

THE PELICAN

The Monthly Newsletter of The Atonement Academy

★ A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE ★

FEBRUARY, 2006 ✦ VOLUME 12, NUMBER 6



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FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Academy Parents:

Greetings from the academy! I would like to share with you some of the ways in which Our Lord continues to bless our community and provide some practical information as well.

NEW ASSISTANT HEADMASTER FOR 2006-2007

I am very pleased to announce that Sister Mary Margaret has accepted a promotion to become the Assistant Headmaster starting in the 2006-2007 academic year. Sister's dedication to our parish and its academy, her spirit of service and professionalism, and her many years of experience as a classroom teacher and as an administrator made this a very easy decision for both Father Phillips and me. Of course, this does mean that she will not teach fifth grade next year, which will be a loss, but her influence on quality instruction will now be available at every grade level and throughout the academy.

In addition to teaching fifth grade full time, Sister currently serves as the Dean of the Lower School Faculty and is a member of the Administrative Team. I would like to express my gratitude for the many long hours that Sister has worked and continues to work this year in order to fulfill the requirements of these two jobs. I am confident that her assistance will help the administration make further strides in improving instruction, student comportment, and parent communication.

BACK IN THE CHURCH FOR DAILY MASS

After several weeks of attending Holy Mass in the St. Anthony Hall we have finally returned to the church. After sitting and kneeling on the floor for

so long, I am confident that I speak for all the students and faculty in expressing our thanks to Almighty God and to the many workers that made this transition possible. Although far from finished, the newly expanded church is truly remarkable, with plenty of room for all of us, and we are finally able to welcome visitors back to our daily student Mass. (Remember to sit in the very back and to make sure that the students are able to sit in their assigned seats.)

In February we look forward to the installation of the Casavant organ. We were unbelievably fortunate to be able to acquire this organ from a church in Boston (which closed) thanks to the combined efforts of Mr. Murray and Father Phillips. For those of you who, like me, are not organists, a Casavant organ is a world-class instrument, something like acquiring a Stradivarius violin or recruiting David Robinson for your basketball team.

STRONG RE-ENROLLMENT

I am also very pleased to report that re-enrollment continues to go at the fastest pace in the history of The Atonement Academy! We appreciate the confidence and support that our parents continue to show for this institution.

While there will very likely be spaces available in our double section grades, it looks increasingly likely that grades 5 through 8 will be very close to full by the end of the Preferred Enrollment period. Since tours for these grades continue at an amazing pace, mostly due to more public school parents realizing that there is a better option for their children, I encourage you to secure your spot as soon as you are able.

Continued →

SCHOOL CHOICE FOR TEXAS FAMILIES

At the most recent principals' meeting, we learned that the School Choice initiative in Texas was defeated by two votes! While every democrat voted against the initiative, as was predicted, several rural republicans changed their vote at the last minute. Realizing that this initiative will make Catholic schools in urban areas viable for the long term, and out of a sincere desire to continue to offer quality Catholic education in these areas, the Archbishop has asked everyone to be conscious of this very important issue when voting. Resources for many of our south side schools have become increasingly limited over the last decade. So much so, that many of them are facing the very real prospect of having to close.

To be clear, the initiative would not affect the independence of Catholic schools in the least and would *not* give the state even the slightest control over curriculum, calendar, admissions, or policy. What it would do is give parents who qualified (based on income) the right to send their children to the school of their choice (provided that their children were admitted). The state would give these parents a tuition voucher that the school would redeem from the state for the cost of educating their students. In other words, part of the money that the state collects for education would go to educate private and parochial school students as well.



The American Catholic Bishops see this is a matter of justice. It is essentially unjust for the state to refuse to support the education of students merely because their parents have chosen to exercise their role as primary educators by

sending their children to better schools. Furthermore, the Catholic school system alone, by educating students at no cost to the public school budget, has saved Texas taxpayers some \$98 billion dollars.

Proponents of this law suggest that it is time for the state to make good on this debt and begin using part of the education money that they collect from private school parents to benefit private school children.

