

The Advocate

"Sharing God's love with children who have special learning needs since 1873."



Winter 2012 Volume 82, No. 1

Inside this issue:

From the President	2
Especially For You	2
Labels For Education	3
R C - Good News	3
Note of Thanks	3
It's A Good Thing	4
7th Annual Golf Outing	4
Estate Planning	4

Snakes, Sharks and Penguins. Oh My!

In Mrs. Lapsansky's classroom, all the students do "**Squirt**" after recess. No, we're not referring to the carbonated beverage. "Squirt" is a reading exercise where the students get to choose their favorite book to read and/or use headphones to listen to their favorite story. This sight word program is a phonics activity that targets each student's instructional level.



Mrs. Lapsansky and Sidney
Trinity Lutheran School Tinley Park, Illinois

One day during "Squirt," a second grade boy named Sidney scrambled to find a book about **Emperor Penguins**. He couldn't read the story, but nevertheless, he was engrossed in the book, looking at the pictures. As a LSEM teacher, it was Mrs. Lapsansky's job to work with Sidney to teach him how to read.

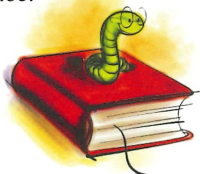
From the start of the activity, Sidney's enthusiasm was contagious and he was determined to learn more about penguins. He had so many questions for Mrs. Lapsansky! "Can you tell me more about this picture?" Sidney said. "Why does the penguin do this?" he asked. At the end of the day, it was actually Sidney who taught Mrs. Lapsansky an important lesson.

Sidney's quest to learn everything he could about something he was interested in is the reason why we all learn to read in the first place. By reading, we are able to answer those burning questions and obtain knowledge.

Since Sidney's initial interest in Emperor Penguins, he has expanded his horizons to learn about **snakes, lizards, sharks, and animal tracks**. Mrs. Lapsansky makes sure to keep the literary closet full of interesting books for Sidney to choose from. Since implementing "Squirt," Mrs. Lapsansky has noticed a remarkable improvement in Sidney's motivation to read. Sidney was unable to read in first grade and is now impressing everyone with his reading skills and can read short stories as a second grader. Reading is now fun and exciting for Sidney. **Thank you** for your support that is helping Sidney and students like him.



"Sidney's quest to learn everything he could about something he was interested in is the reason why we all learn to read in the first place."



From the President/CEO - It's Simple



Jim Krone
President/CEO

If you are reading this newsletter for the first time, *welcome friend!*

Our focus at LSEM is on children. In Matthew 19:14 Jesus commands, *“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”* That command is for all children including those who are labeled as “special.” Special is a relative term. You might ask... *“How does LSEM define special when all children are special in God’s sight?”* As a special education ministry, our definition of special is directly related to the way that children learn. Our goal this school year is to serve over 3,000 children who have special learning needs.

Education systems, both public and private focus on educating children who learn within the normal range. **BUT...** what about the children who have a different way of learning? Some learn slower, some learn faster, some learn by hearing, some learn by seeing, some learn by touch, or with movement. Still others see the world moving fast, or moving slow, and yet others may see the world upside down and backwards.

At LSEM we see them all as God’s children, perfectly created by Him. So our mission is to

help, support, guide, enable, and most of all demonstrate God’s love to as many children as we can. That seems simple, and it is. **BUT...** simple doesn't mean it is easy, because it is not. It’s kind of like faith or love. They are simple concepts, but without support from Jesus, who moves in the hearts of our friends to support what we do, it is hard. So as we focus on children we need your help and partnership in our ministry.

Throughout the years, we have been blessed by so many people who support LSEM. Many have also remembered us with a legacy of love that continues to have a lasting impact on our ministry and we are eternally grateful.

Whether you are a new friend of LSEM or if you have been a longtime friend, we value your friendship. As LSEM grows, learns, and changes to meet the needs of the children, their families, the schools, churches and the communities we serve, I pray that God will bless our friendship that will last a lifetime. ***It’s simple!***

*Your Friend in Jesus,
Jim Krone, President/CEO*

☞
“Whether you are a new friend of LSEM or if you have been a longtime friend we value your friendship.”
☞

Especially Handmade For You



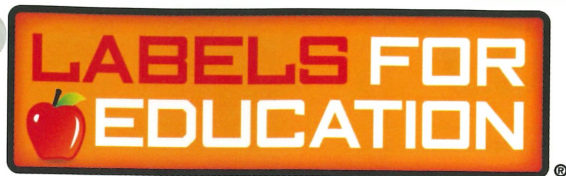
LSEM receives about 1,000 cards per year that are especially handmade just for you!

For many years our LSEM teachers have taken the time with their students to create beautiful handmade Christmas and Easter cards for our friends. Each card is unique, like the students who hand craft them, with love and appreciation for your support.

Many of you have sent notes expressing your appreciation for having received one of these beautiful cards. We love hearing from you and we do our best to pass along your sentiments to our teachers and the students.

Although a challenge, our goal each year is to have enough handmade cards to send to all of our friends. Maybe someday we may include Valentine cards too. Please keep LSEM and the children we serve in your prayers! We know that God hears them and is keeping LSEM in His care. ***Thank you for your support!***

Clip...Give...Earn...



LabelsForEducation.com

Many of you have blessed our LSEM students and their teachers by sending us labels to redeem through Labels For Education.

This school year LSEM was able to purchase a portable reading/writing center which included a whiteboard for 2 classrooms.

