



Grapevine

Prayer Kids

Monday - Oliver H. (5), Nathan K. (5)
Tuesday - Tatyanna M. (5), Alexis R. (5)
Wednesday - Caleb T. (5), Hunter T. (5)
Thursday - Ethan H. (6), Kyler K. (6)
Friday - Aleena V. (6), Jose (Eddie) V. (6)

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.

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!

Principal's Corner

"Linus and the Little Drummer Boy"

Back in the dark ages when analog ruled the TV airways (all three channels) I first learned the Christmas story from Linus and the Little Drummer Boy. Fresno was my hometown until 7th grade and during that time I never went to the same school for two years in a row. There wasn't a lot of consistency in my life, but I remember that every year the same few Christmas specials would appear on the TV without fail. I loved those Christmas specials. Those silly Christmas specials moved me in ways I would not admit at the time and could not explain. The two I remember most were "The Little Drummer Boy" and "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Dates to Remember

Dec. 19 - Christmas Break Begins
Jan. 4 - School Resumes
Jan. 15 - End of 2nd Quarter
Jan. 18 - No School, MLK Day

We were not a church-going family. Stories of Jesus were not familiar to me. I did not hear the story of his birth in a church. I heard it from Linus. In "A Charlie Brown Christmas" we find Charlie Brown suffering from depression during the Christmas Season. He is confused about the meaning of Christmas. Linus tells him the story of Jesus' birth by reciting much of the second chapter of Luke.

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed."

The old King James language moved me as Linus continued,

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

I remember the goosebumps when I heard about the angels coming to the shepherds, choosing them to receive a message for all the world,

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

In quiet moments I can still hear the voice of Linus telling me the Christmas story from the book of Luke. To me, only the rhythms and poetry of the King James English can do justice to the story found there.

As silly as it sounds, "The Little Drummer Boy" moved my child's soul like no other story. Maybe I related to the boy who thought he had nothing to offer to the Newborn King. Maybe I wished I could have lived in a simpler time and been a part of something special, or maybe I just liked the song and the drum riffs. In any case I'm convinced that God was speaking to my

boyhood heart in ways that only He could.

The story, as I remember it, ends with the boy somehow coming to Bethlehem and seeing the baby Jesus. Expensive gifts were offered and the boy realized that he had nothing to give. He was ashamed until he decided to offer what he had, a simple song played on his drum. As he plays the baby turns and smiles at the boy. To me, this was the best part and I always got goosebumps when that smile came. I think I wished I was the boy getting the smile from the baby Jesus. My boy's heart beat stronger when I thought of the baby king smiling at me.

I've often wondered why these two stories hold such memories for me. In my cynical moments I get embarrassed about it, but as I look closer I realize that God was using these cheesy TV Christmas specials to speak to me about something of great importance. He was telling me, as He tells us all during this season, that He came to give us a tremendous gift, the gift of His presence. His gift is even more than this, however. He also smiles upon us, just like the Little Drummer Boy.

*"The LORD bless you
and keep you;
The LORD make his face shine on you
(a smile?)
and be gracious to you;
The LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace."*

Numbers 6:24-26

God bless,

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