

Partner Club



December 2010 Volume 24 Issue 2

2
The Atrium (cont.)
It All Ads Up . . .
Christmas Program

3
Teachers' Wish List
Classroom Updates
Girl Scouting

4
How Families
L-I-V-E with SCRIP

5
From the Principal's
Office
Spanish is Back
Light of Learning
Award
4th Grade Saints

6
Where Did You
Go? We're Trying
to Track You Down

The Atrium: A Most Precious Blood Treasure, Part II

by Cheryl Hamel

Most of you who received the Partner Club newsletter last spring may remember the article regarding the Atrium and what a treasure it is for our children here at PB. After learning so much from dialoguing with the ladies involved in teaching our children and hearing the passion in their voices as they talked about the Atrium, I felt it was important to continue to share what I have discovered with all of you. I recently had the pleasure of spending some time in the Atrium while Jessie Bloom was teaching a lesson to some of her first grade students. I was able to watch the children as they interacted with Mrs. Bloom and used the manipulatives in the Atrium. It will be hard to describe the impact of what I witnessed, but suffice it to say that I was powerfully moved.

The children enter the Atrium quietly and reverently. They put together a small altar and light a candle before breaking open the Word.

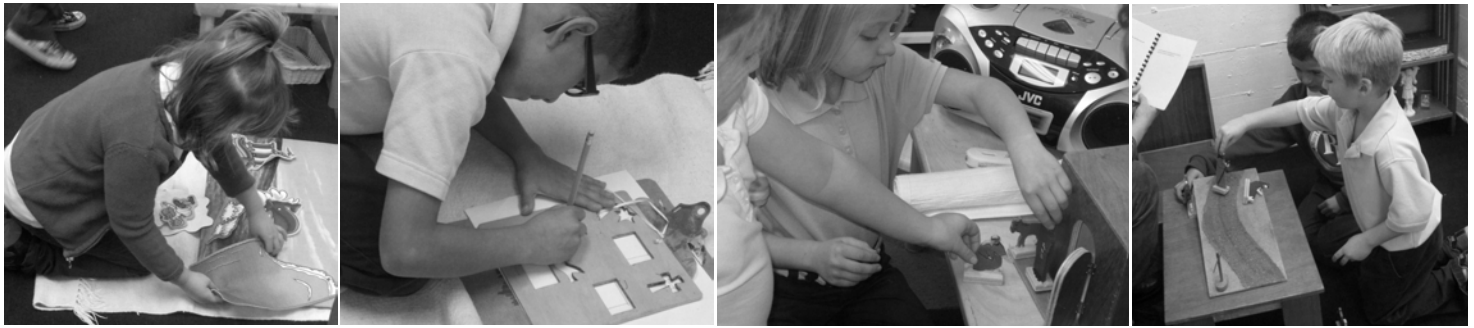
The children enter the Atrium quietly and reverently. They break into small groups of eight to ten kids, as the Atrium is not a big room and this makes a much more intimate setting for sharing the gospel messages with the children. They put together a small altar and light a candle before breaking open the Word. The kids gathered around Mrs. Bloom as she talked about the gospel of the good Samaritan. She asked the kids if they had ever heard the word, "Samaritan." Mrs. Bloom told them that she was thinking about the helicopter from Parkview Hospital. She shared that by the end of the story, they would understand why the helicopter is named the Samaritan.

At that point she began to read the gospel story. Afterwards, she and the kids discussed some of the more difficult words in the story, then they extinguished the candle, folded the cloth on their make-shift altar, and put those items away. Next, she pulled out a box which held wooden figures of the characters in the story, the road, and the inn. Mrs. Bloom pulled each out, one by one, and explained which



character or thing in the story each piece represented. She read the story again, moving the pieces throughout the story as she read. Another discussion followed reinforcing the lesson in the parable. They talked about what it meant to be compassionate. Some of the children shared that it was showing love or being kind to another person. They then spoke of the things they could do to be compassionate to one another. It was a really neat thing to witness how the parable came alive to the kids! Mrs. Bloom told the kids that they could use some of the manipulatives in the room and many crowded around the good Samaritan pieces. When she explained that there would be time for several groups of two to use the pieces, there was no arguing or complaining. Each child found something to do.

