

WEEKLY NEWS & NOTES

September 2nd – 6th, 2024

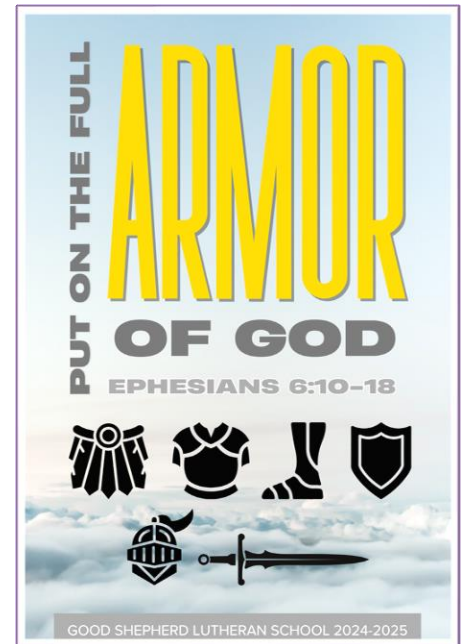


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General News and Notes

- A reminder that there is no school this Monday, September 2nd for Labor Day. Enjoy the long weekend!
- August daycare care & hot lunch bills will be sent out a bit later than normal (likely the 2nd week in September). We apologize for the delay!
- Grandfriends' Day is this Friday, September 6th! We look forward to welcoming all our guests and visitors! A reminder that we have a noon dismissal on Friday, and there is no lunch or aftercare. For a great lunch option, you can head next door to Runza, where they will be donating a portion of all sales from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to our school!
- The Grand Opening of our Scholastic Book Fair is this Wednesday, Sept. 4th at 7:50 a.m.! You can start shopping online now, view shopping hours, and set up an eWallet for your student/s. Please share our online shopping link with friends/family: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/bulldogsread>. All sales benefit our classroom libraries; let's help encourage a school of bolder, prouder, stronger readers!
- On the last two pages of this note, you'll find an article from our Synod's magazine *Forward in Christ* called "How Can We Teach Kids to Be Good Friends?" This article is part of the "Parent Conversations" series that we will be including in the first Weekly Note of each new month. You can also visit their website for more articles, videos, and podcasts: <https://forwardinchrist.net/parents/> We pray that you find them beneficial!



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2

NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)

September 4-9

Scholastic Book Fair @ GS

September 6

Grandfriends' Day (1/2 day)

Noon dismissal – no lunch

September 13

"Diary of a Wimpy Kid" @ Rose (K-8)

September 16-19

MAP Testing (1st-8th)

September 20

Picture Day

September 24

Schramm Park (1st 8th)

Pete's Groovy Science Show @ GS

(Preschool & Kindergarten)

Goodnight Stories @ 6:30 p.m.

October 11

NELHS Day (6th-8th grade)

October 12

Norfolk Soccer Tournament

Good Shepherd Fall Festival

Worship Focus

THIS WEEKEND



Sunday 9/1/24

9:30 a.m. – Bible Class (Mr. Lauber)

10:30 a.m. – Worship w/ Lord's Supper (Vicar Melso)

Theme

"Baskets Once Empty...
Overflow with Jesus... Into
Works of Service"

Scripture Readings

- 1st Lesson – Deut. 4:1-2, 6-9
- Psalm 119b
- 2nd Lesson – Romans 9:30-10:4
- Gospel – Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Hymns

- #697 – "May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill"
- #740 – "O God, My Faithful God"
- #592 – "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling"
- #588 – "Come, O Come, Life-Giving Spirit"
- #593 – "Holy Spirit, Light Divine"

MR. LAUBER & MRS. ROBERT'S CLASSROOM

- Band practice will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays this year, so if you're in band, please remember to bring your instrument on those days! Thank you!
- I look forward to welcoming our guests and visitors for Grandfriends' Day on Friday! Upper grade students who don't have a special guest may have the chance to help out younger students do their crafts and fill out their bingo cards.



"Ninesquare" with loaded squares!

TESTS THIS WEEK

Mon – No School

Tue – None

Wed – None

Thu – 6th-8th Science Test

Fri – 7th & 8th U.S. History Test (Ch. 12)



MISS CROWL'S CLASSROOM

Memory Work: For Tuesday, pick one: 2 Corinthians 8:9 or Acts 4:20.

Spelling

3rd - lay, reveal, trail, sweet, today, dream, seem, always, treat, chain, leave, weigh, eight, neighbor, paint

4th - skill, crime, grind, tonight, brick, flight, live, chill, delight, build, ditch, decide, witness, wind, district, inch, sigh, fright, remind, built

5th - sign, groan, reply, thrown, strike, mighty, stroll, compose, dough, height, excite, apply, slight, define, odor, spider, control, silent, brighten, approach

Reading

3rd - Locating Information

4th - Compare and Contrast

5th - Character's Motives

Notes & Reminders:

- No school Monday, September 2.
- Grandfriends Day is this Friday, September 6th!



