

The Pelican

May, 2005

Volume 11, Number 9



The Monthly Newsletter of The Atonement Academy

15415 RED ROBIN ROAD • SAN ANTONIO • TEXAS 78255 • 210-695-2240 • WWW.ATONEMENTONLINE.COM

FROM THE ACTING HEADMASTER

Dear Academy Parents,

It is hard to believe that there are only a few more weeks left in the school year. As the year winds down, there are a few upcoming events that I would like to mention as well as a few issues that I would like to raise.

Appeal from Archbishop Gomez

On two separate occasions in the last two weeks, Archbishop Gomez has asked everyone involved with San Antonio Catholic schools actively to support the Parental School Choice/Student Voucher initiative that is being debated in the Texas legislature. Identifying this issue as a matter of Catholic social justice, everyone is urged to do whatever he can to secure this great benefit for Texas families. One practical possibility might include letting several influential politicians know where you stand on the issue. Gov. Perry can be reached at (512) 463-1278. Lt. Gov. Dewhurst can be reached at (312) 463-0001. Speaker Craddick can be reached at (512) 463-1000.

Annual Picnic—Saturday, 7 May 2005

You are cordially invited to attend the annual parish picnic on Saturday, 7 May 2005. The day begins with Holy Mass at 10:00 a.m. Activities include: eating, drinking, and being merry; games for the children; music and volleyball; and both a silent and live auction to benefit the academy. Please invite your family and friends to the picnic. It will be great fun

for the kids, a good way to get to know other parents, and a wonderful way to help raise money for the academy.

Faculty Meetings

At the principals' meeting last week, we learned of several new archdiocesan policies that will **go into effect next year**. One of the new policies concerns the consumption of alcohol during regular working hours, including faculty meetings. In the interest of demonstrating our cheerful obedience to the local ordinary of the Catholic Church, as well as corporate prudence, I have recommended and Father Phillips has agreed that, **effective immediately**, we will no longer allow alcoholic beverages at faculty meetings. Of course, this decision in no way implies that we have anything but appreciation for every one of God's blessings. It is our hope that the controversy over this issue will disappear for good.

Re-Enrollment Update

A recent surge in enrollment has filled one class and has brought several other classes very close to being full. If you have not yet re-enrolled for next year, I encourage you to do so before your child's spot is taken. We anticipate several more classes filling up in the near future as we continue to give tours to new families and as current families complete the re-enrollment procedure.

Continued on the next page →

New Building Update

I am told that we are still on schedule to occupy the new building in August (and for the girls to use the new gymnasium for volleyball). For those who have seen the new front entrances to the church and the academy, I am sure that you will agree that the view is absolutely stunning. While we all know that a school is so much more than a building, it is also clear that physical appearances have a real effect on human experience.

Summer Tutoring

Much like last year, we will be offering tutoring in various subjects over the summer. Lower School offerings include the core subjects of mathematics, English, and religion. Middle and Upper School offerings also include Latin. Look for a flier by the end of the week.

Returning Faculty

I am pleased to report that all of the middle and upper school classroom teachers have signed new contracts for the coming year. The only exception is Coach Lyle who has decided to return home to Ohio. We are also very pleased to have Mrs. Otten, Mrs. Phinizy, Mrs. Elias, Mrs. Henriquez, and Mrs. Fulvia Garcia returning to teach in the lower school next year. I am also very happy to announce that Sister Mary Margaret will be returning to the academy at the end of this school year.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these matters, please do not hesitate to speak with me at your earliest convenience. I am at your service.

Very best regards,

Richard S. Arndt

FRESHMAN THEOLOGY

The freshmen will continue studying dogmatic theology with the assistance of Fr. Hardon's *The Catholic Catechism*.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

May is upon us, the last month of the school year; it went by so fast! The children in Pre-K will be covering the theme "A Place to Dream." In this theme, we will learn about art, storytelling, music, and movement. During our first week, we will discuss different art forms and we will draw a portrait of a classmate. Our second week we will focus on stories and storytelling. In the third week, we will learn about musical instruments and we will make our own drums and maracas.

The Pre-K students are working very hard in writing and reading three letter words, as well as writing the alphabet, numbers 1-20, and their first and last name. Good job Pre-K; keep up the good work!

May is Mary's month, so we will be learning more about Mary's life. Thank you for all your help and for being supportive parents. Take care and have a great summer!

