



# THE RAMBLER



“Reaching out with God’s Word, Good Shepherd Lutheran School assists families with educating, equipping and encouraging children for life and eternity.”

*“Praising the Good Shepherd for 60 Years!”*

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## **CLEANING**

Cleaners for the weekend of Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> are: Hamacher (x3), Sharpe, Loomis (x2), Mason, Thogersen

\* \* Cleaning right after school on Friday or the last day of school for the week is the best time to complete cleaning duties. If this truly does not work for your schedule, you can get a key for the building. Please pick up a key from the office prior to the close of school on the last day of the week. Please return the key to the office when you are finished cleaning. The cleaning supplies are in the closet, kiddy-corner from the kitchen. There is a list of duties with numbers next to them and a list with the names of the families who are to clean. When you have completed the list of jobs you chose, put the number of that job done next to your name. This way, other teams will know which jobs are already completed and we know who has done their cleaning responsibilities. You will be notified of your week to clean through this Cleaning Rambler article, and there is a copy of the year's cleaning sign up sheets in the Fast Direct System under the LINKS tab. If you are unable to clean on your weekend, it is **your** responsibility to exchange your weekend duties with another family or contact the office to see if there are any open slots left if you want to be credited the \$40.00 cleaning fee. Thank you.

## CHAPEL

Please join us for our weekly chapel service this Wednesday, December 6, at 8:10 am. This week's chapel speaker is Pastor Knoll.

Our students have chosen the mission projects for this year. They are Good Shepherd's building project (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter), Time of Grace (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter), and KML Mission Trips (4<sup>th</sup> quarter). Last week's offering was \$78.58. Our total offering for the quarter now stands at \$521.07.

Please encourage your child to bring an offering every week. This is good training for future church membership as an adult.

## MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Wednesdays - 10:00 am and 6:30 pm; December 6, 13, and 20 (6:30 pm only at Shepherd of the Hills)

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel!"

(Based on comforting images of Christ depicted in this memorable Advent hymn)

Dec. 6) O Root of Jesse-Free Us from Satan's Tyranny

Join us also for our delicious **Advent Dinners** prior to our Wednesday Advent services, 5:15 pm in the gym. Bring a dessert to share.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Christmas Gifts for Good Shepherd Staff and Children are gathered in December.

We express our appreciation to those who serve in our midst with a gift card to our called workers, staff and Sunday School teachers. Children who participate in our Christmas Eve service will receive a gift certificate for a special treat. You may use the designated envelope included in your envelope packet, returning it by way of the offering plate or directly to the church/school office between now and Sunday, December 17th. A special door offering will also be received after each service December 9-10th for this purpose.

## KML CONCERTS

The Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School Band Concert will be Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 pm  
The KML Christmas Choir Concert will be held Saturday, December 16th at 6:30 pm. All are invited.

## ADVENT WORSHIP

Mid-week Advent services take place on Wednesday, December 6, 13, and 20. Shepherd of the Hills holds an evening worship service beginning at 6:30. Good Shepherd offers a morning, 10:00 am, and an evening worship service, 6:30 pm each Wednesday of Advent.

If your child must attend the morning Advent service at Good Shepherd, please send a note or email to the child's teacher letting the teacher know the plan.

## NEWS FROM KETTLE MORAIN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

**On December 11<sup>th</sup>**, KML will have incoming freshmen sign up for courses. Early estimates place the incoming freshmen enrollment at 125 students.

The Lord richly blessed KML on "Giving Tuesday", the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. A KML supporter offered a matching challenge. The supporter would match every gift given up to \$100,000. With the match included, KML received gifts of \$200,150.49 on Giving Tuesday.

We received word over the weekend that Mr. Nathan Krug accepted our call to teach English and lead the Drama Department next year. We thank the Lord for answering our prayer and providing this worker.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The lists are posted outside the office. If it is necessary for you to switch services, please send a note or email to Mr. Sievert. It is always easy to switch from the early service to the late service. It is not as easy to make the switch the other way. **All requests for switching services are due by December 6.**

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

For this year only, we changed the service times for Christmas Eve. The first children's service takes place at 1:00 pm. The second service follows at 4:00 pm. We move the services earlier due to construction. This allows us to utilize daylight hours and hopefully, avoid problems with entering and

exiting the building. We extended the time between services to allow the building and the parking lot to clear prior to the second service.

We are asking that no people arrive at church for the second service prior to 3:00 pm. That is still an hour in advance.