Computer skills class



Artists at work

Mission Statement

Good Shepherd
Lutheran School exists for
students to be

FED by the Word,
FOLLOW Christ in his love,
and
FIND the lost with his Word.

MRS. HOPFENSPERGER & MRS. BAEHMAN'S CLASSROOM

- **Spelling Words (1st & 2nd Grade):**

- 1st: it, him, is, sip, fit, pin
- 2nd: cake, mine, plate, size, ate, grape, prize, wipe, race, line, pile, rake

- **Sight Words/Vocabulary:**

- Kindergarten: the, a, see
- 1st: Review: go, is, like, see, the, this, to, we, a, first, good, had, he, I, my, was, and, find, for, just, many, one, she, then
- 2nd: Review: a, ant, the, go, got, have, not, the, to, will, you, best, does, end, job, left, men, more, see, than, wash, do, give, he, line, said, set, seven, sure, upon, walk

- **Sound of the Week:**

- Kindergarten: M-Z
- 1st: Short i
- 2nd: Long a and I; Soft c and g

- **Focus Skills**

- Kindergarten: Rhymes, Syllables, and A-L
- 1st: Characters, Ask and Answer Questions
- 2nd: Characters, Central Idea

- **Power Words**

- Kindergarten: clue, mistake, puzzled
- 1st: accept, calm, happened, introduce, kinds, last, partner, ridiculous, search, together, trip, wished
- 2nd: disaster, fiddled, hamper, jubilantly, mechanical, mood, obnoxious, perfect, planned, praise, queasy, reassemble, scowl, thinking

- Spirit wear sale is going on right now with 30% off. The sale ends September 17th. The website is <https://1stplace.sale/59025>.
- 1st and 2nd grade students will not be taking any graded spelling tests for the first few weeks of school.

Dates to remember:

September 2nd- No School Labor Day

September 4th- 9th- Book Fair

September 6th- Grandfriends Day ½ **day of school (no lunch or aftercare)**



"Frog in the Meadow" rhythm practice!

K - 2ND GRADE MEMORY WORK

Memory Work will start in September



Painting fun

MRS. WALZ'S CLASSROOM

- In Jesus Time, this week we will learn one story. Our story is "God Saves Noah and His Family." In this story we will hear how God saved one family from a terrible flood.
- For Circle Time, this week we will talk about colors.
- There is NO Show and Tell this week. A schedule of the days and themes was sent home last week.
- Grandfriend's Day is on Friday, September 6th. An email was sent by Mrs. Beals with more information and a sign-up link. If you did not receive the email, please let me know. This is also a half day of school. All children must be picked up by 12:00pm.
- Bloomz is up and running! Let me know if you did not receive the link via email or if you have any questions.
- If you ever have any questions, please feel free to email me, send me a message in Bloomz, send a note in your child's backpack, or talk to me in person.
- Have a great week!



Playing catch



Fun during free-play time!

TEACHER CONTACT INFO

Mrs. Sarah Walz - Preschool

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Mrs. Andrea Hopfensperger – K-2

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Mrs. Abigail Baehman – K-2

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Miss Amber Crawl – 3-5

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Mrs. Wendy Roberts – 6-8

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Mr. Joel Lauber – 6-8

○ jlauber@gsomaha.com

PARENT CONVERSATIONS

This might sound odd, but I'm usually more concerned about how my kids are doing interpersonally in school than how they are doing academically. Don't get me wrong. I'm all for reading, writing, and arithmetic, but I think that so much growth in how we navigate relationships takes place in school. These are character-building lessons. So back-to-school season is a great time to consider how we are equipping our kids to be good friends so that they can reflect those attributes of a good friend to their classmates. Read on to see what pointers two veteran teachers have for us.

—Nicole Balza

HOW CAN WE TEACH KIDS TO BE GOOD FRIENDS?

"YOU HAVE A friend in me." "I'll be there for you." "Friends forever." "Besties." These quotes about friendship are familiar to many. They quickly make a connection in our brains to a story, people, characters, maybe even a memory. Most adults could quickly rattle off a list of things that define *friendship* for them. We know what it takes to be a good friend, and we also know that, like every relationship, maintaining those friendships takes effort. Good friends learn from each other, help each other, share, compliment each other, and the list goes on.