May God bless you always,
Mrs. Garcia and Miss Crawford

KINDERGARTEN

In the month of May the Kindergarteners will be reviewing many of the Math and Language Arts concepts they have learned throughout the year. In Science we will begin our "Amazing Me" unit. The children will be introduced to the Anatomy Apron which displays all of the major organs. Kindergarten will also become fascinated with Astronomy as they learn about the planets in our solar system. In Religion class the students will be reading many bible stories. Through these stories, the children will grow in their knowledge and love of God. Thank you parents for the support you have shown throughout the school year.

Mmes. Elias and Phinizy

FIRST GRADE

What? What's that you say? You say it is May? Who can believe that May is already here? It seems that only yesterday rosy-cheeked six-year olds were skipping down the main hall of the school eager to begin first grade. Now the children are just as eager to climb the stairs to the lofty second grade. However, before the

first graders ascend to the second grade, they will fine tune many of the skills they have learned this year. They will also explore several new areas. For instance, in Mathematics, the children will focus on developing mental math skills, and in language arts, they will begin a unit on the writing process. The first graders will be sure to create many interesting compositions on their favorite animals. In other academic areas, volcanoes and continents will be the subjects of study. This has been a very successful school year, and we will miss all of our students dearly, but we want to wish them good adventures in the second grade. May God bless all of these little souls

Mrs. Otten and Miss Deffenbaugh

SECOND GRADE

The last month of school has finally arrived! By the end of this month the students will no longer be considered Second graders. Your child has come a long way this year, and they have learned a tremendous amount of information. We have been fortunate to work with such bright and intelligent students this year, and we hope they continue their hard work in the coming years. The year is not over yet though, and we still have quite a bit to learn in the next four weeks.

Not only is it the final month of school, it is an extremely special one for the students. On May 13th, the students will receive the Sacrament of Penance and the Holy Eucharist for the first time. The students have worked hard to prepare for this sacred moment. Until that day, please continue to review the steps to a good confession at home with your child.

We will be finishing up our Saxon Math program in the next few weeks. The students will continue to work on their multiplication and division facts once we have finished. They will finish up by learning to add positive and negative numbers, graphing points on a plane, and dividing with a remainder. We will finish up our Voyages in English book by learning the parts of a letter, adverbs, prefixes, and subject and predicate. The students will even get a chance to write a report about their favorite animal. They will be doing research about the animal that they pick and write a report using the information they have found.

Thank you for your continued support this school year. Each child has been a joy to work with, and they have each touched our hearts in a special way!

Mmes. Garcia and Ruplinger

THIRD GRADE

It's hard to believe there is only a month left of school! In English we will learn about adverbs and review punctuation and capitalization. Sound will be our topic of discussion in Science class. We'll discuss how sound is made, how it travels, and how living things make sound. We will finish our studies of Pilgrims in Social Studies. Fractions will be a popular theme in Math class. We'll be learning how to reduce fractions and how to add and subtract them. Of course, in Religion we will be getting ready for the big day in June when they will be confirmed. Your children have worked very hard this year, and I am proud of each one of them. I wanted to thank you for all your support in working with me to educate your children. I have learned the uniqueness of each of them this year and have enjoyed working with them.

Miss Peacher

FOURTH GRADE

Math will be over soon and we will be studying hard for the final exam. Science has one more section on the human body. We will be looking at exercises and fitness. English will bring us into writing letters, listening, and library skills. Reading will be from our Junior Great Books and we will be reading one more book by C.S. Lewis. Texas History is taking us into the 20th century. We will be looking at inventions, oil, and how the economy for Texas improved during these times. In Religion we will be moving along with discussing the commandments and relating them to our daily lives.

Mr. Kelly

FIFTH GRADE

With only five Saxon lessons remaining, the Fifth Grade has plenty of time to review in preparation for our final exam. We are looking forward to gaining a complete mastery of all the concepts we have learned this year in hopes

that next year we will excel to an even greater degree. In History, we are going to continue to focus on the changes that the United States went through during the early part of the 1900's. In English, we will have one final section concerning punctuation and then move on to a short study of library and dictionary skills. Thanks to the kindness of one of my long time associates, now working for NASA, we had the chance to hold and view some dust brought back from the moon during one of the Apollo Missions. Next, we will begin a study of the human body. In religion, we will continue to survey our place and role in Mother Church. May God bless you all!

Mr. Kawulok

GEOGRAPHY

The 4th Grade students are completing their tour of the Far East – having visited the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, and Japan, as well as Australia and New Zealand “down under.” We will complete our adventure with a final test over these countries, and then begin a review for the annual World Geography Competition in mid-May.