If you try to reserve seats for family members, a member of the family must remain with the seats you wish to reserve. It is no longer acceptable to put a coat or reserved sign on a pew or chair and leave.

Students should report to their classrooms no more than 20 minutes prior to the start of the service. If you come early to reserve seats and have your children with you, you must keep your children with you. Our teachers and staff are not responsible for children until 20 minutes prior to the start of the service.

### **DVD ORDERS**

We make recordings of many of our special events such as Spring Thing, Sacred Concert, Handbell Concert, and Christmas Eve services. Order forms are in the church narthex. There is a DVD sleeve with a label on it. You simply fill out the label, put the payments (\$1 per DVD) into the sleeve, and leave it in the basket. Completed orders are placed in the basket next to the blank orders.

There are a number of completed orders in the basket at this time. Please check the basket. If you have a completed order there, please take it with you.

Copies from this year's Christmas Hand Bell Concert and Christmas Eve services will be available barring any technology glitches.

### **SCHOOL CLOSING – INCLEMENT WEATHER**

This is the time of year when weather may cause school to close or trigger a late start. Fog, snow, ice, or extreme cold are just a few of the conditions that can trigger changes to a school day. Please note that anytime the West Bend School District cancels school or has a delayed start, Good Shepherd follows suit. If the West Bend School District cancels school due to weather conditions, Good Shepherd also cancels school. Many times the school district gets the message to the Milwaukee television stations faster than we do. Please watch any of the Milwaukee stations for updates when weather conditions may cause school cancellation or delay.

### **CONSTRUCTION NOTES**

Please drive slowly when entering or exiting our property at all times. Your cooperation helps keep the children safe.

Signs for the parking lot designating proper entrance and exit locations are now mounted and displayed. Please give us your cooperation in following these signs.

The only entrance open for basketball games is the lower level entrance. No one will enter the building for basketball games through the upper level. All upper level doors will remain locked during basketball games.

Soon excavating on the playground side of our building will start. This will close the doors by the vending machines. Upper level school entrance will be through the doors closest to the portable toilet. If you must walk your child into the building, please park in one of the designated parking stalls. If you are just dropping your child off, please do so as quickly as possible to avoid interrupting traffic flow.

### **AMAZON SMILE**

Amazon has a very easy fund raising program that could be used to help our building program. People can go online to [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com). You are then able to choose a charity to support. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is registered as a charity on the site. All you have to do after that is the shopping you planned to do anyway. Amazon sends a percentage of your purchase price to Good Shepherd. All funds coming from [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) go to the building project.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

December 6 Chapel, 8:10 am  
Principals' Conference, 12:00 pm  
Good Shepherd Advent worship, 10:00 am & 6:30 pm  
Fellowship meal, 5:15 pm  
Shepherd of the Hills Advent worship, 6:30 pm

- 7 'A' girls @ Living Word tournament, 6:00 pm  
Shepherd of the Hills Children's Christmas Eve worship, 6:30 pm
- 8 BB @ St. John's, Lannon, 5:00 pm
- 9 Little Lambs Christmas program, 9:00 am  
'A' girls @ Living Word tournament, 9:00 am  
Good Shepherd worship, 5:00 pm
- 10 Good Shepherd worship, 8:00 & 10:30 am  
Shepherd of the Hills worship, 8:00 & 10:30 am  
'A; girls @ Living Word tournament, 12:00 pm  
KML band concert, 2:00 pm
- 11 5-8 Faculty meeting, 3:30 pm
- 12 Common Council, 7:00 pm
- 13 Chapel, 8:10 am  
Good Shepherd Advent worship, 10:00 am & 6:30 pm  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> sing  
Fellowship meal, 5:15 pm  
Shepherd of the Hills Advent worship, 6:30 pm
- 14 5/6 BB v. St. Paul's, 5:00 pm  
Shepherd of the Hills worship 6:30 pm
- 15 Mom's Bible study, 8:00 am  
BB @ Peace, 5:00 pm
- 16 Joint rehearsals for Christmas Eve, 9:00 & 10:30 am  
Good Shepherd worship, 5:00 pm  
KML Choir Concert, 6:30 pm
- 17 Good Shepherd worship, 8:00 & 10:30 am  
Shepherd of the Hills worship, 8:00 & 10:30 am
- 19 Coordinating Council, 7:00 pm

## SCRIP SPOTLIGHT

During the current phase of construction, our scrip table is located in the church narthex.

