

THE PELICAN

The Monthly Newsletter of The Atonement Academy

★ A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE ★

APRIL, 2006 ✦ VOLUME 12, NUMBER 8



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FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Academy Parents:

Greetings from the academy! It is hard to believe that we are already in the fourth quarter with only two months left in the school year. Graduation and summer vacation will be here before we know it.

LENTEN ALMS FOR AIN ARIK

As you are no doubt aware, the “penny war” has been raging for the last five weeks. If you have any change left in your house, now is the time to send it in. Thanks to Sister Mary Margaret’s wonderful idea, and the amazingly strong sabotaging instincts of most of our students, we have raised nearly \$3,000 to send to our Christian brothers and sisters in Ain Arik. We have also just received letters from their students and our students will write back in time to include our letters with the donation. As far as I know, this will be one of the largest contributions that we have ever sent to them. Congratulations to everyone!

STANFORD ACHIEVEMENT TEST (SAT-10)

April brings baseball and standardized testing (coincidence? I think not!). Students in every grade from kindergarten through 10th grade take the SAT-10, the achievement test required by the Archdiocese for every Catholic school. This year will be the second year that we offer the 10th edition of the test. One thing that is very different from the standardized tests that we all took when we were in school is that the test is no longer timed!

Over the last five years, the vast majority of new families to the academy have come to us from the public school system. One of the questions that naturally arises during the tour concerns the

difference between the SAT-10 test that Catholic schools students take and the TEKS test that public school students take. The main difference is the purpose of each exam and therefore the different things that are measured by each.

The TEKS test measures the performance of a student against a minimum set of criteria. Since most students (approximately 75%) fall into the average to above average categories in terms of skills and abilities, most students pass the test. The “beauty” of the TEKS test—from a legislator’s or public school superintendent’s perspective—is that it fools people into believing that Texas students are doing fine academically, when in fact Texas students consistently perform below the national average when they finally get around to taking the college SAT or ACT exams. In other words, calling attention to the TEKS results, which everyone knows will be high, keeps voters from realizing that the Texas public education system is dramatically substandard.

The SAT-10, on the other hand, measures the performance of a student against his peers. In other words, the SAT-10 gives you some sense of how your student compares academically to the people with whom he’ll be competing for college admissions, scholarships, and jobs. It also provides a means of comparing schools. The Blue Ribbon School award, for example, requires that a school be in the top 10% in the nation in both reading and math.

As in the past, and despite the disadvantage of trying to recover from daylight savings, we fully expect our students to put in another extraordinary performance in a long series of extraordinary performances!

Continued →

SUMMER PROGRAM

Although we have wanted to change the direction of our summer program before, we are finally able to implement these changes since construction has nearly ended. In place of the remedial tutoring program, which has brought in mixed results in the past, we have decided to offer a fun, academic and athletic enrichment program.

If you need child care during the summer, or even if you are looking for something fun, safe, and educational for your child, I encourage you to consider the academy summer program. It should be a lot of fun. Fill out the form and return it to the school before April 27th to take advantage of the discounted cost.

SUMMER TUTORING

To avoid confusion, we will do our best to offer summer tutoring in math and Latin to those students who need it. Whether or not we will be able to offer these classes will depend totally on enrollment.

Whether or not the academy is able to offer any tutoring this summer, St. Gerard's high school is offering accredited remedial classes for most subjects from 7th grade through 12th grade. I have had good reviews about the quality of their program from other principals and their tuition rates are very reasonable. The academy office will be glad to provide you with their contact information if you are interested.

ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT

We give thanks to Almighty God for the blessings that He continues to shower upon our community. The visit of Archbishop José Gomez to bless the school was a truly wonderful occasion. The students attended Evensong and then heard the Archbishop speak at an all-school assembly in the gym where each class presented him with a card. It was clear that the Archbishop was very impressed and genuinely pleased with our students and facilities. We can be very proud of the school and the students that we have in common.

AN HONOR AND PRIVILEGE

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve as headmaster for this fine institution. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or compliments. I can be reached by email at RArndt@AtonementOnline.com or you may schedule an appointment through Mrs. Adame at 695-2240 (voicemail is not an effective means of communicating with me).

