

The Pelican

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Surgentes Simul Alis Fidei ac Rationis

The Monthly Newsletter of The Atonement Academy

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FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

November is a very busy time, so I want to highlight several things happening this month:

Please join me in welcoming our new parish musician, Edmund Murray, to the academy faculty. He begins work here on November 1. His wife, Chalon, will be joining us on the faculty in a few weeks. Both of them are terrific musicians with master's degrees from the Boston Conservatory of Music.

Also beginning November 1, students are required to bring their sweaters to school every day until March 1. Please note that we have a new sweater this year, which you must purchase from Parker Uniform.

November 1, of course, is All Saints' Day. Here at the academy, we always celebrate the communion of saints in fine style on that day. The St. Anthony Hall will look a little like heaven at 1:30 p.m., when the whole student body assembles dressed as saints. A representative from each class will deliver an oral report on his chosen saint. Afterwards, the students will retire to their classrooms for class parties for the remainder of the day. If you'd like to help with all this, please call your room mother.

Speaking of calling your room mother, the academy phone directory is being printed and will be distributed soon. It has many new features this year; my favorite is the family list by Zip Code which should make forming carpools a snap (The Atonement Academy has students from 37 different Zip Codes). Hearty thanks go to Theresa Dolan (Joey's mom) for volunteering to head up this big project again this year.

Please note that there will be **no classes on Friday, November 12**, when we will observe Veterans' Day.

Thursday, November 18, is a pizza day, so you don't have to pack a lunch that day!

The annual academy festival, *The King's Fair* (formerly known as Archer Day), will be held on **Saturday, November 20, beginning with Holy Mass at 10:00 a.m.** This is always a great time for the whole family. Come watch knights in armor gallop the high horses of Belgium. Come see a medieval illusionist, Sir Richard the Amazing, work his magic. There will be medieval ale, freshly made root beer, and other tasty medieval treats like sausage on a stick and roast turkey legs. Come climb a rock wall safely belayed from above, or win something on the archery range. Feel free to come as you are or to come in costume!

One highlight of the day will be when we draw the raffle winners. The grand prize, you must have heard by now, is a sporty new *Kia Spectra*. (It's not exactly medieval, but we didn't think raffling a donkey cart would raise much money.)

Please do your best to ensure that your family sells its allotted portion of raffle tickets. *This is our major fundraiser of the year.* Each family is expected to sell at least \$255 worth of tickets so that we can make our fundraising goal. And remember: 50% of everything your family sells over \$100 is reserved in a trust account to defray your child's travel expenses on one of the Rome trips that crown the careers of Middle and Upper School students.

Picture day is November 23, so please make sure your student wears a clean uniform, his academy sweater, and a big smile!

Thanksgiving break begins with early dismissal, at 1:15 p.m., on November 24.

There is a **Parent Teacher Club meeting on November 30 at 7:00 p.m.** Come find out how well your PTC has done this year, and what our plans are for the future.

Thank you for the privilege of helping you educate your children,

Dr. Stephen Hollingshead

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

We had an excellent first nine weeks. We are very pleased with the progress students are making. November is not only a month of being thankful it is also a time for sharing with others. One of the students' projects in Art this month will be making Indian hats. We will also become meteorologists, and keep close eye on the weather. We will talk about what kind of clothes we need to wear during different seasons of the year. In Language Arts, we will work on recognizing and writing letters G, H, I, and J. In Math we will work on numbers 8, 9, and 10. Please assist your child in writing his name on all homework assignments. The children are working very hard to learn to do this themselves, which we expect them to do by January.

We want to wish all of our families and friends a very safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday, as we give thanks to God for His many wonderful blessings!

Mrs. Garcia and Miss Crawford

KINDERGARTEN

November is here and the kindergarteners have quite a bit on their plates! They will be focusing on physical science this month. Activities will include comparing the weight of objects and how objects look and feel. In Social Studies they will learn about good health and nutrition. The children will learn how to make wise choices when ordering food in a restaurant as well as packing their lunch box. The students are anxiously awaiting the All Saints' Day celebration. They are busy writing their reports, preparing costumes, and memorizing interesting facts about their saints. It will definitely be a memorable day.

