

From The Headmaster

Our Finest Hour (cont.)

Apollo 13, we may or may not be acclaimed or noticed by others. Our labor may be essentially unnoticed. Those are things the Lord controls – but that we would remain faithful and on course to hit that heavenly window and hear the Lord say “Well done good and faithful servant.” Then we will have reached our finest hour.

Phil Buck



Zach Bubl and Ruthie Lucas in drawing class.

Wish List 2009

- 1) Remodel bathrooms in Old Building
- 2) New mixer and sound system components (\$500 - \$1000)
- 3) In room AC units for new building/replace ancient units in Old Building (10 @ \$700)
- 4) Ceiling mounting for computer projectors (three rooms to start @ \$300)
- 5) Upgrade KCA Software for the Middle School computer courses (Program: \$500, KCA student books: \$1725, Excel student books: \$1400, PowerPoint student books: \$1400)
- 6) Pull down maps for the 3rd grade (\$350)
- 7) Replace 5 defective sink faucets in new building (\$100 each)
- 8) New instant hot water dispenser in faculty room (\$150)
- 9) Paint or replace white band around top exterior of Old Building (\$2000)
- 10) Fix cracked or broken windowpanes in Old Building (7 @ \$300)

Donated from last year's list: *floors leveled, high-efficiency lights and ballasts installed in old building, new ceiling and lights on two classrooms in Old Building, 6 rooms and one hall carpet replaced, new room shades in 3rd and 5th grade rooms, carpet machine, rugged canister vacuum cleaner.*



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Spring 2009

From The Headmaster

Our Finest Hour

Recently I wandered into our family room to find several of our daughters watching the movie Apollo 13. As I joined them and became absorbed in the drama, the “tiny,” crippled spacecraft was emerging from the dark side of the moon to begin its perilous journey home.

Meanwhile, in the face of the danger and uncertainty of those hours, Gene Kranz, director of the Houston Space Flight Control Center, challenged a despairing government official: “I believe this will be our finest hour.”

Like those astronauts, we find ourselves in perilous and uncertain times as the fruit of greed and poor judgment have caught up with our nation and the world, causing hardship for most.

In the Bible, Israel often found itself in crises. Through invading armies, famine and sieges they, like us were a nation that knew adverse situations. Every time, however, the Lord pointed out that their real problem was a spiritual one - a sin problem. He promised that He would easily deal with their current hardships if they would return to Him and be faithful. Not much has changed! Disregard for the sanctity of life, greed, and immorality have driven our culture far off course and we are reaping the distasteful fruit.

Our challenge is to resist being drawn into the false allurements, sins, and worries of our culture, so that we are free to hear and obey the voice of the Lord so we can fulfill His will for our lives. Just as those astronauts had a very small “window” to hit to have a safe reentry, our mission is to raise up a generation that is adept at hearing and obeying the Lord’s voice so they can be on course to arrive at that window to heaven.

Apollo 13 received critical instructions from Houston that allowed them to adjust their course and handle the problems facing their reentry. We too need guidance and support on our journey. We desperately need to hear the Lord and have the support of His church. Prayer, scripture and spiritual reading, church attendance, fellowship, and works of charity are all ways we get that key guidance and support. Unlike

(continued on back page)



Above: Isabelle Ryan, Meredith Miller and Clara Sevy with the marshmallow from their catapult experiment.

Below: Ben Meyer, Sam Russell and Jacob Antonelli with their robot.



The Lamb of God School Newsletter

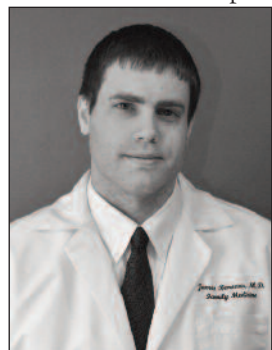


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The Lamb of God School admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

Alumni Spotlights

Dr. James Baronas has been busy since graduating from The Lamb of God School in 1994. He is currently finishing up his residency at the University of Maryland Family and Community Medicine Program where he is chief resident. He will start a Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship in July with the Maryland Terps and Baltimore Ravens. James is no stranger to sports. He played football and basketball at Mount St. Joseph High School where he graduated in 1998 and went on to play basketball for Xavier University. He graduated from college in 2002 and went to University of Maryland Medical School where he graduated in 2006. He currently lives in Catonsville.



The second generation is setting in at Lamb of God School. Kate Horman Le, ('89) a member of the first kindergarten class, has joined the ranks of alumni with children at the school. Alex joined the fourth grade this year and Julianna, the first. Kate said she and her husband, Michael, decided to send their kids to the school for several reasons.

"In the school's academic program, there is an opportunity to really individualize education for each student that is lacking in a lot of other schools," she said. "And there is a focus on really living your faith. A lot of people talk about it but don't model it, but you really find that it is modeled at Lamb of God."

The Le family lives in Catonsville and Kate teaches middle school science at the Odyssey School in Stevenson. She recalls fondly her days at Lamb of God School. "It was definitely a good experience," she said. "The teachers were almost like extended family."

Drew Fontaine ('94) has spent the last 3 years working on a Medicare project with ViPS Inc., a General Dynamics IT company based in Towson. Fellow LOG grads Erik Christensen ('96) and Paul Ascosi ('97) also share the same department. Says Drew: "It's great having some familiar faces around the workplace."