The courts have already ruled that school vouchers are *not* a violation of the first amendment and what is often called the separation of church and state. Archbishop Gomez urges us to pay attention to this issue. It is up to us to make sure that the people whom we elect to serve the common good keep all of us in mind as well.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

With the success of our first school play last year, the drama club has convinced me to raise the bar by offering our first musical. As headmaster, I hardly have time to direct a musical. Fortunately (and for this I am **very** grateful) Ms. Pietri has agreed to oversee the project, Mr. and Mrs. Murray have agreed to help out with the music, and Mr. Thigpen has agreed to help with the soloists. With their expert help, I am confident that *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* will be a smash hit.

In order to include more students in the fun and satisfaction of putting on a musical, as well as to broaden their education, we have decided to invite all students from 3rd grade and up to participate as the chorus. Each choir will be the chorus for different songs. This also allows our students to learn the music during choir, which will reduce the overall rehearsal time for the chorus. Obviously, the chorus will need to attend after school practices the last week of rehearsals in order to put on a quality show.

Of course, students whose parents do not wish to have their children perform will not be penalized for missing the performances. In other words, while everyone will learn the music, participation in the actual performances will not count towards any grade.

The dates of the performances are 24, 25, & 26 February at 7:00 pm, with a special parent and grandparent preview on 23 February. Information on tickets will be forthcoming. I encourage you to make plans to support the drama club by attending this event. With our talented kids, it will be the sort of performance that you and your family will want to see every night!

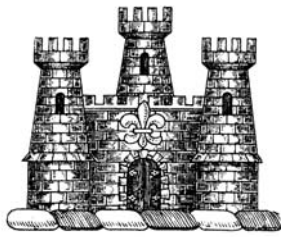
CONCLUSION

It is an honor to serve as headmaster for such a fine institution. As we continue to strive to improve in all areas, I welcome your feedback, comments, compliments, and suggestions. With your continued support, I am confident that we will continue down the path toward making the academy one of the finest academic institutions anywhere. If you have anything that you would like to discuss, please schedule an appointment by calling Mrs. Adame or feel free to e-mail me at RARndt@AtonementOnline.com (voicemail is not an effective means of communicating with me).

Very best regards,

Richard S. Arndt

News from the Business Office



As Mr. Arndt mentioned in his article, re-registration is going well! As of Jan. 26th – a mere 21 days since we opened the 2006-2007 online registration – 75% of students have re-registered. This time last year, we were just *beginning* the re-registration process.

Parents have until Feb. 12th to register at the current rate of \$500 per child. On Feb. 13th the cost increases to \$600 per child. In those grades which will have double classes, we already have numerically closed one of the Kindergarten classes, one of the first grade classes, one of the second grade classes, and one of the fourth. One Pre-K class and one 3rd grade class are within two students of closing. Please do not delay in re-registering. There are many people waiting for the 13th to go online and register.

The online payment option is being used by the majority of those registering, and now parents can see their registration balances online. In the near future, you will be able to have access to all account transactions and view your overall balance.

Information security is an important aspect of all our transactions online. Many of you were angered that your email address is being used by a former employee of the school to promote another Catholic school, and encouraging you to make a private appointment with the principal there. Be assured, our system was not hacked from the outside. It is virtually impossible to scale our encrypted fire-wall. No, this data was taken from us and used without our authorization. Only families which were registered last year appear to have been affected by this use of personal information which was entrusted to us for the sole purpose of good communication between our school and parents. The principal of the school which was promoted has assured me that he did not authorize the use of his name or their school logo in this spam bulk mailing. Let us pray that the individual who resorts to such scurrilous practices finds sufficient peace within his heart to move on.

The business office is currently gathering information from many sources in order to present a preliminary budget for 2006-2007 to the School Council by May 31st. Teacher pay will be increased as we continue to offer some of the best salaries available in the Archdiocesan school system.