Very best regards,

Richard S. Arndt

News from the Business Office

Registration is going very well. Applicants who are registered and in the process of being admitted, or those already admitted, stand at 504 at the beginning of April. This is a numerical jump of more than 50 students from the current year, and we still have four and a half months before the next academic year begins! No doubt, there will be some degree of rotation when military orders come out in the next few months, but that usually means an increase for us, with new students coming from all over the country to join our fine academy. Grades K, 1, 5, 6, and 7 are closed and waiting lists are forming for these grades. To be on a waiting list, parents pay \$100 and fill out the online registration. If a place opens up, the first student on the list is notified. Applicants who do not receive a place by August 1st will have their waiting-list deposit refunded to them. These student numbers place us in a good position financially, allowing us to move forward with the necessary hiring for the quality teachers needed for the Middle and Upper School, and the addition of the double 4th grade class.

A small percentage of parents have registered for next year, but still owe balances on their current account. Please understand that your application cannot move to the "admitted" category until all current obligations are met. Also, please make sure that your current account is up-to-date by May 1st. There were some disappointed students who did not receive their 3rd Quarter Awards due to outstanding account balances. Let's get those cleared up as soon as possible so that final report cards can be issued and your EdLine account can be re-activated. Please consult the Student Handbook for additional information.

Parents of graduating 8th graders are reminded that a Graduation Fee of \$100 is required of every student. This money pays for the student banner, the partial cost of the food for the graduation luncheon, purchase of graduation gowns, and other printing costs associated with graduation. All 8th grade account balances must be fully satisfied by May 25th in order to participate in graduation exercises.

Lastly, we are very pleased to announce that The Atonement Academy College Preparatory was awarded a grant of \$15,000.00 from *The Kenedy Foundation*. This is the first grant to be received specifically for the Upper School, and is awarded for reference and library books. We have also received a \$15,000 grant from *The Seattle Foundation* to complete the second floor of the library shelves to house the new books! We continue to receive smaller gifts, (but very much appreciated), from the *San Antonio Area Foundation* which matches gifts made by employees of USAA. We thank our parents who are making this sacrifice through their paychecks in order for the matching grants to be awarded. Our Grants-Committee is busy meeting on a regular basis, writing proposals and scouring the country looking for additional grants to support our school. We are most grateful to them for their dedication.

Deacon Orr

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Happy Spring to all! Pre-Kinder will continue our Lenten observances of praying a Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross weekly. We will also study how God cares for His Creation in religion class. Upon our return from Easter Break we will study the Resurrection and begin praying one of the Glorious Mysteries weekly. We will be finishing the alphabet this month, studying X, Y and Z. The students have come so far in learning to recognize, write, and identify the sounds of all of the letters of the alphabet! Throughout the rest of the school year, we will continue to review and use these skills. Encourage the children to identify letters and sounds in their environment to reinforce these skills that they need for Kindergarten. In math, we will continue working with patterns, counting, identifying and writing numbers, and working with puzzles and games to foster problem-solving skills. Many of these activities will take place through our new learning centers. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with supplies and preparation for this part of our program. Our Saxon theme for April will be "Animal Habitats." We will study animals that live on land, underground, and in the water. Also in the works are plans for a field trip to Sea World! Look for more information about this soon. Have a truly blessed Easter.



Mmes. Henriquez and Reed

KINDERGARTEN

Spring is here and what better way to celebrate the season than with a wonderful springtime Science experiment. One of our parents has volunteered to teach the children about the care and incubation of hatching eggs. The incubator will be kept in the classroom until the chicks arrive. What fun!

The students have completed a review of all of the letters of the alphabet. Now we will begin learning about the digraphs *ck*, *sh*, and *th*. We will also focus on the long vowel sound rules. The students have become comfortable with the Accelerated Reader (AR) testing format and should be taking a *minimum* of one AR test per week.

In Religion class we will focus on developing good habits like prayer and almsgiving during the season of Lent. Hopefully, these habits will carry over into the rest of the year. The students will learn about Palm Sunday, the Stations of the Cross, and the significance of Easter. Thank you for sending in coins for the penny war. The students had so much fun sabotaging the other classrooms. Our sister school in Ain Arik will be grateful for your generosity.

