

Connections is the electronic newsletter of Lutheran schools and educators of the Pacific Southwest District. It is designed as a tool to help keep schools and educators connected to one another as they serve in ministry connecting students and families to the Gospel.

Connections

Pacific Southwest School Ministry Newsletter
May 2010



Schools and educators are invited and encouraged to share items of interest, items for which to give thanks and/or uplift in prayer, or any other information which connects us to one another. Please submit your information via email to connections@christcm.com. *Connections* is distributed electronically to administrators in the Pacific Southwest District who are then asked to forward copies to their staff. *Connections* is also available on the District web site at <http://www.pswcic.org> and on the Portal.

SUMMER FUN...

Over sixty years ago, Lutheran teachers in Southern California started Big Chief Lutheran Camp. Dedicated teachers like you spent their summers loving children out loud in the great outdoors.

You are invited to continue this legacy by volunteering your time this summer with PSD Outdoor Ministry. Trail guides, tent camp leaders, game coordinators, craft instructors, lifeguards, kitchen help, nurses and counselors are all needed from July 30th to August 7th. Unable to commit for the entire week? Even a day or two is appreciated! Visit www.outdoorministry.org to register as a volunteer. You will be as blessed as the campers!



HEART'S FOR JESUS

Offerings for the 2009-10 Heart's for Jesus mission project continue to come in. Thank you to all of our schools who have contributed to the Giving Gardens project for Haiti co-sponsored through Wheat Ridge Ministries and Hope Seed, Inc. To date \$16,238.77 has been given from our Lutheran Schools. It still isn't too late to contribute! We will continue to collect offerings and donations through the end of June. Remember, just \$1.50 from every student in the PSD will allow us to reach the goal of \$30,000!

WHAT'S HAPPENING... IN AND AROUND OUR SCHOOLS...

Bethany, Long Beach, continues to be a busy, active campus. Grades 3-5 recently presented the musical *'The Troubbable of Zerubbabel'*. The school also conducted an all campus read with the book *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. Students prepared by completing assignments to familiarize themselves with the peoples and customs in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Chapel offerings in March were designated for "Pennies for Peace," the organization started by Mortenson's daughter, Amira. The annual Bethany Fun Day, a student favorite, was held recently. The event had a 50's theme and featured games and activities for the entire family as well as a classic car show. Before the year comes to a close eighth graders will travel to Washington D.C., students will participate in the annual talent show as well as a pep rally, and kindergarteners and eighth graders will graduate. Busy days!

Science Champions and their teachers at **Hephatha, Anaheim**, cut the ribbon to officially kick off the school's Solar Flag Program. **Principal Kim Voelker** shared that Hephatha was chosen as one of ten from over 70 public and private elementary schools in the city to receive a one-kilowatt solar powered system. The Solar Flag program is designed to give students, teachers and the entire school community a close-up understanding of the potential of solar power as a renewable energy source. Teachers will receive special training and recommendations on how to build science, math and language projects around the Solar Flag. The project is sponsored by Anaheim Public Utilities in partnership with EcoMotion and The Rachus Institute.

"Poor Man Luther" was the theme of the recent dinner auction held by **Pacific Lutheran High, Torrance**. The evening was designed to support the educational ministry of Pacific Lutheran and enable the school to continue to provide a Christ-centered, college-prep education for teens in the South Bay area. The school is also pleased to announce that they will be opening a new thrift store in the South Bay area this fall. "The Thrift Store is a place that honors our Lord, helps to fund students in financial need, supports the school's programming, and serves our community," says **Principal Lucas Fitzgerald**.

Ministry at **First Good Shepherd Preschool, Las Vegas**, is blooming! The school is coming up on the completion of their third year and is preparing for growth. The school hopes to open a fourth classroom and expand the playground soon. Summer camp plans are also being made. Three children were baptized into the Lord's family this year and Butterfly class teacher, **'Miss' Ann**, celebrated the birth and baptism of her new granddaughter. Praise God for abundant blessings!

Faith Lutheran High, Las Vegas, choirs and handbells traveled to Orlando, FL, in March on their annual spring tour. Three ensembles were

adjudicated at Dynamic Music Festival where they received superior ratings. In addition, Faith also received the sweepstakes trophy for this national competition. The Handbell Ensemble was awarded National Champions distinction with the highest score of the weekend. Students also had the opportunity to visit the Kennedy Space Center, Universal Studios and the Island of Adventure as well as swim at Cocoa Beach.

You are invited to follow **Crean Lutheran South High School, Irvine**, on Facebook and Twitter. As a complement to its website, CLS encourages you to access all the latest school information by bookmarking and following <http://www.facebook.com/CLSBS> and <http://twitter.com/CLSBS>. Vice Principal, External Affairs **Brian Underwood** promises that something new and exciting is always happening at Crean. Stay connected and stay tuned through these social mediums... and invite your friends!

Orange Lutheran High has announced that **Jack Preus** will step down as Head Coach of the school's Cross Country and Track & Field programs at the conclusion of the spring 2010 season. During his eight years as coach Jack has led his teams to two CIF Southern Section titles and one CIF State championship. His teams have also been runner-up at the sectional level five times and at the state level twice. Last fall, Jack was named both California Cross Country Coach of the Week and Orange County Coach of the Year. Jack's greatest satisfaction, however, came from grounding the programs in the mission and purpose of the school. The change will allow Jack to commit more time to his family and to transition into an expanded role as the school's Director of Professional Learning. We wish him abundant blessings in his new role.