Deacon Orr

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the International Festival a great success. In February, Pre-Kindergarten students will continue to explore their world by studying living things. We will learn about

people, animals, plants, and insects. We will also learn that all living things have needs that consist of food, water, air, shelter and sunlight. We will talk about how living things grow and change. In the third week of the month, we will conduct an experiment to show what makes plants grow. Be sure to ask your child about it—if they don't volunteer the information themselves! During this month we will be recognizing and writing letters *Oo*, *Pp*, *Qq*, and *Rr*. We will continue to practice writing first and last names on all papers. In Math, we will continue to review numbers 1-10 and other math concepts such as coins, patterns and shapes. In Religion, we will study *Faith and Trust*, *Life after Death*, *God Comes First*, and *The Rosary*. Children who have their own rosaries may bring them to school in a ziplock bag with their name on it. We will store the rosaries together and then pass them out at the appropriate times. Even so, we recommend that you not send fragile or heirloom rosaries to school. Thank you for all of your help and support. Pre-K is the Best!

Mmes. Garcia and Henriquez.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten has had a very busy start to 2006. The students enjoyed preparing their classrooms for the International Festival. It has been great fun learning about the culture, traditions, and language of another country. Many thanks to the Room Moms and parents who donated refreshments for the festival. It proved to be a fun-filled evening for all.

In Math class, we will continue to count coins, add two-digit numbers, tell time to the half-hour, recognize one-half and one-fourth and much more! We are close to finishing our review of the alphabet in Language Arts and will soon be learning how to blend these letters into many new sounds as well as learning new spelling rules. The students are very excited about the Accelerated Reading (AR) program and are becoming more and more comfortable taking the computerized comprehension tests in the library. In Religion, we are examining the lives of the Saints and learning the special things they did for God.

Mmes. Elias and Phinizy

FIRST GRADE

January was an extremely busy month in the first grade. The children began the month by studying new countries. Mrs. Wiessing's class studied the country of Kenya and Mrs. Otten's class studied Norway. The students investigated many aspects of these countries including history, geography, and the animals of each nation. (Wow! Who knew that reindeer came from Norway?). In February, the first graders are looking forward to studying harder math problems and learning more about the writing process. Moreover, they are extremely interested in St. Valentine's Day. The children will be learning about the true St. Valentine in their religion studies. As the new grading quarter begins, new AR reading goals are set, so parents please remind your

child to read every night. Reading is the key to every success in school and each child in the first grade should reach their AR goal. Have a terrific February.

Mmes. Otten and Wiessing

SECOND GRADE

The first semester is over and the children did just fine. This month in Math we'll be looking at more multiplications, divisions and perfect squares. We will learn about square roots and reading a thermometer in Celsius. In Science we'll learn about sounds and light. In Art, students will continue working with water colors; collage and mixes-media will be introduced. As for reading, the students are still striving to accomplish their AR goal. In their Junior Great Books, they'll be reading *Anansi's Fishing Expedition* and *The Velveteen Rabbit* among others. In Phonics, we'll be seeing more digraphs, tri-graphs, patterns and suffixes. In Religion the second graders are getting prepared to receive the Holy Communion in May. Happy Valentine's Day to all of you, and we will see you at the party. God Bless You

Mmes. Castillo and Morales

THIRD GRADE

The school year is zooming by and our students are learning at the same pace. We have practiced multiplication facts and division. The students have learned exponents and we are now working on similar and congruent figures. Our students are reading and enjoying *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. We hope to enrich their lives with more novels. Our goal is to make reading fun.

We have continued our studies in Weather. We have investigated tornados and have even demonstrated one in a bottle. We will also examine the different types of clouds and chart the weather.

Once again we must thank our parents for all the hard work they have put forth, especially for the International Festival. We have learned so much about the Philippines and Japan.

Mmes. Loerwald and Vance

FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade world may not seem the same considering we have climbed out of a wardrobe and paced through Wonderland. The Accelerated Reader program will begin to make accelerated writers as book reports start in the third quarter. Saxon Math will teach us about comparing bar graphs, ratios, and volume. Some of the main themes for Religion will be the Eucharist, sin, and Confession. From the comfort of our desks in Science, we will study the ocean. Thank you to all the parents that helped make this year's International Fair a great family event!

