



# Grapevine

## Prayer Kids

Monday - Eden H. (2), Braydon K. (2)  
Tuesday - Genesis M. (2), Olivia N. (2)  
Wednesday - Emilio R. (2), Aria T. (2)  
Thursday - Patrick T. (2), Mia A. (3)  
Friday - Ethan A. (3), Phillip A. (3)

## 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

Nov. 18 - Picture Retakes  
Nov. 23-27 - Thanksgiving Break  
Dec. 19 - Christmas Break Begins  
Jan. 4 - School Resumes

## Chess Club

We will be starting a Thursday afternoon chess club beginning after Thanksgiving break from 3:15 - 4:15 after school. We will be learning together chess strategy and tactics and having fun playing each other. Let Mr. Nelson know if you are interested.

## Principal's Corner

### “On Giving Thanks”

We are about ready to celebrate the uniquely American holiday of Thanksgiving. We all know the story of the first Thanksgiving at the Plymouth Colony in 1621. Governor William Bradford called for a celebration to give thanks to God for the abundant harvest that assured the colony would survive the next winter. Interestingly enough, this was a one time affair. There was no thanksgiving celebration the next year. William Bradford did call for at least one more day of thanks to God in the colony, but did not establish it on an annual basis.

Over 100 years later, President George Washington called for a one time national day of Thanksgiving to God. Over the next 70-80 years many called for an annual day of thanks, but many leaders did not think it necessary. Thomas Jefferson scoffed at the idea of a national day of thanks every year. It was not until October of 1863 that President Lincoln proclaimed an annual day of Thanksgiving for the nation at the end of November. What is interesting to me are the circumstances surrounding that proclamation.

In the fall of 1863 the nation was in the middle of a national crisis. The Civil War had been going on for a little over two years, with no end in sight. The casualties of the war had horrified the nation. 50,000 dead or wounded in the battle of Gettysburg alone, just three months before. The victory of Gettysburg had been good, but the opportunity to end the war had been wasted when General Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia had been allowed to escape back into the Confederacy from Pennsylvania. The Union defeat at Chickamauga had again sobered the Union. By the time the war ended the death toll would exceed 600,000 men. Also, Lincoln had yet to find a General to lead the Union to victory. The nation was still breaking apart and Lincoln was trying to put it back together.

Not only was Abraham Lincoln enduring a national trial, but a personal one as

well. His beloved son, Willie, had died the previous year. He was only 5 and Lincoln felt the loss deeply. His wife, Mary, was descending into mental illness, partly as a result of Willie's death.

Yet, Mr. Lincoln felt a need to ask the nation to give thanks; every year from now on. Why? I Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances." He knew that even in the worst of times we can find something to be thankful for. He knew that individually and as a nation, we needed to thank God for our blessings, for our own good. Yes, being in the habit of being thankful has its own reward. It is interesting to note that while the war lasted another year and a half, the tide soon afterward turned, and victory could be seen in the distance.

We are also in the midst of a national tragedy. We also need to learn to give thanks in all circumstances. Let us teach our children to do the same by modeling it for them. Express your thankfulness often. Something wonderful happens when we are thankful. Attitudes change. Contentment grows. And even if nothing changes but our contentment and happiness, that's enough, isn't it?

God bless,

Rick Nelson  
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