

# LASE

Spring 2014

# connections

## Tyler's Triumph

Roberta Kern can't talk about her son Tyler without welling up with tears. Tyler has had many struggles in his young life including two open heart surgeries. Partial DiGeorge syndrome has affected his heart, immune system, fine motor ability, and learning. Before starting kindergarten at Word of Life Lutheran School, Tyler needed a lot of help. All of this sounds like the beginning of a really sad story, but Tyler's is one of triumph.



Word of Life  
Second Grader  
Tyler Kern is eager  
to learn!

Tyler loves to read, laugh, and make jokes with friends. He shows his pride in his work by telling his LASE resource teacher, "You're gonna tell my mom I did this myself, right?" Partnership with LASE has made it possible for Tyler to be a part of the Word of Life family.

"I want people to know how hard Tyler works. It is a relief

to see how far he has come since he started Word of Life. (The LASE staff) has made it possible for him to learn along with the friends he has made here. LASE helps the other teachers understand how Tyler works."

## Zion Lutheran Teacher Honored by LASE for Teaching Excellence

Sue Riemenschneider, 6th Grade Teacher at Zion, St. Charles, is known for utilizing many interactive techniques and projects that encourage students to think "beyond the assignment." Whether she is collaborating with the LASE special educator to help her students learn, or trying out a new strategy in her 6th grade classroom, Sue is always focused on what is best for her all of her students, including those with learning challenges. Sue is empathetic when working with students and recognizes the difficulties that struggling students have. However, she challenges them to use their God-given gifts to overcome their difficulties and shine in their areas of strength. She celebrates successes along the way and perseveres with them during difficult times.

Sue was awarded the LASE 2014 Jeremiah Award for Teaching Excellence on February 26, 2014 in a surprise ceremony after chapel. She was nominated by Principal Marc Debrick because of her collaborative skills in working with parents and teachers for the good of children who learn differently. Congratulations Mrs. Riemenschneider.

L to R: Zion Principal Marc Debrick, Jeremiah Award winner Sue Riemenschneider, LASE Educational Consultant at Zion Chris Tomlinson after the Jeremiah Award Ceremony at Zion.



## LASE MISSION STATEMENT

Lutheran Association for Special Education will assist and support schools to address the cognitive, social and spiritual development of children with special needs, so they may fully enjoy their God-given potential.

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## From the Executive Director

### PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are the heart and soul of our ministry at LASE. Our promise is this: LASE partners with parents, educators, and schools by providing solution-focused expertise and encouragement that transforms their desire to inspire the God-given potential of every child into reality.

Parents, educators, and Lutheran schools welcome the LASE partnership because of our dedication to serve the children they love. They recognize that expert special education support through LASE can ease anxiety and uncertainty by providing solutions that truly help children succeed. LASE partners with schools communities that desire to see all children accepted, successful, and most of all confident of their place as children of God. Struggles that children with special needs have cannot be “wished away,” but instead LASE, parents, educators, and schools stand side-by-side with their children to understand and overcome adversities.

God intended for us to be in relationships with each other. By our alliance and collaboration with each other, Lutheran school communities and LASE can accomplish more together for the children we love, than we could alone.



LASE Executive Director, Lori Christiansen

## Fashions and Fun Bring Hope and Help to LASE Students

Festive sounds of laughter filled the Frontenac Hilton as 260 guests enjoyed LASE’s “Herald the Holidays” on November 2, 2013. Visitors shopped silent auction items and ate a delicious lunch while fashions from Chico’s, Ann Taylor and Leopard were featured in a style presentation. The 2013 Student Ambassadors, Keira and Courtney, have been best friends since Kindergarten. These sixth graders are beautiful young girls who love to dance, sing along to their favorite songs, and dress in trendy fashions. They are just like the young girls in your life except they learn a little differently. With the help of the LASE

Resource Teacher, Mrs. Kim Paquette, and Speech and Language Therapist, Mrs. Carol Lima, the girls receive extra help to get their assignments done at Atonement Lutheran School, Florissant. Guests showed their commitment to LASE students by raising \$36,000 at the event, bringing hope and help to our students.



Keira Fuller and Courtney Crow won the hearts of Herald the Holidays guests as the LASE Student Ambassadors.

### GRANT SUPPORT

THANK YOU to the following LASE Supporters:

- ▶ Cardinals Care
- ▶ Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis
- ▶ Missouri District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League
- ▶ St. Louis Christmas Carols
- ▶ The Tilles Fund
- ▶ Variety – The Children’s Charity of St. Louis

## Weaving Stories

### NEW SOFTWARE ENHANCES STUDENT WRITING

For children who are challenged by writing, the task of composing an essay can seem daunting. Thanks to new software used by LASE, children with writing disabilities can learn to construct stories that include varied sentence structures, a wide range of vocabulary words, and interesting content. Story Book Weaver software is an innovative program that encourages students to personalize each essay by adding colorful characters, outrageous settings, and even sound effects.