Mr. Tomanek

FIFTH GRADE

First off, our class would like to welcome a new student to the 5th grade: Phillip Quentela. He's a San Antonio native, and has a younger sibling, Emalee, in Kindergarten. Welcome, Phillip! Next, I would like to thank all of my students as well as their parents for all the hard work that went into preparing for the International Festival. I know it took up a lot of time and effort, and it is much appreciated. I hope that you all enjoyed your visit to England as much as I did! It seems that the third quarter is going by rather quickly. Nonetheless, there is still quite a bit of material we still have left to investigate. In Math, we will continue to work with fractions and decimals, as well as computing angles and areas of polygons and the area and circumference of circles. The emphasis will be on memorizing formulas (students are encouraged to state the formula each time it is encountered, so as to permanently emblazon it upon their long term memory). We will also learn how to compute the area of triangles and circles. In History, we will be moving on to the reconstruction period after the Civil War. In English, we will begin by covering a grammar section concerning prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. We will also begin our next writing section, which will focus on speaking and listening skills. We are still scoring high marks in spelling and vocabulary. Keep up the hard work! In Science, we will move on to a chapter concerning climate. In Religion, we plan on covering some more aspects of Christ's atonement, including His sacrifice for us as well as His resurrection. I hope you all have a wonderful and blessed Lent in preparation for Easter!

In Jesus and Mary,
Sister Mary Margaret

ESPAÑOL

Spanish this month will be exciting for all grades. **Pre-K** will continue learning various letters in Spanish and will be singing more songs in Spanish. They will be getting used to listening to Spanish so much more! **Kindergarten** will continue learning the Spanish alphabet concentrating on those letters extra letters in the alphabet: ch, ll, ñ and rr. They will learn an alphabet song by the beginning of March. We will also continue learning the *Our Father* in Spanish. **First Grade** is learning vocabulary about pets and will review and learn numbers 1 to 20 in Spanish. They will be able to use the numbers in short conversations. **Second Grade** will continue their two syllable sounds and will learn that the letter "h" has no sound! They will continue their review of the *Our Father* and learn the *Hail Mary* in Spanish. **Third Grade** has started using a new workbook and will be increasing their vocabulary for simple everyday conversations. They will also learn about basic verbs and their conjugations. **Fourth Grade** will also continue increasing their vocabulary and will continue reading and translating short paragraphs. I am very proud of all

the students and truly enjoy teaching them, I feel very blessed!

FIFTH GRADE PRE-LATIN

Fifth Grade students are just about ready to finish their first book and we will go on to the next one where there will be many small projects. We will continue reading short mythology stories and learning basic vocabulary. We can't wait to get started on our new book! Thank you, parents, for the opportunity to teach your children and to learn with them everyday!

Mrs. Treviño

GEOGRAPHY

The fourth grade students have been working on their library book reports for Italy for the past month, and will be giving presentations on them. Shortly, we turn to an overview of the Western alliance of NATO, followed by a test over the nations we have been visiting: Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. From here, we'll trek east and visit Poland and Ukraine.

The fifth graders are completing their month-long vacation back home in the USA, where they studied capitals, the states, and a bit of our colonial history which is so important in understanding our form of government. After our test, we'll row the Pacific and do island-hopping to some exotic destinations of Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia, where we'll make port at Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. From there, we'll jet to Singapore, the Philippines, Japan, China, and the Korean peninsula to see the DMZ!

Deacon Orr

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

Well, we will not be celebrating Valentine's Day this year in History class with stories of love. Nonetheless, I and your students still will be able to deduce what true love is from the fights we will be studying. Such fights will include the nineteenth century American debate over slavery and the push towards democracy in Europe.

In my other classes, we will be studying the basic principles of Economics, Algebra and the Mass.