The 5th Grade students are now trekking through the hot, humid jungles of Central America, visiting Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. Our final test will be “open-book” and will cover a variety of details from these nations. Prior reading is necessary. The 5th graders have been working on a book report on “world hotspots,” which they have now completed. Our classes have traveled the planet, and I know our children have a greater understanding of the places and people of the world. I pray this knowledge will serve them well throughout their lives.

Deacon Orr



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

As our current school year is nearing its place in history, we are traveling closer and closer to home in most of the history courses. In seventh grade, we will set the stage for modern day Texan politics as well as address some of Texas' concerns. In eighth grade, we will reach the beginnings of the twentieth century focusing mainly upon technological advances and Catholic standing in America. In ninth grade, we will finish studying the completion of the foundation for the English Catholic Church. And in sixth grade, we are finishing our year in the Americas. Also in sixth grade, we are solving problems of familiar concepts yet with more complex answers, and in religion, we will end the year focusing upon our Church's teachings regarding the end of our lives.

I've had a marvelous experience this year in teaching your students as I have learned much alongside them. Thank you for the opportunity to share learning history with your children.

Mr. Howell

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE AND SEVENTH GRADE MATHEMATICS

As we wind down the school year, we in the sciences are striving forward! The sixth graders are about to begin their study of the sun and other stars, eventually talking about what science can tell us about the structure and origins of the universe. When we finish with our star-voyage, we will start exploring some of the fundamental principles of pure Physics. (Having watched the kids for the past year, I know that they are all well familiar with the concepts of energy, momentum, and collisions.) The chemists of the 8th grade are now exploring the concepts of acids and bases and the pH scale, and are about to move into a unit on electrochemistry, and after that-radioactivity!

The 7th and 9th graders are moving along parallel tracks in the life sciences again. We are now doing overviews of the various taxonomic kingdoms, and will soon move into ecology-the interactions of living things with the non-living environment.

Thank you for the privilege of teaching your children the sciences this past academic year, and also for your patience as I learned to become a teacher “on the job.” The kids have all been wonderful without exception, and I hope to see all of them back in August in our new lab!

Yours in Christ,
Dr. Vallor

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH, AND EIGHTH GRADE RELIGION

The young scholars shall soon discover, if they have not already, that the rules of grammar are not arbitrary, but find their basis in the workings of the real world. They have studied what the difference between a subject and object is; now they will ponder why there is a difference. The students will ask and seek to answer why verbs have different moods and tenses, why prepositions relate nouns to other words, and why I was kidding when I said that there are twelve parts of speech. I really tried telling them that once, but my ruse didn't work. The students were too smart for me. The works of literature to be studied in May include Julius Caesar in the 9th grade and the Declaration of Independence in the 8th grade. The 8th and 9th grades will be studying rhetorical techniques and learning logical argumentation. And just to clear up any misunderstandings that may have arisen over the year: there are only eight parts of speech, my uncle did not invent the conjunction, the writings of Socrates were not suppressed in the Platonic Academy, and despite what most of the world's population says, I am not the most humble English teacher in the world. I am, of course, one of the more humble people in the world. My humility prevents me from speaking of myself in superlatives.

Mr. Cupp

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL LATIN, FRESHMAN ALGEBRA II, AND SEVENTH GRADE RELIGION

Salvete,

We shall review the finer points as well as some fundamentals this final month, especially with the second year Latin students as they grapple

with the subjunctive mood. It is used more broadly in Latin than in English. Whereas we use helping verbs like “may” and “might,” “would” and “should” to indicate uncertainty, possibility and intention, in Latin a change of vowel or addition of syllable, an inflection, marks the difference between *what may be* and actions or things we can see, point out and *indicate*. In Algebra II we have made exciting forays into logarithms and exponential equations, which have many useful applications. Briefly, we have explored probability, which is concerned with what may happen; easy to grasp by keeping in mind that it is only about future events. It is interesting to note that the very word “eventus” in Latin literally means an out-coming of dice from a cup. Most of May we shall focus on geometric proof, real *mathema* or understanding. The students have accomplished much this year. I agree with Aristotle that the beginning is half done and in a way even everything. To finish well, however, is to crown the achievement, a fitting month to speak of crowns as we prepare to crown our Lady.

Valete, Magister, quo nullus alius maius est.

