Help LMS Get Off to a “Great Start” at Summer Picnic

Come join the fun on Saturday, August 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Women’s Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park for the Great Start summer picnic for donors and friends—old and new!

Rain or shine, come enjoy the beautiful 31-acre Lakewood Park, with its Solstice Steps along the Lake Erie shoreline. Your $10 ticket will cover food and beverage at the Pavilion.

Bring a bag or two of school supplies with you or gift cards to Walmart or Target and be entered into a raffle for some great prizes. Beginning the year well-stocked with school supplies will help us get the 2017-18 school year off to a great start!

Our most needed items are:
• pencils and pencil sharpeners
• notebook filler paper (wide or narrow)
• white and colored copy paper
• white art paper (legal size)
• tissues
• Lysol wipes
• hand sanitizer;
• preschool-sized socks and underwear
• khaki pants, any size

Picnic invitations will be mailed in early July. To purchase tickets, use your credit card and make a $10/per person payment by logging onto luthermemorialschool.org and click on “Donate.” Or send a check to the school at 4464 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, OH 44109.

High-Five!
Sports Added to Mix of LMS Offerings

Luther Memorial has named LMS middle school teacher Dave Gaglione its first-ever Athletic Director for the 2017-18 school year, the first step in building a solid sports program at the school.

Rising enrollment at LMS has made it possible to field competitive teams. In the first year, basketball and track will be offered for boys and girls in Grades 5-8, with emphasis on skill building and scrimmages with other parochial schools. “We’ll start slowly and gradually build our program,” says Executive Director Nicole Levy. “It’s all about getting kids active and keeping them healthy. One good habit can lead to many good habits.”

According to the Journal of School Health, school sports programs offer many benefits including weight control; problem-solving skills; self-esteem; social competence and academic achievement.

Mr. Gaglione, who worked as a Site Administrator and Day Camp Director at West Park YMCA before coming to LMS, believes that sports opens the door to many options for students and teachers. “It’s a way to teach students about the dedication it takes to be part of a team, following rules and learning how to deal with setbacks. As teachers, hopefully this will be another way to motivate our students to achieve in the classroom, as well as on the court and field. I’m excited about the opportunities this presents for LMS.”

“We hope our supporters will be interested in helping us get our fledgling sports program off the ground and off to a good start,” says Executive Director Levy. “Cleveland’s a great sports town and the Lancers are ready to make their mark.”

Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation to the LMS Lancer’s Sports Program.
Lutheran West Next Step for Most 2017 LMS Grads

In front of the entire student body and proud parents and friends, Luther Memorial promoted nine students on Monday, May 22. Eight of those nine students have chosen to continue their education at Lutheran West High School in Rocky River.

The recent expansion of the Cleveland Scholarship Program makes it possible for these students to have a private school education. The scholarship provides each student with a voucher to be applied towards tuition expenses at Lutheran West. The remainder of tuition will be paid with scholarships and family contributions.

“We are excited to have so many of our students continue their education in a Christian environment. We pray that their faith will continue to grow there among many other Christian peers and faculty,” says Executive Director Levy. “I am at Lutheran West regularly, so it will be easy keep in touch with them and check on their progress.”

LMS Class Valedictorian, Grady Walker, is one of the eight attending Lutheran West. He will continue his studies in the Senney Honors Academy. Cleveland Lutheran High School Association Assistant Superintendent, Joe Gray, presented Walker with a scholarship at the LMS promotion ceremony.

Feeling the Love
Gala enjoys record crowd and tremendous financial support

Luther Memorial School welcomed a record crowd to its Loved Beyond Measure Annual Spring Gala and Auction, Sunday, April 30, at Stillwater Place at the Cleveland MetroParks Zoo. On a beautiful spring day, 170 guests gave generously to support the school’s mission of academic excellence and Gospel outreach, raising over $40,000 for our scholars.

“It was a great day of celebrating an historic school year in the life of Luther Memorial with the opening of our second campus,” says Walt Fischer, board president. “We are humbled by the continued generosity of our longtime supporters and are grateful for the number of first-time attendees and givers we had as well.” Fifty-one guests were first-time Gala attendees.

Donations to our 3rd Annual Fund-A-Need topped $20,000, with half coming from people unable to attend our event. This year’s Fund-A-Need will provide new classroom furniture for four classrooms on the Main Campus and one classroom on the West Campus. Work on our Main Campus office space will be done this summer, resulting in a more attractive first impression for prospective families and a more efficient workspace for our staff.