Mr. Howell

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE AND SEVENTH GRADE MATHEMATICS

In Pre-Algebra, we continue to eat up the text. I have started to have a pre-test prep session before each test. This is intended to help prepare vulnerable students for the exams, which are the bulk of their grade. As always, math homework is expected to be done completely and thoroughly, showing all work.

In 6th grade science, we are well into our discussion of the atmosphere and weather. Your student *should* be able to tell you why the amount of insolation affects the amount of insulation one needs on one's house! The 10th grade has been given a choice and has opted to tackle the mole problem before climbing that mountain called electron orbitals (Hmm! "mole-hills before mountains"?) No, we don't need an exterminator -- moles are simply ways of determining how many molecules you have without *actually* trying to count them. They are helpful in determining the correct ratios of chemicals to use if you don't want to have a lot of waste left over. And no, molarities have nothing to do with the state of one's teeth! The 7th and 9th grade continue on parallel tracks in Anatomy, albeit in slightly different order. By the end of January, both should be pretty much done and moving into the realm of reproduction on the level of the single cell.

The science fair will be held from Feb 3rd-Feb 6th in the gym. Please come by and see the students' work. All of them have worked especially hard and all deserve your support; you might even learn something new! My utmost thanks are extended to this year's judges: Dr. Charles Baker, Dr. Larry Cabell, Dr. Marc Connelly, Dr. Joe McDonough, Dr. Ana Vallor, Dr. Jaimie Oxley, Mr. Ralph Johnston, Mr. William Kirkpartick, Mr. Dante Paganucci, and Mr. Raymond Zurcher.

I also would like to thank Mrs. Tricia Crossey, who has been instrumental in carrying on the school's science program with me this year.

Dr. Vallor

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH, AND EIGHTH GRADE RELIGION

The sixth and seventh grade scholars will be turning their attention to tense, voice, and mood. They will learn the principles which help guide the effective use of these sentence qualities. One of my goals this third quarter is to help the students become self-critical of their own writing. I want the students to learn to assess their own writing, not merely looking for mistakes, but for ways in which their writing can be more effective.

The eighth graders will be returning to Shakespeare by reading and studying *Henry V*. They will be required to memorize a few of the famous passages from that play.

The sophomores have begun to read a literary work of non-fiction, Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. Burke's opus, a work of political philosophy, has been very influential on British and American political thought. The students will be expected to understand Burke's thinking, why he writes what he does, and assess whether or not his arguments are sound. They will practice asking pertinent questions and seeking reasonable and clear answers. My hope is that by studying a thinker like Burke, the upper scholars will learn to be accurate thinkers themselves and to see the importance of supporting their ideas with well-reasoned arguments.

All the best,
Mr. Cupp

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

Salvete omnes,

The Freshmen have begun medieval history. We are now reading St. Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. Bede is known commonly as the father of English history. He was responsible both for Christianizing and beginning the civilization of the then barbarous English.

In advanced math we are now using the graphic calculator, analyzing sinusoids, graphing logarithms and will soon be working with trigonometric equations.

For those students and parents using the "Lingua Latina per se Illustrata," I urge you to continue rereading previous lessons. We shall continue to use a periodic review. A foreign language is similar to the native tongue: one does not often understand a work of English literature the first time one reads it or does so imperfectly. This is truer of younger students. Successive readings produce better understanding. Even the best student will find advantage in subsequent readings at least for fortifying the memory.

Salvete
Magister Ruplinger

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

During February, 7th grade Religion will finish learning about the ministry of Jesus. We will have a chapter test every week. 7th grade Latin will take a review exam over the vocabulary in Henle, Units 3-5. Thereafter the class will start learning the subjunctive. As they learn new material, students must keep reviewing their indicative and declension endings. Five minutes of oral drill per night should suffice. Please note that I have changed my manner of checking Latin homework for all of my Latin classes: From now on, I shall endeavor to give students a 5 minute daily quiz on homework written for (and discussed at) that day's class. Daily quizzes weigh the same as a homework grade.