Magister Ruplinger

ATHLETICS

The Presidential Physical Fitness Test is finally behind us, and the students did a wonderful job. Whereas last year we had less than a handful of qualifiers for National Award (the top 50th percentile), this year we will have almost a dozen National qualifiers *and* a few Presidential Award-winners (top 15th percentile)! Moreover, many students who have been loath to put forth much effort in the past really stepped up and gave it their all. Everyone ought to be proud of the hard work that the students put into this year's test.

New business for May will include a focus on the skills utilized in America's favorite past-time – baseball – and a number of new and different activities that we're thinking of making a bigger part of the curriculum next year. There will, of course, still be a healthy dose of running, calisthenics, and fitness courses, but this month we'll try to break the mold a bit.

Lastly, it's time to start thinking about fall sports for next year. While it may be too early to actually register, it is a good time to start forming teams so that we are ready to hit the ground running come August. We will definitely have soccer teams forming for Pre-K through the 5th grade, girls' volleyball for the Middle and Upper Schools, and Cross Country for 5th through 10th grade. If you would like to sign a student up to participate, or would like to coach a team, please contact me at jllyle@atonementonline.com. Have a great summer!

Coach Lyle

MUSIC

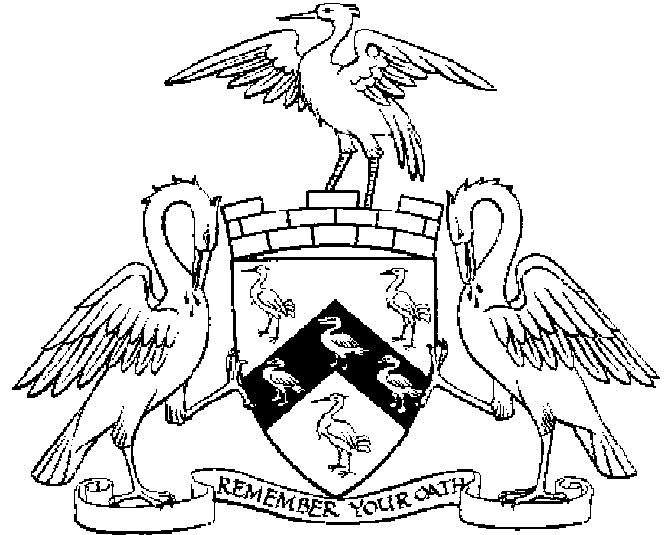
Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Spring Concert! Each class did a wonderful job and rose to their full potential. We are looking forward to hearing what these inspiring young people accomplish next. Recently, we received a CD of our performance with the Master Singers at the Shrine of the Little Flower. Any student who participated in the concert may request a copy by emailing me at: cmurray@atonementonline.com.

May is a very busy month with special liturgies for many of our students. Special liturgies need special music! We are fortunate to have so many talented singers among us. Please share your talent and plan to join the celebrations mentioned below: A notice was sent home last week regarding the First Communion choir. Any sibling, grade 3 and higher, is invited to sing in the choir that evening (May 13th, 7:00 p.m.). In addition, those who sang in the Rutter concert (at the Shrine of the Little Flower), are also invited to join us as we will be singing excerpts from the *Mass of the Children*. Please join us to make the music for First Communion truly special. Please email me if you are interested in singing! Thank you!

Other special events coming up include Eighth Grade Graduation Mass on May 21st and Confirmation on June 4th. We will be putting together special choirs for each of these events. Please look for notices in your daily folders with additional information.

We have been invited to sing the National Anthem at the Missions Baseball game on Saturday, May 28th. Please mark your calendars now! All students in the school are invited to participate.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray



Reminder from the Business Office

To be registered for next year, parents need to complete the online registration and also pay the registration fee of \$500 per child. Those who have registered online, but have not paid the registration fee are listed as "pending." Please note that some classes are nearing capacity. Although we are opening *another* 3rd grade, space in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades are near capacity. To avoid losing your place, please visit or call the business office to pay the registration fee. Also, please be aware that the academy is on a 12-month tuition payment plan which begins June 1st. To enroll in our automatic credit card payment plan, please visit the school office and sign the appropriate form. If you have any questions, please call me at 695-2944, ext. 28.

Deacon Orr

GRADUATION

On Friday, May 20th, a special banquet will be held for the 8th grade students and their families. The evening begins at 7:00 p.m. with Solemn Evensong, followed by dinner in the St. Anthony Hall, where the students will

reminisce about their time at The Atonement Academy. The next day, they will attend the Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:00 a.m., followed by the commencement exercises as they receive their diploma. Everyone is invited to attend the Mass of Thanksgiving and the Commencement.

