

THE PELICAN

The Monthly Newsletter of The Atonement Academy

★ A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE ★

JANUARY, 2006 ✦ VOLUME 12, NUMBER 5



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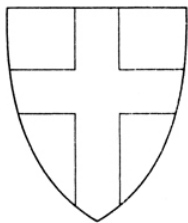
FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Academy Parents,

Merry Christmas from the academy! I hope that the Christmas season is a blessing and that the Christmas vacation has been enjoyable for you and your family.

PREFERRED RE-ENROLLMENT
3 JANUARY THROUGH 12 FEBRUARY

The big news, of course, is that the period of Preferred Re-Enrollment has begun and will continue until Open Enrollment begins on Monday, 13 February. As a current academy family, you have the first opportunity to re-enroll your children for the 2006-2007 academic year. You may also enroll pre-kinder students and other children who have not been attending the academy during preferred enrollment.



It is very likely that several of our classes will reach capacity. In fact, the trend over the past few years has been that they fill up earlier each year. Last year, however, was the first time that several students who had been attending lost their seats to other families because they waited until May and June to re-enroll. Please do not let this happen to you.

Additionally, you undoubtedly have heard that the enrollment fee will be increasing to \$600 per student on Monday, 13 February. As a current family, you may re-enroll for \$500 per student during Preferred Re-Enrollment.

HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST

This year, in response to parent requests and the advice of the School Council, we began

requiring our own eighth grade students who wish to continue their education at the academy to take the HSPT (High School Placement Test). In keeping with archdiocesan policy, students are asked to take the HSPT at the school of their first choice on 3 December. I am quite pleased therefore, to announce that based on the preliminary results, we are preparing to welcome back the largest percentage of eighth grade students in the three year history of our upper school.

FAMILY DIRECTORY

The family phone directory went home in the Tuesday folder in December. Special thanks to Theresa Dolan, Office Manager Extraordinaire, for spearheading this project!

KUDOS FOR THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

I would like to offer formal congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Murray and to every student who participated in the Christmas concert. It was a magnificent concert! Thank you for continuing to raise the bar. I can sense a demand for a CD in the near future. (Maybe in time for next Christmas?)

NEW TILE DOWNSTAIRS

Many of you will have already noticed the new tile that has been installed in the downstairs area. Essentially, the downstairs hallways, library, and offices come to approximately 10,000 square feet. We expect to complete the classrooms, another 10,000 square feet, in the near future.

VARSITY BASKETBALL AT THE SBC CENTER

6 JANUARY

The boys' varsity basketball team will play a conference game against *Bastrop Victory* at the SBC Center on Friday, 6 January at 12:30 pm. Anyone who buys a ticket for \$25.00 will also be able to attend the Spurs' game that evening. If you

have not yet purchased tickets, but would like to attend, please contact the PTC to see if there are any tickets left.

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS—8 JANUARY



The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols has been a traditional, and very English, part of the way we celebrate Christmas at Our Lady of the Atonement. It will be held on Sunday, 8 January at 4 pm in the Church. The three parish

choirs will be performing. You are cordially invited to attend.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL—31 JANUARY

The International Festival will be held on Tuesday, 31 January at 7:00 pm. Each class will have its own culture to study throughout the month of January as they prepare to host you, the international traveler, in their country for an evening. The PTC will be handing out PTC information, as well as passport books (in case you forget to bring yours). The International Festival is our only Catholic Schools' Week event. Feel free to invite anyone you know with school-aged children to attend.

Please do not hesitate to e-mail me at RARndt@AtonementOnline.com if you have any questions or concerns. Alternatively, you are welcome to call Mrs. Adame to schedule an appointment. (Voicemail is not an effective way of communicating with me.) I would especially love to hear about the many good things that are happening at the academy.

Very best regards,

Richard S. Arndt

News from the Business Office

As promised in the December issue, the King's Fair report follows:

Income

Ticket sales: \$51,981.49. Donations (cash): \$1,180.00. Coin sales at the Fair: \$6,206.00. Total Income: **\$59,367.49.**

Expense

Food and related items: \$1,591.99. Entertainment: \$795.00. Booth incentives: \$569.85. Games: \$925.00. Grand Prize: \$10,000.00. Taxes paid on the Grand Prize: \$725.00. Ticket printing: \$676.48. Second Prize expense: \$515.04. Purchase of Fair "coins" \$39.50. Total Expenses: **\$15,837.86.**

Net \$43,529.63. Of the net, \$7,145.00 was placed in the student travel accounts, which may be used by the students for future school travel to Italy. We had budgeted that the Fair would raise \$25,000. We were pleasantly surprised that it made \$11,384.63 more! We have been able to advance the installation of the tile floor in the school and continue on the path of having the kitchen ready for 2006-2007. To those of you who volunteered to help, and those who gave so generously to this year's only major fund-raiser – may God bless you! We thank all the members of the parish, especially those who have no children in the school, for your devotion and charity for our children!