The kindergarteners will continue practicing the "word worm" in their classrooms daily and reading beginner books independently. In Math, the children will be counting coins, counting by 2's and 10's, and counting backwards. They will also learn to tell time to the hour and will begin subtraction. Thank you, kindergarten parents, for the reinforcement you provide to your child at home.

Mmes. Elias and Phinizy

FIRST GRADE

November will be a month to remember in first grade. First, all of the children will become martyrs, miracle workers, or members of the clergy as they dress up as and complete simple reports on their favorite saint for All Saints' Day. With colorful costumes and party favors (for later in the day), fun will be had by all. Next, the students will be learning to travel around the world via a globe and newly acquired map skills. Giving directions and locating capitals on a map are just a few of the new map skills that the children are learning. Wow! How many first graders in San Antonio know what the equator is and which countries border it? Finally, as the second grading quarter begins, the first graders will be sharpening their mathematical skills by beginning double digit addition and subtraction. Moreover, they will begin to explore the parts of speech in language arts. Knowing about nouns, verbs, and adjectives will help the

children become better writers. Thank you for such wonderfully intelligent children. The first graders truly make the sun shine just a bit brighter each day.

Mrs. Otten and Miss Deffenbaugh

SECOND GRADE

What a wonderful way to kick off an exciting month with our All Saints' Day celebration! Of course, the raffle is ongoing until November 20, the day of The King's Fair. Keep those monies and sold tickets coming in as the second graders vie for the coveted class pizza party that goes to the class that sells the most tickets. Of course, we want to see EVERY class win the ice cream party for reaching its goal. LET'S SELL ALL OF THOSE TICKETS!!!

The students are progressing well in their studies, with the first quarter just behind us. Handwriting continues to improve, so keep encouraging your students to write as legibly as possible on all assignments. Through our Junior Great Books reading program and our Voyages in English curriculum, the students have many opportunities to develop writing skills. We encourage creative thinking in the Junior Great Books program and the ability to follow a given format in English. English writing assignments will continue to be interspersed with grammar lessons as the students' writing skills improve. Continue to encourage your student's reading and AR testing. The second grade's deadline for having completed half of the AR goal for the second quarter is Friday, November 12. When reading with your child, encourage him to use the phonics techniques to sound out words before you just tell him a word that he is struggling with. The more they practice, the more success they will have and their love of reading will grow!

In Math class we will be learning to tell time in five-minute increments, writing money in dollars and cents, and measuring using centimeters. In Science, we will have the ever-popular Dinosaur Unit, and Mrs. Henriquez may share some dinosaur songs she has picked up in her music therapy work. In Social Studies we will cover conflict resolution and problem-solving strategies. In Religion, we will be covering the Old Testament patriarchs and the importance of their obedience to God. Have a Happy Thanksgiving as we all give thanks for our many blessings, not the least of which are our wonderful, involved, supportive parents!

Mmes. Garcia and Henriquez

THIRD GRADE

First of all, I want to thank Fr. Kloster, who has been helping out the third grade this year. He has been a big help, and I know the children enjoy having him in class as well.

In Science class this month, we will explore living things and their environment by making our own dioramas of different habitats. In English, we will learn what it is like to be a reporter, how to write a how-to-paragraph, and a book report. We have enjoyed playing racing games in Math and are moving along quickly. Multiplying two-digit numbers and introducing division is on the agenda next. Let's practice those

multiplication facts every day! Social Studies takes the third grade into rural America. We will discover how fruits and vegetables are grown in one part of the United States, and how milk makes its way from the cow to your cereal bowl in the morning. Start looking for different pictures of rural communities.

For All Saints' Day we've learned about a variety of saints from soldiers to mystics, and will have a great time being them for one day. Thank you to all you parents for all your hard work! Let's keep up the good work!

