

THE PELICAN

The Monthly Newsletter of The Atonement Academy

★ A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE ★

MAY, 2006 ✕ VOLUME 12, NUMBER 9



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

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Academy Parents:

As you know, May is very busy month. Here are some of the highlights:

The Spring Concert will be held on Tuesday, 9 May at 7:00 pm. For the sake of reducing the size of the audience and in hopes of fitting in the St. Anthony Hall, only students from third grade through upper school will perform. Pre-kinder through second grade will have their Spring Concert on Friday, 12 May at 10:00 am.

Academy thespians from third grade through upper school present *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* with performances on Thursday, 18 May through Sunday, 21 May. Please plan on attending one or more of these performances in support of these enthusiastic actors. You will be amazed and entertained at the same time.

The Summer Reading List is available in the academy office and will be available on line as well. Please be aware that every student will be tested on the summer reading material during the first week back to school in August.

The last day for the Eighth Grade Graduates will be 26 May. Students who wish to volunteer at the academy the following week are welcome, but they must sign in and out as visitors and should dress as young professionals and be on their best behavior.

Kindergarten Graduation will be held after Holy Mass on Wednesday, 31 May in the St. Anthony Hall followed by a reception for parents and students.

Upper scholars will have final exams on Tuesday, 30 May and Wednesday, 31 May. Both days are early dismissal days for upper scholars only. Upper scholars who remain on campus after exams may study in the library or attend after school care until the lower and middle schools are dismissed.

Field Day is on Thursday, 1 June. Students from Kinder through Eighth grade will change into their athletics uniform after Holy Mass and spend the rest of the morning participating in the various contests and events that the athletics department has planned. Since this is a half day, dismissal is at 1:15 pm.

Eighth Grade Graduation will be held on Saturday, 3 June, beginning with Holy Mass at 10:00 am. Immediately following Mass, which is part of the ceremony, commencement exercises will be held in the St. Anthony Hall, followed by a luncheon for families, guests, students, and friends.

Just like last year, Stanford Test Scores will not be available from Harcourt until the last week of classes at the earliest. Please do not be surprised if they do not arrive until June, in which case, we will send them out in August.

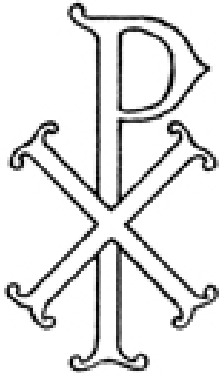
Please join in me in thanking Almighty God for another fine year at the academy. This is a truly remarkable place to worship, work, and attend classes. My thanks to all of you who cooperate with Our Lord in making this community the amazing place that it is.

Very best regards,

Richard S. Arndt

News from the Business Office

Registrations continue to flow in at a steady pace. Unfortunately, we have over 60 children on our waiting lists who are applying for grades which are now closed. Grades which have double-digit waiting lists are Pre-K, K, 1st, and 6th grades. Fifth and seventh are also closed. Perhaps with the summer-time military and corporate transfers, some of our existing families who desire to continue, but have an incomplete registration, may yet have another opportunity to find availability.



The process of hiring the teachers for 2006-2007 is nearing completion – well ahead of previous years. As soon as all the contracts are signed, the faculty list for next year will be posted on the school website. The academy is offering generous raises this year and has lifted all levels of salaries to a scale which either matches or exceeds the Texas Education Agency's State-wide standard for public schools. This

places the academy well ahead of the Archdiocesan recommended scale. We have done this in an effort to attract and retain qualified individuals to teach our children in the Lower, Middle, and Upper School. All teachers – regardless of the grade or subject they teach -- are on the same salary and benefit scale and no distinction is made between them because of their position at the academy.

Beginning June 1st, tuition payments for 2006-2007 become due. As of June 1st, you may use your email address and password on the school registration link to see your account status anytime! No more waiting for monthly statements to be sent in the Tuesday folders – and you may pay monthly tuition online by credit card using Master Card and Visa. You may continue to pay automatically via Discover Card and American Express by coming by the Registrar's Office and filling out the annual agreement to draft your card. If you filled out the form last year, it expired as of the May draft. Stop by and renew a new draft-authorization.

