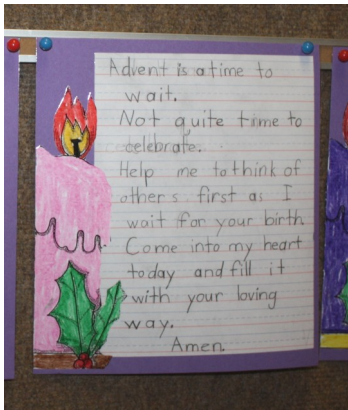




**THE ATONEMENT ACADEMY**  
December 16, 2011

# Crusader *bulletin*

## Advent Greetings!



*The first graders have decorated the halls with a simple Advent reminder:*

*Advent is a time to wait.  
Not quite time to celebrate.  
Help me to think of others first  
As I wait for your birth.  
Come into my heart today  
And fill it with your loving way.*

*May we prepare the way for Lord being mindful of others and recalling the reason for the season: Jesus our Savior!*

## Nota Bene / Note Well

- **BOXTOPS:** There is still time for a December entry! See the last page for a December form and a great recipe, too!
- **PSIA REGISTRATIONS:** Deadline is December 21st! Contact Alice Rosa for more details: arosa@atonementonline.com
- **DATE SET FOR FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION:** The date for the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion has been set for Saturday, February 4th, 2012. The Most Rev. Oscar Cantu will be with us. Students must be registered online, and the required forms and permission letters must be submitted by the 3rd of January. For registration help, please contact Mrs. Benzaquen at KBenzaquen@AtonementOnline.com.
- **Questions or Concerns?** Contact info@atonementonline.com

### **Mr. Johnston & Family Need Your Prayers!**

*In your charity, continue to remember our headmaster, Ralph Johnston, and his family in your prayers. The rosary continues to be said for his intention after every 7 am weekday Mass.*



## Upcoming...



- Dec. 16: Last day for AR Testing (Second Quarter)
- Dec. 16: Christmas Concert, Grades 3-5, Church at 7 pm
- December 18: Nine Lessons and Carols, 4 pm (Parish Music Program)
- Dec. 19-21: Semester Exams for Grades 6 through 12.
- Dec. 19-21: Early Dismissal, 12 noon
- Dec. 19: First and Second Grade Christmas Concert, 2 pm
- Dec. 20: PreK and Kindergarten Christmas Concert, 2 pm
- Dec. 21: Upper School Dance, 7 pm
- Dec. 22 through Jan. 2: Christmas Break — School Closed
- Jan. 3: Classes begin
- Jan. 8: Priority Enrollment Application Begins (Returning families)

## IMPORTANT SCHOOL UNIFORM NEWS

Parker School Uniform recently began phasing in a new sweater this year. Have you noticed?

WE have noticed a difference, starting with a slightly different shade of red. We also have noticed that many of the NEW sweaters already are showing more “wear” than the old ones. The Parker company is anxious to see what appears to us to be an inferior quality, so we need your help!

If you purchased a new sweater this year and feel that there are manufacturing defects, please return it to the store for a new one. If it is more convenient to have a replacement sweater brought to the school for you, please call Parker Uniform (530-0087) and ask to speak to Gloria. She will make arrangements with you to replace it.

**UNIFORM SALE:** Now through December 31, Parker Uniform has a 20% off sale on all in-stock merchandise. Don't miss this opportunity to replace worn or outgrown items!

### CRUSADER SPIRIT WEAR— GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Stop by the Athletics Office and check out the cool sweatshirts and other apparel! With the colder weather we have some great Atonement Spirit wear. In addition to sweatshirts and hoodies, we have some long sleeve dri-fit Atonement Basketball shirts, too!

All of these items are on sale to you for 20 dollars each. Watch for more wear coming in January and to be sold through the Business Office.

## COACH MORETTA'S CORNER

The holidays that celebrate family, Christ's birth and all things good and right are upon us. We also enter into our winter sports season and we are excited by the teams and student athletes we have participating in our programs. A brief overview of where we are now and what to expect:

**VARSITY BASKETBALL:** We are excited with our new program and new coaches! Most of the girls are new to the team and new to each other and are learning that the game is fast paced and tough. I see great potential this year and want all of us to come and support our Lady Crusaders.