THANK YOU to our wonderful volunteers who are helping us out this week:

Wednesday 12-6-17 7:30a-8a scrip table: Corrin Ehke / Senior Bible Study 8:30a-9a scrip table: Deanna Borns / 2:45p-3:15p scrip table: Cindy Rennicke

Thursday 12-7-17 7:30a-8a scrip table: Corrine Wells / 2:45p-3:15p scrip table: NEED HELP PLEASE

Friday 12-8-17 7:30a-8a scrip table: NEED HELP PLEASE / 2:45p-3:15p scrip table: Janice Ertmer

Saturday 12-9-17 6p-6:15p scrip table: NEED HELP PLEASE

Sunday 12-10-17 9a-9:15a scrip table: NEED HELP PLEASE / 11a-11:15a scrip table: NEED HELP PLEASE

Monday 12-11-17 7:30a-8a scrip table: NEED HELP PLEASE / 2:45p-3:15p scrip table: Dana Scheunemann

Tuesday 12-12-17 7:30a-8a scrip table: NEED HELP PLEASE / (inventory stocker: Nichole Oertel) / 2:45p-3:15p scrip table: Jen Retzlaff

Please notice we have seven "need help please" spots in our schedule. If you can help us out, please visit our sign-up genius link <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a49aead2fa3ff2-scrip3>. It's easy work, a short time commitment, and a great opportunity to get first dibs on whatever scrip you want to buy ☺

Whether you're a scrip customer or a scrip volunteer, please know we appreciate each and every one of you! If you'd like to learn more about how scrip works or its volunteer opportunities, please contact Renee Berg via Fast Direct or call/text 262-388-2278.

Have a wonderful week!

## PIONEER UPDATE

Please remember to email us if you are able to attend the Caroling event, December 11<sup>th</sup>, so we know how many people are able to attend. Caroling is 6:30-7:45 pm at New Perspectives Senior Living.

Sunbeams – Denise at [denisekay@charter.net](mailto:denisekay@charter.net)

Travelers – Dana at [dana@ambie.com](mailto:dana@ambie.com)

Boys – Bob at [tandbham@aol.com](mailto:tandbham@aol.com)

## **THANK YOU!**

The Good Shepherd cheer team would like to thank all that donated candy canes, purchased candy canes and supported our candy cane sale! We were able to raise an amazing \$246! It warms our hearts to see the children donate beyond what they have purchased and to have the support of parents and grandparents. Thank you for giving others a special Christmas and sharing Jesus' love with others! Merry Christmas from your cheer team! GO RAMS!

## **BOOKS SALES FOR GRADES SIX THROUGH EIGHT**

December flyers were distributed last week to these three classrooms. I do have an online ordering program which is set up; if you want to use your credit card to order, simply go to [scholastic.com](http://scholastic.com) as a parent. The school code for grades 6-8 is H38T6. Orders are due in any form by 3:00 P.M. on **Wednesday, December 6**. If you send the money and order to school, please make sure it's in an envelope with Mrs. Wilk on it, the orders have the child's name on them, and that the amount is exact. Your child can deliver it to me in the eighth grade room. Mrs. Sarah Matthias is going to process them for me.

## **SPORTS NEWS (by Rau)**

Thank you this week to Mr. Braun. He has been setting up the gym for home games this year and it is very well done.

Please remember to use Christian love in all communication. Please talk to your coaches after 24 hours has elapsed if you have a concern so you can be calm. Better yet, ask them for a meeting at a later date so they can prepare comments as you have been thinking and preparing your comments. Our GS coaches are fine Christians that volunteer their time for others. That action and our guidance in the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment set them in a light of taking words and actions in the kindest possible way. There are and will always be players that can handle different situations in any game. That is the coach's job to know after all those practice hours. You have entrusted your child to them; please act like you trust them. It would also be great if parents talked with coaches on a social manner without having a concern. Often coaches are left to themselves, and they may enjoy a soda and conversation with you also. Coaching is a joy but can be lonely.

Those who are interested in watching Rams basketball from the comfort of your couch can see the Living Word tournaments via live stream at: <http://tinyurl.com/lwgymfeed> . It is great for relatives that are far away and those who maybe don't have a 5-8 grader yet but like to support school. Enjoy!

Remember that there is admission to the Living Word tournament and any tournament that we attend. Thank you for being positive to those schools, too. Our tournaments keep us on budget and so do theirs.