CELEBRATE, PRAISE, AND GIVE THANKS...

We thank God for the **students** who have been part of our lives this past year. We thank Him for the privilege of sharing the Gospel message with these boys and girls and their families. As some graduate, others move on to new schools, and many look forward to returning to our classrooms in the fall, we pray God continues to nurture faith in each heart. May these precious lambs be instruments to share Jesus and His love all summer long. May each one of us, too, be refreshed and reinvigorated and excited to return in the fall.

St. Paul's, Orange, celebrates with teacher **Marilyn Dielmann** as she completes her formal teaching ministry after 41 years. A potluck picnic was held to celebrate her achievement and mark the life changing event. When asked what she plans to do with all of her free time, Marilyn let it be known that she is off to see the world! We thank God for the gift of Marilyn and all His faithful servants who are celebrating retirement this spring.

Bethany, Long Beach, students recently participated in the first annual Solar Grand Prix sponsored by a Long Beach City Councilperson. The teams worked over the course of three months to perfect their cars for race day. Of the 86 entries from the greater Long Beach area, ten of the teams were from Bethany. These teams received recognition as they placed third for speed in the middle school category, second for Design Innovation, second and third in Student Choice and first in Most Sustainable. Congratulations to creative students and their teachers!

Members of the Jazz Band at **Lutheran High, Orange**, were in the spotlight recently. This was the second year the group was invited to play at Steamers Jazz Club and Café in Fullerton as part of a series sponsored by Friends of Jazz, Inc., a local nonprofit organization. LHS Director of Bands **Kent Hannibal** said it was an honor to play at the club, sharing the calendar with Grammy-winning and world-renowned jazz artists. Congratulations to all seventeen members of the Jazz I band!

The District office has been fortunate to have two more months of wonderful artwork from schools in the district. The students from **Mt. Olive Preschool/Kindergarten in Poway** submitted their best creations in April. In May we enjoyed the original work from students at **St. John's, Orange**. Thank you to these students and teachers for loaning their students' artwork for us to enjoy. We would love to showcase artwork from your school. Please contact Ellen Pratt in School Ministries to reserve a time.

CONNECTED IN PRAYER...

Get connected...stay connected! We at the District Office encourage you to join us in praying for our schools. Prayer is powerful and simple! You email us your requests or visit our website at www.pswcic.org (click on 'Our Schools') where it also lists the schools we are praying for that week. The following are schools which are being uplifted specifically at this time.

April 4

Easter Week

April 11

Emmaus Preschool and Elementary, Alhambra
Hephatha Preschool and Elementary, Anaheim
Trinity Preschool and Good Shepherd Elementary, Simi Valley
Shepherd of the Valley Preschool, Santa Ynez

April 18

Prince of Peace Preschool and Elementary, Anaheim
Pilgrim Preschool, Santa Monica
Redeemer by the Sea Preschool, Carlsbad

April 25

Zion Preschool and Elementary, Anaheim
Concordia, Barstow
First, San Fernando

Good Shepherd Early Childhood Center, Yucca Valley

May 2

Grace Preschool, Bishop
St. Paul's Preschool and Elementary, San Diego
Lutheran High, San Diego
Christ, Brea

May 9

Christ Preschool, Fullerton
Grace Preschool, San Diego
Christ the Cornerstone Preschool and Elementary, San Diego
Holy Cross Preschool, San Diego

May 16

First Preschool, Camarillo
Peace Preschool, Camarillo
Mt. Calvary, Running Springs
Immanuel Preschool and Elementary, Riverside

May 23

Bethlehem Preschool, Canyon Country
Canoga Park/Trinity High, Canoga Park
First, Burbank

May 30

Loving Savior Preschool and Elementary, Chino Hills
Concordia Preschool and Childcare, Chula Vista
Christ the King Child Care Center, Redlands
Mt. Olive Learning Center, Rancho Palos Verdes

Summer Break

August 15

TLC Preschool, Casa Grande, AZ
Risen Savior Preschool and Elementary, Chandler, AZ
Apostles Preschool, Peoria, AZ

August 22

Hilltop Preschool, Cottonwood, AZ
Peace Preschool, Flagstaff, AZ
Christ's Greenfield Preschool and Elementary, Gilbert, AZ
Christ Preschool and Elementary, Phoenix, AZ

August 29

Atonement Preschool, Glendale, AZ
Trinity Preschool and Elementary, Litchfield Park, AZ
Ascension Preschool and Elementary, Tucson, AZ
Faith Preschool and Elementary, Tucson, AZ

CONNECT YOUR SCHOOL...

We know lots of good things are happening at **your school!** We would love to hear about them! Share your news and the great things that are happening through **Connections**. You might want to designate one person from your faculty/staff to submit information, or you are invited to do so individually. You can find the "News for Connections" submission form on the School Ministries website at www.pswcic.org under News & Events where archived *Connections* are kept. Please write a summary of the information you would like to share and submit it to connections@christcm.com. Publication deadlines will be announced in the weekly E-Connect later this summer. Your feedback and comments are appreciated. As always, our purpose is to help you and your school stay **connected** to others in our district. Email your thoughts to connections@christcm.com. Thank you. Elinor Courvoisier