Many families are using online banking services at their financial institutions and monthly checks are arriving automatically without the hassle of writing them. Automatic payments ensure the avoidance of the \$25 late fee, which will continue to be added to accounts which are not paid in a timely manner.

We would like to remind everyone that we are on a twelve-month payment plan, with all payments due on or before the 1st of each month, beginning June 1st.

Please make sure that your 2005-2006 account is up-to-date, so that we may close out the school year. The final report card, permanent record transfer, student awards, and graduation, is dependent upon your account being paid in full. Please consult the *Student-Parent Handbook* for additional details.

Deacon Orr

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Wow! What a great start to this last part of the year! *Sea World* was both fun and educational and the Fiesta shoebox parade was a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped to make these events such good experiences for the students. In class, we have just finished the entire alphabet and will be reviewing the letters, sounds, and formation of the letters for the rest of the school year. We encourage you to continue this review with your children at home and throughout the summer so that they will be well-prepared for Kindergarten. The same goes for their numbers and counting -- practice. Our learning centers will continue to allow the students hands-on experience with counting and problem-solving. Our Saxon themes for the month of May are based on animal habitats. *Sea World* was a wonderful introduction to this unit. We will also read the *Legend of the Bluebonnet* and talk about our state flower and bird. In religion, we will share the joy of the Easter season by praying the glorious mysteries together, studying about our guardian angels, and studying the lives of some of the Saints. We will study especially about Mary since May is a special month dedicated to the Mother of Our Lord and our Mother. May Our Lady richly bless you through her prayers this month and always.

Mmes. Henriquez and Reed

KINDERGARTEN

Well, the final month of school has arrived and we still have a lot of learning to do! We are extremely proud of the hard work we have seen from Kindergarten this year. The students have made tremendous progress in Reading and Math and are very well prepared to move on to the First Grade. We will finish out the year with a fun unit on Dinosaurs – a favorite for the boys. We will wrap up our subtraction facts, finish learning the coins, and find out more about geometric solids in Math. Please keep all your math fact flash cards and **practice them over the summer**. We will also be sending some worksheets with frequently used words on them that can be cut into flash cards to practice reading over the summer. Don't forget to use your public library and keep reading at least **one book a week**. All this will assure a strong start to First Grade. Thank you for the privilege of teaching your child this year. It has been fun and rewarding. Don't forget Kindergarten Graduation has been changed to Wednesday, May 31st. There's a lot to do to prepare for this special event for your child and someone will be contacting you to find out how you want to help.

Mmes. Elias and Phinizy

FIRST GRADE

The month of May brings flowers and fun. We have completed the Saxon programs and can now enjoy exploring great new worlds of literature and logic. We

will keep our skills strong by applying them to every day situations. We will be able to focus on creative writing, and sharpening our spelling and grammar skills. The students are showing great drive to reach their AR goals, and we are impressed. Personal responsibility will be taken to the next level to help prepare for the move to second grade.

Thank you for sharing your children with us, we have come to love them and it will be bittersweet to see them move on. Have a safe and fun summer break.

Mmes. Otten and Wiessing

SECOND GRADE

May is the month for Mary. In religion we will study the many attributes of our Holy Mother, as well as continue Holy Communion and Confirmation preparations.

Following *What We Do at Mass*, we will concentrate on the Liturgy of the Word and its many parts; leading up to the coming of Jesus in the Eucharist.

In Grammar we will continue our unit on book reports, finding main ideas, and reviewing the setting and plot of stories. We will be using sentence order and emphasizing the importance of writing descriptive sentences in Phonics. Biographies will be introduced this month; famous writers will be our theme. We will get to know Mary Pope Osborne's *Magic Tree House* series, Leo Lionni's *The Alphabet Tree* and *Swimmy*, Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*, and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. The second graders would not be where they are in their reading development without the help of Miss Lurana Phillips and all her patience with our AR testing. Thank you so much!

The Social Studies theme is *Around the World in Dance*, and we will tour and listen to music from different countries. We will stress the importance of exercise in Science, plus studying diet, food, digestion, the esophagus, and the small intestine. We will be asking many questions about nutrients and how we get proper nutrition from the food we eat. Multiplication and Division are keeping us very busy in Math and preparing us for Third grade.

