

LASE

Spring 2015

connections

Jeremiah Award Presented to Word of Life Teacher

Enthusiastic, proactive, committed. These are just a few adjectives that Word of Life Lutheran School Principal Alicia Klug uses to describe Kindergarten teacher Jill Moormann. Jill is the recipient of the Third Annual LASE Jeremiah Award. This award is given annually to a general education teacher who is outstanding in his/her work with students with disabilities and special needs. Mrs. Moormann was presented the Jeremiah Award in a special ceremony in front of the entire school on February 18, 2015.

Jill embraces students with special needs. She is willing to adjust her strategies to fit the needs of her students and not afraid of a challenge. Principal Klug says that Jill is in constant communication with LASE teachers to find methods and strategies that will help students with both learning and behavior needs. She is always open for suggestions and ideas that will help. Mrs. Moormann is well loved by ALL of her past and present students. She truly makes a difference in the lives of children!

Green Park Gymnast Works to Achieve Academic Success

Allison is a competitive gymnast whose favorite events are bars and floor activities. This friendly Green Park Lutheran School 7th grader also loves to walk her dog, Hershey, and ride her bike. Allison's mom, Stephanie, says that Allison is able to handle the work at Green Park because of help from LASE Resource Teacher, Mrs. Sandi Loduca. Stephanie believes Mrs. Loduca does awesome work with her daughter with the personal kind of attention that she feels she would not get if Allison was in public school. Allison works with Mrs. Loduca for Language Arts in a small group setting which helps keep her focused. She thinks Mrs. Loduca makes the subject easier to understand and is a fun teacher. Mrs. Loduca observes that Allison has grown in her independence and ability to advocate for herself over the past five years. Her reading and math have improved as seen by her report card that is now filled with A's and B's. Way to go Allison!

L to R: Word of Life Principal Alicia Klug, Jeremiah Award Recipient Jill Moormann, LASE Executive Director Lori Christiansen after the Jeremiah Award Ceremony at Word of Life.



Allison loves listening to audio books on her Kindle

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

CHILDREN OF THE KING

Royalty! Children of the King are royalty. Special, cherished and honored. What a joy to know that Jesus is the King and all of the children we serve through LASE are his royal children. No matter what color, size, ability, or skills, Jesus longs to gather all children to him in a loving and personal relationship.

LASE includes everyone with a heart for reaching, inspiring, and strengthening the potential and purpose of every child of the King. This includes children with disabilities and special needs who are precious and chosen in His eyes. What a privilege it is to nurture children in their faith, help them grow in their relationship with Jesus, and lead them into lives of service to the King. Thanks for being a part of the community of LASE as we broaden the kingdom of God by including those with disabilities and special needs.



LASE Executive Director, Lori Christiansen

Student Project Connects the Past and the Present

It's not often that students get to celebrate someone that made an impact on them even though they have never met, but that is just what the students of LASE did during this past month. LASE students made birthday cards to celebrate the 90th birthday of the first LASE teacher, Dr. Dorothea Rau. Students learned that because of the work of LASE founders as well as Dr. Rau, they are able to enjoy a Christian education today almost 59 years later.

Dr. Rau started in 1956 with a small class of students with disabilities at Hope Lutheran in St. Louis. This was the beginning of LASE which continues today to be a leader in working with children with disabilities and special needs in the St. Louis area.

LASE students fashioned birthday cards that included textures, three dimensions and even smells so Dr. Rau, who has diminished eyesight, would be able to enjoy their creations. Dr. Rau stays in touch with LASE and always asks about the children, showing her continued love and passion for children with special needs. Happy Birthday Dorothea! May God continue to bless you as you have been a blessing to others.



Students from Salem, Affton show their creativity

GRANT SUPPORT

THANK YOU to the following LASE Supporters:

- ▶ Cardinals Care
- ▶ Employees Community Fund of Boeing
- ▶ St. Louis Christmas Carols
- ▶ Variety – The Children's Charity of St. Louis

LASE Alumna is on the Move

Keeping up with 2008 LASE Alumna Lindsey Hawkins is no easy task. This young woman keeps busy with work, sports, volunteer activities and speaking engagements for a very full schedule of activities.



LASE Alumna
Lindsey Hawkins

Shortly after graduating from the LASE Learning Center at Lutheran High, St. Charles, Lindsey started work as a hostess at 026 Pub N Biergarten in Fenton and has worked there ever since. As a hostess three days per week, this friendly and

outgoing woman has the opportunity to greet guests to the restaurant and make them feel welcome.