Mmes. Elias and Phinizy

FIRST GRADE

Spring truly has set in around south Texas. Beautiful pinks, blues, and yellows paint the landscape. The first grade children at The Atonement Academy are quite eager to explore nature's stunning spring adornments during their upcoming Easter break. However, before they can leave the classroom behind for a few days, the children will have to hunker down and learn a few more things. For instance in math class, the children will continue to explore multiplication and begin investigating simple division and geometry. (Multiplication and division in first grade – WOW!) In addition to the challenging math pursuits, the students will begin a unit on creative story writing. The focus of the creative writing unit will at first be the proper writing process, and later the children will learn creative writing through specific prompts like pictures or objects. Also in the month of April the first graders will learn all about Jesus' great love for humanity by His death and resurrection on Easter Sunday. Bunnies, chocolate, and chicks are all great fun, but every child needs to know that Easter is about Jesus! Have a blessed Easter season and a fun break.

Mmes. Otten and Wiessing

SECOND GRADE

Happy Easter to all of the families! This month we are still going strong with the multiplication tables and divisions. Angles and millimeters will be introduced. We will finish Phonics looking at more suffixes, prefixes, digraphs and sight words. Students are becoming excellent readers and getting more and more points on the AR tests. We have just finished reading the *Junior Great Books*, which they have enjoyed a bunch. As for Religion, the children are all ears learning more about consecration, confession and getting prepared for their Confirmation and first Holy Communion. Next month, the children will be taking a fabulous field trip to the HEB Tree House at The Witte Museum. We encourage all the parents who would like to participate to contact our room mothers. Two more months and our 2nd graders will be off to 3rd grade; let's keep up the good work!

Mmes. Castillo and Morales

THIRD GRADE

April is an exciting month for us. The students have learned a lot about our Solar System and the upcoming field trip to the Planetarium will be an excellent encore. We are working hard in Social Studies learning as much as we can about the United States. The students can not wait to show off their knowledge of each state with a poster and a float that they have made.

We hope that our students have learned the enjoyment that reading novels can bring. We have finished *Charlottes Web* and have now started *James and the*

Giant Peach. They have engaged in many activities that have brought a deeper thought process to their reading. We have finished the parts of speech and sentence structure so now we are going to write, write, and write some more. We believe we have blooming authors among us. The 3rd grade would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Easter Break.

Mmes. Loerwald and Vance

FOURTH GRADE

Wow, that was exciting and fascinating! Did you miss it? Our own Archbishop Gomez came for Evensong and The Atonement Academy dedication. What an honor and blessing to have such a wonderful and holy leader for our archdiocese!

I know the students are excited that we are getting close to the end of the Saxon Math Lessons, but rest assured we will tackle more Math after we study dividing decimal numbers by whole numbers and multiplying mixed numbers. In Religion, we will study the Sacrament of Penance and the Holy Spirit. In Reading, we will meet up with C.S. Lewis' *Prince Caspian* and continue cruising through book reports for the A.R. reading books. Continue to encourage the students to keep up with their Lenten sacrifices and virtues so that the Easter celebration will be all the more glorious!

Mr. Tomanek

FIFTH GRADE

The fifth grade students have been active scientists during the early part of March. Each student had to select an experiment to perform for the class and present a report in which they explained the scientific principle behind the experiment. In Math, we are working with supplementary, complimentary, interior, and exterior angles. We are also having a great deal of fun with experimentation in probability. Suppose you have three white, four red, and five blue marbles in a bag, and you draw out three marbles without replacement. What is the probability that you will draw a red, a white, and then a blue marble in that order? Our study of United States History continues at an exciting pace as we study early 19th century inventions. We will also spend some time learning about World Wars I and II, as well as the Great Depression between the wars. In English, we'll be focusing on paragraph writing. In Religion, we are in the final section about the Church. We all anticipate a fruitful Holy Week and a joyous celebration of Easter. God's blessings to all!

In Jesus and Mary,
Sister Mary Margaret

ESPAÑOL

This month the students in Pre-K will be finishing up the alphabet coloring sheets and will continue learning short songs in Spanish. By now your child should know the days of the week, colors, numbers, vowels and our new song "¿Donde está mi zapato?" Kinder has been working very hard learning the alphabet in Spanish, reviewing vocabulary and learning to follow directions in Spanish. Ask your child to pray the *Padre Nuestro* for you! First Grade will continue increasing their vocabulary. We have been working on using numbers and descriptions of objects in Spanish. Their vocabulary has been increasing weekly and they should know how to describe themselves by now. Second Grade will start three letter syllable sounds this month and their vocabulary will get even harder. They are doing great and are developing an ear for the language! Third Grade has been working on learning all about verbs in Spanish and their conjugations. They will continue learning the correct conjugations for *ar*, *er* and *ir* verbs. Fourth Grade has started learning about pronouns in Spanish and how the various verb conjugations are important, they will also be working on writing sentences using the correct verb conjugation.

