



Rochester Central Lutheran School

RCLS PAW PRINT

April 30, 2009

Preparing for tomorrow with a Christ-centered education today!

RCLS is a ministry of Family of Christ, Grace, Holy Cross and Trinity Lutheran churches.

DON'T FORGET!

All School Picture—
May 6, 1pm

Jazz/Pops Concert,
May 8, 7 pm

MR. PAHLKOTTER'S THOUGHTS.....

"The Lord is my shepherd...and this is all I need to know." Mrs. Prentice read a devotional on Tuesday that talked about a preschooler who was learning Psalm 23. At first I chuckled at the statement as it caught me off guard. Then as she pursued the author's comments, I realized the wisdom of this simple but deep statement of faith.

A friend told me about the suicide death of a neighbor's adult child. She told me that when she found out she just cried. She cried because she cares for this family and for this young woman who took her own life. She cried because it bothers her that she didn't think they knew the Lord. She further explained that she didn't understand suicide.

Although I am not a mental health expert and I am not sure I totally understand either, I could grasp the desperation that one may feel if they do not have the hope I have in Jesus. Facing the challenges of life without knowing forgiveness or having the assured hope of Heaven, would be very difficult. I struggle when facing trials even knowing God's love and understanding that He gave His Son's life for me...for the forgiveness of my failures...my sins...my weaknesses. Not having my faith to hold onto...not having Christ beside me even during the times of struggle...not knowing the Lord is **my shepherd** would be devastating.

God has placed a burning desire in my heart to share His love...His message... His plan for salvation...with those who do not know that He is our shepherd. I want people to have the hope I have in Christ. Life is often not easy, but with Christ, I am not alone and I know I am loved...I am forgiven...I am Heaven bound.

"The Lord is my shepherd...and this is all I need to know" is a wonderful statement of faith and foundational truth that many in our world need yet to discover. Lord, use us to help others see You as their shepherd.

In the name of the ultimate HERO, Jesus,

Mr. Henry G. Pahlkotter, II
RCLS Principal



Special points of interest:

- *Golf Outing*
- *SE Spelling Bee Winners*
- *Summer School Opportunities!*
- *Family of Christ VBS*
- *Spring Scholastic Book Fair*
- *2009-10 Calendar Adopted*
- *2009-10 Budget Adopted*
- *Summer SAC registration begins*
- *Tuition Payment Options for 2009-10*
- *Timberwolves Clinic at RCLS!*
- *Alumni Reunion, May 30*
- *Much, much, more!*

2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR ADOPTED

BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Please see the attached 2009-2010 RCLS school year calendar. It was officially adopted Monday evening at the Board of Directors' meeting. The first day of school for K-8 will be a half day on Monday, August 31, 2009, and the last day of school, a half day on Friday, June 4, 2010. Please note that the first day of school is a week earlier than the Rochester Public Schools as a result of a late Labor Day and a desire for our last day of school to be in early June rather than much later. This allows the RCLS staff to have time to be prepared for the following school year as well.

A BUDGET FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEEN ADOPTED:

After a great deal of work, discussion and prayer on behalf of the Board of Directors, a budget has been adopted for the 2009-2010 school year. Respecting the tough economic times and being blessed with strong enrollment projections, the Board moved to maintain our current teaching staff and to enhance our current program to include a half time Technology teacher and a half time Lead Teacher position to assist our administration in meeting the ministry needs of our students and families. There are additional program enhancements that are in the process of being developed, with additional details forthcoming. We have positioned RCLS to accommodate significant growth in the lower elementary grades for next year, as we ended up 'closing enrollment' in two grades this past year. Other than increases for years of service, the Board moved to freeze salaries for one year unless enrollment grows beyond expectations between now and August.

The Board of Directors ask that all families help us get the word out that RCLS is not only going to maintain our quality program but has made a bold step, working to make some meaningful curriculum and administrative enhancements. The Board asks for your prayers and ministry efforts to share our ministry with the Rochester area. A personal recommendation from an RCLS family is the most effective form of advertising we have. We still need to increase enrollment by at least another dozen students K-8 to balance our budget and to maintain our programs in future years. Of course, we are in the midst of enrollment for Preschool and every student that is led our way helps make our program even stronger and gives us additional opportunities to fulfill our mission of "preparing for tomorrow with a Christ-centered education today" and to share the good news of Jesus.