So how do we help young children learn to be good friends? As with many concepts and skills, teaching

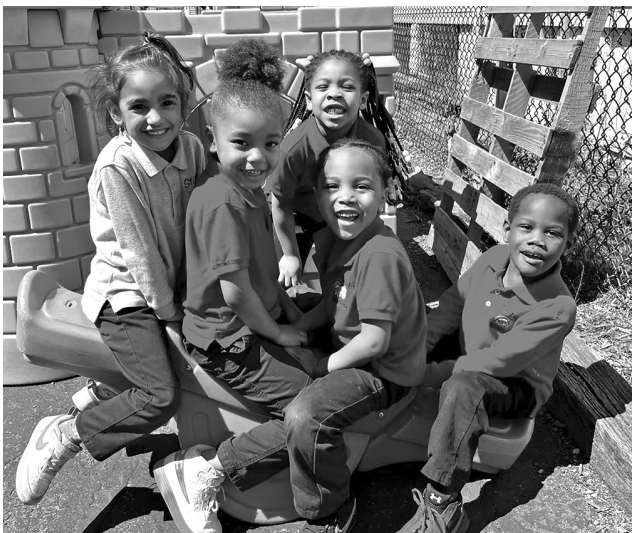
friendship is not a one-and-done lesson. It is ongoing. It is an integral part of a young child's social-emotional development, and it continues to grow and develop as our children do.

My kindergarten students practice these skills frequently in the classroom. We talk about what good friends do. We model and role-play social situations. We discuss what our friends do that make us feel happy and what we can do to make others feel good. This is all part of a bigger process in which we work to cultivate empathy, compassion, and kindness in our children.

When I ask my students to share what they can do to be a good friend, they will often respond with answers like "I can help," "Check on others if they are hurt," or "Say kind words." These ongoing conversations are a key part in teaching our children about friendship. Of course, we have greater motivation as well.

Growing up, my dad had this mantra: "Nelsons are nice to everyone," and he meant it. It wasn't a command or a rule, though. It was a way of being that he modeled for us and reminded us of regularly, and it stuck with me. It's just who we are.

Of course as sinners we can never get it right all the time, but as the guardians of Christ's little lambs, we can keep the conversations going. We can have the discussions, we can read the books, and we can model the love we have in Christ to those around us. In these conversations it's valuable to help our children understand that it's so much more than being a friend to those we know, care about, and spend time with. It's about showing kindness, love, and compassion to all,



Kindergartners in Amanda Berg's class at St. Philip, Milwaukee, Wis., during the 2021–22 school year.

the way Jesus did. It is because of his immense sacrificial love for us that we are even capable of loving others.

The apostle John wrote, “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). This goes beyond Jesus being a good example. He is perfect love, and he demon-

Growing friendships is not easy, but through them we gain the privilege of sharing Jesus and his grace with each other.

strated that perfect love, that perfect friendship, by his death on the cross. Through that redemption in Christ Jesus and in the waters of holy Baptism, we are made righteous. Righteous people do righteous things. We are loved, saved, and made new, and as new creations in Christ, we are called and fully equipped to love one another, to be a good friend.

This is the message to share with your little one: We are saved, loved, called, and equipped. In Christ, it's just who we are.



Amanda Berg and her husband, Mike, have three daughters. Amanda teaches at St. Philip, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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AS CHILDREN look forward to going back to school, they are often thinking about seeing friends again and how exciting it is to talk and play with kids their own age. However, as the year begins and parents ask their children about school and how it's going, the problems that kids bring up are often related to friendships and conflict with their peers.

As a first-grade teacher, one of the things that I notice is how quickly students “quit” their friendships. One child says or does something that another doesn't like or agree with and quickly a child declares, “I'm not your friend anymore.”

Knowing that our sinful nature often leads us to avoid or cause conflict and then walk away from people who upset us or make us uncomfortable, we must arm ourselves and our children with the sword of the Spirit, God's Word. With the truth of God's Word and the

Holy Spirit working in our hearts, we can love those we disagree with and lean into conflict, working through it.

But how do we begin talking to young children about building friendships? Relationships and conflict are hard for adults as well as children! It's important to begin with discussing the natural state we all share: We are all sinners in need of Jesus our Savior. That truth means that we should expect conflict in our relationships because the people around us are sometimes going to make poor choices, just like we do. If we expect that everyone we interact with is going to need our forgiveness at times, it does not come as such a surprise when they do. Then we can lean into the conflict with love and forgiveness instead of running away. Colossians 3:13 says, “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” We also should be ready to say, “I'm sorry,” when we need their forgiveness.

If we practice responding with love and forgiveness instead of meeting sin with sin, our relationships grow and improve. Practicing this with family members is an excellent way to set children up for success with their friends.

A good friend forgives, and a good friend also encourages. First Thessalonians 5:11 says, “Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” Teaching and showing our children how to look for ways to encourage those around them is a wonderful way to build the kingdom of God.

Our sinful nature wants us to compete with and compare ourselves with others, especially our peers, but God tells us to encourage and love one another. If our children learn to walk alongside one another with encouragement, forgiveness, and love, think of the beautiful friendships our children will have.

Growing friendships is not easy, but through them we gain the privilege of sharing Jesus and his grace. That is the most important blessing of friendship!



Rachel Blum and her husband, Matt, are raising their three children in rural Bonduel, Wisconsin. Rachel teaches at St. Paul, Green Bay.

Interested in more? Visit forwardinchrist.net/parents for more parenting resources, including articles, podcasts, and videos.