A boys- please add a tournament at St. John's West Bend Jan 25, 27, 28 to your schedules. Thank you.

### **Events this week:**

Dec 7, 9, 10- A girls at Living Word tournament

Dec 8- Games at St. John's Lannon- B girls 5pm, 6<sup>th</sup> boys- 6pm, A girls- 7pm, A boys- 8 pm

## **3K AND 4K NEWS**

This week the four year olds are learning about the tenth plague and how God helped the children of Israel left Egypt.. The three year olds are learning about how God gave the children of Israel the 10 commandments.

This week we are studying the letter "F".

With the cold weather coming please send hats, mittens and snow stuff (when we have snow) to school. We do try and get out every day. The rule of thumb is that if the temperature is above twenty we will be going outside.

We welcome River to our 3K class and pray that the Lord blesses her here at Good Shepherd.

Advent is upon us. We are excited to celebrate Christmas! Please look in the front of the Rambler for times of church services. Thank you for working on the Christmas Eve songs with your child.

You should have received a red piece of paper with the name of the child which your child chose for the gift exchange. If you did not receive this, please ask for another one.

Report cards were sent home on Monday or Tuesday. Please look for them in your child's backpack. When you are finished looking them over, please sign and return them to school. We send the report cards home three times a year. You will keep the report card in May.

### **MRS. PAUSTIAN'S PENCIL**

Greetings of the season! As you hustle and bustle your way through the holiday season, may you take time to enjoy and appreciate it, too! Thank you Lord for Christmas!

This week the leader is Isaiah with Show & Tell on Wednesday. Tess will be the next leader.

Are you using Sycamore? There is a pass a note option where you can message me! Otherwise my email is mpaustian@gslswb.org.

Christmas practice has started! We have been learning the songs and practicing the words every day. Please go through it at home too. It is located in the folder instead of memory treasures.

Each Thursday and Friday, I have the students read their sight word lists to me and we update them. Please make sure they are kept in the reading pouch in the folder. Thank you.

The children are holding their pencils correctly, they are now able to bring in 2 regular size pencils for school work.

The cold has arrived! Please send an extra bag to carry snowpants and boots. Just a shopping bag is fine. The students should not be stuffing them in the backpacks.

God bless your week ahead!

**A note from Mrs. Kapler:** "On Monday, kindergarten was assessed at their reading level. One on one, the students read to me and based on their decoding, fluency and comprehension a new reading level may have been achieved.

Thank you for reading with your child each day. Keep practicing the reading strategies and sight-words. I can really see a difference in their confidence and ability! Don't forget about RAZ, the online reading program. Take advantage of RAZ because you have books with you wherever you may be!

### **MRS. DREWA'S DETAILS**

This week we are learning:

\*Christ Light: "The Passover" and "Crossing the Red Sea" - God has used his power to save us from sin, death and the devil.

\*Math: We are studying 3D shapes and their attributes.

\*Reading: Words with "ar", "or", "ir", and "ur". These are referred to as R-controlled vowels.

\*Spelling: This week's words are "of", "a", and "to".

\*English: We are continuing our writing unit on personal narratives. We will be planning and writing drafts this week.

Upcoming dates to remember:

December 13 – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sing for midweek Advent services: 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. If your child is unable to sing at the evening service, please send an excuse. More details will be sent home closer to the date.

There are no guest readers for the rest of December, due to Christmas practices. Please remember to check your calendars and see if you can come and read to the first graders. Here are the other dates that are still open: Feb. 16; Mar. 7, 16, 23; Apr. 6, 20; May 2, 11, 16, and 23. Moms, dad, grandparents, etc. are encouraged to come and be a guest reader.

### **CAMP HAGEDORN**

We sing for Advent on Wednesday, December 13 at the 6:30pm service (At GS or SoH). Please, let me know if your child will be unable to attend.

Empty Soup Cans Needed! I am in need of about 26 empty, super duper clean soup cans. They can be as small as the 10.5oz, 23.2 oz, or 28 oz, etc... Just be sure to wash them out really, really, REALLY :) well! If possible, I would like to have them here by Friday. Thank you!

Here is what we are learning this week:

ChristLight: We are hearing the stories - The Passover and Crossing the Red Sea. Through these stories we see how God fights for his people and delivers them.

Math: We are learning about numbers up to 20 and place value.

Phonics: Our focus for the week are words with R initial blends.

Reading: We will begin a unit about Christmas.

Grammar/Writing: We will finish our unit on proper nouns. We will then begin plural nouns.