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As was pointed out in the last issue, JoAnn Phillips and Kathleen Benzaquen work the majority of their time on school-related tasks at no cost to the school budget. After reading that, someone pointed out to me that I failed to mention that I too work for the school without being compensated by the school budget. The individual wanted me to make sure that everyone understands that the school could not operate at the tuition level we now charge without all this "free" help, and without the \$127,000 subsidy from the parish. The parish will continue to be as generous as possible because the school is the largest apostolate of the parish and an essential part of the vision of Our Lady of the Atonement which Fr. Phillips outlined to the parishioners at the foundation of the parish in 1983, again when we began construction of the school in 1994, and when we started the high school. That vision continues to make The Atonement Academy unique to the Catholic Schools' system, and in my opinion, San Antonio's premier school of value and excellence.

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The School Council met Dec. 12 to consider the information gathered from area Catholic schools regarding tuition. It was agreed by consensus, and approved by the pastor, that there would be a rise in tuition costs for 2006-2007. Pre-K tuition will rise by \$15 per month to \$325. Kindergarten and First Grade tuition will rise by \$10 per month to \$270. Tuition in grades 2-8 will rise by \$10 per month to \$260. High School will rise by \$20 per month to \$470. The family maximum for children in Pre-K through 8th is rising only 3% to \$640. The family maximum, which includes a student in high school, is rising only by 2% to \$850.

For those who re-register for 2006-2007 by Feb. 12, the Registration Fee continues to be \$500 per child. **Siblings of existing students may register during the early re-registration period, and at the old rate.** On February 13, Open Registration begins and the rate will be \$600 per

child. We are going to allow new students to complete the online *application* process, but not be admitted until Feb. 13. This means that if a current family fails to register during the Preferred Period, then all the new families will have a chronological advantage in placement.

While everyone was on Christmas break, the business office worked on creating a new method of paying online. Last year, families registered online and then had to come in and pay the registration fee in person. This year, we have added the option of paying through a secure server online. This will save you a trip to the registrar's office! In the near future, you will have the option of going online and making a payment on a monthly basis. Look for these changes on the school website in the weeks to come. Those who signed up for auto-withdrawal for 2005-2006 will not be affected by the new features. I am grateful to Mr. Otten for his work on our website in making these options available!

✱

It is several months off, but every year we have people say they weren't notified, so this is a reminder that we are on a 12-month payment plan. That means that the current school year ends with the last tuition payment on May 1, and the first payment for the next school year begins June 1.

Deacon Orr

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful and joyful holiday. We are starting off the year with many exciting activities. This month we are going to learn all about our neighborhoods and communities by pretending to be a librarian, a cashier, a policeman, a doctor and a banker. Along with learning about being a banker, we will learn about different coins. During the third week of the theme, our class will discuss safety and what we should do if we ever get lost. It is important to discuss this with your children at home as well. During this week we will be recognizing and writing letters *Kk*, *Ll*, *Mm* and *Nn*. Also, the Pre-K students will write their first name on all their papers and start practicing on writing their last name. In Math we will work on number 10 and review writing and recognizing numbers 1-10. We will also work with different coins, making patterns and shapes. In Religion, we will be covering the themes "Jesus is God the Son," "Miracles of Jesus," "Jesus Says, Come Follow Me" and "Jesus, Our Example."

Thank you for all your support.

Mmes. Garcia and Henriquez.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten hopes you had a blessed and restful holiday. We are ready to resume with letter learning and dive in to more reading. We are anxious for many of our students to begin the Accelerated Reader program in the Library. In Math, we continue to learn coins and count them, measure with a ruler and learn more and more addition and subtraction facts. In Social Studies, we will complete our study of nutrition and how to choose healthy food. Please continue to read with your child every night and encourage him to read as much as possible – you'll be amazed how fast they are learning!

Mmes. Elias and Phinizy

FIRST GRADE

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a blessed Christmas. The first graders are excited to welcome 2006. We prepared for the birth of Jesus and anxiously awaited His coming. We are now eager to celebrate Christmas and the arrival of the Magi. We will learn about Jesus' childhood and begin to study His ministry. In phonics the students will learn more vowel digraphs and spelling rules which will open up new worlds of decodable words and expand their reading vocabularies. The first graders will be shining as they learn their subtraction facts, how to add and subtract two digit numbers with carrying and borrowing. They will learn to tell time in five-minute intervals. They will also be learning about how and where people work. It will be an exciting month.