Thank you, parents, for the opportunity to teach your child. Muchas gracias y que Dios los bendiga.

FIFTH GRADE PRE-LATIN

Our Pre-Latin scholars have been having a great time learning Latin through Greek Mythology. The stories are great, the new vocabulary is getting easier and their projects have been getting better. Their creativity and willingness to share their projects with their classmates is amazing. We hope to have a great month and soon we will be preparing short skits on the stories they have learned. Not only will they have become great artists but also great actors! I truly enjoy working with your children.

Mrs. Treviño

GEOGRAPHY

The 4th graders are working diligently on a book report on the Russian Federation or its communist past as the Soviet Union, and oral presentations will take place on the 13th of the month. Then, with our hiking boots on, we're off again through the Gobi Desert to the People's Republic of China. (Where's that canteen?). Then, we cross the Sea of Japan in a chartered schooner and come to the island nation of Japan – the world's second largest economy after the United States.

The 5th grade students are off-road on the Steppes of Asia exploring the rough terrain of all the "stan" nations: Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan. "Stan" means "Land of," so Uzbekistan means Land of the Uzbeks. Not just Islamic nations, we'll also visit Christian Armenia and Georgia as well; Georgia – the country! We'll have a test on April 25 over all of South and Southwest Asia.

Continued →

GEOGRAPHY FOR 9th and 10th graders for 2006-2007: Students should begin preparations for *World Geography* on a College Preparatory level by getting a home internet connection and student email account (if you don't already have one). You won't be able to do the assignments without online capabilities!

Deacon Orr

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL HISTORY, AND SIXTH GRADE MATHEMATICS AND RELIGION

“April, April, du machst was will!” That’s a German saying which means, “April, April, you do want you want to do!” I thought it was a fitting quote for the rest of the year in history.

In all of our history classes, we will be trying to understand the more modern and current conditions of the world based on the histories we have learned. For instance, why does America today have just two main political parties? And, why do most people in the world think of Texans as cowboys when we are a highly industrialized state? In other words, how much of today’s reality can be accounted for historically and how much seems completely divorced from its origins?

In my other classes, we are taking leaps into the unknown in Mathematics while solidifying very familiar ground in Religion by analyzing the parts of the Mass. And last but not least, we will continue to scrutinize the individual aspects of the economy in Economics while supplementing our study with news from *The Economist* in order to continue our “struggle against that unworthy and timid opponent, ignorance” (cf. mission statement of the magazine).

Mr. Howell

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE AND SEVENTH GRADE MATHEMATICS

The month of April finds the 7th grade mathematicians in the house of full fledged Algebra (or at least in the foyer). They have been using variables for quite some time and have just lately been introduced to the concept of matching like terms to simplify a problem with multiple variables. In doing so, they are using the commutative and associative properties, which allow one to shift numbers around in an equation as long as everything is being added or multiplied. Thus we end up with problems whose answers are not really answers at all, but merely simplified versions of the same problem; no numeric answer being obtainable due to the unknown identity of the variables. They have seen this situation before when looking at equations of lines, wherein one must assign values to one variable to find possible values of another.

The 6th grade is voyaging through the solar system with a tour of the planets, asteroid belts, and the mysterious