Miss Peacher

FOURTH GRADE

November is coming soon. The fourth grade will be talking about the Hebrews' journey from Egypt to the promised land in Religion class. We will be discussing pronouns and trying to explore better ways of writing with our time in English. During Reading we will be discussing "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," by C.S. Lewis. Science class will start to develop our concepts of physical science as we look at matter, force, motion, electricity, and magnetism. In Texas History, the class will be studying the Spanish and American settlers that came to live in Texas. Math will help us develop skills such as notation, fractions, measuring, and mixed numbers.

Mr. Kelly

FIFTH GRADE

With the first quarter behind them, our fifth graders are approaching the new semester with confidence and an abundance of vigor.

Math has become more difficult but increasingly interesting. Soon we hope to be adding and subtracting fractions with ease. In English, we continue to learn new concepts in grammar and try our best to apply these towards improving our overall writing skills. In History, after completing several chapters concerning the Colonies, we will then turn to the Revolutionary War. It should also be noted that our dedication to spelling has seen a dramatic increase. On our first spelling test of the new quarter we had more than half the class receive a one hundred percent. Well done! We will continue to read various short stories in our Junior Great Books reader, including "Lenny's Red Letter Day," and "The Prince," and "The Goose Girl." Moreover, we have found that the study of physical science has been rewarding and exciting. Having completed some work with the basic components of matter, we will next turn to some elementary concepts of motion and energy. In Religion, we will continue looking into Salvation History and a few of the most important facets regarding the coming of Jesus Christ. Our students are also looking forward to having some art classes, which will begin on the second day of November.

Let us hope and pray for a great beginning to the second quarter! God Bless,

Mr. Kawulok

GEOGRAPHY

The fourth grade students are now on the European continent beginning a careful study of the Nordic people of Scandinavia – Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, and Denmark. Our test on November 9th will complete our adventure in this part of the world. Then, we'll head south to the Balkans, visiting the nations of the former Yugoslavia: Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, and what's left of Yugoslavia itself – Serbia and Montenegro – two separate states going their own way. As a state, Yugoslavia soon will be gone, thus undoing the last map change of post-World War I. We will end the month with a study of France and Germany.

The fifth grade students will spend the entire month exploring South America. Can you name the five most common languages of the continent from this selection of nations: Uruguay, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, and Brazil? They are: Spanish, English, Dutch, French, and Portuguese! Our special assignment this month is doing a book report, which will be due on December 2. Students will have to choose three nations from South America or the Caribbean, and compare and contrast them, and make hand-drawn maps. We will have a test over the 13 South American nations on November 18, and finish up our reports the week of Thanksgiving. Springtime is in the air in South America, and it's a nice place to spend the month!

Deacon Orr

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

Hello, Middle and Upper School Parents,

Whew, the first quarter is over, and it was a good trek. I am pleased with the progress of the students overall and am expecting even more improvement. There is no doubt in my mind that it will occur. As regards the sixth graders, we are continuing on in Math to do fun calculations of all sorts including some geometry. In Religion, we are going to review the importance and meaning of Mass. In History, we are finishing an excellent chapter on Christianity and will soon be entering Europe for the first time. For the seventh grade parents, we are approaching an independent Texas. For the eighth grade parents, we are approaching an independent United States of America. And finally for the ninth grade parents, we are just about finished with the Father of History and will be reading Plutarch until Christmas. Great job, parents and students, on this first quarter! I enjoyed it.

Mr. Howell

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE AND SEVENTH GRADE MATHEMATICS

The first quarter is done—where does the time go? Your seventh grader is working through the Saxon Pre-algebra course at a furious pace, learning one small skill each day, and then practicing it repeatedly. The keyword is practice, practice, practice—with homework due every day except when there's an exam.

In sixth grade Physical Science, we are working our way through the world of rocks, and are about to embark

into the land of the dinosaurs when we explore fossils and the concept of geologic time. This will take us into the processes that shape the earth's surface, such as weathering and erosion, and eventually off the earth and into the atmosphere for weather!

