

SSO CONNECTIONS

NEWS & NOTICES FROM LCA'S VOLUNTEER NETWORK

December 2010

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Good Weather & Goodwill Shine for All-School Service Project

With rakes in hand, the LCA community reached out to residents in the city of Lakewood for the second annual LCA All-School Service Project on Friday, November 5. A total of 430 students – ready and able to serve – spread out in groups across Lakewood to rake leaves at 42 homes of elderly or homebound residents.

Students were chaperoned by 52 parent volunteers and 30 LCA teachers/staff members who gave their time and did their share of

raking that day! Chairperson Marie Morabeto and co-chair Gretchen Bulan provided packets in advance to each volunteer/teacher which included maps to locations, group lists, first aid kits and school contact information. Logistics and flexibility were key to this undertaking! To read a letter describing one parent volunteer's experience, click [here](#).

Many residents expressed thanks that day for the service and for the visit from so many happy young people. LCA also received many

letters of thanks from residents, which were shared with the student body by Mr. Fletcher. The day was a heartwarming, visible sign of LCA's commitment to service and most importantly, it brought smiles and a ray of sunshine to the day of many residents.



**Saints Service
Organization**
Lakewood Catholic Academy

Fall Festival Welcomes the Season

As leaves changed and cooler air set in this fall, plans were being made for the Fall Festival for LCA students up to grade three.

This year's event brought 255 students and their families to the LCA campus for games, an indoor "pumpkin patch," s'mores, cookie decorating, food and the ever-popular cake walk. With something for everyone, the event gave students the chance to play with friends and enjoy autumn activities.

Event chairs Carrie Litten and Stacy Tucker organized over 40 volunteers and cake bakers to create an evening that brought comments like, "the games in the gym were not too crazy this year..." "everything ran so smoothly..." and "the kids loved it!"

Carrie and Stacy worked hard to secure many donations for the event and introduced new ideas like the outdoor s'mores activity. As dads tended the bonfire and helped with s'more making, you could see friendships growing around the glow of the flames. The event was an all-around success and a wonderful welcome to the season!



Book Fair Success is no Tall Tale!

This year's Scholastic Book Fair, November 8 – 12, was an LCA event like no other! With special attractions planned on each day, the event more than doubled the sales of last year's book fair and brought interest from more families than ever before.

The book fair is a great example of the SSO's approach to "re-tooling" certain events and activities coordinated by the group. The structure of this year's fair changed from the model of students shopping during their school day to families attending scheduled events and shopping together. The results speak for themselves. Many parents said they attended more than once with their children and they enjoyed the selection of books available. Total sales for the fair were around \$14,000! This gave the library a profit of about \$7,000 in books and cash.

Chairs Caron Viglianco and Tricia Barney were determined to make the book fair a success – and to say they did that is an understatement. The team of two organized more than 50 volunteers during the week, who assisted students with "wish lists" and worked as cashiers.

Beyond the great financial success, the book fair was hugely successful in creating excitement for reading throughout the school. Events like the pajama party and grandparents' day brought families together for a great school cause.

To maintain the success of the event in the future, Caron suggests having more people involved at the planning stages of the fair. Congratulations Caron, Tricia and all LCA students who will enjoy the benefits to their library!

Santa's Elves Bring Christmas to LCA

"It's beginning to 'feel' a lot like Christmas" at LCA, thanks to the annual Elf Shelf and Breakfast with Santa events held on Saturday, December 4.

With a delicious new menu from Sweet Melissa's restaurant, Breakfast with Santa served 331 breakfasts and provided families a stress-free visit with Santa, including a 5X7 photo donated by Ripcho Studios. In the gym, the Elf Shelf gave kids the chance to purchase thoughtful, inexpensive gifts for Christmas. The two events made for a complete morning of holiday cheer.

"This year, these events were really planned as one, which made for a great planning experience and I think it helped create a better atmosphere for the day," said chairperson Terri Griffin.

The team of Terri, Gina Gibson and Sharon Gaspar used both past experience and new ideas to bring the events together over many weeks of planning. They successfully organized an army of volunteers on Friday and Saturday to create a seamless experience for all who attended.

Volunteer gift-wrapper Melissa Kress said the events were run like a well-oiled machine. "It was a wonderful experience; my five student helpers worked very hard and many shoppers commented that it was a great start to the Christmas season. Sign me up for next year!" Melissa said.

The event also drew families from the Holy Family Learning Center who were able to meet other families and experience the special and welcoming community of LCA. A special SSO "thanks" goes to all attendees, volunteers, and to Ripcho Studios for their generosity.

The Gibson Family enjoys their time together at Breakfast with Santa



Elf Shelf Volunteers were so helpful; Santa may recruit them for his workshop!



The SSO wishes the entire LCA community a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

~ SSO Executive Board and Committee Chairs



Add SSO to your New Year's Resolution List!

Interested in becoming more involved with the SSO in 2011? There is an SSO opportunity for you! Many volunteer positions are available at all levels of commitment – from one-time posts to chairperson openings.

Here are some of the upcoming SSO events and ongoing LCA activities in 2011:

- Pizza Skate (January)
- Reverse Raffle Fund Raiser (March)
- Bingo (ongoing)
- Library Volunteers (ongoing)
- Sunshine Committee (ongoing)

To volunteer or request information on any activity or event, contact Jenny Reali at 216-226-9001 or jennyreali@sbcglobal.net.