Some worked on small mats with items that teach life skills, such as pouring water from a small pitcher into cups, sweeping beans into a dust pan and pouring them back into a bowl, or using tongs to place small pom-poms into a muffin pan. Other kids were tracing crosses, doves, etc. on papers which they could color and take home. Some were doing bible puzzles or bible scenes on felt. Most were able to work with two to four different hands-on activities while they were in the Atrium. When it was



time to go, Mrs. Bloom rang a chime and the kids cleaned up quickly and lined up silently to leave the room. The Atrium seems to be a true place of peace, where you can sense the Holy Spirit at work. There is a calmness and serenity from the chaos of the day, where children may go and experience the love of God.

I had the opportunity to interview students in kindergarten through fourth grade about their experiences in the Atrium. Kindergartners Brayden McInturf, Georgia Christman, and Ruth Wheeler all said they liked learning about God. Georgia “likes to draw pictures of the cross and stuff in the church and to listen to Mrs. Quinn and do what she says.” When I asked her to help me understand, Georgia explained that Mrs. Quinn shows them how to do things first, like setting up the altar table, then they get to try. Brayden likes to do the Jesus puzzles. When I asked him what he learned in the Atrium, Brayden told me, “God loves us, respect your mom and dad, and do not talk back.” Ruth said, “I like praying to God and playing with the suits (miniature vestments) that Fr. Joe wears.” She also likes doing the bible story felt patterns, particularly the story of Jonah.

“I like praying to God and playing with the suits that Fr. Joe wears.”

First grader Angelina Barton likes learning about the different items used at Mass. Her favorite activity is the “water glass thing.” Angelina pours water from a small pitcher into three small glasses and

this reminds her of what Father Joe does on the altar. She also likes the puzzle map of Israel, which she says is “pretty fun, but it’s long and hard.” Mrs. Bloom told me later that this particular map helps the kids identify Jesus as a real person by showing where he lived, traveled and taught. This is a hard concept for kids to understand.

The 2nd-4th graders have all been learning about the saints with Mrs Luetzel-schwab (Mrs L). Second graders, Arianna Case and Samantha Rockwell really enjoy coloring the saint pictures that Mrs. L gives them and doing crafts. Madeline Quinn shared that the parable that Mrs. L read about the tax collector really spoke to her heart and made her think about God’s forgiveness. She is also very excited about first Communion. Third graders Harmony, Corbin, Julia, and Martina, told me how much the gifts (candles and blessed scapulars) that Mrs. L gave them for First Communion last spring meant to them. Martina still uses the candle at home and Julia still wears her scapular. These kids love hearing the stories about the saints and said that often times Mrs. L will help them look up more information about the saints they find interesting.

Fourth grader, Krista Moore, likes to read the Bible and do the puzzles of holy people. Angel Leach, another fourth grader, said that the things they do in the Atrium help her understand things at Mass. She said, “Centers are the best. We get to use our imaginations and look around the room to get ideas.” Being in the Atrium helps Olivia Dickerson understand about Catholic holidays. The 4th grade boys like looking up their names to see what they

mean (book with the origin of names). Nick Hosier enjoys the prayer circle and Will Luley just thinks the Atrium is special.

. . . another fourth grader, said that the things they do in the Atrium help her understand things at Mass.

I hope this has given you a better glimpse of the Atrium and the awesome things that are happening there. I can’t close this article without mentioning two people who were very important to development of the Atrium. Joe and Justine Kramer donated a large sum of money to help fund our Atrium. The Kramers have been great supporters of Most Precious Blood School for many years. (My children, ages 18, 15, and 9, have fond memories of “Mr. and Mrs. Kramer” visiting their classrooms.) Although Joe is no longer with us, I want to thank them both from the bottom of a very grateful heart, for loving our kids and sharing not only their dollars, but the gift of themselves.



It All Adds Up . . .

Most Precious Blood School collects:

- Box Tops for Education
- Campbell’s Soup labels
- Sunny D labels
- Old cell phones
- Empty toner/ink cartridges
- Used copy paper (clean on one side)

We also earn money every time you use Goodsearch.com for a web search or make purchases at Goodshop.com and frenchtoast.com.

