

Cathedral School Review

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The Power of the Light

This week, Todd Boerger, a 3rd Grade student here at the Cathedral School, beat up Fr. Bob. Just kidding!

Fr. Bob called Todd up during Mass to illustrate a point. Clearly, Fr. Bob would have some advantages if the two were to be in a wrestling match together. If we take that image to the next step, and call Fr. Bob "Light" and Todd "Dark," we can see what Jesus was talking about in our Gospel reading from today. He is the Light of the world, and the Light (that is, God) will triumph. We know who's going

to win!

Then, Fr. Bob asked Todd to pretend to punch him. And again. And again! Each time, Fr. Bob pretended to fall further and further, illustrating that the Dark can take a swing at us. And that can hurt—for real!

What can be a bigger problem, though, is if we focus on that hurt and let it get us down. At that point, we're forgetting who we are—Children of the Light.

And what a powerful inheritance that is! As Children of God, the Source of all Light, we can know that even in the midst of our pain and suffering that the Dark (that is, Evil) can inflict on us, we will triumph in the end. There is a bigger truth that will carry through and beyond the pain, to enter into His eternal glory that awaits us.

This is our hope, and our joy as an Easter people. We don't need to succumb to the pain of the Dark because we are all Children of the Light. And we will prevail in His Glory! Amen!

In Other News...

Mass Schedule

April 29—Communion Service planned by 1st Grade

May 6—planned by 6th Grade

We would like to invite you to celebrate the Mass with your child and his or her class on Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. Grandparents, other relatives, and friends are also welcome. Hope to see you there!

Library Schedule

April 28—Grade 5 & 6

May 5—Grades K, 1 & 2 (introducing the Summer Reading Program, or SRP)

Late Start

We will have a two-hour late start on Monday, April 27. The teachers will be having a workshop to learn how to use the new Microsoft Office 2007

that we have begun to install in the school. So, school will begin at 10:20 a.m. that morning. Questions? Contact the school office! Thank you!

Learning Fair

On Monday, April 27, at 6:00 p.m., we will host our annual Learning Fair. This year, we are having an academic focus, and students are learning about a wide variety of topics. On Monday night, they will have a chance to show what they've

learned, through posters, models, demonstrations, and other displays. Please feel free to come and see what we've learned!

Kindergarten Roundup

On Tuesday, April 28, at 1:30 p.m., we will host our annual Kindergarten Roundup! This a great time for families who are making school decisions for their Kindergarten-aged child to come to our school and see what we have to offer. There is a lot of information avail-

able, and families have a chance to visit the classroom, talk to Mrs. Cymbaluk, our Kindergarten teacher, and see the school. If you know of someone who has a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, encourage them to stop by that afternoon (or at any other time, for that matter) to see our school! Anyone with questions is encouraged to call the school office. Thank you!

Zoo Lyceum

On Tuesday, April 21, a representative from the Red River Zoo gave a presentation to our students about several different types of animals. We got to see and sometimes even touch these unique animals, some of which aren't even on regular display at the zoo, when you go to visit! The animals included Box Turtle, a Bearded Dragon Lizard, a Tree Frog, a King Snake and a Tennessee Possum. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot, too!

Contact Your Legislator

School Advisory Council Update

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m., in the school library. The School Advisory Council will continue reviewing and revising school policies. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Also, we are now accepting nominations for three Council positions which will be opening this spring. The fourth position will be filled by extending Sis Eickhof's term by two years. In this way, we will be able to have three positions opening each year, as called for in our Constitution and By-laws. If you are interested, please submit your name (or the name of someone that you think would be interested in helping this school in this way) to the school office by May 1. We will be voting in the school community beginning May 14, in the parish over the weekend of May 16-17 and concluding all voting at the Spring Program on May 19. If you have any questions, please contact a Council member or the school office. Thank you!

As the state begins to consider ways of reducing spending, in order to balance the budget, one discussion point came up last week that could have a significantly negative impact on private schools throughout the state, such as our Cathedral School. In an email, Peter Noll, who is the education director for the Minnesota Catholic Conference, reported the following information:

After last week, it can be officially declared that child-benefit programs offered to nonpublic school children by the state are under assault in the legislature this session. Bills that would reduce special education services under IDEA call for essentially eliminating special education transportation and reduce services back to federal funding only. As most of us know, the federal government covers only about 14% of special education costs. As if that isn't enough bad news, there is a measure that would allow school districts to charge fees for nonpublic children to ride the regular buses to and from their schools. Another bill would wipe out Minnesota's K-12 Education Income Tax Deduction and Credits Program. The Minnesota Catholic Conference, our allies and coalition members are desperately attempting to fend off onerous legislation, yet it seems that desperate economic times have caused some lawmakers to attack programs that have benefited nonpublic children and families since the 1950's.

While we understand when civic leaders say that all Minnesotans have to share in the economic suffering, the aforementioned legislation would essentially eliminate many of the programs that have served us well for decades. For many parents who have chosen nonpublic schools for their child's education, the loss of the programs could result

in a tipping point for many parents. Many may have to make the difficult decision of transferring their child from their school of choice to the local public school. The unintended consequence of forcing parents to make this move actually adds to the financial deficit that our state is experiencing. For every child that moves from a nonpublic school to a public school, there is an additional \$10,000 that Minnesota taxpayers must generate for K-12 general education allotments.

—Peter Noll

One way that you could help us in this effort is to contact your state legislator and tell them what you think about this attempt to cripple private schools, such as the Cathedral School. Another way that you can help both with issue, as well as other important matters, is to join the MNCAN (Minnesota Catholic Advocacy Network). If you have any other questions, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support!

God's Blessings on Your Belated Birthday

Guthrie Dingmann, Grade 5—April 22

God's Blessings on Your Birthday

Taylor Bushaw, Grade 6—April 24

Cathedral Elementary School
Adam Hollingsworth, Principal
702 Summit Avenue
Crookston, MN 56716
Phone: (218) 281-1835
Fax: (218) 281-1747
Email: ahollingsworth.cathedral
@midconetwork.com
www.cathedralschool.org