When Lindsey is not working, she can be found volunteering at the Down Syndrome Association one day per week or doing a speaking engagement for Special Olympics. Lindsey visits 10-15 schools each year, sharing with students how Special Olympics has positively impacted her life and encouraging others to get involved. As a two-time featured speaker at the Shop N Save Golf Tournament, Lindsey has shared with her audiences the joys of participating in Special Olympics.

Lindsey is actively involved in sports through Special Olympics. She competes in six different sports throughout the year including the year round sport of bowling. Last year she was one of 100 athletes on the USA Team for Special Olympics as they traveled to New Jersey for competition. Lindsey came home with three third place medals. Congratulations to Lindsey for being an active member in your community and for all of your successes!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 22, 2015 (Monday)

Thirty-Third 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 7, 2015 (Friday)

LASE Insight Series Workshops – Insights into Reading

Complimentary for ALL Lutheran teachers.

Registration limited to 75 per session.

Speakers: Dr. Joseph Sencibaugh, Associate Professor Webster University and Dr. Angela “Michelle” Sencibaugh, Adjunct Professor Lindenwood and Webster Universities

8:00 – 8:30 Registration, Snacks and Beverages

8:30 – 11:30 for K-3rd Grade “Reading and Learning to Read: Effective Strategies at the Primary Level”

12:00 – 12:30 Registration, Snacks, and Beverages (no lunch)

12:30-3:30 for 4th – 8th Grade “Why Teaching Reading in the Upper Grades Matters: Comprehension, Vocabulary and Content Area Strategies”

St. Paul's Lutheran School

1300 N. Ballas Road

St. Louis, MO 63131

RSVP by emailing rsvp.laseinsightseries@gmail.com

November 14, 2015 (Saturday)

Save the Date: **Herald the Holidays**

For information or registration for events, visit www.lutheranspecial.org or call 314.268.1234

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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

Spring into Action with Thrivent

All Thrivent members have a new, exciting opportunity to do something positive to strengthen the community, including our ministry at LASE. Gather your friends to form a Thrivent Action Team and submit an application to Thrivent. Once your application is approved, you'll receive \$250 "seed money" to help cover promotional, production, and material expenses for your project. Service projects, fundraisers, and educational activities all qualify as project ideas. Check out www.Thrivent.com/actionteam for more information.



Volunteering for LASE is fun. LASE Purse Auction volunteers pause for a light-hearted moment.

Here are some ideas of ways to help LASE:

- Parents can organize a carwash fundraiser for their LASE Resource Teacher for supplies and materials for the classroom. The \$250 "seed money" can go for things like car wash expenses, promotional flyers and feeding volunteers.
- Check with LASE about ways to support our current fundraising events. The \$250 "seed money" can be used for marketing and promotional materials for an event, feeding volunteers, or materials and supplies to host an event.

Please call the LASE office at 314-268-1234 if you'd like to find out how to help LASE with a Thrivent Action Team. Thanks for springing into action for LASE.

Priceless Stories

TEACHERS WHO ARE LOVED

Check out these priceless stories about how our students love their teachers:

One resource teacher tells it like this: "My students and I were in a serious discussion about caring for and supporting each other. I asked the students to all look at one student

after another and tell them something at which they were good. One by one they told classmates, 'You're good at baseball. You're a pretty good reader. You're fun. You're a fast runner.' As I was wrapping it up, asking how they all felt when they heard those good things, one student said, 'Hey, we didn't say it to you, yet.' It was my morning blessing to hear them tell me, 'You're a good teacher, and a pretty good reader.' Love it!"



Immanuel, St. Charles Resource Teacher Ellen Rechten and Wade work together

An Educational Consultant reports: "I'm new at my school so am just getting to know my students. Last week I took a student for instruction and when I finished I said, 'I enjoyed working with you' and he said, 'Yeah. You did OK. I think this is going to work.' Considering this student does not deal well with change, his comment really made me smile. Approval from a child is priceless."

Because of a Child...



Katie West, Student Ambassador, Herald the Holidays

The theme highlighting God's precious children was a perfect choice for LASE's 2014 year end fundraiser, *Herald the Holidays*. Nearly 300 guests at the Frontenac Hilton opened their hearts to the holiday season with a touching performance by the pre-school Wee Ringers from Christ Memorial Church. Katie West, LASE Learning Center student from Lutheran High School, St. Charles, not only shared her story of personal growth, but also shared the runway with the other models

featuring fashions from Ann Taylor and Leopard. We were pleased to welcome the new year with \$44,000 to be used to "reach, inspire and strengthen the potential and purpose of every child of God". Thanks to our guests for joining with LASE in our common bond to serve God's children.