Oort cloud where the comets live. After a brief but detailed look at the sun and moon (about which much is known) they will be venturing into deep, interstellar space where they will discuss the life cycles of stars and what Carl Sagan meant when he said that we are all made of “star stuff,” for stars are God’s factories for the matter of the universe itself. The 7th and 9th grades in science have completed the comparative dissections of a fetal pig and a frog, as well as a brief unit on reproduction in which it was determined that there is no one best way to copy yourself, and that the purpose of sex is to ensure that your genes never die by ensuring that all of your descendants get at least one. The structure and function of genes is next on the menu which brings us to the second most important fact in all the universe as far as life is concerned (hint: A=T, G=C). All of this was started of course by a humble Augustinian monk by the name of Greg who did little to endear himself to his brothers, what with all of the pea soup he was serving them. This will eventually lead us into a discussion on natural selection and aspects of the theory of evolution, which is where genes earn their keep. Finally, the 10th grade have completed their lessons on electron orbitals (which they positively ate for breakfast-be proud of them) and atomic bonds, and are ready for a quick run through the gas laws (You didn’t think that Robert Boyle’s ONLY contribution to chemistry was to re-discover Democritus did you?). Along the way we have discovered among other things that too much selenium makes cows crazy and that any of you boomers out there born in the late 40’s and 50’s are carrying around a little nuclear fallout in your teeth and bones. This brings us back to the 6th grade, since the same stuff (strontium-90) is used to generate electricity in space ships.

Dr. Vallor

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH, AND EIGHTH GRADE RELIGION

When evaluating student papers, one of the easiest problems to spot but one of the most difficult problems to solve is the problem of poor clarity. Sentences can be assessed not only on whether or not they are true or false, but also on how accurately and clearly they correspond to the reality being written about. As a parent, you can be of great help to me, and more importantly to your child, by reading your child’s writing—or having your child read the prose to you—and pointing out to your child the parts of the writing that are vague, hazy, or ambiguous. Let your child attempt to clarify his thinking and writing before you offer suggestions. Clearly formulating our thoughts can be a daunting and repetitive project, but that’s okay. Clear writing requires clear thinking, and it takes thinking over and over about something to formulate our ideas into accurate writing.

All the best,
Mr. Cupp

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL LATIN, ADVANCED MATHEMATICS I, AND SEVENTH GRADE RELIGION

Salvete parentes,

The late great mathematician and philosopher Jacob Klein in one of his little provocative essays concluded that modern mathematics originated in an “abstraction of an abstraction” (adding of course that it was based on a misunderstanding of a bad translation of a book of Euclid not actually written by Euclid). This statement may ring true to some of the sophomores and mathematicians among you when you contemplate this: “ $x^2 - 6y + y^2 + 8x + 9 = 0$ ” is graphed as a circle on the Cartesian plane most easily, only once it has been transformed into an equation that suspiciously represents the algebraized version of the Pythagorean theorem (viz. “ $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ ”). Keep in mind that Pythagoras was contemplating right angle triangles, not circles. If that was too abstract, here is another example. Consider that a sinusoid is a figure that looks like a wave but that actually describes the relationship between two ways of measuring an angle, namely 360th parts of a circle and ratios of the sides of right triangles. Now reflect on this: no circle has more than 360 degrees but we use the circle to analyze angles of any number of degrees; likewise no triangle can have an angle equal to or greater than two right angles, yet the sinusoid is a wave precisely because we graph angles that exceed that limit. Klein’s statement probably requires little argument to convince those who are mathematically disinclined. Then there was Euclid’s geometry, the understanding of which is based upon definitions like: “a point is that which has no parts.”



In history we are reading two different accounts of Charlemagne. These are the easiest reads of the year. They give us the best opportunity to look at why different historians write. We also have a great opportunity to compare the life of Carolus Magnus (Charles the Great), called by one of the historians the greatest of men, and other men we have read about. We now have a vantage point from which we are able to discern how great he is. It is, moreover, an opportunity to form our own judgment of what true greatness is and to imitate that greatness in our own lives. (For my part, I must confess I think there were examples of truer greatness in Bede’s history and perhaps even in Plutarch’s).

In Latin, you can help your children by asking not what different words mean, but what part of speech they are (you may choose them at random). If the answer is verb, noun, adjective, or pronoun, then further inquire why it has the ending it has.

Christus surrexit!
Magister Ruplinger

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL LATIN II, LATIN III, RELIGION, ENGLISH

During April, Seventh grade Religion class will study the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We shall study Confirmation in depth, because several students will be confirmed this year.

Latin II will work its way through the next four to five chapters of Henle (25-29), learning direct and indirect questions, direct commands, reflexives, and more subjunctive tenses.

The Freshmen will have a quick overview of Church History in their Theology class. In English, they will finish the *Aeneid*, then read Shakespeare’s play, *Julius Caesar*. Students also will begin research on this semester’s 5-7 page research paper concerning Shakespeare or either of the plays we will read this spring. (After *Julius Caesar*, we read *Merchant of Venice*.)