Finally, during tougher economic times, families sometimes experience greater financial needs. PLEASE prayerfully consider making a donation toward tuition

assistance for families demonstrating a true financial need and still desiring the blessing of Christian education for their children. Every dollar given strengthens our ministry and helps us to better meet the academic and spiritual needs of our students and families.

TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK! Next week is teacher/staff appreciation week. This is a great time for parents and students to express their gratitude for the extra efforts of a particular teacher or staff member, appreciation for the ministry of our dedicated staff or just to simply say "thank you" for something a teacher or staff person may have done that was a blessing to your child, your family or you personally. So often, the world is eager to criticize and tear down people. This is a time to do the opposite in thanksgiving for all God has done for you through ministry at RCLS. Take time this weekend to write a note of thanks, draw a picture of appreciation, send a thoughtful e-mail or do something more creative to express your appreciation for the ministry team God has placed at RCLS. Without their ministry, there would be no RCLS.

As principal, I am thankful for the ministry team God has called to RCLS. I have never worked with a finer or more talented group of people in my 23 years in education or ministry. From custodial to food service, teachers to assistants, administrative assistants to directors, God has blessed RCLS with a multitude of gifts and with a team that works and is dedicated to Him and the building up of His kingdom. I publically want to thank every member of the ministry team for their contributions and faith service to our Lord. It is a blessing to serve with you at RCLS. - Mr. Pahlkotter, Principal

WELCOME MRS. DIANA EVANS AS RCLS'S NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:

RCLS welcomes Mrs. Diana Evans to our ministry team as she comes on board and transitions into the position of Development Director. She is taking Dr. Gregoire's position as he will complete his responsibilities the 1st of June. We thank Dr. Gregoire for his service as Development Director and getting us started.

Mrs. Evans graduated from Northwestern College in Saint Paul with a bachelors of arts in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations. She has been serving as the Development Director of Faribault Lutheran School in Faribault. Please keep Mrs. Evans in your prayers as she makes the transition to RCLS.



Have you noticed the warmer weather outside? We have! The golf committee is looking forward to August 28 and the **RCLS GOLF OUTING**, sponsored by Thrivent! Registrations and hole sponsorships are now being accepted. If you are interested in golfing or learning more about being involved with this event, please visit with any golf committee member: Marty Mack, Corey Nelson, Marc Woolman, Aaron Rudzinski, and Kim Schauer.

RCLS SUMMER STRETCH 2009 (SUMMER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES) is *STRETCHING and GROWING*: This year's RCLS Summer Stretch brochure and registration form are available in the school office. Classes cost \$75 per class. All grade level requirements are based on the grade the student will be entering in Fall of 2009. We have *more* classes to offer than last year. Please consider a class or two that may work for your children. Most classes have a maximum number of students, so space is limited. Classes also have minimums so you will be notified if the class will not be held due to low enrollment. Please register as soon as possible. Thank you.

Pictures of the **SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE** cast are available for purchase for 25 cents each. Pictures of each group and order forms are available in the office. Please stop by and check out the amazing cast!

The **SPRING SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR** is coming up on Friday, May 29. The Book Fair will be from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. We need a few people to help with the Book Fair. Please consider volunteering for an hour or two during Track and Field Day! If you are willing to help during this day, please contact Mr. Nelson at 289-3267 ext. 106 or nelsonrcls@yahoo.com.

The RCLS Library is looking for **LIBRARY WORKERS for 2009-2010**. If you love books and kids, this is the right place for you! Our schedule includes morning or afternoon shifts each week, or every other week. We also have need for substitutes, Book Fair workers, and book processors/repairers. **FREE TRAINING IS INCLUDED!** If you are interested or curious, please contact Mr. Nelson at 289-3267 ext. 106 or nelsonrcls@yahoo.com

AUCTION ITEM FOR SALE - Free Keyless and extra remote with the purchase and installation of a new opener from Jim Thompson's Garage Door Company. Valid in Rochester only. Additional fees apply outside Rochester. Not valid with other offers or on prior purchases. Expires 12/31/09. Please contact

Melinda Rud (jimmhrud@msn.com or 288-6697) if interested.