Our men's team is truly dynamic, smart, and quick. They have the potential to go to state this year and are led by some tough juniors and seniors. After an initial blow out of FEAST, they dropped two to large 4A schools but showed they are ready to compete with anyone when they beat John Paul II last week!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL:** We could not field a girls team this year, but our boys are looking sharp and well trained. We have a young and energetic team, with three sixth graders, four seventh graders and one eighth grader. The poise and grace with their skills and commitment is great to see and it is a view into our future, and it looks bright!

**SOCCER:** Our new soccer program is off and running (and kicking). Yes, soccer is back full force at The Atonement Academy and we are very excited to see how much enthusiasm we have for this sport! We have a full squad for all levels, MS boys and girls and high school boys and girls.

**WRESTLING:** This year we have ten young men wrestling for us and we are excited at our prospects. We have all weight classes covered and look forward to some big success with the tournaments we have scheduled.

**This is an exciting sports season, and I hope to see all of you there and getting into the spirit of our Crusader athletics programs.**

**REMEMBER ALWAYS GO TO THE NEW  
ATHLETICS WEBSITE**

**[WWW.ATONEMENTSPORTS.COM](http://WWW.ATONEMENTSPORTS.COM)  
FOR THE LATEST UPDATES ON OUR  
PROGRAMS AND OUR ATHLETES.**

*Michael Moretta*

Athletic Director

Head Track and Cross Country Coach

214-682-6757 cell

mmoretta@atonementonline.com

# KING'S FAIR SUCCESS!



Our annual festival was a great success! Thanks to all who participated in the fun-filled day! The jousting show in particular was a favorite feature.

The net for the King's Fair was \$24,028.93, up from \$21,796.29 in 2010. Total Raffle income was \$20,250, up from \$16,995 in 2010. Total income was \$33,508.39, up from \$29,937 in 2010.



If you are interested in helping to plan next year with your observations and comments or would like to be an official part of the festival committee, contact Susana Trevino at [Strevino@atonementonline.com](mailto:Strevino@atonementonline.com)

## Classes Earn Pizza Parties:

Students competed to see which classes could sell over \$1,000 in raffle tickets and earn a pizza party. There were six lower school winners: Mrs. Clarkson (PK), Mrs. Elias & Mrs. Graham (K), Mrs. Schneider (1st), Mrs. Thomas (3rd Gr. Girls), and Mrs. Cisneros (4th Gr. Girls). The winners of the middle school raffle contest were as follows: 6th grade girls, 7th grade girls, and 8th grade boys.



## Crusaders' Service to Others

### Crusaders Work at The San Antonio Food Bank

Upper School Students Melody Logsdon, Rainn Parsell, Shannon Murray, Paulina Rendon, Nicholas Orta, Michael Gonzales, Monica Saldua, Dylan Parsell, Bella Garza, and Skylar Black contributed time at the San Antonio Food Bank. They spent hours sorting canned and dry goods. They also checked for outdated cans of food. The students did a great job and look forward to additional volunteer opportunities.

**S.O.S.! NEEDED: TOILETRIES!** The Lettermen Service Club is gathering toilet paper and toiletries to provide immigrant families. If you can help with toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap and toilet paper, please do so! Drop off at the front office until 2 pm on Dec. 21st, please!

### Middle School Teacher Volunteers in Jamaica

*Over our fall break, one of our teachers managed to combine a resort getaway with an amazing volunteer opportunity. Here is a summary of Mrs. Tina Fitzgerald's experiences in Jamaica last month:*



I had the pleasure of being introduced to Georgene Crowe, a co-founder of a volunteer group that formed after one of the many hurricanes that have visited disaster upon Jamaica... When she learned I was a teacher and I learned of her amazing volunteer work, there was no other option than to assist their efforts at Boscobel Primary School. What an eye-opener! To begin, a child in Jamaica cannot go to school unless they have a uniform; which most cannot afford (a mere \$15!). Furthermore, if they can afford the uniform, they must come to school with pencils; if not, the children are sent home.

