

Last weekend, I was helping a friend with some yard work. Many people gathered to provide assistance. As I began shoveling dirt, a little boy named James, four years of age, befriended me. "I love helping people," he said, and he proceeded to ask me for money. He was collecting funds for children in Uganda who have "nothing to eat and no place to sleep," according to James. He expressed how sad this picture of suffering made him.

As James and I talked, two adults directly behind us were embroiled in an intense theological argument over who is to be considered a "child of God." James seemed to instinctively know the answer. To him, each person was considered to be a "child of God." It was seen in his actions. He simply desired to help, whether it be raising funds for suffering children across the globe, or if it meant picking up a shovel to help his neighbor with yard work, it mattered not to James. He saw a need and out of compassion simply moved to help.

James, the four-year-old, was quite the sage teacher on that Saturday morning.

PRESCHOOL

Our preschool students' contagious enthusiasm was most evident at the Easter programs held at Bellevue and Woodinville. This was a great opportunity to share the message of promise and hope with our children and families, and, to do so with such exuberance and spontaneity, was simply, a treat to watch. It always amazes me to watch these young children singing and reciting Bible verses, and I know that God is pleased by such pure surrender offered to Him.

A number of families have been sharing how much their children have enjoyed the Bibles given them by our preschools. **Juliann Philips**, our preschool director, recounts how a number of children have told her they have read their whole Bible, sometimes more than once! These three and four-year-olds are indeed gifted!

THREE POINTS

Imagination Celebration is here! Three Points is celebrating the work of all its students during "**Imagination Celebration**" on Thursday, May 4th. Parents are invited to spend an evening in the classrooms with their children. Then, do not forget **Grandparents Day**, on Friday, May 5th. Those in attendance will view amazing art work and hear music created by students over the year. The Three Points family is excited to announce that beloved art teacher **Michelle Sullivan** is expecting twin daughters within a month. She and her husband John are adopting twins, which means that Mrs. Sullivan will take a leave for the remainder of this school year beginning after **Imagination Celebration**. **Mrs. Pam Holderman**, who has worked in the classroom with Michelle over the last two years, will ably fill in during this time.

MACK

As an expression of *Living Christ through Easter*, the after school Missions Club at Mack wrote letters to teens who were incarcerated. Their task was to convey the hope of their Lord Jesus Christ, to teenagers who maybe hadn't heard the story before. The letters were then placed in an Easter basket and delivered through an outreach organization. The letters remind us to pay close attention to the hearts of our students as they discover how to live in this redemptive time. As a school, we are called to pay close attention to our academic program, and as a Christian school we must also pay close attention to the opportunities we give our kids to share their faith with others.

Here is one of the many beautiful letters written by our kids, each telling their story of hope. I cannot give credit to individual students as they were all signed from "your friend," but to the student whose letter appears below I say "Thank-You for telling your story so clearly. You are to be commended for your dedication and caring!"

"As I sit down to write you a letter I don't really know what to write but hopefully what I write will cheer up your life. I am a down to earth person, (a boy for that matter), and a strong believer in Christ and I am hoping I can get you to see Easter

as I do. Okay, now let's begin. The minute you give your life to God He forgives you. But it's not all easy squeeze cheese you have to stay in touch with God through prayer and talking to him, even if you lie or steal or cheat. If you ask forgiveness and try to stop these things there will be a spot for you in heaven because God gave his one and only Son to die on the cross for us and that ties along with the Easter story how he died and rose again. Here are a few things I like and don't like:

- **LIKES:** Sports, some school stuff, music, God, Heaven. Dogs
- **DON'T LIKE:** Brussel sprouts, homework, chores, spiders and cats.

Blessings to you have a wonderful Easter. I will keep you in my prayers.....Signed, Your friend."

The hearts of our kids are in our care. May we as a Christian school continue to help them tell their story to others."

PRAXIS

Yesterday a school family visited the Praxis classroom to get a feel for what happens in that type of learning environment. As part of the visit, teacher **Evelyn Seymour** asked students to share with the family what was important to them as Praxis students. Here are a few responses:

- I can focus on my interests.
- It keeps me organized.
- It is a better use of my time because I can go at my own rate.
- It is a smaller environment with fewer distractions.
- I have a longer time at school to complete work.
- It is efficient and more individualized. When you are behind you have extra time to catch up. If you are done early, you can work on something else.
- I can pick my own subjects and assign my own homework.
- There is time for me to talk to my teachers.

