



"GOD HAS PLANS FOR YOU!"

Saints Celebrate!

Saint Michael Lutheran - 'Big Dogs' and more!

October, 2007



The Kindergarten students at St. Michael learn to read and get excited as the 'Disciples of God!' (Big Dogs!)



Mrs. Owen gathered students for the first annual Welcome to Middle school program. Here 6th graders learn to work cooperatively as they prepare for the 'egg drop survival challenge.'

Dear Friend of St. Michael,

Reading and relating are two keys to the St. Michael Lutheran School experience. As we celebrate the Reformation we are reminded that one tenet Martin Luther shared was that we were to be literate people who read and study the Bible and then live a life that shares God's message of hope in Jesus Christ! Mrs. Flynn who teaches Kindergarten and Mrs. Owen our Guidance Counselor have helped us do that here at St. Michael. We teach reading so that students can learn and then apply that learning to their lives as they relate to each other.

Mrs. Flynn believes we should teach children to read for a purpose! We want them to be lifelong learners and also to be witnesses for the Lord. We use a fun approach with the **'Big Dogs' reading program in Kindergarten. Dog stands for: Disciples of God!** Thanks to Mrs. Flynn for developing this fun approach to reading.

We choose to teach reading at SMLS with a phonetic approach. We use special programs like the 'Big Dogs' and the Accelerated Reader program to make reading fun and to encourage vocabulary and comprehension expansion. We learn to read and then read to learn from the Bible so we can be witnesses and learn to make the right choices in life!

So what do the students do with the knowledge they acquire from reading? One special event started by our guidance counselor, Mrs. Melissa Owen, is the **Annual Welcome to Middle School Retreat!** The retreat focused on helping our new sixth graders transition into the new, challenging world of middle school! The sixth graders gathered from noon - 3pm, starting with a picnic pizza lunch, spiritual direction and team building games. They were provided with spiritual direction (the theme) - discovering their unique finger print (gifts) which God's given them!

The retreat was also the kick-off for another new program at SMLS - the **Eighth Grade Mentor Program!** The eighth grade class prepared themselves to serve as mentors to the sixth grade students. They were paired off with a sixth grader to mentor to the entire school year! At the retreat the partners met, got acquainted and starting building friendships. The mentors will continue to support and guide the six graders through gathered and non-gathered events at SMLS this year! At the retreat, the sixth graders worked with their mentors in a special team building activity - the egg drop challenge! Fun, collaboration and team work buzzed in the SMLS gym! The day ended with the mentors and partners sharing in an ice cream social!

We are instructing for life here and for eternity! That's the St. Michael Difference!

In Christ,

Robert J. Ziegler
Principal, LEA Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator
U.S. Department of Education and NAESP National Distinguished Principal

P.S. The SML Foundation continues to work toward the establishment and funding of various endowments. Check out the "Support St. Michael Today & Tomorrow" program by visiting: <http://sml.kintera.org/>.