

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Dear Friends of Lake Country Lutheran High School

Below is another update to let you know some of the things happening at our awesome school. Also included is some transition information about staffing changes.

Mr. Bahr transition – Please mark your calendar to join us for a farewell party on Saturday, June 19 for Mark and Kris Bahr. The event will be in the Great Hall from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Stand by for more details. Mark plans on being with us in his role as principal through June. Your prayers for their transition are appreciated.

Call Committee – We have met on two occasions and have finalized a list of candidates. We are in the process of getting biographical information and responses on some written questions. It is hoped that we can narrow our list to three to five individuals by the end of May. The end of June is still our target for announcing a call. Please keep this process in your prayers!

Mr. Tarr update – John announced last week his intention to leave LCL at the end of this school year and to likely pursue additional education in fine arts. Please watch for information as to how we plan on celebrating John and thanking God for him.

Enrollment Update at LCL – our numbers appear to be slightly lower again for next year. We peaked at an enrollment of about 205 as we entered the new building in 2009, but dropped to 192 this current year. Next year looks like about 180. Obviously this puts some pressure on everyone. We are committed to continue the excellent spiritual and academic education that we have, but like almost everyone else, have to learn to do that with less.

Faculty Changes - I have announced to the faculty that in addition to not replacing Mr. Tarr, we will be also reducing one additional staffing position. Mr. Hank Hoffman was informed that we are eliminating the Dean of Students / Teaching position that he has held since the beginning at LCL.

I must tell you that this was a painful decision for all of us – and certainly is difficult for Hank. He loves our kids and the school. Please know that I am committed to work with Hank to help him move into a new role in the fall. Milwaukee Lutheran will likely have an opening or two and I am hopeful Hank's skill set will match the need.

It is difficult to be in a situation like this for everyone. I hope that you will pray for Hank, for our school and all our faculty members.

Future Changes – Only God knows the future and I am confident that He will continue to bless us beyond belief (Jeremiah 29:33). We have set our staff structure in place for next year and do not plan on any additional staffing changes. Our course offerings will be minimally impacted and the quality will continue to exceed expectations. Because of our slightly smaller enrollment, we will look at consolidating some classes, but without significantly increasing class sizes or substantially changing our class offerings. We hope to have our specific schedule set for the first semester in just a few weeks and will let you know as soon as that is available. We further have no plans to eliminate any of our extracurricular offerings

Enrollment Capacity – Because of the changes, some classes will fill up and we may have some capacity issues in class sizes. If you know of families considering LCL as a school for their child, please encourage them to come in quickly and sign up so we can get them in the classes they would like. Financial aid is also available for those who qualify.

Keeping the main thing the main thing – In our faculty meeting last week, it was exciting for me to see such a strong commitment by our teachers to stay focused on the strength of our school – brining the Word of God moment by moment into all we do with students. We know with changes anxiety levels can increase, but we hold fast onto God’s promises and continue to lift everything up to Him in prayer (Philippians 4:6). Please know that each and every one of our faculty members is fully committed to do whatever it takes to continue and improve the awesome ministry of LCL.

Exciting Future – Many great things are happening that give us encouragement for the future growth of our school. Janet Bahr recently reported to the staff tremendous participation by current fifth through eighth graders in our elementary sports programs. We have 99 boys participating in Thunder football in the fall and 84 participating in Thunder basketball this spring. Getting students connected to our faculty and programs is an important recruiting tool.

Prayer Time – We pray the “Fourth Friday” every month at LCL. This will continue through the summer. Join me and several others as we pray for our students, families, faculty and much more. It’s not a Bible study or breakfast – just a time of prayer. Come join us and participate or just listen as the Spirit moves. Our next prayer time is Friday, May 28 at 7:00am.

Let’s talk – If you know me, you know that one of my main drivers is relationships. Jesus didn’t die for schools or even churches. He died for people – and He died for you and me. Jesus was in the relationship business and I pledge to try to be a servant leader like Jesus. Please forgive me when I fail and help me to do better. I plan on being at Lake Country Lutheran almost every Friday (including through the summer) and would love to chat with you at anytime (not just Fridays). Please let me know if you have any comments, concerns, suggestions, encouragement or whatever (Philippians 4:8-9). You and your student are important to me and I want to know how we can do better. My contact information is below.

Thank you for taking the time to stay informed with your school. Know that the staff and I passionately care about our shared ministry and specifically your children. If we can do anything to help, please do not hesitate to reach out. Keep praying!

Blessings to you.

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