Mmes. Castillo and Morales

THIRD GRADE

April was exciting! Before our break, we read Bible stories and watched videos for Holy Week. The students reinforced their spiritual beliefs during our weekly *Evensong* and *Stations of the Cross*. The students learned about the art in our church that had symbolic meaning. We hope everyone enjoyed their Eastertide break. When we returned, we were in full throttle. There is still much to learn and do and we will work until the last day to get it accomplished!

Continued ->

Our students have learned so much about the United States and have shared many interesting details so far. We were please at the creativity the students used to make posters of a state that they had picked. They have been working hard in Grammar putting all that information into a wonderful informational report. We can not wait until they make their full presentations.

The students have been very excited about the Solar System. Our field trip to the Planetarium was a huge success. The student enjoyed the experience of going out into space without leaving their seats. We have watched caterpillars turn into butterflies, and we are waiting for our eggs to hatch into cute chicks.

We are still learning new and challenging things in Math. We are gearing up for the fourth grade. During the summer the students will have to continue practicing multiplication facts to keep their minds sharp.

Our last novel is *James and the Giant Peach*. We have started off with a bang. We hope our students have learned to enjoy reading as much as we do.

Mmes. Loerwald and Vance

FOURTH GRADE

They gave their best. The Penny War has finished, we collected many pennies, but we were sabotaged with many more silver coins and dollars. It appears the fourth grade went down in the blaze of glory. I hope and pray everybody had a glorious Easter.

In the month of Mary, the fourth grade will be studying the Holy Mother of God, the Holy Spirit, the Mystical Body of Christ, and Heaven in Religion. That is quite a line up; it promises to be filled with great inquiries and examinations. With the Saxon Math book officially finished, we will review the more difficult lessons and be tested weekly shooting toward a final exam at the end of the month. In Reading, we will be following a couple of talking horses, a boy, and some kings and queens in an enchanted land known as *Narnia*. Science will inform us of the beauty in which God has made each of us as

we delve into the human body. Traveling is also on the agenda for May as we journey to the missions of San Antonio for our field trip. Thank God for the Resurrection of the body. We have hope that we will join the rest of our brothers and sisters at the heavenly banquet!

Mr. Tomanek

FIFTH GRADE

The Fifth Grade is looking forward to an interesting day as we head to Scobee Planetarium on May 8th to explore the latest discoveries made about each of the planets, their moons and the ring systems they possess. We'll investigate comets and asteroids, as well as highlight the

search for possible new planets orbiting the Sun and other stellar systems. 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. We will spend the early part of May studying the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Then we will examine the hierarchical structure of the church, and the individual roles within it. In our most important chapter, the students will learn what the Church can change (discipline) and what cannot change (faith and morals). The students have come a long way during the school year.

I wish everyone God's blessings throughout the summer, and I look forward to seeing you next year!

In Jesus and Mary,
Sister Mary Margaret

ESPAÑOL

This month we will be wrapping up and reviewing what we have learned throughout the year in Spanish. Thank you parents so much for allowing me the opportunity to work with your children. It is a joy to work with these wonderful students who are so eager to learn and enjoy using the words and prayers they have learned. Muchisimas gracias y Dios los bendiga siempre.

FIFTH GRADE PRE-LATIN

The students will be preparing for a short sketch they will present to the rest of the class before the end of the school year. They will be able to use props and costumes, so if they ask for certain things such as wings, beards, etc., you'll know why. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children this year. I hope they have enjoyed their class as much as I have and I hope they will remember their teacher when they go on to Middle School.

Mrs. Treviño

GEOGRAPHY

Having trekked across the Gobi Desert by night to slip into communist China undetected, the fourth graders were relieved to enter the territorial waters off Australia and New Zealand, down-under mate! Finally, two countries which speak English; (our Mandarin wasn't so hot!). We'll close out the year with a test over Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Taiwan, and China, on May 11th and end with a bang in a rigorous competition with our fellow earth-travelers – the fifth graders.

Students in fifth grade have left Southwest Asia, dumped the sand from their boots, and landed safely in tropics of Central America, where coffee, sugar, and bananas grow in abundance. The students have been working very hard on their "World Conflicts" report, which will be presented to the class. An open-book test over the five republics of Central America will

be our final exam. Although the test will be open-book, students should be familiar with all areas listed on the study sheet posted online. It's not going to be a cake-walk! Fourth and fifth graders should study the United States and Europe to prepare for the Geography Competition.

