



# Grapevine

## Prayer Kids

Monday - Maverick M. (K), Jordyn P. (K)  
Tuesday - Sophia S. (K), Jesse Y. (K)  
Wednesday - Owen A. (1), Hannah A. (1)  
Thursday - Hadlee A. (1), Timothy B. (1)  
Friday - Kalea B. (1), Logan B. (1)

## 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

Mar. 19 - End of 3rd Quarter  
Mar. 22-26 - Spring Break  
Mar. 29 - Teacher Inservice - No School  
Mar. 30 - 4th Quarter begins  
Apr. 13, 14 - P/T Conf. Half Day,  
12:15 dismissal

## Chess Club

We will continue a Thursday afternoon chess club this Thursday from 3:15 - 4:15 after school. We will be learning together chess strategy and tactics while having fun playing each other.

## Principal's Corner

### Never Ours to Give

July 19, 1997 began for me with a kick. I was lying on the floor of the labor and delivery waiting room in Bakersfield, CA. It was a little after 5 AM and I was asleep for the few minutes I would get that day. I felt the kick on my foot and heard the words, "Wake-up, there's someone I want you to meet."

I was led into the delivery room and immediately the nurse handed me a little bundle of a girl, wrapped up like the gift she was. It was a surreal moment. Debbie was standing close by and our daughter's birth mother was laying on her bed, both watching with what looked like awe at the moment we were all living (and maybe with slight envy as I was the first to hold her). As I held our daughter for the first time I had no words.

We were finally parents. After 11 years of marriage and 9 years of infertility struggles, we were finally parents. Our joy combined with the circumstances of the adoption and our growing bond with the birth mother made the moment powerful. I doubt the memories will ever fade.

Three days later we brought her to our home in Las Vegas and our journey as parents began in earnest. Debbie quit her job, we sold one of our cars and hunkered down to the business of being parents. Three years later we moved to Chico, CA where we would stay for the next 18 years. We watched her grow through the many stages of childhood, some of them easy and some of them not so much. I heard Debbie say just the other day that it feels like 10 minutes ago.

She's 23 now and getting married on the 27th of this month. Three days later, on March 30 she and her new husband begin two journeys. The first being the lifelong journey of marriage. The second shorter journey is a 6 month thru-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail.

I've been pondering the traditional vows that Debbie and I had at the beginning of our own marriage many years ago. Phrases like "for richer, for poorer", "in sickness and in health" and "till death do you part" stick out. In contemplating my different role in this coming wedding I've been thinking about another part of the traditional ceremony. I remember well, after Debbie and her father walked down the aisle, the minister said,

"Who gives this woman to be married to this man?" The response was, "Her mother and I do."

Really?

Yes, I understand the sentiment and the passing on of who she will look to for help and comfort as the years go by. But in our particular circumstance with Charity it has been a bit easier to realize that we were simply caretakers of a soul until such a time as she could soar on her own. She was always God's gift, and not just for us. We were stewards, simply tasked to guide her as best we could until she was ready to live the life God had in store for her (or not, it would be her choice).

She was never ours to give from the very first.

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."*

*Psalm 24:1*

*"For every living thing soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son (or daughter) - both alike belong to me."*

*Ezekiel 18:4*

God bless,

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