Check out these websites to learn more:
www.boxtops4education.com
www.campbellsoup.com
www.goodsearch.com
www.goodshop.com
sunnyd.com/bookspre
frenchtoast.com



Please join us for the
**PB School
 Christmas Program**
 “The Littlest Angel & the
 Birth of Jesus”

**Tuesday, December 7, 7 pm
 In the School Gym**

Teachers' Wish List

Preschool

Nature Blocks.....	\$29
Seesaw Counter (2)	\$30
Giant Foam Pattern Blocks.....	\$50
Pattern Block Picture Cards.....	\$25
Platform Balance & Bears Set (8).....	\$200
Angeles 5-Section Locker (6).....	\$1,500
Transparent Counting Chips.....	\$15
Animal X-rays	\$20

Kindergarten

Rolling Pins Set	\$20
Playground Balls Set (2)	\$30
Set of 500 Unifix Cubes	\$70
Loving Family Dollhouse Set	\$125

Grade 1

Teacher Space Organizer	\$120
Set of Magnetic Boards	\$45
Make a Word	\$140
Two Sided Easel	\$225

Grade 3

High Velocity Fan	\$100
Pencil Sharpener.....	\$50

Grade 4

Microworlds Science Toolkit	\$275
Microworlds Science Set	\$90

Grade 5

Patriots Set	\$95
Religion CD-Rom	\$50
Field Trip Fees.....	\$54

Junior High

Sierra Print Artist Platinum (2).....	\$60
Family Reading Night Sponsorship.....	\$200
Classroom Novels.....	\$100
Strawberry DNA Extraction Kit	\$70
Volcanic Eruptions Kit.....	\$120
Aquatic Toxicity Test Kit	\$70
Rock Cycle Kit	\$68
Roll Up Map Set	\$900
Print Artist Platinum Software.....	\$60

Library

AR Disk	\$200
AR Pizza Party.....	\$100

Resource Room

Handwriting Activity.....	\$30
Alphabet Puzzle Mat.....	\$50
Alphabet Word Game.....	\$40
Man Idea Game	\$40
Pencil Sharpener.....	\$50
Felt Board Activity Set	\$130

Music

Fiberglass Xylophones	\$2,000
Yarn Mallets	\$120
Hand Drums	\$125

Classroom Updates

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is busy at work learning all about words and letters. We've been matching up our upper and lowercase letters. We brought in words from all around our home like, Pepsi, Pizza Hut, Cheerios, and Hot Wheels. We sorted the words into categories. We are learning our letter sounds and putting them together to make words. Learning how to write them can be tricky. We like it when Mrs. Quinn has us use dry erase boards to write our letters.



We have been busy in math and science learning to compare objects and groups and classify them by their attributes. We have done a lot of partner work and enjoy working as a team.

The atrium is one of our favorite places to work because it gives us time to be with Jesus. We work with the Good Shepherd materials. We like to set the altar and name the articles Father uses at Mass. Speaking of Mass, you should hear us sing all the new songs we are learning! We know it pleases God to hear us sing.

Girl Scouting: It Isn't Just About the Cookies

By Diane Giron

I knew something big had happened that day at school just by the look on my daughter's face. "Mom, we are going to have Girl Scouts again!" You could feel the excitement as the girls jumped into waiting vehicles clutching the informational letter that had just been handed out. Girl scouting, which has been absent from Precious Blood School for some time has made a comeback.

Mary Staples is coordinating the effort with various groups of girls. Any girl from Kindergarten through 8th grade can join the scouting program. Daisies (kindergarten



and 1st grade) are under the leadership of Darcy Quinn and Renee Meussling. Mary Staples and Gwen Hefty are coordinating the Brownies (grades 2 and 3). The Junior Scouts (grades 4-6) are being guided by Cheryl Hamel.

The pumpkins from our discovery garden turned nice and orange. Mrs. Quinn says that we are going to make a pumpkin pie from scratch.

We took two field trips this fall, one to Salomon Farm's Fall Festival and one to Safety Village to learn about pedestrian safety. We got to ride the 4x4 power wheels. There's an adventure around every corner!