Deacon Orr

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

History is a subject which is very conducive to the school year. It begins the year far off in the past, which for children is the most difficult concept to grasp, but as the year progresses, the subject begins to look more and more like the student's actual world. In short, your children will be studying predominately modern history in May. This should be more captivating for them, so I anticipate effort to increase and grades, too, accordingly.

More specifically, the seventh graders will be learning about modern-day Texan politics as well as the structure of the current government. The eighth graders will be studying the basis for modern American politics by analyzing the effects of the Industrial Revolution and the World Wars. The sixth graders will be continuing their travels around the world briefly discovering the basis for modern day realities.

In my other courses, the tenth graders will continue to learn the practical aspects of Economics by computing business decisions and studying Economist articles. And in sixth-grade Math and Religion, we will continue to solidify our understanding of the basic components of algebraic concepts and that of our faith, respectively.

Finally, it has been an honor and privilege to teach your children this year. I commend all Academy parents for the wonderful jobs they do raising their children, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to share in your noble work.

God Bless,
Mr. Howell

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE AND SEVENTH GRADE MATHEMATICS

As May comes in, we are all very busy as the bees we see outside. In 7th grade pre-algebra, we continue to add more and more basic skills into the solutions of some very complex problems. The properties of equality and the associative and commutative properties are used in well over half of our problems in various ways (as well as order of operations), and we continue to strengthen our skills at translating word problems into math equations. We have recently begun solving proportions where one of the known values must be derived rather than simply given as a part of the problem. Our plans for the near future include compound interest and probability.

Continued →

In the sixth grade, we have left the solar system entirely and will be discussing some deep-space issues of interest such as the life cycles of stars, neutron stars, supernovae, and of course BLACK HOLES. We will take with us a deeper understanding of the sun and moon, particularly of why the moon has phases, how the moon is related to the tides, and what causes eclipses. Ask your 6th grader about our “moon dance,” an in-class illustration of why we only ever see one face of the moon. We will be going to the Scobee Planetarium at San Antonio College on May 9th to see a show entitled “The New Solar System.” I need at least two parents to help me keep the group moving in the right direction. Please contact me.



The 10th graders have finished a more detailed examination of acids and bases. We also did a dance in class to discover about the relationship between acidity and ionized water (thanks to my daughter for providing multicolored, plastic “protons”).

This led us into a discussion about why -- when the acidity goes UP the pH number goes DOWN. We are in the midst of examining the properties of gases, before we tackle radioactive decay. We have also learned about why molybdenum is probably the most useful metal in existence, and why none of the technetium used today was around when the solar system was formed.

The 9th graders have finished their discussion on genetics and evolution, and are in the midst of discerning why kings play chess on fine grain sand. This last little bit of confusion is actually a mnemonic device detailing the progression of levels of classification for living organisms. We will aspire towards a *tour de force* of microbes and plants before the end of the course.

The seventh graders finally finished their dissection unit and have also completed a unit on genetics and are now learning evolutionary theory. We have thus covered all of the biological processes that anyone would need to understand to get “the big picture”: The molecular basis of life, the way cells are built and function, how they interact in tissues and organs, the ways that organs function in bodily systems and in whole organisms, how living things procreate themselves, the genetic basis for the maintenance of life over many generations, and how living things change over time to remain survivable in a changing world.

A note on evolution: Darwinian evolutionary theory is probably the most misunderstood and misused bit of science out there. In a nutshell, it simply describes a **mechanism** for producing change in organisms over time, in response to changing environmental pressures. It says NOTHING about faith, or the existence of God, or man’s place in the universe, or salvation. It is theoretical in the sense that it is an intellectual model useful for making predictions and inferences about why things are the way they are. It is obviously not based on direct observation, but it can be believed insofar as it is not contradicted directly by observable phenomena. It is perfectly legitimate also to reject evolutionary theory, or to accept a modified version of the generally accepted

one. However, it is a theory that is currently widely accepted within the general scientific community, and as such is useful for our students to be aware of its details, no matter how they may feel as to its reality. Whether or not it is, in fact, true, is a judgment that they must make in their own minds and hearts as guided by their principles and you, their parents.

