sisters, **Jessica ('09)**, **Jacquelyn (att)**, **Brooke (att)**, and Samantha. Chelsea's grandmother is **Charlotte Bickler Blessum ('50)**.

## Those we will miss

**Dan Bickler ('52)** passed away Aug. 11, 2011. His funeral was in Tioga, ND, Aug. 15, 2011. Burial was in the Little Flower Church Cemetery at Rugby.

*(Year refers to graduation date from LFS)*

## School Board Calendar Fundraiser

The School Board is sponsoring a calendar raffle with a total of \$10,000 cash payout. The week of May 1-4 three \$200 prizes and one \$1000 prize will be drawn. May 7-11 four \$200 prizes and one \$1000 prize will be drawn. The week of May 14-18 there will again be four \$200 prizes and one \$1000 prize drawn. The final week, May 21-25, four \$200 prizes and the grand prize of \$4000 will be drawn.

Winners will be returned to the bin so you may win more than once.

Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100 and may be purchased from teachers, board members, area businesses or by calling the school at 701-776-6258.

## Helen Volk Celebrates 100th Birthday

Helen Volk, Little Flower School cook for 22 years, celebrated her 100th birthday on Jan. 22, 2012. Helen cooked lunch at LFS from the early 1960s to 1984. According to Helen's granddaughter, Charlotte Jundt Feldman of Fargo, "Helen walked to work early in the morning, went to Mass and then started cooking. As a school cook she prepared the meals using fresh food, often donated by local farmers. Helen often said the day she retired at the age of 72, 'the gallon cans came in'."

Helen is remembered around the church and school as a kind, soft-spoken woman who loved her job, the people she worked with and the children at LFS.

Helen lives in Fargo. Helen and her husband, Peter, had three children: Bernadine Jundt of Fargo, **Clara Axtman ('52)** of Devils Lake and **Nicholas ('56)** of Pembina.

*Information taken from February 2012  
New Earth*

## Little Flower School at 70

Plans are being made for a celebration of 70 years of Catholic education in Rugby. The first students to attend LFS started Sept. 1942. More history of the school is found on page 3.

### **Is your class having a class reunion this summer?**

The Alumni Association would be willing to open LFS for a tour. Please contact the school office or email  
[lfsalumni@goNDTC.com](mailto:lfsalumni@goNDTC.com)

## 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 the newsletter.**

## 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!*

## **PTO Raffle drawing results**

Grand prize \$1,000-Mike Santjer, Rugby

1st prize ipad2-Sydney Kraft, Rugby LFS Alumni

2nd prize \$500-Jessie Lake, Rugby

3rd prize, Xbox-Trent Meyer, Fr. Tom's nephew

4th prize \$250 Scheels card-Roger Domry, Minot

5th prize \$250 Cenex card-Barb Bercier, Rugby LFS alumni

6th prize Kindle-Kristina Brossart, Rugby LFS student

Thank you for supporting Little Flower School.

*Blue Jay Briefings is  
a publication of*

Little Flower School  
Alumni Association  
306 3rd Avenue SE  
Rugby, North Dakota 58368  
[lfsalumni@goNDTC.com](mailto:lfsalumni@goNDTC.com)

Current Resident or

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

## Little Flower School History

In May of 1941, a Mr. Pluth contacted Father Cloos. He had a school that he was tearing down at Chisholm, MN. After visiting in Rugby, Mr. Pluth contacted Bishop Muench in Fargo. A few days later the Bishop wrote to Father Cloos advising him of the need and importance of a Catholic school at Rugby, and assuring Father that the Diocese would help with the project to the amount of \$1,000 a year for 10 years.

Mr. Pluth accompanied Father Cloos to Chisholm to inspect the building. On arriving in Chisholm Father Cloos found that the building was in good condition and that very little additional material would be needed. By the end of November the trucks began rolling into Rugby with the materials and by the end of January all the material salvaged from the school at Chisholm was on the building site in Rugby.

May 1942, the building permit was issued, stipulating that the building was not to cost more than \$30,000, and that less than 10% of the materials were to be purchased after May 1. Joseph Hoffart was engaged as building engineer and ground was broken May 17. Farmers came with their tractors and scrapers and within two days had completed the excavation. Five days later the footings were poured and the cribbing begun for the foundation walls. In December an inspector returned and was surprised that the building was completed, and after studying the invoices and labor sheets was satisfied that the total cost was as claimed and within the building permit restrictions.

Little Flower School opened its doors September 14, 1942, with an enrollment of 156 students and a faculty of four sisters from the Franciscan Convent at Hankinson, ND.

Little Flower School, an important entity of the parish, grew and improved academically and structurally. With the establishment of a full-time Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, Little Flower received the encouragement and direction to continue to work for excellence in education. A quality education and individual pupil attention were two points stressed. This meant hiring only certified teachers, reduction of number of pupils per teacher, and the addition of a physical education teacher and a part-time librarian.

Under the direction of the Diocesan Superintendent and the newly-organized Fargo Catholic Principals Association, the curriculum was examined and re-evaluated, followed by textbook changes. Throughout the years, Little Flower has benefited from federally funded programs. Help was offered in speech, learning disabilities, and special education. Arrangements were made with Rugby Public School so Little Flower students needing special services could walk over to classes at Ely Elementary. Years later and after a new interpretation of the law, the Title instructors were permitted to provide these services at Little Flower School. For a short period of time Little Flower did have a full-time learning disabilities teacher and a part-time speech teacher. Later federal funds were cut and so were these positions. Currently students are served by learning disabilities and speech services through Rugby Public School. Fifth and sixth grade students participate in the Band program at Ely.

The mid-seventies brought the closing of the 7th and 8th grades, leaving only grades one through six. The early eighties brought the kindergarten class to Little Flower making the school Kindergarten through Grade 6. In 2008 a preschool program was added to Little Flower.

From 1987-88, James Kappel, our first lay principal. He firmly believed in technology in the classrooms. Through funds provided by the Eagles, the KC's, and the Christian Mothers, the school was able to obtain several computers. The school now has a small computer lab in the library.

In 1986, a federal grant was received by the school from the Department of Energy, providing a new roof. The large windows were enclosed and insulated. The school again received a coat of paint from gracious parents.

In 2002, the school celebrated 60 years in Rugby. In 2008, an alumni organization was revived and a newsletter was started, *Blue Jay Briefings*. The goal of the newsletter is to let alumni know what is happening at Little Flower School and to provide a link to alumni.

During the years there have been many changes at Little Flower: a Parent Teacher Organization, parent-teacher conferences, the celebration of Catholic Schools Week. There have also been many efforts to raise money for the extra needs of the school. The history of Little Flower School would not be possible without the generous volunteers, family support, and the Sisters of Saint Francis of Hankinson. These people make Little Flower School a community to be proud of with their time, talents, energy and extra money which goes to improve the spiritual and academic growth of Little Flower students.