3rd Grade

In third grade we are studying the bones, joints, and muscles in our bodies in science class. The next nine weeks will be spent studying Simple Machines and we will be using the DACTA sets that the Partner Club purchased for us many years ago. The students really learn a lot with the hands on approach, and the sets are a great help.

"Girl Scouts is very girl-led," explains Gwen. "The girls learn about themselves, others and how to be leaders." The troop meets twice a month with field trips interspersed throughout the year. The first field trip was a very interesting visit to a veterinary hospital. The leaders held brainstorming sessions with their groups

to see what interested the girls. This will help determine which Try-It badges the girls will work on. "We plan to work on a religious medal this year," says Gwen, "and, of course, we will be selling cookies this winter."

Next edition: Boy Scout Troop 17 and Cub Scout pack 3317: A look back to the old days of Boy Scouting.

Step-by-Step Process to Acquire Matching Gifts

- Ask the Human Resources Officer where you work if there is a charitable Matching Gift program.
 - If the answer is "yes", ask for a Matching Gift Form and complete your portion.
 - Include the form with your next gift to your charity and double the good you do!
- Go to gsafweb.org/corporatematchin.html for a partial list of corporate matching gifts programs in the U.S. Your company might be on this list.



How 3 Families L-I-V-E with SCRIP

by Gwen Hefty

Have you thought about using the SCRIP program, or even learning to use it more consistently, to help our parish? To try to get an idea of why and how parishioners use the SCRIP program, I interviewed the Summers, Staples, and Case families. I use the term "interview" loosely, as I basically e-mailed a set of questions, and e-mail responses were sent back to me. Nonetheless, I was able to get some excellent tips from these families and along the way find that there is a common thread in how these families use the SCRIP program. This common thread is simply the choice to make this easy parish fundraiser a part of the family routine. As Joey Summers, grandmother of Isaiah, grade 8; Mikel, grade 6; DJ, grade 5; Andrew, grade 1; and Sophia, Kindergarten, says, "We have just made ourselves learn to LIVE with SCRIP."

L=Longevity

When asked about how long their families have used SCRIP, all three stated that they have been using SCRIP for a number of years. What they also stressed upon answering this question is that once they started using SCRIP, they just kept on trucking. They purchase SCRIP regularly.

Mary Staples, mother of Joel, grade 4, and Rebekah, grade 2, says, "I have been using SCRIP since my first child entered preschool, which would have been eight years ago. I purchase SCRIP two to three times a week." Ruth Case, mother of Isaac, grade 9 BLHS; Isabella, grade 7; Arianna, grade 2; and Lilia, Preschool, says, "I purchase SCRIP on average every two weeks, and I reload my Kroger/Scott's card weekly."

So while you might think that it is not worth it to make all these small purchases of small cards for what seems like a small profit, it is consistency throughout the year and longevity over the years that is the key. Buying a \$50 Speedway SCRIP card to cover your family's gas for the week (and maybe that French Vanilla Latte or two) will earn a dollar each for you and the parish. Only a dollar? Why bother? Because if you bought this same card each and every week, the parish then earns \$52, you earn \$52-- your school registration fee for next year is nearly paid for, AND you raised money for our parish!

What makes this such a great deal is that you're already going to spend this money anyway. When you add to your everyday purchases the profits from some of the great extra tips from the next sections below, you will realize some even bigger dollars flowing into our parish.

I=Inventory

I think this was my favorite tip, one that all three families shared with me, and one I plan to use. So simple, so easy--build up a personal SCRIP inventory. Ruth Case says, "I keep a personal inventory of SCRIP for places I know we shop at/eat at on a regular basis. This way, I always have SCRIP ready. It took a while to stockpile the SCRIP, but now that I have it, it allows me to always pay with SCRIP." Joey Summers even goes a step further and calls her inventory a "nice savings account of SCRIP." She says that "each week we add to it so we have a revolving savings account - each week - in and out."