While at the school, I was able to work with 4th, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6th graders who were struggling in their classes. We focused on the basics such as reading and knowing the sounds the letters make (yes, I said 4th, 5th and 6th graders, not 1st and 2nd as you would imagine). The students are very motivated to learn; if they do not pass their primary exam to go to middle school, then they are not allowed to continue their formal education. They will need to find a skill or trade (as most of their parents do). It is such a sad situation. However, these children are no different than those in any other part of the world; however, these students know poverty and want to overcome it.



I was so privileged to spend time with these students and will be looking into how I may do this again in the future. As always, there are a few students who touch your heart as a teacher. I send a special picture of Sebastian... I pray he does well in life and I hope he remembers me. What a gift they gave to me. We are so blessed to live in this great country with so many opportunities!!

# *KUDOS TO OUR STUDENTS!*

## *Bringing honor and glory to God!*

### **TMEA All-Region and All-State Results**

Please join us in recognizing our two finalists in the Texas Music Educator's competitions: All-State winners **Christian Cruz** and **Shannon Murray**! This is the first time that we have advanced to the final round and it is quite an honor. Christian placed 2nd chair in Tenor 1 and Shannon moved up to 3rd chair in Soprano I. The top five move on to Area auditions in January. They will be competing against the best singers from San Antonio and Houston for the honor to sing at the Texas Music Educators' Association convention in February.

*In addition, the following students were selected for the Regional Choirs:*

#### High School Mixed Choir

Shannon Murray, Soprano 1  
Christian Cruz, Tenor 1  
Christopher Spalding, Bass 2

#### High School Treble

Sarina Obeid, Soprano 1  
Annie Kennedy, Soprano 1  
Monica King, Soprano 1  
Nikki Prochko, Soprano 2  
Bella Garza, Soprano 2  
Skylar Black, Soprano 2

#### Middle School Intermediate Choir

Chloe Daring, Soprano  
Sarah Henriquez, Soprano  
Bela King, Soprano  
Kathy Bacuta, Soprano  
Mary Henriquez, Alto  
Brielle Divis, Alto  
Isabella Christianson, Alto

#### Middle School Tenor/Bass Choir

Bobby Voorhees, Tenor  
BJ Garza, Tenor  
John McHugh, Tenor



#### **Sorio Garners 6th Chair in Regional Orchestra**

Junior Cecille Sorio competed in the recent Texas Music Educators Association auditions. She placed and garnered 6th chair for the TMEA Region 11 Orchestra.

Congratulations, Cecille!

#### **TEXAS A&M Offers Honor to Sophomore Student**

Atonement sophomore Ruthanne Reiley was chosen as a Observer Presenter at the upcoming Texas Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Reiley qualified in the Environmental & Energy Resource Category for her project: *Remote Off-Grid Sustainable Energy*. Hard work pays off, Ruthanne! We are proud of you!