Latin III will continue translating Pliny’s letters, particularly his famous one regarding Christians, and then begin translating Cicero’s *First Oration Against Catiline*. Students will also be reviewing vocabulary, forms, and grammar throughout this month.

Dr. Thigpen

ALGEBRA I

There are very few class days in April! When we are together, we will be graphing linear equations, revisiting square roots and radical equations and learning advanced trinomial factoring. We’ll master combinations of shifts and reflections of the graph of a function, conjunctions and disjunctions as well as direct and inverse variation. Good Friday, Easter Friday and the Battle of Flowers holiday cause us to meet on Friday only once in April so sadly our pattern on testing every Friday has come to an end. The bitter consequence of this is that there will be problem sets assigned on Friday that are due on Monday for the first time all year! The fourth quarter will be over before we know it so every grade counts! Let us finish the year in good form by pushing forward each day with our very best effort!

Mr. Dempsey

ALGEBRA II

In April, we will be finding more ways to work with quadratic equations and inequalities. We will apply our knowledge of exponential equations to compound interest problems. Logarithms, antilogarithms and set notation will be introduced. By the end of the month, we will also have covered some aspects of probability.

Mrs. Johnston

ATHLETICS

We are in full swing with our spring sports program. We currently have baseball and soccer for the lower school, track for the middle, and golf for the upper school. Please come and support our teams whenever possible. For more information about event times and locations, please visit www.edline.net or check the weekly newspaper.

On each Thursday of the month, excluding Easter Break, there will be an adults-only basketball league. The gym will be opened from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Please feel free to drop by and participate in the activities

Coach Garcia & Coach Zapata

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Our Tech scholars have become video producers. This month and for the balance of this academic year, they are working in teams to write, storyboard, shoot, edit and post-produce original video creations. We are studying the evolution of film and editing techniques, and learning how to apply digital video and digital editing technology to communicate in complex ways involving sound and images. We live in an exciting time, as what required hundreds of thousands of dollars to accomplish just a few years ago can now be done on a shoestring. Our production budget consists almost entirely of our student’s technical knowledge and creativity.



The academy community will have an opportunity to see the best of this work. Mark your calendars now for the Upper School Video Festival on the evening of Friday, May 26.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

If you missed the March College Night, you missed the best one yet. We received an entertaining and informative presentation on the college admission process from Larry Webb, a parent in our school and formerly the Director of Admission and Financial Aid at the University of Dallas. Mr. Webb has agreed to return for an encore appearance on the evening of Monday, April 24, this time to decode for us the mysteries of college financial aid. Let’s have a good turnout for this crowd-pleasing speaker and topic of universal interest.

The fourth quarter has begun and, with it, the opportunity to make a significant improvement in your grade average for the year. As the time for college planning draws nearer, it is good to consider that colleges are always going to look at grades as an indicator of your accomplishments and future promise. If your current average does not reflect your ability, now is the time to do something about it.

Mr. Johnston

MUSIC

Thank you to the students who performed so beautifully for the “Day of Blessing.” The fourth and fifth graders did an outstanding job of singing the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* and the “select” Middle School Schola sang their two anthems beautifully. Even the Pre-K children remarked about the lovely music during our special Evensong! We were able to make a stereo recording of the liturgy which we hope will become our school’s first CD. Special thanks to Mr. Johnston for video taping the liturgy, as well.

Work is well under way for our Lenten and Holy Week celebrations. Students will be invited to join our choirs for Palm Sunday and Easter. More information will be forthcoming. Also, as we look forward to Easter and Easter Break – please remember that we will come back from that with only a few short weeks to go before the Spring Concert. We hope to make this a truly special concert for all the children.

The third graders had a special third quarter in music this year. As the parents and teachers know, we learned to play the recorder! I don’t know how the 10th graders survived listening to us next door to them all quarter, but we had a wonderful time. Many of the students surpassed my expectations, and several are playing very well. I hope that this has been a positive experience for all of the third graders and that this will inspire many of them to study a musical instrument in the near future. Perhaps we will even have a beginning band someday!

