

January 5, 2010

Saints Celebrate: 'In Christ We Can'...Be Forgiving!
SMLS Goes Green with new programs...Pioneer Christmas...Stuff a Stocking



Dear Friend of St. Michael,

Our theme this year is "In Christ we can..." and we learned in December that "In Christ we can...be forgiving!" In this season of *giving*, our students are learning that to be forgiving is an important Christian value. God forgives our sins everyday and in turn we must forgive our enemies, our friends, and ourselves. Forgiveness is one of the greatest gifts we can give.

Thanks to our science teacher Mrs. Katie Schlotterbeck, Saint Michael students also are learning about **giving** back to their environment by **going green** this year. St. Michael Lutheran School is actually one of thirty-five Model PLT (Project Learning Tree) GreenSchools in the United States and one of six in the state of Florida. Imagine a classroom where schoolwork improves the planet!



Last year, Mrs. Schlotterbecks' 7th grade class participated in a GreenSchools Waste & Recycling Investigation in Science class and was amazed how many things students and teachers threw away that could have been recycled. Thanks to their diligent work, there are new recyclable containers in the classrooms, cafeteria and gymnasium and we are focusing on recycling more than ever as the classrooms place their recycling bin out each Friday. The classroom that recycles the most is recognized on SMLT's First Light, the school's morning news program. Thanks to Mrs. Schlotterbecks' 7th grade class who has been emptying these every Friday.

St. Michael Lutheran School also was recently awarded the \$2425.00 **Lights On Lights Off** grant by Project Learning Tree GreenSchools. Last year, Mr. Duports' 6th grade class participated in a GreenSchools Energy Investigation in Science class and was surprised to find that many classrooms had lights on when they were empty. The students designed a learning service project and using their information, Mrs. Schlotterbeck wrote a grant that involved obtaining occupancy sensors for the classrooms that will automatically turn off the lights when the rooms are empty. Classes will also be involved in a poster contest and skits will be shown on the school news to emphasis energy conservation.



The Third Grade classes recently experienced a "greener" Christmas in the form of Pioneer Christmas, the annual hands-on learning experience provided by Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Reynolds. After reading the classic pioneer tale, Little House in the Big Woods, by Laura Ingalls Wilder, both classes participate in an authentic pioneer Christmas that begins with a candlelit classroom, as the pioneers did not have electricity! The children dress as pioneer children and travel from station to station learning pioneer skills such as embroidery; tin work; stringing their own holiday popcorn and cranberry garland; making apple crisp and maple

syrup candy. It is a day that makes history and literature come alive.



In the spirit of the season for giving, many of our classes also participated in the Salvation Army service project Stuff a Child's Christmas stocking. Saint Michael delivered more than 100 stockings to the Salvation Army enabling them to help make Christmas very merry for children who are less fortunate.

We are instructing for life, here and for eternity! That's the St. Michael Difference!

In Christ,

Robert J. Ziegler Principal, LEA Distinguished Lutheran Elementary Administrator
U.S. Department of Education and NAESP National Distinguished Principal

P.S. The Saint Michael Foundation, Inc. continues to work toward the establishment and funding of various endowments. Check out the "Support St. Michael Today & Tomorrow" program by visiting: <http://foundation.smlcs.org/index.html> .