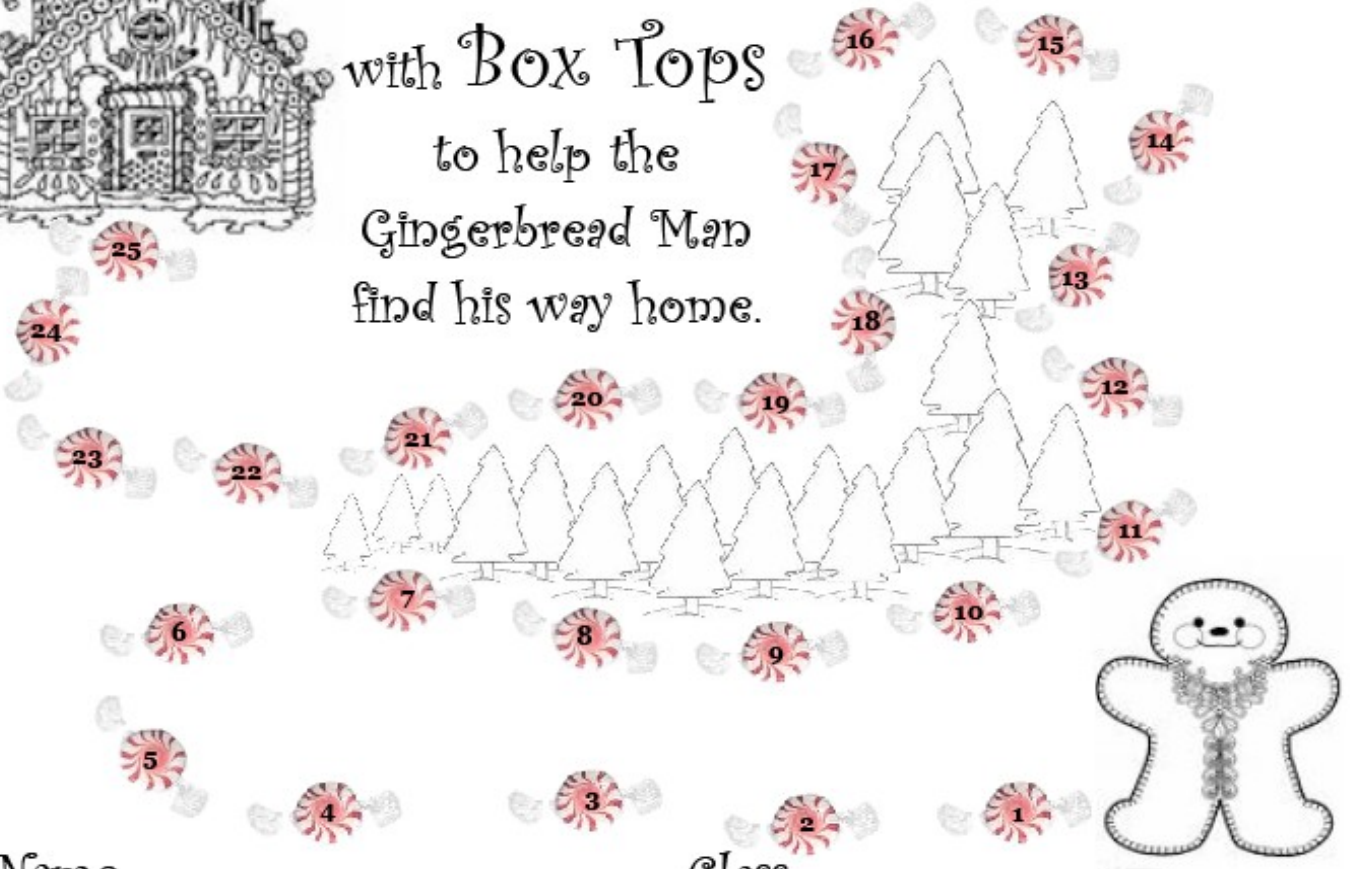
### **SENIOR MONICA KING MAKES THE DREAM TEAM!**



Congratulations to our first member of the Catholic High School Volleyball Dream Team! Outside hitter and Atonement senior Monica King was named to the 9-girl group that included students from area Catholic schools.



Cover the candies  
with Box Tops  
to help the  
Gingerbread Man  
find his way home.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

### POINSETTIA BLOSSOM COOKIES:

Bring festive color to your dessert table with these beautiful flower-shaped cookies made with Gold Medal® all-purpose flour - perfect dessert to impress your guests.



#### Ingredients

- ¾ cup butter or margarine, softened
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 30 drops red food color
- 1 egg
- 1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups Gold Medal® all-purpose flour
- Red sugar, if desired

About 3 dozen yellow candy-coated chocolate candies or other small yellow candies

#### Directions

1. Beat butter, sugar, vanilla, food color, egg and cream cheese in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed, or mix with spoon. Stir in flour. Cover and refrigerate about 2 hours or until firm.
2. Shape dough into 1 1/4-inch balls; roll in red sugar. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour.
3. Heat oven to 375°F. Place balls about 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Make 6 cuts with sharp knife in top of each ball about three-fourths of the way through to make 6 wedges. Spread wedges apart very slightly to form flower petals (cookies will separate and flatten as they bake).
4. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until set and edges begin to brown. Immediately press 1 candy in center of each cookie. Carefully remove from cookie sheet to wire rack.