God bless you all,
Dr. Vallor

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH, AND EIGHTH GRADE RELIGION

After a comprehensive review of grammar, especially on sentence diagramming, the sixth grade scholars will be studying figurative language, meaning and connotation, unity and coherence, and outlining. The seventh grade scholars will cover these topics as well and analyze effective diction and aids to clear thinking. The 8th graders are reading and examining the rhetoric of the *Declaration of Independence*. They will be learning to reason with the use of syllogisms and to assess the validity of arguments. The sophomores in British Literature are reading Graham Greene’s *The Power and the Glory*. They will be given an overview of modern British writings by such authors as Waugh, Lewis, Forster, Kipling, and others. The 8th grade religion class will be reading the letters of St. John.

All the best,
Mr. Cupp

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

Magister Ruplinger parentibus salutem dicit.

In eighth grade Latin, we shall be reading some interesting stories: the fabled Minotaur and Theseus, Icarus and Daedalus and the poet and singer Arion who was saved by the dolphin. At the same time we shall be reviewing the subjunctive mood. In Latin I, we continue to master all the endings for nouns and what they mean, while we shall proceed to learn how tenses are formed. No, the Romans did not always speak in the present tense.

In history we shall be reading the account of Charlemagne’s life by Notker the Stammering monk. Instead of the sober and brief accounts of Einhard, Notker tells a series of salacious, perhaps even slanderous, anecdotes. Certainly his style is quite different from Einhard, and so is his lack of conciseness.

Finally, in advanced math we shall tackle some of the most complex problems of the year: ellipses, matrices, and trigonometric identities. Although, graphing complex and imaginary numbers on an imaginary plane (the Argand plane), may have been the zenith of abstraction this year.

Valeatis,
Magister Ruplinger

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

During May, 7th grade Religion class will study the sacraments of Holy Orders, Matrimony, and Anointing, and finish Chapters 25-27 of Henle in Latin 2. These chapters cover the perfect and pluperfect subjunctive and direct and indirect questions and commands.

The freshmen will continue studying Shakespeare. We will finish *Julius Caesar*, and then read the *Merchant of Venice*. Students will watch film versions of both plays. In Theology class, we will study the first sections of Hardon's *Catholic Catechism*, which deal with basic doctrines of the faith.

Latin 3 will continue to read through Cicero's *1st Oration against Catiline*.

There will be Comprehensive Exams for all of these courses. To prepare for these exams, students will receive study guides based upon previous tests. The exams will largely focus upon material studied during the spring term. Students need to follow the review schedule listed on these guides. Cramming at the last minute can result in memory loss and confusion.

Dr. Thigpen

ALGEBRA I

We will finish our textbook and weekly exams the first week of May, on schedule, allowing two weeks to prepare for the three day, fifty-question final exam. Daily quizzes will keep everyone on task and will focus their preparatory efforts constructively as the final exam approaches. My goal for our class is for each and every student to produce their very best work on the final exam, thus positioning them to excel in Algebra Two next year. We will finish strong what we started last September.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to publicly thank Father Phillips, Mr. Arndt, and my student's parents for allowing me to teach Algebra One. The rewards of being with the students every day as they labored and sometimes struggled with their work, as they laughed and learned and as they enjoyed the satisfaction of mastering ideas that didn't come to them easily, far outweighed the obligation to be there every day. I have truly enjoyed the company of the students and I thank you.

Mr. Dempsey

ALGEBRA II

In May, we will develop a deeper understanding of logarithms, sets, and absolute value, as we apply these concepts in more complex problems. The students will also get to work with compasses. Much of the month will be given to geometric proofs. We will round out the year with an introduction to statistics.

And what a year it has been! The problems we are solving now are vastly more complicated than those at the beginning of the textbook. The students have worked hard in this course; I am very proud of them.

It has been a great pleasure to teach these wonderful students. To watch them grow, both as mathematicians and as young adults, has been an honor. I will miss you all! I wish everyone a healthy, safe, and renewing summer.

Mrs. Johnston

ATHLETICS

Better and healthy ways of eating was a lesson our students learned in the month of April. We encourage you to ask your child questions about the food groups and how to stay physically healthy. On that note, the upper school and middle school girls shared in a healthy picnic on the school campus. Each student brought in a small portion of a healthy food, proving that if you just take a minute to review the ingredients of foods and choose them wisely, you can enjoy a filling meal which also includes dessert. This month we will be reviewing the lessons and also teaching safety tips and life skills.