Spelling Words: is, in, you

God's Blessings on another great week of learning and growing!

### **MRS. BIESTERFELD'S BULLETIN**

December greetings! We will be spending a lot of time this month preparing for the Christmas Eve Service. Our daily schedule will be a little different each day.

Mark your calendars - we sing with first grade on Wednesday, December 13. Shepherd of the Hills members may sing at their church. Please let me know if your child will be unable to sing.

How is your child doing on the habitat science project? The project is due Thursday, December 14. Here's what we are learning this week:

- Our Christ Light lessons shows us how God provided for the Israelites in the desert. We thank God for giving us everything we need for our bodies and souls.
- In math we are finishing our unit on subtracting 3 digit numbers.
- This week's phonics skill is the long vowel a spelled ai and ay.
- In grammar we are learning about compound sentences.
- In writer's workshop we are working on opinion writing.
- In science we are learning about food chains and food webs.

Enjoy God's blessings this week!

### **GREETINGS FROM GRADE THREE**

Grade 3 will be singing in church this Wednesday, Dec. 6, with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We will meet in the classroom at 6:15, and sing from the front. If your child will not be there, a written excuse is required. Children belonging to Shepherd of the Hills will sing the same anthem over there.

Thank you for assisting with the Christmas Memory Work. The students are doing very well. It will get easier the more we practice. Your child may recite sections in advance, but they must be done in order. When one sheet is complete they will get the next sheet. There are four sheets in all.

We have a social studies test on Chapter 4 scheduled for Wednesday. In reading the children will be assigned a biography book to read and a short "book report" form to fill out about their book. They will begin reading the book on Monday, Dec. 11. I will be giving them a "note taking" log to accompany their reading. The written book report is due Jan. 3.

Multiplication has officially begun. If you have any apps for your I Pads or computers to help your child learn their tables, I think they would be beneficial.

The classroom Christmas party is scheduled for Thursday, December 21. I ask the children to bring a snack to share with the class. We will be putting together a choice list. Please mark your choices 1, 2 and 3. I will let you know what you should bring. The children should bring their own drinks. I will provide plates, napkins, and cups. **Please do not send the exchange gifts to school until Monday, Dec. 17.**

The greeters for Wednesday, Dec.6, are Logan Haeuser and Joel Retzlaff.

See you Wednesday night for church. May the Lord grant you a blessed week.

### **MRS. MEHLBERG'S MEMO**

The Advent season of the church year is a time to look forward to the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Savior. Grades 3 and 4 will sing an Advent Prayer which follows 3 things that were foretold in Isaiah - a light, a child, and a Savior will come to show us the way to heaven. We will all sing in the 10 AM service. The Good Shepherd members should meet in our classroom at 6:15 PM before the evening service. The rest will sing at the Shepherd of the Hills service.

Thank you for listening to your child's memory work assignments. This saves us some time each morning. Each week I send home a new sheet. They may go ahead as long as they go in order.

On Wednesday Nate Amundson, Director of Elementary School Bands, will give the students a brief introduction to the band program. Please look for some information to come home in the FISH Folder. In fifth grade students are able to sign up for band lessons through this program.

Keep warm as the weather feels more like December!

### **RAU RAMBLES**

Greetings this first week of Advent! Come Lord Jesus! We anxiously await your coming.

In Christ Light we are studying how the Lord fights the battle for his people and delivers them. Chapel offerings are a great way to help your child show love for God's gifts. We are working on Christmas music for hymnology.

Thank you to Mrs. Gliszinski, Mrs. Bartlet and Mr. and Mrs. Bell for helping us research at the library last week. I recommend at least three 20 minute sessions this week for the research part of your paper.

Book orders are due Wednesday. Please let me know if any are gifts.

Thank you VERY MUCH to Mrs. Schmandt for subbing for me last week for the funeral. I really can't express how great she is!

Please put joint Christmas rehearsal on December 16<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. It is very important for our kids and the Sunday school. We also sing in church December 20<sup>th</sup> for the Advent service. Please mark that down also.

There is a science quiz on Wednesday.

God bless your week.

### **Science 6 and Spanish 7**

Please have your child dedicate at least 3-20 minute study sessions to his research of his science project. The research part will need lots of time. We tested on chapter 3 today. In Spanish we are still looking at Navidad.