To find out how to **Clip...Give...**and help LSEM **Earn...**classroom supplies and equipment go to www.labelsforeducation.com. Or give us a call at **313-368-1220 ext. 113**



A Note of Thanks



In September 2011 LSEM Board Member, Don Rutter, retired after **36 years of faithful service!** A long-time friend and advocate for LSEM, Don worked as the general manager of Auch Construction from 1962-1992. He used his construction background and expertise to assist LSEM in the high maintenance of the building when LSEM operated as a school.

Those that knew Don admired his integrity and quiet wisdom. Roger DeMeyere, former LSEM President/CEO said, *"Don is a great guy. He didn't say much, but when he did people listened. He had a wealth of wisdom."*

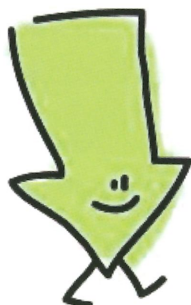
The LSEM Board of Trustees thanked Don during a luncheon for his many years of faithful service. He was presented with a toy tool kit (pictured above) for his grandson, who was recently adopted through **Compassion Pregnancy**. Who knows, maybe his grandson will follow in his footsteps!

Don and his wife, Elaine, will celebrate **53 years of marriage** this year! They have two sons and four beautiful grandchildren. What a blessing he is to his family, friends and LSEM. We will miss him!

Resource Center - Good News

Good News! The LSEM Resource Center **E-NEWSLETTER** for families, schools, and churches, is now available and can be sent to your email quarterly. If you haven't done so already, go to the LSEM Website at www.luthsped.org and sign up. The newsletter will provide helpful information including homework tips, support groups, resources and so much more.

For information about other resources that are available for you, your school or church, contact the **Resource Center at 313-368-1220 ext. 112**. Also, your help in spreading the **Resource Center Good News E-NEWSLETTERS** for families, schools, and churches is very much needed and appreciated. **Thank You!**



Resource Center
Susan Lewis, Director
slewis@luthsped.org

Programs & Services

Jeff Howell, Director - jhowell@luthsped.org

Tim Winterstein, Director - twinterstein@luthsped.org

For information about programs and services in your area contact one of our directors.

(AZ, CA, IL, IN, MN)
(FL, MI, TX)



Pray For You

Are you in need of prayer? Do you have any requests? Our national office staff meets daily Mon-Fri at 9:00am to pray. You may email your prayer requests to lsem@luthsped.org or call our national office toll free at 888-488-LSEM(5736) and we will include your request with our daily prayers.

Campbell's

**Labels
for
Education**

Free Supplies!



Thank you to everyone for sending in your Campbell Soup labels. We are redeeming them for classroom equipment & supplies.

Estate Planning

For information on how to include LSEM in your **Estate Planning** contact the national office at **888-488-LSEM (5736) ext. 108**.

Also, to learn more about how we may serve you, or to make a donation online visit us on the web at www.luthsped.org

Thank You!

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It's A Good Thing

Just when I begin to question the usefulness of technology and social media, God reminds me...it's a good thing.

I was recently reminded of the need of technology after a friend suffered a stroke, brought on by a brain aneurism, and is now a paraplegic. As you can imagine, technology and social media have opened up a whole new world for him. Now he is able to connect with people and obtain resources to help him cope with his situation like never before.

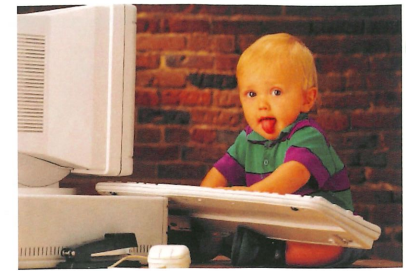
I was also reminded of the benefits of technology when my daughter went on a mission trip to India this past year. As a mom, I was a little nervous about her traveling across the world, but we were able to stay connected through the use of technology. The pictures and videos she posted on the Internet were incredible! The pictures really did tell the story and made you feel like you were right there.

For years LSEM has used **adaptive technology** to enable children to learn. This technology is becoming mainstream. We are now taking steps to embrace technology in our communications outside the classroom as well. When used strategically, technology can be a useful tool. As always, we strive to be good stewards of our resources as we communicate the mission and vision of LSEM. Although not for everyone, choosing electronic communications is helping LSEM lower mailing and printing costs and allows us to reach a broader audience. As a result, we can serve more children, their families, and the community.

If you would like to receive this newsletter and other communications electronically, you may go to our website at www.luthsped.org to sign up on our mailing list.

Finally, **we need your support!** We welcome your partnership in our ministry to children. Funding for our programs comes from fees, investments, and friends like you. Thank you for your partnership. *It's a good thing!*

Grace Lorano, Communications Coordinator



"Thank you for your partnership. It's a good thing!"

Looking For Fun!



For more information contact
Tom Meissner, Golf Committee Chair at:
Phone: 248-892-3924
Email: tmeissner@nextfinancial.com
Register at: www.luthsped.org or
call Kathy Anderson **313-368-1220 x104**.

Join us on **Friday, June 22, 2012** for our 7th annual golf event at **Greystone Golf Club** home to, *"The best finish in Michigan golf!"* Of course, if you can't come, we always welcome your support. Following are the costs for golfing and sponsorships:

Golfers \$130 (18 holes, dinner & FUN!)

Dinner \$20 (buffet dinner only)

SPONSORSHIPS

Major \$2,500, Eagle \$1,000, Birdie \$700

Par \$400 and Hole \$100

All proceeds will benefit children with special learning needs. *Thank you for your support!*