We are doing well in the track, baseball, and soccer season. The middle school track team has performed well in the last three track meets taking first through fourth place honors in various fielding and running events. I had the opportunity to watch the lower school soccer team in action and the future here looks promising. The two T-ball teams started their season this month and will play through the end of May. I encourage all to attend and support all of our athletes and sports. All of the above mentioned game schedules are posted on EdLine. On April 27th, the Athletic department hosted the Crusader and Archer Athletic Banquet to celebrate the student athletes and their accomplishments. A preliminary sign-up for next season's sports will be distributed at the end of this month.

The gymnast from *San Antonio Gymnastics* dropped by and demonstrated some tumbling moves for all of our classes. They were very pleased and impressed with the warm welcome they received and the good behavior. The students enjoyed having the opportunity to perform the tumbling skills themselves with the guidance of professionals. If you would like information about *San Antonio Gymnastics*, please stop by the Athletic office for a brochure. We have so much more to look forward to in May. The lessons will include more health and skill development activities. Field day is scheduled for June 1st. Place it on your calendar. We would love to have you here.

Lastly, congratulations and thank you to all who participated in the Jump-Rope-for-Heart event in February. The Atonement Academy received \$200.00 worth of P.E. equipment and material because of your commitment and support to the American Heart Association.

Coach Garcia & Coach Zapata

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Tech scholars are concluding their second round of video productions and beginning their term projects. Digital video editing is presenting complex creative and technical challenges, as the students work in teams to realize their vision. Come see the best of these creations on Friday, May 26, at 7pm in the Common Room, as The Atonement Academy presents its first-ever Upper School Video Festival.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

As you make plans for family summer vacations, consider visiting colleges along your route or at your destination. Colleges expect summer visits and are staffed to meet with applicants and give campus tours. Phone the admissions office in advance for an appointment, to make sure you are not disappointed. And when your summer reading list has been exhausted, pick up a PSAT study guide. The PSAT will be administered in October, which will be here sooner than you think!

Mr. Johnston

MUSIC

Events coming up:

Spring Concert – The spring concert will take place in St. Anthony Hall for 3rd grade and up on Tuesday evening, May 9th. Students should report at 6:30 as before, and the concert will begin at 7:00pm. We are looking forward to a great program and we hope you will enjoy it.

Spring Music Program for younger grades – The younger students in Pre-K through 2nd grade will perform on Friday morning, May 12th, at 10am in St. Anthony Hall. Daytime performances seem to be much better for these students, and it also means more audience seats are available for each performance! Please come and enjoy hearing these young voices. They love to perform! Camcorders are welcome and younger siblings are invited.

First Communion and Confirmation – The parish choirs will provide music for this important event in the lives of our young people. In addition, we would like to invite any family members of the *confirmandi* and first-communicants to join the choir for the day. Anyone interested in singing should speak to either of us and plan to attend rehearsal on the Thursday preceding the event.

Graduation Mass – As is our tradition, the Middle School Choir will provide music for this important event in the lives of our 8th graders. In addition, any family members who would like to sing should speak with us and plan to attend rehearsal during the preceding week.

Parents: The summer would be a great time to consider music lessons for your children. Remember, the *String*

Project at UTSA is a great way to get 3rd-5th graders interested in the violin or cello. Piano lessons are also a great way to stimulate young minds; they help with concentration and time management skills, and have a proven ability to increase test scores when begun before age 8 and continued through high school. (See April's *Southwestern Musician* magazine in the school lobby).

Mr. Murray is also planning to teach a few organ lessons in the fall as well. A very limited number of spots will be available to those who are very interested and very committed. We would love to offer music instruction for other instruments (and may be able to get after-school help from UTSA students) for the fall. At present, we have no one to lead this project. However, students with a serious interest should go ahead and rent or buy an instrument and get started on their own. Dedicated students can learn a great deal with a method book and a strong desire to learn. Third graders who did well with the recorder should definitely think about beginning an instrument this fall! Let's keep the momentum going!

