



LOG On

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From the Headmaster

The learning curve

Last spring I was turning the water back on in a summer cottage when I found the “dreaded drip” as I checked the crawl space for leaks. I must not have gotten all of the water out of the line when I drained the lines in the fall, and something broke when the water froze during the winter. Tearing a panel off a wall exposed the problem – a pinhole leak right at a tee. A quick trip to ACE Hardware for a tee and the old propane torch and we were back in service in no time.

The ability to make that fix came from lessons learned the hard way. I remember years before taking on the job of replumbing an old farm house. I had watched plumbers sweat copper joints and I knew that I could do that – no problem. So with a couple of friends, some pipe cutters and a box of fittings we attacked the job. We cut out the old iron pipe and started back through with the shiny new copper. Wow, did all that new copper look great! Then at the end of an exhausting day the moment of truth – time to turn the water back on. As the water began to fill the system there were shrieks from everywhere. I think we counted 21 leaks. What had gone wrong? As it turned out there was one small step in the plumbing process that I had not taken into account. I had carefully done everything the plumbers had done except thoroughly clean each joint with a wire brush. I learned the hard way how important that little step could be.

Fall 2010

Believe it or not, it is important that our kids experience failures. It is part of life's learning curve. It is often our tendency as conscientious parents to try to save our kids from every hurt and heartache. Unfortunately, these are a part of life and our children are much better served by us teaching them to lean into the Lord, forgive, get up and go on, learn from their mistakes, be conscientious, etc. than to look for, or expect life's road to always treat them gently.

Phil Buck



Rebecca Short, Grace Fritz, Mercedes and Tania Wilkes and Elizabeth Ambrose pose after school.

Passing the Buck

Phil Buck looks to the future as he hires his daughter to teach

As time passes, Headmaster Philip Buck is focusing more and more on who will take over the school when he and Principal Eileen Clark retire -- sometime in the next 10 years.

"It's critical to focus on how we are going to hand the school off to the next generation," he says. "That is more and more what I look for-- to try to get that next generation involved in the school." That's what is so perfect about having his daughter, Monica Buck, on the staff this year -- teaching middle school science and physical education.

Monica graduated from The Lamb of God School in 1999, and went on to Mt. de Sales Academy and then Franciscan University of Steubenville where she graduated in 2007 with a biology major. She worked for a lab in Washington D.C. for two years doing contract work for the Army but tired of the tedium of the job and the long commute. After a short stint selling insurance, her father approached her with the need for a science teacher at The Lamb of God School.

"I thought she might be interested," Mr. Buck says. "On the one hand, she's

not going to get rich working here ... but on the other hand, it's a great place to work, so I threw it out there."

"I definitely was interested," Monica responds. "I'm not sure what career I would enjoy so I thought I'd give it a try. It's going great so far. The kids are fun."

Mr. Buck realizes that his daughter may not be here to stay -- especially since she was recently engaged -- but he likes the idea of getting the next generation involved in the school even for just a short period of time. It is his hope that they will come back later.

"It's not just my kids but any of the next generation of parents," he says. While this generation is getting married and having families now -- he hopes they will consider coming back to teach when their kids are older. This is what happened with many of the present teachers, such as Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Horne and Mrs. Boffen to name a few.

"They all had kids in the school in the past and now have time for teaching. They have the heart for the school. They know the school."

Mr. Buck's biggest concern is keeping the spirit of the school intact.

"It's easier if folks have grown up with our..." he hesitates, looking for the right word and Monica quickly fills in the blank. "Charism," she finishes.

"Yes! They can naturally impart that," Mr. Buck says. "Not that we can do this all the time, but it certainly is a plus if we can find someone who is already flowing in that charism."

Many of the current teachers have been here a long time, so it's inevitable that there are going to be changes over the next 10 years.

"It's going to be critical to get the right people who appreciate and will maintain that charism," Mr. Buck says.

"And someone who won't be freaked out by the lizards," Monica adds with a laugh, referring to her father's collection of lizards and toads at the school.

Monica loved The Lamb of God School when she was a student here.

"I had a great time. When I talk to people who didn't go here, they talk about how terrible middle school was and how much they loved high school, but I had the opposite experience. This was my favorite place."

"It's what I grew up with. It's great," she says. "There is support and encouragement and the ability to share my faith."

And then there's the fact that she gets to see her dad every day. That's a bonus since they don't see each other much otherwise and neither likes talking on the phone.

"I love working with him. He's obviously the headmaster, he taught me when I was here, he coached me in high school. I'm really comfortable having him around," she says.



4th graders Breige Rufolo and Karis Weisgerber



7th and 6th grade boys Noah Weber, Nathaniel Valentine, Robert Luciano, Alex Le and Josiah Gavlin goofing around on dress down day.