This is one I never would have thought of--using SCRIP as a savings account. Got your tax refund check and want to get ahead for the year? Think about investing several hundred dollars of it in SCRIP for all those places where you already know you're going to spend your money throughout the year--Toys R Us for birthday gifts, PetSmart for all that dog food, maybe Club Soda for the anniversary. Summertime and no tuition bill to pay? Add another \$500 to your SCRIP inventory of the cards you use most often.

V=Vacations and Christmas

Another tip that the families shared with me is that they have learned to maximize profits by using SCRIP at two of the most expensive times of the year for a family--vacations and Christmas. Mary Staples likes to plan ahead for the holidays by purchasing SCRIP. "It also helps with spreading the Christmas costs out over a few months," she says. Joey Summers tells us, "We have even been forward-thinking enough to have taken a SCRIP vacation with hotels and dining on SCRIP."

This tip may not be for the SCRIP beginner, but for those of you who have been using SCRIP for a long time and wonder how you can earn even more profit, maybe you'll decide to take the plunge and plan

your next family vacation using SCRIP. Joey Summers says, "It does take a little thinking, planning and commitment, but it's not hard."

E=Easy Way to Get and Give

The title of this section came straight from Joey Summers (well, at least from her email). And she's right! SCRIP is an "easy way to get and give". You can email your SCRIP order to Kim Miser, SCRIP Coordinator, anytime of the day or night. She responds promptly to emails and lets you know when your order will be ready for pick up. You can arrange to pick up your order any time during Rectory office hours. She will even send it home with your child with a sticker on front letting you know the total, and you can send a check back to school the next day.

Although I find that email is easiest for me, other options abound. You can visit the SCRIP office inside the Rectory on Wednesdays from 12-1 pm or on Fridays from 2:30-3:00 pm. You can purchase your SCRIP conveniently after all weekend Masses. Or you can send a completed SCRIP order form with your child to school. Mary Staples says that she loves "being able to send in the form most every day at school."

See how easy (and fruitful!) it can be to use SCRIP? Try it! You too can learn to L-I-V-E with SCRIP.



Do your Christmas shopping with SCRIP!

SCRIP Statistics

- Between March 2009 and February 2010, SCRIP earned \$29,000 in profit.
- Approximately 148 families purchase SCRIP regularly
- Only 17% of PB School Families participate in the SCRIP program
- Kroger Profit (from March to present): \$4263.33
- Total Profit (from March to present): \$18,682.51

If your family bought \$50 in Speedway gas and \$100 in Meijer groceries each week, you would earn a 12 month profit of \$156 toward your tuition bill. Just factor in eating out, Christmas presents & school clothes, and you'll see your profit will increase exponentially! If you don't have a child at PB, you can assign your SCRIP profits to another family or have all your SCRIP earnings go toward the support of the parish.

From the Principal's Office

Most Precious Blood School is proud to share our ranking as an Exemplary School by the Indiana Department of Education! Indiana places schools into one of five categories based upon student performance and improvement data from the state's ISTEP assessments. Category placements are based on three factors: performance, improvement, and adequate yearly progress. Exemplary Status is the highest category ranking!

We are also excited to share that once again our enrollment has grown. We currently are blessed with 237 smiling faces each day. When surveyed, once again our new families site word of mouth as our best advertising. Be sure to tell a friend about the good news happening at Most Precious Blood School!

May God continue to Bless your every day!

Alexandria Bergman

Español está de vuelta – Spanish is Back!

After an absence of several years, the Spanish elective is back at Most Precious Blood School thanks to parishioner, parent (Julia-3rd, Jenna-7th and Tony-10th Bishop Dwenger) and now language instructor, Juan Giron, who volunteers 2 hours in the classroom each week.

There are 14 students enrolled in Spanish for the first two quarters. They began with the alphabet, vowels, colors and numbers and moved right into Chapter 1 of Ven Conmigo (Come With Me) – the same text book that is used in high school Spanish classes. The students can now say hello and goodbye, introduce themselves, ask how you are doing and respond to the same. They can ask how old you are (if they dare) and where you are from. They can also express their likes (Me gusta pastel = I like cake) and their dislikes (I dislike homework = No me gusta la tarea).

Before the 2nd quarter ends, students will also learn about plural nouns, indefi-

nite articles and pronouns and work to build their vocabulary.

