



Parents Newsletter

December 2009 – January 2010

**Saint Paul Lutheran High School
Concordia, Missouri**

Christ-centered experiences in learning, for living.

Grow Up!

As the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany begin to take shape this year, I am drawn to the one sentence that concludes the entire business. In Luke 2:40 it says that the “child (Jesus) continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”

Isn't that the desire of every Christian parent? Or perhaps I should say that it *should* be the desire of every Christian parent! The problem is that so much gets in the way of what is important. We assume that our children will grow physically and even intellectually and that they would even become strong in those areas. But what about “wisdom” and “grace”?

This past week I overheard one of our students make a comment that you don't hear every day. She said, “Thank God for apologetics!” She had been confronted that week with one of the negative philosophies of this world and it just so happened that she had been studying that very thing in a class. She had been given the tools to discern what was truth and what was not. She was able to grow in wisdom.

The apostle Paul speaks about growing up in 1 Corinthians 13 when he says that when he was a child, he used to “speak like a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a

man, I did away with childish things.” The trouble is that most folks don’t know how to put away childish things.

We could say it another way. When we are immature, we think that the things of the world are important, such as clothes, athletic ability, popularity, ACT scores, leading parts in plays, money, power, cars, homes, vacations and the like. When the grace of God works on us we come to realize that forgiveness, compassion, understanding, and a vocation that looks forward to eternity is all that really matters.

The “Word of the Lord Grows” (Acts 19:20) on this campus in the lives of our students, faculty and staff. When we are connected to this same Jesus who grew up 2000 years ago we get to be in the process of growing up and becoming strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God will continue to be upon us as well.

Rev. Paul M. Mehl
Executive Director

Dean of Chapel

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.—Romans 12:2

Our chapel themes in 2010 will focus on the power of God’s word to transform our minds. In January we will receive the gift of **humility** as we learn that Jesus humbled Himself to become our servant. In February we will receive the gift of **compassion** as observe anew the selfless love of our Lord’s life. In March we will receive the gift of **repentance** as godly sorrow grips our hearts from Calvary. In April God will renew our **boldness** to proclaim Christ’s resurrection, and in May God will send us **into the world** to share all we have received.

Apart from Christ we are condemned to continue in *futile thinking* (Rom. 1:21) with *blinded minds* (2 Cor. 4:4) and *hardened*

hearts (Eph. 4:18). Writing to the Corinthians Saint Paul claimed, “We have the mind of Christ.” We gladly hear and learn God’s word at Saint Paul Lutheran High School that we too might own His mind. His mind can transform lives, communities and cultures. And it all begins as His mind transforms us. God grant it in 2010.

Rev. William C. Heine

Assistant Principal

I know I continue to say this, but it is so hard to believe that we are already into the month of December. The school year is just flying! It is a pure joy to work with your sons and daughters watching them grow spiritually and emotionally as well as physically.

With just a little over two weeks left before we break for Christmas, I want to remind parents and students that we will be taking finals starting on December 14 and ending December 17. We’ve moved the finals to Monday and ended them on Thursday to help our students who have to fly internationally. (Many times the difference of one day on flight reservations can amount to hundreds of dollars.)

On Friday, December 18, as a school we are going to be involved with service activities. These will be done by different school organizations. Since many students are involved in different activities, they may choose which activity they’ll be a part of that day. We anticipate this taking around two to two and a-half hours. Then we’ll serve lunch and after that students will be free to leave for Christmas break. So many people help us here at school and we feel it’s important to give back. If you know of any groups that could use some assistance during this time of the year, please contact me and maybe we’ll be able to help them in some way. This is the first time we’ve tried this; we’re praying that it will be successful.

While thinking of finals week, remember there is rarely any valid reason for a student to miss a final. Make every effort to finish this last week of the semester strongly. If you have

any questions, contact me. Classes will resume on January 4 after Christmas break.

Again, I want to thank you on behalf of the faculty and staff for the opportunity to work with your sons and daughters. You should be proud of them. They are truly blessings from God and we take seriously the time you have entrusted them to us for their education inside and outside the classroom. May God grant each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas season. Jesus is truly the reason for the season.

John Beerman
Assistant Principal

Home Christmas Concert

The annual Saint Paul Lutheran High Christmas Concert by the music department will be Sunday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia. The concert will begin with several selections by the 33 piece concert band (which is much improved and larger than in recent years). The string orchestra will follow under the direction of Mrs. Lucy Mehl. To conclude the concert, the 84 voice Singing Saints concert choir will sing. Interspersed throughout the concert will be congregational hymns.

The concert will conclude with combined string and wind instruments, the Singing Saints, and the faculty singing the "Hallelujah Chorus."

Previous years' concerts have been on the evening of the last day of school. Due to many travel conflicts for students, the concert is being moved to the preceding Sunday evening.

Local students are asked to bring two dozen cookies for a reception in the church gymnasium that will follow the concert.

William Gasau
Director

Class of 2012

The sophomore class has just completed sell-

ing Watkins products. We will have those items ready to be sent home with the students when we break for Christmas. For those of you who bought things, thank you for your support.

The class has decided to do two other fundraisers this year. During the basketball season at one (or possibly two) of the games class members will be auctioned off to be purchased by people to assist with work that needs to be done at their houses. Details will be published as to when that will occur.