### **BRAUN'S BABBLINGS**

Christmas Service: Just a couple reminders regarding the Christmas service this year because of the construction going on. The early service is at 1 P.M., and the late service is at 4 P.M. Doors open 1 hour before the service. If you arrive early please keep the students with you, they are allowed into the classrooms 20 minutes before the service.

Essential Questions:

Science: What role do fungi play in God's creation?

History: Revolutionary War- When is war justified?

- Test Friday

Literature: My Brother Sam is Dead- How can life experiences change people?

### **MRS. WILK WRITES**

We are busily preparing our hearts and our Christmas service! The Christmas Eve service takes place at 1:00 P.M. (early) and 4:00 P.M. (late) with the students sharing God's word in song, narration, and recitation. I am delighted to say that almost every child in eighth grade has a special part for which they volunteered; these will be shared from the pulpit using a microphone; I will help them prepare their solo parts. We began working on the musical parts last week. In addition to joint practices this week with the entire student body, I will also be reviewing the songs with the students; they already have a schedule of what songs need to be ready this week and next. The students also will perform joint recitations, which Mr. Sievert will help the students master. This is the last Christmas Eve service for these eighth grade students here at Good Shepherd; I am excited to hear them share the gospel message!

As I compose my communication with you this week, I think about the men and women that gave their lives on Pearl Harbor Day. It's won't be long, and we'll be studying WWII in history. As we march through the pages of our history book, I pray the students see how God has been present and how we need to learn from the past sin and errors. We live in a sometimes violent world, but we know God has our protection and care all worked out. The words of our Christmas service rekindle our hope in the correct place, God.



We would like to decorate our class room for Christmas. Because storage is at a premium at our school, I do not keep many decorations. If you have some decorations that you would like to share, we would appreciate borrowing them. We will take down our decorations before we leave for Christmas break; they will be returned to you.

I was delighted to see so many students helping with Christmas for Kids on Saturday; it is such a wonderful outreach into our community.

If your child chose a persuasive or visual aid speech, we are in stage five of preparation to write our research papers and give our speeches. After a month of reading and studying our topics, those that chose the picture book format will start to synthesize their thoughts and start drawing our illustrations, diagrams, and paragraphs into our books.

#### *Seventh Grade*

After Christmas we will begin our research papers for the year. Students will be studying whales and sharks and synthesizing their information into a paper and visual aid speech.

We have been reviewing phrases in language. You should be seeing many more assignments coming home on the topic of adjective and adverb phrases.

#### *Sixth Grade*

In Christ Light this week we just how merciful our God is when his chosen people sin. We will also celebrate how merciful God is to us to forgive our sins and send his one and only Son to pay the price for our sin-death on a cross.

Last week, when we discussed the memory work for tomorrow, I reminded the students that some of the parts might need advance studying because they were not review. Hopefully, they have been working on the treasures and possibly chunking them into manageable pieces. Starting early really helps lessen any frustration and gives the students a sense of accomplishment for tackling a more difficult mastery.

Hopefully your child noted in his planner the test that we took today on chapter 5.

Thank you for joining me in reaching out with God's word so that we can educate, encourage, and equip our children for life on earth and for bliss in heaven.

### **A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Words are powerful. Words have the power to lift people up, to encourage them, to put a smile on their faces. Words also have the power to hurt, to discourage, to tear down. Words are powerful.

It is rather ironic that some of the most powerful words are some of the smallest. For example, the word "no" has the power to crush a person. Just as any teenaged boy who has heard that answer from a girl he asked on a date. Imagine the crushing power of "no" when heard in answer to the question, "Do you love me?"

There are other small but powerful words, too. Consider the word "or". The word is often used when given a choice. If the choice is between something appealing and something disgusting, the "or" choice is easy. However, what if the choice is between two equally good or two equally poor choices? Then "or" becomes a tyrant and forces us to make a choice we really don't want to make.

Then there is the word "and". This is the counterpoint to "or". With "and" no choice is necessary. We get both options, good or bad. Another small, powerful word is "yet". "Yet" holds out hope. "Yet" says I may not know something right now, yet I will in the future. "Yet" allows for growth.

We all need to pay attention to the words, the small words, we use with children. There is a place for "no", but let's not over use it. Our Lord doesn't, Our Father's "yeses" far outnumber his "nos". Our Father doesn't make us choose between equally bad things. He wants to keep us away from all bad things. Our Father doesn't make us choose between equally good things. He uses "and" and gives us both. Our Father tells us we are not in heaven with him...yet. We will be, though.

May we all follow our Father's example as we use those powerful small words.