The students take oral as well as written tests to ensure proper pronunciation of words. Time is also devoted to learning Hispanic culture. For example, Spaniards and Latin Americans commonly use 2 last names: first the father's and then the mother's maiden name.

The middle school students seem to be enjoying the opportunity to learn a foreign language. "The kids are all actively participating in classroom exercises. As they become more comfortable speaking the language, they gain confidence. Learning Spanish requires time, practice and repetition." says Girón. Many students will be required to take a foreign language class either in high school or college. "My goal for these students is to be able to test out of Spanish I in high school after two semesters of Spanish at PB."

Pam Marx Receives Light of Learning Award



Mrs. Pam Marx received the 2010-11 Light of Learning Award at the 1st quarter assembly in November. This award is presented annually to one teacher in each Catholic school in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese. Teachers are nominated by parents, students and fellow teachers. Recipients are honored at a luncheon attended by the Bishop. Mrs. Marx has taught 4th grade at PB for 12 years. This year she began a new challenge . . . 5th grade. Congratulations, Mrs. Marx!

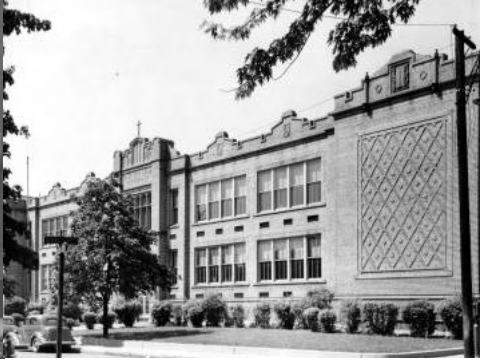
**Congratulations, Most Precious Blood School!
Ranked "Exemplary"
by the Indiana Department of Education**

The 2010 4th Grade Saints

The 4th grade class attended the All Saints Day Mass at the Coliseum with more than 600 other area "saints." They also participated in an all-school mass at PB.



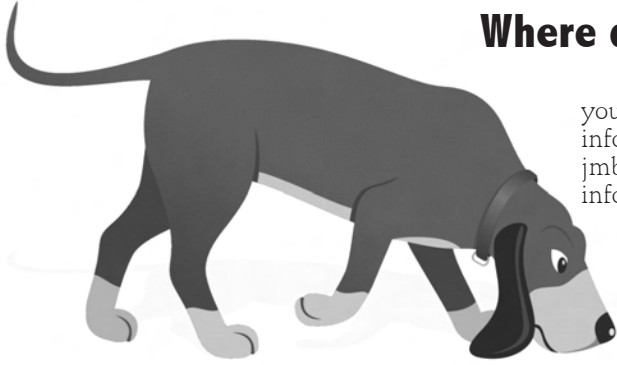
(back row) Mikayla Miller-St. Therese of the Little Flower, John Hire-St. John of Damascus, Fr. Joe, Kala Payton-St. Ursula, Maggie McLaughlin-St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Grant Johnson-St. Martin of Tours, Will Luley-St. William, (middle row) Nick Hosier-St. Joseph of Cupertino, Olivia Dickerson-St. Joan of Arc, Krista Moore-St. Rose of Lima, Abby Ramirez-St. Elizabeth, Olivia Hamel-St. Helena, Darlens Innocent-St. George, Hunter Parr-St. Matthew (front row) Andy Bowyer-St. Andrew, Aaron Schall-St. Francis of Assisi, Joel Staples-St. Thomas, Mark Parrish-St. Mark, Paul Cochran-St. Paul, Angel Leach-St. Angela Merici, Gabby Hall-Our Lady of Guadalupe



Where did you go? We're trying to track you down!

We are trying to find former students of Most Precious Blood School. If you know the whereabouts of former classmates or students, please share this information with us. You may contact the church or school office or e-mail jmbowyer@frontier.com or gironluley@yahoo.com. We would like the following information:

Name • Current Address • E-Mail Address • Year of graduation



This newsletter is also available for download at www.preciousblood.org.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

School phone: (260) 424-4832
www.preciousblood.org

1515 Barthold Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FT. WAYNE IN
PERMIT NO 728