We would like to **congratulate** all the students who participated in the **SE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS REGIONAL SPELLING BEE**. RCLS took first in all the grade teams; 3rd and 4th, 5th and 6th, 7th and 8th. The individuals who placed in grades 3 and 4 were Mary Hagan 2nd and Jeremy Waldner 3rd. Alex Wilkins placed 1st among all 5th and 6th graders. Katrina Wessel placed 2nd among all 7th and 8th graders. It was a wonderful day and we thank God for the gifts he has given us.

A FOURTH SMARTboard PURCHASED: Due to the generosity of God's people throughout the Development Month, a fourth SMARTboard, interactive white board, will be installed in our school. It has already been ordered and will be installed in our current 2nd grade. **THANK YOU** to everyone who has made this enhancement to our program possible. We could never do what we do without the generosity of people like you. If you would like to make a gift toward the purchase of additional SMARTboards or another area of our ministry, please contact the school office. Your gifts are a very important to the support and funding of our ministry.

The **RCLS LIBRARY CLOSERS FRIDAY, MAY 22!** All materials are due back by then to allow time to organize the library for the end of the year! Look for notes to come home concerning overdue items!

The **ALL SCHOOL PICTURE** will be taken Wednesday, May 6. Please look over the attached order form for information.

"KINGDOM OF THE SON" is the theme for this year's Family of Christ VBS to be held June 7-11, 6:30-8 pm. Your child will have the opportunity to journey into the Serengeti to discover exotic animals and participate in an expedition into God's world. The program is open to children 3 years of age (potty trained, please) through 5th grade. Just as last year the program will be held at the homes of Mr. & Mrs. Ken DeCramer and Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Mitchell (5823 & 5815 Shetland Drive NW). If you should need more information and/or wish to register, please email TimBlock@q.com or call Linda at 285-1635.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM deadline extended to July 2, 2009. If you would like more information please contact the school office. Thank you.

THANK YOU MR. FUELBERTH: The Technology Committee would like to thank Mr. Fuelberth for his two years of service on the Technology Committee. For the last year and a half he has Chaired the Technology Committee, and has brought a wealth of knowledge and leadership ability to the committee and he will be missed. Mr. Jeff Boisen, our Technology Coordinator, will Chair the Technology Committee now.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE SEEKING MEMBERS: The Technology Committee is looking for two additional members. The Technology Committee provides an administrative forum for reviewing, evaluating, and recommending strategies, plans, and policies for RCLS. The committee currently meets once a month on the second Monday @ 7:00 pm. Please contact Jeff Boisen at jdboisen@rcls.net for more information.

PART-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE Trinity Lutheran Church in Rochester is seeking a part time secretary (18-20 hours/week). Primary duties include maintaining membership rolls and general secretarial work. Computer skills are essential and data base experience is desirable. Preferred hours are Tuesday-Thursday each week. Please call or stop in for further information, an application form and job description. Trinity Lutheran Church. 222 – 6 Avenue SW, Rochester. (507) 289-1531.

PASTOR OTTE TO LEAD HOLY LAND TOUR Pastor William Otte of Trinity Lutheran Church, an RCLS Association member, will be leading a 9-day tour of the Holy Land, with an optional 3-day extension to Egypt. The tour will leave on February 9, 2010, and will include stops in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, and many other Biblical sites. This is a life-changing experience! If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Otte at (507) 289-1531 or pastorotte@charterinternet for details and a colorful brochure.

PRAYING FOR OUR FAMILIES The week of May 4, 2009 we will pray for Randy & Charla Schultz (ShyAnne), Christopher & Suzanne Sedlmajer (Caleb, Jarrett), Lee & JoLee Sendelbach (Keryn), Pastor Rance & Leslie Settle (Addisyn), Serena Shea (Brandon, Brianna), Craig & Donna Springer (Kathryn, Sarah), Mark & Lisa St. Peter (Sam), David & Kathy Stien (Jack), Tim & Lonnie Strohschein (Tyler), and Terry & Jill Swihart (Caleb).