Mmes. Otten and Wiessing

SECOND GRADE

Happy New year to all of you! In Math we'll be learning two-digit subtractions, writing three-digit numbers using words, and adding and subtracting multiples of 100. As for Phonics, we'll continue working with sounds and digraphs. Diphthongs and tri-graphs will be introduced. In Science the students will finish looking at fossils and dinosaurs as they begin learning about physical science, starting with matter and its properties. The second graders have enjoyed the 1st semester *Junior Great Books* and are ready to begin the 2nd semester edition. Finally, in Religion they will be learning about the life of Jesus, His teachings and how to follow His example. We wish all of you a very successful and blessed year.

Mmes. Castillo and Morales

THIRD GRADE

The *Secret Garden* was a challenge for our students but our third graders proved they were up for that challenge. They enjoyed the story as well as creating their own gardens. We discussed the book in great detail and learned new vocabulary words. We will start reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and our students can't wait. The students will strengthen their foundation in Grammar in the 3rd quarter.

The students are perfecting their multiplication skills while learning square roots. We are excited to see them improving their knowledge in this difficult area. We have studied the Pioneers and Native Americans of our great nation. In small groups they made models of a one room school house. We are now finished with small machinery and will move on to weather. We would like to thank our parents for making St. Nicholas Day such a success. We truly appreciate the hard work our parents contribute.

Mmes. Loerwald and Vance

FOURTH GRADE

Well we are out of the wardrobe and into a New Year! This month Reading will send us into another world again with a girl named Alice, the place, Wonderland. The fourth grade is tackling Saxon Math and will run into multiplying fractions and finding area. Finishing the Old Testament, we will begin taking a closer look at the Ten Commandments and how they should be lived. In Texas History, we will look at the Battles of the Texas Revolution and the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Tomanek

FIFTH GRADE

The 5th grade students returned from Christmas break ready to delve further into the mysteries of our Catholic Faith. Our new unit is *God the Son, the Redeemer*, and focuses on the life and mission of Jesus. In this unit, we will examine the meaning of several parables, learn that there are three types of miracles, and study the principal teachings of Jesus.

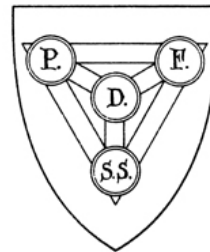
During the first semester we drilled our grammar skills. As we begin the second semester, we shall hone our writing skills. A number of short assignments will culminate with a science research paper.

Our history lessons will turn to the settlement of the Middle Colonies. The students will have an opportunity to read *A Brief Account of the Province of Pennsylvania*, a letter written by William Penn in which he tries to convince settlers that Pennsylvania was a better place to live than Europe. During the summer, students read *Night Journeys* by Avi, an historical fiction which tells of a young boy's attempt to help two indentured servants. The story is set during the settlement of the Middle Colonies. Other books of interest include *The Lenape Indians* by Josh Wilker (nonfiction), *Charlie's House* by Clyde Robert Bulla (historical fiction), and *They Led the Way* by Johanna Johnston (biography). Students may read one or more of these selections and write a book report for extra credit in Reading and History class.

In Jesus and Mary,
Sister Mary Margaret

ESPAÑOL

Feliz Año Nuevo. I hope you are looking forward to this year as much as I am. Pre-K will continue with numbers and will soon start with the alphabet in Spanish. Kindergarten will soon finish learning the names of colors; they should know all of the colors in Spanish by now. First Grade will continue with short phrases in Spanish. They should now be able to greet people and have a short conversation in Spanish. Second Grade will continue their work on short syllable sounds and spelling two to three syllable words. Third Grade will start their second book this month and will continue increasing their vocabulary in Spanish. Fourth Grade will also continue increasing their vocabulary and learning parts of speech in Spanish. All grades should now know the Padre Nuestro and will now go on to learn the Ave Maria. They are all doing great. I am very proud of all of your children! Thanks again for allowing me to teach your children, muchas gracias.



FIFTH GRADE PRE-LATIN

Fifth Grade will finish the *Minimus* book this month and will review verbs, adjectives, nouns, commands and adverbs. They are a great group of students and I enjoy teaching them and learning with them. I look forward to a great semester in fifth grade!

Mrs. Treviño

GEOGRAPHY

The fourth grade students are still on the European continent concluding their study of the United Kingdom, and then will be moving to the warm Mediterranean climates of Italy, Spain, and Portugal. This month, we will have a special project on some aspect of Italy – it's Roman Empire past, the Catholic Church centered in Italy, or some facts about the modern republic. The report will be due the first week of February.