Amy Darrow visits her 1st grade son Joseph during art class on Parents Day.

Faculty Retreat

August 2010

After a wonderful day of exhortation (by Peggy Gahagan) and reflection, the faculty received the following prophetic word and inspired prayer from Phil Buck and John Messina.

"You have prepared, you are ready, and now I am asking you to make your hearts a blank page. I am going to write on your lives this year. I am taking you deeper. Leading you deeper into a life with me. Have your ears open and your hearts set on me so you can perceive and understand what I am doing. Because I am taking you deeper into a life with me."

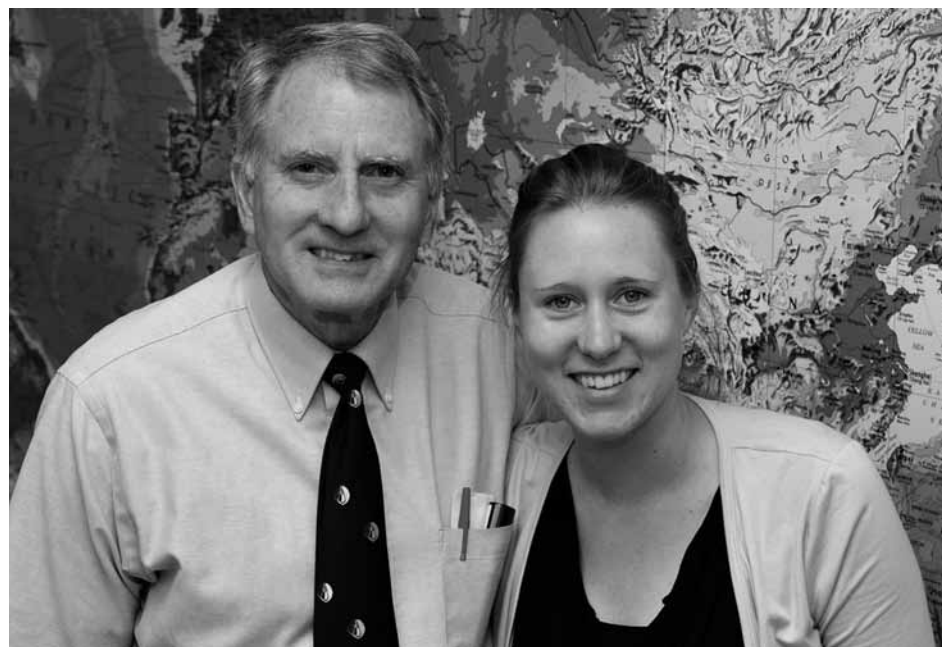
John's prayer at Faculty Retreat:

Lord, thank You for choosing and calling each of us to be here this year. You have set before us a task that is too big for us to accomplish by ourselves. We ask that You would empower us to do all that You've called us to do. Come and baptize us again with Your Holy Spirit and with fire. Immerse us in your grace. Purify us and cleanse us of anything that would impede the work of Your Spirit in our lives. If our love for You has grown tepid or lukewarm or cold in any way, light a fire in our hearts. Help us to be more than just teachers. Help us to be evangelists and preachers of Your gospel, bringing good news to the poor and making disciples. Help us to be shepherds to our flocks, protecting them from the wolves and going after the lost sheep. Help us to be prophets, speaking Your word into the lives of our students. Help us to be doctors of souls, binding up the wounds of the injured and tending to the sick. Help us to be You and to represent You to these kids, loving them with Your love, so that each of them can grow in your image and likeness and become all that You want them to be.

The best way for us to impart our message to our own "little disciples" is to live out what we believe and to be godly examples to them! Jesus said,

"Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart." (Matt 11:29)

May God's grace give us the courage and humility to live what we believe as His disciples.



continued on back...

Passing the Buck continued...

“So it feels natural to be back,” she says.

“And I love having Monsey here,” Mr. Buck says. “I know she’s a great role model and there’s the time I get to spend with her that I wouldn’t otherwise get. It’s a win-win situation. And all the rumors I hear are that she’s going a great job.”

Betsy Stein



8th graders Phil Meyer and Luke Mercier

Attention Alumni:

We'd love to include you in future Alumni Spotlights. Please write and tell us what you are up to. Recently married? An exciting trip or job? This is a great way to keep up with fellow alums.

E-mail Betsy Stein at bstein@patuxent.com

2010-2011 School Calendar

October 11 & 12

Parents Days - Open Houses

November 17

Grandparents' day

December 12

Christmas Concert (St. Joseph's Monastery)

January 30

Winter Open House

March 31

Spring Open House

April 29

Sports Day

May 11

Family Picnic (Patapsco State Park Avalon area)

May 27

Family Pizza Day (school)

June 3

Last day of school

June 9

Graduation

The Lamb of God School Newsletter



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