The third fundraiser that we've definitely decided on will be selling Valentine cookies to our students and anyone else who wishes to purchase. Your sons and daughters are a joy to work with and we look forward to helping them the next two years.

John Beerman
Rev. Jim Dahlke
Class sponsors

Country Mart Educational Fund

Country Mart grocery stores offer a Country Mart Educational Fund for local schools to earn money. This year Country Mart is donating \$176,000 to be divided between participating schools. We are asking for your help in earning part of this. The process is easy:

1. Visit www.mycountrymart.com and log-in with your Country Mart Card. The card number is the first eleven digits beginning with 41 and leaving off the last digit on the card.
2. Click on Community Programs box (or use the Education Fund link on the left).
3. Follow the Customer Enrollment link (on the right).
4. Choose Concordia for the city our school is located in.
5. Select Saint Paul to sponsor.
6. Use your Country Mart Card every time you shop at any Country Mart location.

This is a great opportunity for our school to earn funds. This program runs August 2009 to April 2010. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Freshman Class

Thank you to all those who ordered Laurie's Kitchen products from the freshman class. It was a successful fundraiser and Old World Spices & Seasonings, Inc. gave us 100% profit on all items we sold as part of their "Giving Back to the Community" campaign. The freshman class is very thankful for the company's generosity, and for making their first fundraiser an even greater success!

The freshman class is now selling royal blue fleece blankets and scarves embroidered with various SPLHS logos. The cost of the blankets is \$15 and the cost of the scarves is \$5. If you would like to purchase one of these items contact a member of the freshman class or Mrs. Marsh. The freshman class thanks Mrs. Bonnie Rich for donating her time and talents in making these items.

Meredith Marsh

December- January Sports Page

Athletic Director Notes

Court warming is February 12 against Windsor High School.

Sign up for "Saints Alert" and get all of the scores and schedule changes for the Saint Paul Lutheran High School Saints.

Students taking the following PE classes are doing bowling for the third quarter activity.

2nd hour – Monday, Wednesday

2nd hour – Tuesday, Thursday

5th hour – Monday, Friday

5th hour – Tuesday, Thursday

7th hour – Monday, Friday

We will walk to Concordia Bowl daily for our class period. It is \$2 a visit, which includes all you can bowl and shoes for each day. We will go 14 times so the fee is \$28. Pay the business office by the end of first semester. Thanks!

Boys Basketball

The boys won their first game, which was against KC Lutheran, 55-42. It was good to finally get a chance to play against someone other than our own team. It was a good team victory against a quality opponent. Brandon Haake had 25 points to lead all scorers. Brandon was seven for eight from the three point line. Jordan Bredehoeft was one assist shy of having a double-double as he had 14 points and 9 assists. We have a game against Wentworth before we start the I-70 tournament next week with a 1st round game against Santa Fe.

Monte Pitsch
Coach

Lady Saints Basketball

The Lady Saints started their season with a win against Kansas City Lutheran on December 1. We are scheduled to play Oak Grove on December 4. The following week we will participate in the I-70 Conference Tournament in which we drew the 3rd seed. We will play two games the last week of school, one on Dec. 15 and one on Dec. 17. We wrap up our pre-Christmas schedule on December 19 playing LaMonte at Sedalia where we'll be participating in the State Fair Shootout. The girls have been working hard and are improving daily. Thank you for your support. We look forward to your participating the rest of the season. GTGTG

John Beerman
Meredith Marsh
Aaron Marsh

Basketball Cheerleading

This season's basketball cheerleaders are Tatjana Bulovic, Katie Campbell, Rachel Dubas, Iselin Kramer and Samantha Myers. They have worked hard learning cheers and are ready for the games to begin! We hope to see all of you there as we cheer on our Saints.

Emily Kramer
Cheer Coach

Boys Soccer

The Saints finished the season strong with a good showing in our district, winning our first round game 9-0 over Holden. In the semi-finals, we played perhaps our best game of the year winning a tight 1-0 game against Lee's Summit Christian. Unfortunately, we ended the season with a 2-0 loss in the district finals to Sacred Heart. Despite the loss, we could look back upon the season as a success, as the team came together in the second half of the season, finishing 9-2 in the last 11 games to finish at 15-9. We had to work a lot of young players into the team, but with the leadership of four-year seniors Damon Beck, Thomas Kirchoff, J.P. Lange, and Michael Niemeier, we came together to post another winning season.

Our late season surge earned individual recognition for several players, with Damon Beck and Daniel Kolbenshaiven being recognized at the region and district levels. Also being recognized as all district were Soon Young Jeoung, Nathaniel Lutz, and Sam Schmidt. Aslak Gundhus, Mark Maina, and Nolan Peters earned honorable mention.

Luther Schmidt
Soccer coach

Sixth Man T-Shirts

The basketball teams each started the year with a win against K.C. Lutheran. The stands were full of fans cheering them. We want to keep this up throughout the season and we want our fans to be well dressed. We will be ordering 6th man t-shirts again this season for any students, family, or friends who would like one. The t-shirts will be exactly the same as the ones sold last year. The cost will be approximately \$7 (there will be extra charge for 2X and 3X). If you would like one of these shirts contact Mrs. Marsh by December 18. The shirts will be available when classes resume after Christmas break. We will ask for money when shirts have arrived. Then we will know the exact cost.

Meredith Marsh
Coach