After a little-too-much sun in the Caribbean, the fifth grade students are spending the whole month of January at home in the United States. We'll cover a lot of early American history, formation of government, and learn all 50 States and their capitals, as well as all American territories all over the world.

Deacon Orr

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

Now that we have learned how Texas, the United States, and the modern world were developed, we will begin to study the actual history of each entity this New Year. More specifically, we will study the young Texan and American governments as well as the progress of modern peoples.

For you sixth grade parents, our review of Math concepts and the basic building blocks of Christian morality are complete. Now, we will build upon the old Math concepts with new ones and apply the Ten Commandments to our Liturgy and Scripture.

Finally, for the tenth grade parents, we will begin our course in Economics. Economically speaking, I have been extremely impressed by your students' performance in Speech, so I expect a wonderful semester of Economics.

Lastly, thank you as always for sending your children to The Atonement Academy. I believe we are making wonderful progress together this year.

Mr. Howell

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE AND SEVENTH GRADE MATHEMATICS

We are sailing through the Saxon Math book, roughly half way, as 2006 begins. The point has been reached where we are now combining several concepts in the working of each problem and one can clearly see the rudiments of Algebraic manipulation forming. Interestingly, I have noticed that those students who routinely show *all* of the work on their homework and on the exams, are also

routinely getting the best grades (imagine that!). Mental calculation has definite drawbacks when it comes to accuracy.

In the sixth grade, we are beginning our trip into the atmosphere, starting with its basic structure and composition. The sun is of course a major player, as is the ocean in deciding how the air will move. We will be studying where the rain comes from (we already know where it goes), and how storms are formed. In the seventh and ninth grades, much of January will be spent looking at human anatomy (for those who've got the guts), culminating in the ever popular dissections. This year, a frog and a fetal pig will be on the menu, as well as possibly a fish, since these represent major groups in vertebrate anatomy with large anatomical advances. Finally, the tenth grade students are about to encounter the largest little subject in the world -- quantum mechanics. They will journey into the subatomic world of the electron, where things are never quite what they seem -- with the whole dual wave/particle thing. This will open up for them the road to the orbital shells, which is why the whole periodic table looks the way that it does and why atoms act chemically the way that they do. Having emerged from this experience, they will be greeted by moles in the near future.

The annual science fair is on January 27th. All middle and upper scholars are required to participate. I am endeavoring to counsel each student as to what they should be thinking about as they design their projects. A guide for the design of the display will be issued at the beginning of January. I am also recruiting those with scientific experience to be judges for the contest portion of the fair. Good Luck to all!!

Dr. Vallor

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH, AND EIGHTH GRADE RELIGION

The sixth grade scholars will continue their adventures in Narnia by reading and studying *The Silver Chair*. You can expect to see the sixth graders writing longer papers than they have so far this year. The seventh graders will be looking at the principle parts of a verb and differences in tense, voice, and mood. The eighth graders have completed *Richard III*, and now, instead of analyzing metaphorical phrases of Elizabethan English, they will be crafting delightful expressions of their own, focusing intently upon accurate diction and effective figures. The sophomores will be reading and analyzing the Renaissance writings of St. Thomas More, Sir Philip Sydney, Sir Walter Raleigh, Edmund Spenser, and Christopher

Marlowe. They will come to understand that the history of literature is a history of progress, culminating in the literary contributions of Mr. Cupp, the Acme of Western Civilization. Once they understand that idea, they will laugh at its delusiveness.

All the best,
Mr. Cupp

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

Natale Hilare!

We hope to find your children still in festive spirits during this Christmas season. We continue to read through *Lingua Latina*. Soon, very soon, we shall start on the *Henle* grammar books in Latin I. I have decided to put it off until the students are thoroughly confused. Not really, but I do want to wait until they have been introduced to the all the noun endings. Our eighth grade Latin III students started to read the *Familia Romana* with ease before Christmas. The Latin does less stumbling and more tripping off their tongues. We've steadied the pace and will finish during third quarter.

In history we are finishing Plutarch this month with Caesar, Alexander the Great, and perhaps Brutus. Then, on through the next thousand years of Western Civilization! We'll be taking up Charlemagne's life and St. Bede's history.

Valeatis,
Magister Ruplinger

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

Welcome back from Christmas Break! All of my classes will spend the first part of January reviewing and preparing for their first semester mid-terms. These exams are cumulative and cover material learned during the first half of the year. Latin students at all levels should review forms and vocabulary. Theology and English students will receive a study sheet of potential exam essay and short answer questions.