EARLY CHILDHOOD PLAYGROUND RESURFACING PROJECT... RCLS is looking to enhance the functionality of our Early Childhood Playground area. One of the constant issues has been the pea gravel that was used to create a safe surface for the equipment area. It is dirty and does not seem to stay where it needs to be.

Mr. Michels, our Facilities Manager, is taking on a project that would enhance both the look and function of our Early Childhood Playground. It has been proposed and approved by the Board of Trustees to replace the pea gravel with soft surface playground interlocking squares. He has researched the product and found it to function well for many years.

We will be selling enough squares to families and friends of RCLS to cover the entire Early Childhood Playground equipment area. Donors may purchase a square in thanksgiving for Christian education, to highlight a special event in their lives or in loving honor or memory of a loved one.

We believe this will be a great move forward as it will enhance the look of our playground, save on the wear and tear of our students' clothing and will function well to provide a safe footprint for our equipment.

Watch for specific prices and procedures for making a donation in our next Paw Print. Thank you Mr. Michels for taking on this project.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

We celebrate with Pastor & Mrs. Biar (Kayla, Keenan) on the birth of Shelby Elaine on April 23. And, also with Christopher & Suzanne Sedlmajer (Caleb, Jarrett) on the birth of Lindee Joy on April 27. Congratulations and God's richest blessings to the Biar and Sedlmajer families!



Day Camp for Kids

SAC is opening
a brand new summer experience called—
CAMP RCLS!!

REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN!! Camp RCLS will run from June 15—August 14 and will feature the following groups:

- *Yellow “Son”Shiners—The Lights of Christ*” or those entering PS-Kindergarten
- *Blue Gills “Fishing for Christ”* for those entering Grades 1-2
- *Green Aliens “We can live a life of love, even though we are not of this world.”* for incoming 3- 5 graders

Activities include: drama, group games, crafting, literature connection, skills reviews, devotions, indoor and outdoor games, gardening, field trips, VBS, computers, arts and crafts.

For more information and enrollment forms please stop by the SAC parent table. Come join us for a summer of camp fun!!

Children entering grades 6 and up, there is a program for you, too. It’s called **Staff-In-Training**. To obtain a brochure or application please stop by the SAC room. Please come and share your love for Jesus with our campers!

Routine SAC care will be available June 8-12 and August 17-25—prior to and after Camp RCLS.

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM: Thank you all who have been sending in your egg cartons and paper tubes! I really appreciate your help. The Art room is now in need of large plastic lids (gallon ice cream container lids work the best!) If you have any of those, we would be happy to have them. Thanks again for all of the help!

-Ms. Johnson

COME ONE.....COME ALL!!! ALUMNI REUNION!

Celebrate the students before you, the parents that supported them and all the family/friends you have the joy of knowing!

Saturday, May 30, Service for all at Trinity Lutheran Church (222 6 Avenue SW) at 5:30 pm with a “registration” and short/sweet recognition of alumni there.

Moving to RCLS with (pray for good weather!) a potluck outside starting about 6:45 pm with a quick “alumni meeting” of sorts and then...



ROCKOLOGY playing from 7 pm ‘til about 10:30 pm! More information to come, or please contact Jim Gregoire or Gina Mitchell.

TUITION PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR 2009-10

Besides being able to pay for tuition in full RCLS also offers two monthly payment options for the 2009-10 school year. You have the choice of paying tuition on a 12 month program (June to May) or 10 month (August-May). The payments would be automatically withdrawn from your checking/savings account. **If you are interested in the 12 month payment plan, the office needs to know by May 29 in order to set the process up and provide you with a projected cost sheet.** After May 29 the 12 month option will not be available. Information on the present 10 month plan will be sent in the summer mailing. As in the past, the **automatic withdrawal is for tuition only.** The withdrawal date for the 12 month payment plan would be the 15th of each month starting on June 15, 2009 and the 10 month option will be withdrawn on the 10th starting with August 10, 2009.