Latin III will continue reading Caesar as they finish learning and reviewing grammar. This class will also be taking daily quizzes-- parsing and translating one sentence from the previous day's class work. Each daily quiz weighs the same as a homework grade. Grammar quests will occur once a week, after the class shows comprehension of new grammar through oral and written classroom drills.

The Freshmen have begun reading the *Aeneid* in English and will keep reading the Gospel of John in Religion. I shall tend towards giving daily quizzes for their classes.

And finally, my sincere apologies for the discrepancies between the recent report card grades and the last



Progress Report grades that I posted on Edline. For progress reports, I was averaging first and second quarter grades. This had been the policy at the prep schools and colleges where I taught previously. This error has now been corrected. I appreciate the kindness of parents and students in dealing with this situation.

Dr. Thigpen

ALGEBRA I

February will have us mastering rational equations, evaluating functions and multiplying radicals. We'll be graphing more and as always, testing every Friday. To keep anyone from falling behind, students who score below the test mean will be required to submit their corrections for another grade. Corrections will be optional for students scoring above the mean. March will be here before we know it, when theorems abound.

Mr. Dempsey

ALGEBRA II

The students have maintained a brisk pace and are well positioned for the Third Quarter. In February we will cover force vectors and operations with complex numbers. We will begin to study nonlinear equations, products of chords and secants, systems of three equations, and linear inequalities.

Mrs. Johnston

LIBRARY

The first impression of our Library is that of graciousness. Books are accessible on new and spacious shelves. The colors are warm and invite one to take a good look around. These are new times and new surroundings and the atmosphere is



one conducive to contemplation and study. Respect is an understanding that something has value and worth, whether it is a book in the library, a friendship, personal feelings, or a teacher's instruction. Students are being taught how to take books off a shelf and put them back properly, in a respectful way. I expect that students will show proper care for books and keep them safe. The library has become a gateway to the world, learning how to access information effectively has become essential in today's world. I expect students to listen to instruction, and not be a distraction to others. Students are to work quietly and not disturb others who need a quiet place to read or study. Finally, we all expect students to recognize their own ability to achieve success. If you want to give a gift -- the gift of literacy -- try volunteering for the Atonement Library.

Mrs. Miller

EIGHTH GRADE CHEMISTRY

The Science Fair Project has been pushed back one week to February 3rd. This month we will be covering Stoichiometry; the arithmetic of equations, chemical calculations and limiting reagent and percent yield. Also, we will look at the states of matter; nature of gases, liquids and solids and changes of state.

Mrs. Crossey

ATHLETICS

Thank you to the students who participated in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest. We will bring the basketball season to a close the first week of February and move into the Spring Soccer season. Our big event in athletics this month is the *Jump Rope for Heart* activity. This activity will assist us greatly in ensuring the students enhance their motor skills. All of the jump roping activities will take place during our Athletic period. It does not require outside participation. All it requires is soliciting monetary donations supporting your child's efforts in raising awareness and funds for the American Heart Association. It will run for two weeks in February. Your child could win a prize based on the amount of funds raised. This is one of our ways of reminding students of the importance of a healthy lifestyle and also contributing to the community. Information will be sent out soon. As always, thank you for your support.

Coach Garcia & Coach Zapata

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Midway through the third term is a great time to think about how this year's final grades are going to look. Remember, eight grade Math and Latin grades, and all upper school grades, will be reported to colleges. If you currently have a grade that does not reflect your ability, the second half is the time to pull it up!

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Our Tech scholars continue to refine their presentation skills, as we work to improve proficiency with computers and in public speaking. The third term project will be an individual presentation to the class.

Mr. Johnston

MUSIC

The third quarter is an excellent time for the students to learn more music theory and to work on their music reading skills. This will be our focus especially in the MS and US. You can expect to see them bring some work home with them as we will need to drill in order to learning. The third graders will learn to play the recorder this quarter in the hopes that this will increase their music skills as well as being a prerequisite for an instrumental program at some time in the future. I

know they are very excited and I hope you will encourage them to practice regularly.