After exams, Latin II will finish learning the passive voice, and then begin studying Latin's use of the subjunctive. Latin III will continue reading through Caesar and will also study conditionals. Freshmen will study the Gospel of John in Theology and begin reading through the Aeneid in English.

Seventh Grade Religion will study the Incarnation and the life and mission of Our Lord.

Dr. Thigpen

ALGEBRA II

Most lessons in January will be elaborations of earlier concepts. We will produce increasingly complex solutions to problems involving vectors, imaginary numbers, chemical mixtures, substitution, and radicals. The Third Quarter will begin with more depth in scientific notation, gas laws, abstract equations, distance problems, experimental data, and negative angles.

Mrs. Johnston

EIGHTH GRADE CHEMISTRY

The 8th Grade Chemistry students have a big project this month: their Science Fair Project. It's due at the end of the month and their projects will be displayed during the International Festival. We will be covering more math concepts which include chemical quantities: the mole and mole-mass and mole-volume relationships and chemical reactions: writing chemical reactions, types of chemical reactions and reactions in aqueous solutions. The students can put to use their knowledge of naming compounds once we delve into the exciting world of chemical reactions!

Mrs. Crossey

ATHLETICS

Basketball is now in full swing for all grades. Please come and support our youth in their various games. Schedules can be found on www.edline.net or on the bulletin board as you enter the doors of the gymnasium.

The Knights of Columbus and The Atonement Academy have joined forces to present a Free Throw Champions in Mid-January (date & time TBA). Boys and girls between the ages of 10 to 14 are eligible to compete. Entrants will compete against youngsters of the same age and gender in five age divisions: 10,11,12,13, & 14. At the council level, each competitor gets 15 free-throws, and the one who makes the most shots, wins. All contestants must register using the official K of C Free Throw Championship Entry Form which will be sent home in an upcoming Tuesday folder and the contestants must have proof of age.

Coach Garcia & Coach Zapata



COLLEGE COUNSELING

The clocks in our computers have advanced to 2006 without incident, just as they did in 2000, and our upper scholars now resume using the PCs to prepare presentations. Working in small groups, they are making presentations to their classmates, receiving coaching within their teams, from their peers, and from their instructor. This work integrates a number of technical skills, including online research, graphic design, presentation design, a bit of public speaking and, for our more ambitious teams, some animation.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Junior year will be here sooner than we think, and in preparation, our second College Night will be held on Thursday, January 26 at 7pm in the Common Room. Coach Zapata and I will present a month-by-month analysis of the college application process, and an overview of college application materials. Upper scholars and their parents are particularly encouraged to attend, but the event is also open to all interested members of the school and parish community.

After an absence of several years, the National College Fair will return to Texas on Sunday, April 2. More than 200 colleges and universities are expected to be represented. We will be organizing a group trip to Houston to attend this event.

Mr. Johnston

MUSIC

Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas Concert such a success. The students worked very hard to put together a great program and we are very proud of them. Our Christmas Pageant with the Pre-K through 2nd grade was also a wonderful opportunity for the young children to experience the story of Jesus' birth and sing some songs appropriate for their age. Thank you to all who helped with the many details of that production.

The students who sing in the parish choir will participate Sunday afternoon, January 8th at 4pm at our Parish Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Come support these students who have spent countless hours preparing this wonderful program. One feature of the program is the 7-part *Ave Maria* by Franz Biebl sung by the Upper School young men and joined by the men of the Adult Choir and Chant Schola.

In January, we will focus on music theory. Kindergarten through second grade will continue working with solfege (do-re-mi). Ear training and dictation are fun games that build listening and identifying skills. The third graders will begin learning to play the recorder. Fourth through tenth grades will hone their note reading skills and rhythm. Tenth graders will review more advanced theory and begin theory analysis.

Cantate Domino Canticum Novum!
Mr. and Mrs. Murray



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 JANUARY CALENDAR

CURRENT STUDENTS AND THEIR SIBLINGS
PREFERRED RE-ENROLLMENT
January 3rd through February 12th.

END OF THE SECOND QUARTER
January 13th ✕ Early Dismissal at 1:15 p.m.

FEDERAL HOLIDAY ✕ NO SCHOOL
Monday, January 16th

ACADEMY GOLD AND SILVER ARROW AWARDS
Friday, January 20th at 10 a.m. (Gym)

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (PTC-NIGHT)
Tuesday, January 31st at 7 p.m.



Please note that daily Mass (Monday-Friday) will be held in the St. Anthony Hall to allow the workers to continue their construction in the church.