In seventh grade Science we are entering into the world of anatomy after having a brief brush with the structure of tissues. That means that we are about to begin the dissections of several vertebrate species and compare the elements of their body plans. We may also examine some human bones, and will compare the structure of a human skull to that of the dog.

In the eighth grade, we have moved on to the world of molecules, where we are exploring how atoms are assembled into the compounds we all are familiar with. We are using the periodic chart of the elements to predict bonding structure, and will eventually be able to predict whether or not certain compounds will react.

Finally, your freshman scientists are entering into the world of the gene. After learning DNA structure and gene function, they will be exploring how genes are inherited in WORMS!

One note about the popular bean-sprouting extra credit experiment—your kids wrote some *excellent* first-time scientific reports with nothing but some beans and some imagination! I am searching for new projects to offer as extra credit, because I think that that incentive leads to some wonderful scientific learning experiences!

Dr. Vallor

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH, AND EIGHTH GRADE RELIGION

The time has come to apply our detailed study of grammar to our writing skills. Each of my English classes has begun a paper that will be revised repeatedly throughout the second quarter. I will give specific instructions for each new draft of the paper so that the grammar learned in class and through the worksheets is incorporated into the paper. For example, I might direct the students to revise their papers to include several noun clauses, a few participial phrases, and a splash of nonrestrictive adjective elements. I want the students to use their knowledge of grammar to improve their writing. As the students come to understand the grammar, they will build a repertoire of writing techniques; so not only will the scholars have something to say, they will develop a sense for how best to say it.

Our study of literature continues. The sixth grade scholars are now reading *Prince Caspian*, the seventh grade scholars are well into *The Two Towers*, the eighth grade scholars have begun Shakespeare's *Richard III*, and the upper scholars are on a journey with Odysseus in Homer's *The Odyssey*. As always, our concern is with what makes these particular works good, beautiful, and true. We strive for this goal by asking and answering questions about the story, and these questions require the scholars to support their answers with the text itself.

Mr. Cupp

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

Parentes et discipuli, salvete!

Happy All Saints' Day. Our second year Latin scholars will soon learn the passive voice for verbs in Latin. In passive voice, the subject no longer acts but is acted upon. It is nothing short of a subversion of a language. The subject now acts as the direct object; the agent is now relegated to the object of a preposition. I foresee some confusion in the days to come. The passive voice is usually insidious, impotent, ignorant or just plain sloppy. It can also stress the importance of the object of an action or the unimportance of the agent. It is rare in both Latin and good English writing. Regrettably there is no middle voice in Latin (as in Greek), which lies somewhere in between – I'll let you think how that might be. The sixth grade scholars will tackle a new set of endings for the third declension nouns, the last such we shall learn this year. Finally, as we continue to read the Old Testament, we shall pray for the souls in Purgatory, since November is dedicated to them.

Valete,

Magister Ruplinger

FRESHMAN THEOLOGY

Having finished the Pentateuch and Joshua, we are poised to read about Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon during November.

Mr. Arndt

EIGHTH GRADE ALGEBRA I

Things are beginning to get fun in Algebra class. It seems we've finally got a hold on the distributive property of multiplication, but watch out! Here come multivariable equations and polynomials...

Dr. Hollingshead

ATHLETICS

November will be an exciting month for our Athletics program, as renovation is complete on our plush new blacktop basketball facilities behind the Church. In other words, we have relocated one of the basketball hoops to the top of the hill, and so will move forward this month with drills and games to develop our dribbling, passing, shooting, and defensive skills. When using the Church parking lot, please be especially mindful that it is doubling as our basketball court, and whenever possible park as close as you can to the building.

On an unrelated note, as the weather cools down students perspire less and less, so beginning November 8, students will no longer be allowed to bring their water bottles to Athletics class. It is still important that the students remain hydrated, of course, but with the cooler weather it is no longer imperative that they drink every 10 to 15 minutes. Thank you for your cooperation!

Coach Lyle