Austin Crabtree is a 6th grader at Atonement who uses Story Book Weaver as he learns to write paragraphs with Mrs. Carol Lima, LASE Speech and Language Pathologist, and Mrs. Kim Paquette, LASE Resource Teacher. His mother, Nicole, is thrilled to follow his progress in writing with this new software. Recently Austin used Story Book Weaver to independently write a clever story about Gila monsters. He accomplished the goal of using lengthy sentences and specific vocabulary words in descriptive fashion. Austin is delighted to share excerpts from his essay with you:

*“The Gila monster emerged from the desert. The man pulled out his binoculars to see what the Gila monster was doing. The Gila monster was stashing his food. The lizard came to the man and the man ran away. He told the guys at work what he had seen. They did not believe him. The man cringed and was exasperated at them. He showed them where he had seen the lizard. One of the guys was mesmerizing the lizard. The man was legendary.”*

Way to go,  
Austin the  
Author!

Author Austin  
Crabtree,  
6th grader at  
Atonement  
Lutheran



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June 23, 2014 (Monday)

#### Thirty-Second Annual Golf Tournament

Sunset Country Club, Sunset Hills, MO

4 person scramble, lunch, silent and oral auctions, evening cocktails with appetizer dinner

Registration: \$225 per person. Sponsorship, volunteer and donation opportunities available.

Mega Tickets, Mulligans, and Skins Game

Let's Tee it up for the Kids!

### August 8, 2014 (Friday)

#### LASE Insight Series Workshops – Understanding ADHD and Responding in the Classroom

Complimentary for ALL Lutheran teachers.

Speaker: Amy Maus, MSW, LCSW, West County Psychological

8:00 am Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 12:00 pm Workshop

St. Paul Lutheran School

1300 N. Ballas Road

St. Louis, MO 63131

RSVP by emailing [rsvp.laseinsightseries@gmail.com](mailto:rsvp.laseinsightseries@gmail.com)

### November 15, 2014 (Saturday)

#### Herald the Holidays

Frontenac Hilton, St. Louis, MO

Note the new weekend date!

Luncheon, Silent Auction and Style Show

Doors open at 9:30am

Tickets: \$50 per person – May reserve tables of ten

**For information regarding events, contact us at  
(314) 268.1234.**

## NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Lutheran Association for Special Education admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

## Purse-onalities Shine Through at LASE Purse Auction

SOLD OUT!! Attendance for the event doubled to 176 guests, as multiple generations of women (and one brave man) showed their support at LASE's fourth annual, "Let's Get Purse-onal" on February 21st at the Shrewsbury Community Center. Famous friends like Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Coach and Liz Claiborne were displayed on the bidding tables to the delight of all. Guests enjoyed shopping for purses, jewelry and scarves while bidding, sipping beverages, and sampling appetizers and desserts. Rachel Sauter, LHSS graduate and owner of Leopard Boutique in Webster Groves, shared her expertise in trends for the summer after attending a fashion buying event in Las Vegas. Different "purse-onalities" of all ages enjoyed a fabulous evening as the LASE community gathered together to raise over \$10,000, showing support and encouragement for the LASE ministry to children with disabilities and special needs.

L to R, Amy Steffens, Julia Steffens, Caroline Ruprecht, and Anna Steffens show off their new purses.



## Giving Back to Our Kids

Wayne and Sharon Kaufmann have been avid donors and supporters of LASE for many years because of their personal experience with a child with disabilities. After learning of the annual LASE golf tournament, they became immediate supporters to honor Wayne's daughter Barbara, "Barbie," a child with Down syndrome. Barbie, born in 1980, survived two bouts of leukemia as a child and died of an inoperable heart condition at the age of 17. Wayne, Sharon, Barbie's sister Sarah and brother Kevin treasure their precious memories of this special gift in their lives. She was a lovable girl who was happiest when she was treated as any other child and included in normal activities with other children.

Wayne is retired from Enterprise Rent-A-Car. He and Sharon continue to support LASE because of the benefits and services provided that enable children with special

needs to have a Christian education in Lutheran schools. The Kaufmanns know that LASE provides leading expertise and quality for LASE students and their families. Every time they support LASE, they know they make a measurable impact on students with special needs.



Friends of LASE, Wayne and Sharon Kaufmann

## What Parents Are Telling Teachers

"One of my parents shared with me that they are so happy that their student attends a Lutheran school where there is LASE assistance. They feel that their child hears about and feels God daily and is still able to succeed in their classes. They feel their child is part of their regular classroom. They don't feel 'stupid' because they are included and accepted for who they are."

"The mom of one of my second graders recently told me that she was so glad I was there for her son. She was considering putting him in public school because she wasn't sure if he was keeping up. Now she sees him using academic strategies and having more confidence in himself."



B.J. Parker, 2nd grader at Child of God Lutheran School, loves his school.