Graduation is always a special occasion; an important milestone in the lives of these young people – the Class of 2005. We thank God for His gracious love and guidance throughout their time here – and whether they are staying here with us for ninth grade, or going to another school – we ask God’s special blessing upon them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

ACADEMY STUDENTS COMPETE

We are very proud of our Academy finalists in the 2005 District Tournament for the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA).

1st Grade

Luke Cannon (1st Place in Creative Writing)
Diego Diaz (3rd Place in Storytelling)
Rachel Moore (2nd Place in Creative Writing; 1st Place in Storytelling)

2nd Grade

Melody Logsdon (4th Place in Creative Writing)

3rd Grade

Nicholas Collins (4th Place in Spelling)
Henry Hollingshead (6th Place in Music Memory)
Anthony Lawinger (3rd Place in Spelling)
Jonathan Moore (3rd Place in Music Memory)
Daniel Surovic (5th Place in Music Memory)

4th Grade

Thomas Hollingshead (5th Place in Art; 4th Place in Ready Writing)
Zachary Lindsey (1st Place in Mathematics)
Alejandro Oliveros (5th Place in Spelling)
Elizabeth Surovic (3rd Place in Art; 2nd Place in Music Memory; 3rd Place in Prose Interpretation)

Megan Winfrey (2nd Place in Art; 6th Place in Spelling)

5th Grade

Mitchell Crossey (1st Place in Mathematics)
Micah Davis (5th Place in Art; 4th Place in Maps & Graphs)
Mariana Gutierrez (3rd Place in Maps & Graphs)
Monica King (3rd Place in Mathematics)
Jameson Moore (1st Place in Art)
Dylan Parsell (6th Place in Art; 5th Place in Mathematics)

6th Grade

Daniel Fernandez (4th Place in Mathematics)
Emily Howard (4th Place in Ready Writing; 6th Place in Vocabulary)
Kimberly Konzal (6th Place in Science)
Jorge Richie (5th Place in Mathematics)
Asia Richter (5th Place in On-Site Drawing)

7th Grade

James Hollingshead (3rd Place in Vocabulary)
Collin Huse (3rd Place in Mathematics)
Zachary Weems (4th Place in Number Sense; 1st Place in Science)

8th Grade

Ryan Cassidy (6th Place in Listening Skills; 3rd Place in Vocabulary)
Blaise Greer (4th Place in Science)
Evan Howard (6th Place in Maps & Graphs; 1st Place in Science)
Brittany Weems (4th Place in Mathematics; 1st Place in Spelling; 2nd Place in Vocabulary; 1st Place in Spelling for the State of Texas!)

THE STATE COMPETITION

Submitted by Greg Surovic

The Atonement Academy team did well at State. I hope that everyone enjoyed the experience. It was clear to me that at State we were competing with the very best and brightest students in Texas. The tests were not easy and some competitions had students that

achieved 100% scores on their tests (including the tie-breaker questions). Our students did extremely well for their first trip. Of the ten students that went to State, three came back with medals. In order to get a medal, a student had to place in 6th place or higher in the competition. Our graduating 8th grader, Brittany Weems, placed first in Spelling. Rachel Moore, (1st Grade), placed fourth in Storytelling and Megan Winfrey, (4th Grade), placed sixth in Art Memory. Luke Cannon barely missed getting a medal, placing seventh in Creative Writing.

We should be particularly proud of these students and all of the students that competed in PSIA. Hopefully everyone came back excited about going to State again next year and bringing home even more medals!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion for students in second grade and above will be held on Friday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. We have 43 student from the academy, and 10 students from CCD class, making 53 first communicants this year – our largest class ever!



With Thanksgiving in our hearts for the life of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, we commend to God’s merciful care his immortal soul, and humbly ask God’s favor upon our new pope, His Holiness, Benedict XVI.

.....

TUITION RATES

The Atonement Academy operates on a 12-month payment plan, which begins June. 1st, 2005 for the next academic year.

The tuition rates for the next academic year are as follows:

- Pre-Kindergarten: \$310 per month.
- Kindergarten and 1st Grade: \$260 per month.
- 2nd-8th Grades: \$250 per month.
- 9th-10th Grades: \$450 per month.

The family maximum is \$620 per month, and \$830 per month with a student in high school.

The registration fee is \$500 per student. Parents may register online at:

www.AtonementOnline.com/school/index.php