SAS

Those in SAS are constantly being stretched and challenged to think richly about learning. As students grow in their confidence to learn, they more readily share elements of their journey. This, "**GAME PLAN**," created by an SAS student is one example. You may want to use this "**GAME PLAN**" in reaching for your goals.

G – Goal "What is my goal?"

A – Action "What should I do?"

M – Monitor/Modify "How am I doing?"
"What do I change?"

E – Evaluate "How did I do?"
"How can I use this in everyday life?"

Learning to think through life...

JUNIOR HIGH

Sylvia Dillon, a student teacher with **Mrs. Grambush**, offered this summary of what art students are learning. Students in JH Art Dimensions recently studied graffiti art. After students were introduced to this topic through video and examples, a visiting graffiti artist made a presentation to the class. Afterwards, students designed and created artwork for their own graffiti wall in the lower gym hallway. The culminating activity was a visit to "Graffiti Park" in Redmond where the park director and graffiti artists helped students create their own work. The artists were very impressed that a school would take interest in this art form and were thankful when students gave them extra spray cans of paint. As a way of saying thanks, the artists told the seventh and eighth grade students they would incorporate "BCS" into their next graffiti wall project in the park.

Mr. Berg is presently teaching on the Rise of the Industrial Revolution and Corporations in seventh grade social studies. In this unit, students focused on the development of the stock market. Following the unit, students formed groups and developed various corporations centered round an imaginary product that they designed. They engaged in the buying and selling of stocks in a "pit" created out of circled desks. It was fascinating to see how quickly they found ways of insider trading to benefit their personal portfolio.

The group activity took the entire period and a follow-up discussion will take place during a debriefing next week. This activity will provide students a great opportunity to discuss stewardship and ethics, and in particular, to ask themselves one of our Essential Questions, "How do I practice what I have learned in a way that cares for others?"

Seventh grade student, **Sherisa Rorberg**, shared her experience as an adopted child. She presented a slide presentation that challenged some of the students' preconceived notions about adoption and related her view from a biblical perspective. She invited a representative from Bethany Christian Services, the organization that arranged for her adoption, to share some of the benefits and challenges of adoption. At the end of the chapel, several junior high students shared their adoption experiences. It is well noted that BCS has had a lasting effect in the Rorberg family. Junior High Principal, **Tim Krell**, asked **Mrs. Rorberg** where she had gone to school. He already knew the answer because 27 years ago, **Lynn Nagle (Rorberg)** was in his BCS freshman algebra class. She graduated from BCS in 1983. **Miss Sipma** asked her to share from her experience. Second generation,

school parent, **Lynn (Nagle) Rorberg** is a witness to the BCS 'Learning to Think Through Life' legacy.

ATHLETICS

In 2006-2007, the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) has made a decision to move all 1A soccer play to the Spring. In light of the new classification system being put into effect, the WIAA felt it necessary to make this alteration of schedule. This change was needed in order to balance tournament allocation opportunities for all classifications. While this change met the needs of many other schools, it placed BCS, and other 1A schools, in a precarious position. This change would require that BCS compete at the state level in the spring with 2A, 3A, and 4A classification schools.

For BCS, competing in a spring state soccer tournament will create the following problems: First, student athletes who play soccer in the fall and compete in a spring sport would no longer have this option. Second, it would create an imbalance in athletic activities for fall and spring, possibly jeopardizing our Title IX status. Third, our current transportation system would not have enough drivers to handle the added travel requirements.

BCS, along with nine other 1A schools in the Emerald City League, will continue to compete in boys' 1A soccer in the fall, play against nine other schools during league play. The fall season will culminate with a final league tournament in November. BCS will not participate in the 1A/2A spring state tournament held in the spring of 2007.

Watch for a letter from Kathy Kansky, Athletic Director, in the Athletic Section of the website next Wednesday, describing the details of this decision.

CLOSING

Recently, I was given a devotional book. In it is a quote from Richard Middleton and Brian J. Walsh from a book entitled, *Truth is Stranger Than it Used To Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern World*. It is shared here as reminder of the outlandish nature of the Bible lived through humanity somehow touched by God.

"The biblical story that we have been exploring...is not safe. We cannot read this story without being caught up in its drama. We cannot claim to have genuinely understood the Bible without taking the risk of improvisation."

Ron

