

LMS Athletics Gets a Big Boost from Alumni Event

The first Annual Alumni Basketball game held earlier this month was a slam dunk.

The final score was 49-29 with the Alumni (from the '18-'19 and '19-'20 teams) defeating the current team.

But the score hardly mattered as the real victory was the event itself.

In order to capitalize on the growing enthusiasm for sports at LMS, Athletic Director Dave Gaglione organized the Alumni game to give the school community something to cheer about and raise money and awareness for LMS athletics.

The hope is that this game becomes an annual tradition.

The bleachers were full with current and former students and LMS parents, grandparents and friends. It had the feel of a family reunion with lots of hugs and high fives.

Proceeds from the Alumni game will be used to purchase shirts for the coaches and other basketball program needs.

LMS Athletics got off the ground in 2017 when an athletic director position was added and class sizes were large enough to form a team. As the new kids on the block, the 2018-19 team surprised everyone by qualifying for the All Ohio Lutheran Tournament.

"Athletics can be an important part of our school community as we continue to grow and add more sports and students to the program, says Mr. Gaglione. "It is one of the many ways our students and their families can experience LMS as an extended family."

Mr. Gaglione had some behind-the-scenes help with the game from parents who make up the school's fledgling Booster Club.

Building a Booster Club is a priority for the busy athletic director this year so that he has a group of parents to rely on for help in organizing and promoting sports at LMS.



Game MVPs with Mr. Gaglione: on the left Pacifique Niraquira (LMS '19) and Hugo Barillias, current 8th grader.



A bubbly group of LMS 4th graders with pom-poms and a few cheers nearly stole the show.



The '21-'22 team talks strategy during a timeout at the first Annual Alumni Basketball game.

Students and Staff Benefit from Recent Renovations

It's official. Luther Memorial is now a property owner for the first time in its 73-year history.

LMS wasted no time in making some changes this summer that have had a significant impact on its school day this fall.

Most notably, a new 6th grade classroom was

created by combining the former pastor and church offices, and new ceiling, lighting and flooring completed the space.

Now 6th, 7th and 8th grades each have their own classroom and teachers can focus on the unique needs of each grade level

(continued on p. 2)

Renovations (cont.)

with less of a gap in skills among students in the same room.

Another change returning students saw this fall was a bigger and brighter cafeteria, possible with the removable of a large storage area. New ceiling, lighting, flooring and paint enhance the look of a much-used space and make it feel more welcoming.

The more open floor plan helps traffic flow and general ease of use both for lunchtime and after-school care.

The final change to the building was creation of a multi-purpose

room used mostly for music and art instruction.

The new room is large enough to store art supplies so they are close by and confines messy art projects to a dedicated art space and not a corner of the cafeteria as in the past.

The room is also equipped with Clever Touch boards which will enable distance learning for students and staff. Future plans call for the space to be used after-hours for parent classes.



Removing a wall between the church offices allowed the creation of our new 6th grade classroom.



Kindergartner Roselyn enjoys her lunch in the spruced-up cafeteria. New lighting makes a big difference to the feel of the space.

ANNUAL GALA

With a huge sigh of relief, Luther Memorial's three times rescheduled Annual Gala & Auction finally took place Sept. 26. We were grateful to reconnect with supporters we had not seen since 2019 and welcome new faces to the long-time event.

After expenses, the Gala netted \$57,500 for the mission and ministry of the school.

Entertainment by the New Heavenly Wonders, a local Gospel choir, and auctions and raffles added to the fun for our guests.

Many thanks to our sponsors and the many businesses and individuals who donated.

And for those who showed up on the river—THANK YOU! We hope you enjoyed yourself, learned something new about the school and plan to attend next year! Stay tuned for details!



'66 Alumnus and Sponsor Dave Pavlick (striped shirt) at his Gala table of friends.

Future Kitchen Makes Hospitality Possible

This year's Gala Fund-A-Need jumpstarted our campaign to renovate our kitchen. Initial plans include expansion and a complete overhaul of the space, including new cupboards, counters, flooring and lighting.

Giving to the Fund-A-Need totaled \$39,091. That's a good start on a project expected to cost upwards of \$135,000.

At the Gala, Mrs. Levy spoke about hospitality and the power of gathering around a meal as a strong unifying force.

"I once saw hospitality defined as this, 'Hospitality is the offer to extend the privileges of community to those who do not have the standing to expect it, especially those who are vulnerable. It is an offer to identify with outsiders and to treat them like insiders.'"

"If you want to know what we

do at LMS—this is it. Making our families, who many would consider outsiders, and loving them like insiders... It's what Jesus showed us. He chose outsiders and treated them like insiders and then made us all insiders by the power of His blood."