Other big news: Daily Mass is back in the church which means we are using our new choir loft! The small, one manual organ is serving us nicely, but soon we will see the pipes of the large Casavant organ arriving piece by piece. The acoustics of the church are fabulous and will make our choirs sound even better. There seems to be a slight delay in sound reaching both ends of the church, so we'll be working on singing together. These are wonderful growing pains!

Cantate Domino Canticum Novum!
Mr. and Mrs. Murray

DEBATE CLUB SCORES BIG!

Our College Preparatory students, Megan Rothe and Pilar Ortiz, gave a good showing at the High School Debate Tournament which took place at St. Anthony High School on Jan. 27th. Individually, Pilar took third place overall with a very impressive speech, and our school won first place! This is the first year The Atonement Academy was present at this city-wide competition. The tournament was covered by KSAT-12 on their nightly newscast, and *SA Magazine* also covered the event. Among the award presenters were Mayor Phil Hardberger, Archbishop Gomez, a State Representative and the NSISD Superintendent. The judges included Bexar County District Attorney Susan Reed, the Bexar Country Sheriff, City Council members, past and present, and leaders in industry and commerce. Thanks goes out to Mr. Ruplinger for his leadership of our team.

"THE CRUSADER" IS BORN

The high school students have formed a club with the intention of beginning a student newspaper, and already assignments have been issued! THE CRUSADER will begin as an insert in THE PELICAN for the remainder of the year, but with the intention of becoming a separate paper in 2006-2007. The first issue will appear next month.

PTC CORNER

Thank you to all who are helping with the Stampede Dinner-Dance fundraiser! We hope everyone comes and kicks up their heels! If you haven't bought your tickets yet, there is still time. Send in your money with a note! The event takes place on February 11th at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. (15 and younger). There is a \$50.00 maximum per family. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers! The first part of the year could not have been such a huge success without all of you! Now, if you haven't volunteered, please consider doing so. Email us at PTC@Atonementonline.com.

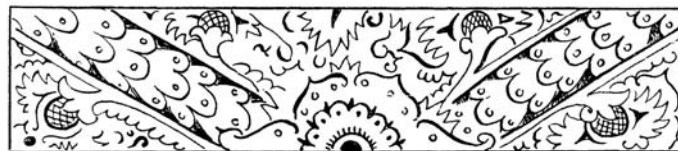
Thank you and God Bless.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK

SCHOOL PLAY
SPECIAL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS' DAY
PERFORMANCE – FEBRUARY 23RD
GENERAL PERFORMANCES – FEB. 24TH, 25TH, & 26TH
AT 7:00 P.M.

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Kicking-off Catholic Schools Week at the Chancery, the Student Council of The Atonement Academy College Preparatory received an engraved plaque designating us a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. The plaque will be on permanent display in the entrance of the Schools Office. [In the photo, from left to right: Mr. Arndt, Headmaster; Sr. Barbara, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Brooke Ralston, Clare McDonough, Alex Treviño, Bria Connolly, and Archbishop Gomez].

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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 FEBRUARY CALENDAR

CURRENT STUDENTS AND THEIR SIBLINGS
PREFERRED RE-ENROLLMENT
ONGOING THROUGH FEBRUARY 12TH.

OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS
FEBRUARY 13TH

STAMPEDE DINNER, DANCE & AUCTION
SATURDAY, FEB. 11TH AT 7 P.M.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES
DISMISSAL AT 1:15 P.M.
FEBRUARY 16TH & 17TH

PRESIDENTS' DAY
NO CLASSES – FEBRUARY 20TH

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 1ST – LENT BEGINS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION
SATURDAY, MAY 13TH AT 10 A.M.

ARCHBISHOP JOSE 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 May 13th.

This will be the first year we are combining the two, and we expect a very large number of candidates. Last year, our combined total was 134 persons. 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 has 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 to register for either First Communion or Confirmation, or both. *If you intend to receive both, please fill out both forms!*

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. 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.

