



Grapevine

Prayer Kids

Monday - Isabela N. (4), Fernanda T. (4)
Tuesday - Destiny W. (4), Rachel W. (4)
Wednesday - Jessika C. (5), Bryan C. (5)
Thursday - Oliver H. (5), Nathan K. (5)
Friday - Tatyanna M. (5), Alexis R. (5)

What are Prayer Kids?

At the start of each day as a part of our morning prayer, we as a staff will pray for the two students listed for each day. We also ask our parents to join us in praying for these students each day. Let's utilize the power of corporate prayer for our students and watch the Lord work in wonderful ways!

Dates to Remember

May 22 - Education Day Church Service
May 31 - Memorial Day (No School)
June 10 - 8th Grade Graduation
June 11 - Last Day of School

Chess Club

No Chess Club this week. Teacher training Thursday afternoon.

Principal's Corner

"Into the Wild"

This week I'm taking Grades 7-10 into the Ishi Wilderness for five days of backpacking. I take them into a very remote area where cell phones don't work and we don't see a soul for the entire trip. I usually pack into the area a couple of weeks before the trip to make sure our water supply is adequate (The tiny stream is named "Little Dry Creek" for good reason) and to make sure the trail and road are both clear.

I remember well the same trip I took with my students eleven years ago. The weather that year was a big concern of mine. Right up until the morning of our trip I checked the forecast over and over again. Rain was in the forecast for Tuesday. The rain was supposed to hold off until Monday night and clear up again by Wednesday afternoon. I decided to go for it, realizing that weather systems can be unpredictable and accepting the risk.

It turns out the weatherman was right that week. We made camp, gathered our firewood, cooked and ate our dinner, talked around the campfire and went to bed. Just as we were warming up our sleeping bags it started to rain. It stormed all night. We could hear the wind howling in the

trees. It rained most of the next day as well. Some of the tents leaked. Some sleeping bags got wet. We spent much of the day in our tents. Clothes and shoes got wet when we were outside. The kids were great, though, and there was no talk of going home. They toughed it out.

It cleared up by Wednesday. We dried out. Some of our shoes got a little too dry by the fire and started to melt. One pair even started smoking and almost caught fire. It turned into a beautiful day, however. We explored the edge of the canyon and enjoyed some beautiful views. The rest of the week was gorgeous. We packed to our second campsite on Thursday and even had some excitement crossing a few swollen streams. (I fell into one of them!) We ended on a great note, the kids were wonderful and my chaperons were great.

But it wasn't easy. We had some exhausted kids at times. We had wet clothes and wet shoes. We slept on the ground, sat on the ground, ate on the ground, and went to the bathroom on ground. We cooked our meals on little stoves and washed our dishes in the creek. We ground acorn meal on rocks every day and leached them overnight in the stream for our breakfast. These kids walked miles and miles, most of it with 30 to 40 pound packs. Why would I have them do such a thing? Was it worth the risk and all the effort?

This journey into the unknown, into the wild, is meant to be a living metaphor for these students. Life is unpredictable, wild even. You never know what's coming next. It's better that way. Our Christian walk is also unpredictable, wild even. You never know what's coming next, and it's better that way. (I believe we would lose heart if we knew of all our trials and difficulties ahead of time.) On trips like this I see students doing things they weren't sure they would ever be able

to do. I see them realizing that they are stronger than they thought they could be.

Life and our Christian walk will present us with challenges as well, more often than we would like. As we walk through the stormy weather, working through difficulties or challenges, we exercise our God given strength, revealed to us just when we need it. Let yourself settle into the wild, into the unpredictable journey of God's path. It strengthens you, steals you, prepares you for each new phase of your life. You don't know where the journey will take you, but you should know it will be an adventure. It will be hard at times, stormy even, but the sun will also shine to reveal great beauty and a cleansing peace. As the journey continues you will see yourself doing things you weren't sure you would ever be able to do. You will come to realize that God has given you strength you never thought you could have. You will also come to know and trust your Wilderness Guide more and more the longer you follow Him down the trail. It is a journey that none will ever regret taking, a journey all have been called to be a part of.

The adventure awaits. Take the step . . . Into the Wild.

God bless,

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