“A big thank you to all of our sponsors, program advertisers, attendees and non-attendees who gave so generously,” says Executive Director Levy. “Luther Memorial is blessed to be part of such a charitable community.”

We will return to Stillwater Place in April next year. Stay tuned for more details.
Man’s best friend supports students in the classroom

On Fridays, students in Marty Beckman’s 5th and 6th Grade share the classroom with two special guests. Mr. Beckman brings his dogs, Moose and Remi, to school as part of an incentive plan for his classroom. Good behavior the rest of the week assures that the dogs will visit on Fridays. Studies show that kids’ social skills, comprehension abilities and fluency skills grow when dogs are present. “At the beginning of the school year, the kids were very excited about the dogs coming, until some of them saw how large my Labrador was,” he says. But by the end of the year, the kids who were a bit reluctant to get too close at first, got much more comfortable around them and gave them goodbye hugs on the last day of school.

New Titles Clarify Roles

Luther Memorial’s School Board recently changed Principal Nicole Levy’s title to Executive Director. “With the addition of a second campus, Nicole’s role has widened in scope and the new title more accurately reflects that,” explains Walt Fischer, Chairman of the LMS Board.

In another board action, Marty Beckman, current middle school teacher at the West Campus, will now also become its principal. In addition to teaching, he will handle day-to-day responsibility for supporting staff and disciplinary problems. “I think the West Campus has so much potential, and I’m thrilled to be in a position to help make it a model of academic success and discipline in the diverse community of West Park,” says Mr. Beckman.

Board Welcomes New Member

Adam Zehnder joined the LMS Board in June. A graduate of Lutheran West (2008) and John Carroll University, Zehnder also has an MBA from Cleveland State University. He works at MetroHealth as a Business Intelligence Advisor in the Operational Research and Analytics Department. Adam volunteers at Lutheran West working with their drama productions. He brought a group of Lutheran West drama students to LMS to help run a day of drama workshops. He attends Royal Redeemer Lutheran in North Royalton. Welcome, Adam!

Teacher Memories

Teachers shared a few of their favorite memories from the year...

“My favorite memory from the year was the fundraising effort our older students did for Water Mission International. The kids read a book and learned about how precious and important clean water is and how many places in the world do not have it. The kids strategized fundraising ideas and decided to do a bake sale, a car wash and a Walk for Water with sponsors, which was highlighted at the Gala. One special effort was made by 7th grader Antonio, who lost his eyesight in November. He and his little sister Heytie sold homemade empanadas door-to-door in their neighborhood, earning another $61. Through the generosity of donors, the community and staff, the students raised $3,097.32, exceeding their goal of $3,000. They were very proud and happy.” —Missy Beckman, middle school teacher, Main Campus

“One of the most memorable parts of my school year was watching and listening to the way one of my Nepali girls opened up and grew in her English speaking skills. She came into the year as a third grader reading at a first-grade level and rarely speaking in English at all. Throughout the year, she grew in confidence, and we began to develop a really wonderful teacher-student relationship. She forced herself to speak English just so that we could share stories about life with each other. By the end of the year, she was running into my room with thoughtful gifts and packing an extra lunch of traditional Nepali food for me. It filled each day with tremendous joy as I got to know her dear heart more and more.” —Hope Dugan, 3rd grade teacher, West Campus

“One of my favorite memories this year was watching my students get involved in prayer requests at the end of the day. It started out as just simply closing the day in prayer, but it ended with students opening up and sharing what they needed prayer for. Some of my more shy students became eager to share personal requests, and some students even volunteered to pray out loud. I feel that this helped unite the kids in my classroom, by encouraging them to bring their requests to God. This opportunity also helped students know more about what was going on in each other’s lives.” —Sarah Johnson, 3rd grade teacher, Main Campus
A Grand Slam Outing

On a warm spring afternoon, 16 LMS middle schoolers from both campuses were treated to an Indians game for having had a stellar year in the classroom, academically and behaviorally. Attending a major league game was a first-time experience for more than half of the kids. Though the Indians lost to the Tampa Bay Rays, a great time was had by all, especially Angelica Colon who caught a ball one of the Rays players threw up to her. The Nepali students tried to make sense of teacher Marty Beckman’s explanation of balls and strikes and base running. Another new experience for some of the Nepali students was riding the elevator and escalator, which they did while laughing hysterically and holding on tight. LMS is grateful to Mike Kraus, father of Main Campus middle school teacher Nikki Kraus, who tagged along to the game and bought everyone lunch!