Cantate Domino Canticum Novum!
Mr. and Mrs. Murray

PTC CORNER

The end of the year is almost here! Wow, time flew by! I want to take this time to thank everyone for making this year such a success. The PTC couldn't have done it without all of our wonderful Atonement families. Three cheers to my fellow officers: Susana Treviño, Trisha Crossey, Carmen McHugh, and Melanie Rohling.

Now, the end is almost here, BUT, we still have some events for everyone to enjoy: the church and school Picnic, is Saturday, May 6th; The Spring Choir Concert is Tuesday, May 9th, and Papa John's Pizza night is Tuesday, May 16th. The School play is May 18th-21st, and also our annual field day and end of the year parties are on Thursday, June 1st.

HAVE A BLESSED SUMMER!
Michelle Richter, PTC president

✱ ✱ ✱

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

✱ ✱ ✱

2006 - 2007

The First Day of School for 2006-2007 is Friday, August 11th. It will be a half-day, but allow us time to get our textbooks in order, meet new classmates and teachers, and prepare us well to begin our first full day on Monday, August 14th.

PARISH ANNIVERSARY

August 15, 2006, will mark the 23rd anniversary of founding of the parish, the 23rd anniversary of Fr. Phillips' ordination, the 19th anniversary of the consecration of the "old" church building, the 12th anniversary of the founding of the school, the 3rd anniversary of the ground-breaking for the new expansion (and the high school) – and yes – we are adding *one more* event to this very important date for us.

August 15th, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be the dedication of our *expanded* church building. Archbishop José Gomez will be with us for this milestone in the history of this parish. Requesting time off from work now, will allow you to join us for the 10 a.m. Mass. God certainly has been good to us. Mark your calendar: Tuesday, Aug. 15th.



THE MAY CALENDAR

OPEN REGISTRATION CONTINUES IN MAY.

SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION CONTINUES
SIGN UP FOR JUNE AND JULY SPORTS & ENRICHMENT CLASSES
USE SPECIAL FORM AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

THIRD GRADE FIELD TRIP TO THE STOLI PLAYHOUSE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3RD

FOURTH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO THE MISSIONS
THURSDAY, MAY 4TH

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
JOIN THE STUDENTS 9.30 A.M. – 3 P.M.
THURS., MAY 4TH IN THE CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART

CROWNING OF THE VIRGIN AND CHILD
FRIDAY, MAY 5TH AFTER THE 8.45 A.M. MASS
THE STUDENTS PRESENT FLOWERS TO OUR LADY

ANNUAL PICNIC ✕ SATURDAY, MAY 6TH
GAMES FOR THE KIDS ✕ LUNCH ✕ VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

ATONEMENT GOLF TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY, MAY 6TH, 8 A.M. – NOON.

SPRING CHOIR CONCERT (3RD-10TH GRADES)
TUESDAY, MAY 9TH AT 7 P.M. (ST. ANTHONY HALL)

MUSIC CONCERT (PRE-K THROUGH SECOND GRADES)
FRIDAY, MAY 12TH AT 10 A.M.

FIRST CONFESSION AND REHEARSAL FOR THOSE RECEIVING
HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION
FRIDAY, MAY 12TH

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH ✕ MASS AT 10 A.M.

ARCHBISHOP GOMEZ WILL BE WITH US.

(ARRIVAL NO LATER THAN 9:15 A.M. IN THE HALL)

CHEESY JANE'S FAMILY NIGHT, MAY 16TH

SCHOOL PLAY, MAY 18TH – 21ST

PAPA JOHN'S FAMILY NIGHT, MAY 23RD

LAST DAY FOR 8TH GRADERS
FRIDAY, MAY 26TH

UPPER SCHOOL VIDEO FESTIVAL
FRIDAY, MAY 26TH AT 7 P.M. ✕ COMMON ROOM

UPPER SCHOOL DANCE
SATURDAY, MAY 27TH

SCHOOL HOLIDAY – MONDAY, MAY 29TH

UPPER SCHOOL EXAMS, MAY 30TH-31ST

THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST:
FIELD DAY
KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

8TH GRADE GRADUATION ✕ SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD
MASS AT 10 A.M., FOLLOWED BY COMMENCEMENT
AND A LUNCHEON RECEPTION TO HONOR OUR GRADUATES.

✕ ✕ ✕