Cantate Domino Canticum Novum!
Mr. and Mrs. Murray

PTC CORNER

Your PTC has been hard at work! We managed to make 1/3 more than the last Cheesy Janes’ outing! Cheesy Janes looked like a “sea of RED” that evening. Thank you all for your support in helping us collect \$402. Our Papa John’s Night has not been as successful. Our March profit was only \$100. We hope our parents will step up to the plate in May and make this as successful as Cheesy Janes. So remember, order pizza in May. We will have another Cheesy Janes’ Night too, for the few of you that didn’t make it!

Thank you and have a Blessed Easter!

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Please keep your email address and telephone numbers current by accessing the registration page to update your information.

The registration page may be found at:
www.AtonementOnline.com/school/index.php

THE APRIL CALENDAR

OPEN REGISTRATION CONTINUES IN APRIL

SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION BEGINS

SIGN UP FOR JUNE AND JULY SPORTS & ENRICHMENT CLASSES
USE SPECIAL FORM – DISCOUNT FOR REGISTRATIONS BEFORE APRIL 27TH

STANFORD TESTING & ACRE TESTING
APRIL 3-7

SEMINARIAN CHANT SCHOLA AT THE CHURCH
FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH AFTER 7 P.M. EVENSONG
ARCHBISHOP GOMEZ WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE

CHRISM MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL
TUESDAY, APRIL 11TH AT 6:30 P.M.
ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ARCHBISHOP'S MASS WITH
HIS PRIESTS.

HOLY WEEK AT THE CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 – OFFICE OF TENEBRAE
CHANTING OF THE PSALMS AT 7 P.M.
CONFESSIONS BEGIN AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 P.M.
(NO CONFESSIONS ON HOLY SATURDAY)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13 – MASS OF THE LORD'S
SUPPER AT 7 P.M. FOLLOWED BY TENEBRAE,
FOLLOWED BY THE ALL-NIGHT VIGIL IN THE CHAPEL
OF THE SACRED HEART (10 P.M. UNTIL 3 P.M. ON
GOOD FRIDAY).

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14 – SOLEMN LITURGY AT 3 P.M.
STATIONS OF THE CROSS & TENEBRAE AT 7 P.M.
SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE SHRINES IN THE HOLY LAND.

GREAT VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION
HOLY SATURDAY AT 8 P.M.

SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION

MASSES AT 7:30 A.M. • 9 A.M. • 11 A.M.
(NO 6 P.M. MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY)

EASTER BREAK, APRIL 17-21

COLLEGE NIGHT – LARRY WEBB, GUEST SPEAKER
“APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID AT COLLEGES.”

FIELD TRIPS

APRIL 25 - PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN TO SEA WORLD
APRIL 26 – FIRST GRADE TO THE ZOO
APRIL 27 – SECOND GRADE TO THE WITTE MUSEUM

APRIL 28 – NO SCHOOL – BATTLE OF FLOWERS
APRIL 29 – BRUNCH FASHION SHOW



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION
SATURDAY, MAY 13TH AT 10 A.M.
ARCHBISHOP JOSÉ GOMEZ WILL BE WITH US.

Students at the academy are welcome to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of the Atonement Parish on Saturday, May 13th at 10 a.m.

This will be the first year we are combining the two, and we expect a very large number of candidates. Those in Second Grade are eligible to receive First Communion and Confirmation at the same Mass. Those in Third Grade who have already received First Communion last year are eligible to receive Confirmation this year. Catholic students at the school who have not made their First Communion or received the Sacrament of Confirmation, (above 4th grade), are also eligible to do so.

REQUIREMENTS

If you are a registered, attending member of Our Lady of the Atonement, all you are required to do is to fill out the forms **online** for either First Communion or Confirmation, or both. ***If you intend to receive both, please fill out both!***

You will find the registration forms online at www.AtonementOnline.com.

If you are already a parish member, but have not registered as a member **online**, you will need to do that before registering online for First Communion or Confirmation. The whole process will take less than 10 minutes.

If you are **not** a member of the parish, we ask you to obtain a letter of permission from the pastor of the parish where you do attend Mass, in addition to filling out the above referenced forms **online**. When you register online, please register as a “non-parishioner” first, and then register for First Communion or Confirmation, or both.

Every child **must** belong to a Catholic parish. It is essential that you obtain this written permission from the parish in which you regularly worship. Permission letters may be mailed to the parish, faxed to us at (210) 695-9679, or Email the attachment to Mrs. Benzaquen at:

KBenzaquen@AtonementOnline.com.