The current kitchen is not functional and not a space conducive to hospitality, much less cooking or hosting a crowd. The plan is to expand and update it so that it can be used for family nights where families are invited to join us for a meal and an activity together, cooking classes for students and families and for serving more nutritious school lunches.

"We will continue to fundraise for the kitchen in the new year," says Mrs. Levy. "We are hopeful that renovation can start next summer."



Here is a "before" pictures of our kitchen. With the help of our giving community, we're hoping to show the "after" pictures next fall!

WIGGLE WORMS FIND THEIR SEATS IN THE CLASSROOM

Our kindergarten classroom has some special seating this year for children who benefit from movement in order to focus and learn.

The brightly colored wobble stools and chairs reduce strain on the muscular-skeletal system, strengthen core muscles, promote better posture and help children engage better with learning.

It sounds counter-intuitive, but telling some children to sit still in order to focus is the opposite of what they actually need. "Studies have shown that physical movement assists with focus, memory and cognitive development," says Mrs. Levy.

On Monday of each week, kindergarten teacher Mrs. Karen Peterkoski has the children choose their seat for the week. So far, the wobble options haven't been a distraction in the classroom and discipline issues are minimal.



The new wobble stool in action. They've helped Mrs. Peterkoski's kindergartners stay on task and engaged this fall.

Students and Teacher Still in Touch 51 Years Later

Mrs. Julie Thomas (LMS '72) invited two special guests to the Gala with her this year—her classmate Mrs. Bonnie Arnold (LMS '72) and their 7th grade LMS teacher, Miss Pat Marshall.

Mrs. (Thomay) Thomas and Mrs. (Lindeman) Arnold were close friends throughout their school years and adored their 7th grade teacher, who was newly graduated from Concordia, Seward, Nebraska in 1970. They considered her a confidant and advisor. "She displayed her Christian testimony in every aspect of her life," says Mrs. Thomas.

The three have kept in touch for 51 years. "As Bonnie and I started our families, Miss Marshall expressed great interest in our kids, even attending my daughter's volleyball tournaments," says Mrs. Thomas. Mrs. Arnold considers her a "spiritual mentor," who helped to develop her faith.

For Miss Marshall, the Gala was a chance to catch up with some former students, including LMS board president Walt Fischer, and spend some time in the city that set the course for her life's work.

Miss Marshall was born and raised in Defiance, Ohio, and she admits that Cleveland in the early '70s was a big adjustment for a country girl.

"I remember the pastor at Trinity where I taught the first year had his battery taken from his car in (continued on p. 4)



(Left to right) Bonnie Arnold, Julie Thomas, Pat Marshall and Elaine Ott at the LMS Gala in September.

Student and Teacher (cont.)

broad daylight and once all of the teachers' tires were slashed in the parking lot," recalls Miss Marshall.

As a young single woman in the city, she remembers the Thomay and Lindeman families taking her under their wing and treating her like family.

She fondly recalls the bowling alley in the basement of Trinity that served as gym class and an early dismissal so that classes could go to the Indian's home opener.

Though she left Cleveland in 1975 to return to Defiance, Miss Marshall sees her time at LMS as an invaluable experience that shaped her teaching career. "I went through some tough times in the city but God used all of it as training for my future. I loved my students and their families and my church St. Luke's so much."

Miss Marshall spent the bulk of her 47-year career as a teacher at St. John Lutheran School in Defiance. She retired from teaching in 2019 but still serves on the school board and as athletic director there—not quite ready to say goodbye to her students and calling just yet.



We are planning an in-person Christmas program this year after missing last year. Titled "God's Story," it traces God's plan of salvation from creation to Christ's return. You are cordially invited to attend our dress rehearsal on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 10:00 a.m. Unlike at the evening performance for school families, there will be PLENTY of parking and room in the pews for our dress rehearsal! Please call the school office at 216-749-5300 before you come to confirm the time.

'21-'22 ANNUAL FUND

You should have received our '21-'22 Annual Fund request letter in the mail recently. We hope you will take the time to make a year-end gift to LMS. Our Annual Fund covers "the gap" between the state scholarship amount allotted to our low-income students and the actual amount it costs to educate our students. We depend on our giving community to help us cover what we consider essential parts of our mission - Family Ministry, religious materials, Arts Enrichment, Sports and extracurricular opportunities.

Help us send our middle schoolers to Hiram House Camp this spring in Chagrin Falls. Past trips have been a great way for the kids to unplug from technology and enjoy God's creation. With its ropes courses and climbing wall, Hiram House is also a lot of fun!

Use the enclosed envelope with this newsletter to make a gift to the Annual Fund.

CONTACT US AT 216.749.5300

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