Drew claims all things musical as a major passion in his life. He sings and plays guitar for an acoustic duo called The Arrangement (<http://www.myspace.com/thearrange>). The group performs mainly in the Catonsville and Old Ellicott City area.

Chapel: Worship and Inspiration

Where I went to school, chapel was a dreaded hour tagged on to the end of each week. We sang a hymn, sat on the assembly room floor, and listened to different teachers preach. So when I first came to look at The Lamb of God School, I was taken by the way the students talked about chapel. They were filled with enthusiasm. It was hard for me to believe until my own kids began looking forward to chapel each week. And recently, my oldest -- now 10 -- informed me that while praying with friends at chapel she actually felt the Holy Spirit come into her. Wow! That's something I never experienced in school. Here are a few essays written by middle schoolers explaining why they love chapel at the Lamb of God School. Apparently they know just how lucky they are. ~ *Betsy Stein*

On Thursday mornings, I am usually preoccupied with one major thought: chapel today!! Here at Lamb of God, chapel is one of the greatest highlights. We not only worship freely, we also ask for forgiveness, pray, and voice aloud our troubles to a God who cares. There are three types of chapel that the students and teachers have to look forward to: small group, double period and single period chapel. Small group chapel, which takes place once a month, is led by the eighth graders. The middle schoolers lead the younger kids in discussion about God and topics such as helpfulness, forgiveness, faithfulness, etc. We play fun games and do related crafts or worksheets. What blesses me the most about it is that the younger kids love this time



Michael Macari receives prayer for a greater importation of the Holy Spirit from Mr. Joe Arconti.

and enter with big smiles ready to learn about God and each other. In Psalm 66 it says: "Shout



Girls worship at Middle School Chapel.

joyfully to God, all you on Earth, sing of his glorious name, give him glorious praise." In single and double chapels, we do just that. As the worship team leads us in song, God pours out His spirit on each of us. The students pray over each other and offer thanks to God. Visitors often come in to speak and give their own testimonies; most of which are truly inspiring. Nothing compares to our weekly school chapels. Usually by the end of them, the students beg for a longer period to worship because no one wants to leave the calming environment that it stirs. After a long and sometimes rough week, chapel is just what we need to refresh our spirit and help us focus our attention on the Lord. Lamb of God School wouldn't be the same without its soothing and uplifting chapels.

~ *Rosie Ruzzi, 8th grade*

Chapel has become a highlight of my week here at Lamb of God School. There are many reasons why I love our chapels. A few of the reasons are the worship, prayer and getting to know God at a deeper level. The worship here is unlike any other place that I have been. The people encourage me in my walk with the Lord. I love how I can sing and dance and no one really cares what I do because they are focused on their own worship. The second reason is prayer. In my busy life, it is hard for me to find time to pray and to talk with God. Chapel gives me a time for that and encourages me to make time for it somewhere in my day. The last reason is me getting to know God on a deeper level. Both of the

things I have already mentioned help me get to know God deeper. Also, I love how when I'm going through a hard time, my friends pray for me and help me through the time with God's help. Every time I come out of chapel, I feel better and energized to have fun and to do my best for the rest of the week. I get that feeling because I know God has a special plan for me and the rest of my life. That is why I love chapel.

~ *Andrew Gavlin, 7th grade*

Chapel is very meaningful to me. It allows us to spend time with God during school. Many of my friends don't get this wonderful opportunity. Chapel also strengthens our relationship with God. We don't just spend time with God on Sunday, but we can continue to strengthen our



Children pray at Lower School Chapel.

faith during the week. Being able to worship God with our friends is another wonderful opportunity to have. Chapel is a wonderful time to grow spiritually during the week with our friends.

~ *Andrew Cox, 8th grade*

I think chapel is a special time to have a get-together with God. It's a great time to let loose and just go nuts with praise to our King. I'm so grateful that we are allowed to worship the God who created us freely every week. The Holy Spirit always comes and anoints us during chapel. I always feel so touched whenever it does. Chapel gives me something to look forward to every Thursday. When I leave this school, chapel will be one of the things I loved the best.

~ *Danielle Andrews, 6th grade*

Truthful Children

Often we hear it's okay to tell white lies. That it is useful, convenient and everyone does it. I don't think so. Honesty and truthfulness are powerful virtues that form the bedrock of our character. I am grateful for my mother's admonition: "If you are going to steal, don't steal postage stamps. Steal a million dollars." I am reminded of this as I read of senators, cabinet nominees and mayors who may be excluded from powerful positions to do great good because they may have stolen a few thousand dollars or some gift cards. How tragic. "If you take care of the little things, the big things will take care of themselves," says Coach Joe Paterno.

What my mother really was teaching was the importance of being faithful in little things. It is great training for when we have greater responsibility. Children do not need to be taught how to lie. They do it naturally and skillfully because of our fallen nature. When middle schoolers are planning on seeing a questionable movie we hear: "Sallee's mom said she could go." and "Mr. Messina really liked it." They hope you will cave and be too tired or too busy to check their sources.

When you call Sallee's mom and find it's not true, you have a very teachable moment. (Expect your darling to throw Sallee under the bus by saying that is what Sallee said.) We must teach and insist that our children build trust with us by being truthful and honest in little things. It builds character and character will keep us from falling off the deep end. We must exhibit it in our lives. When we can't switch carpool, little ears hear when we are less than honest with our excuses. The best way to stay truthful is to commit before God that if you tell a lie, you will go to that person and say: "I lied." It's good to be ruthless with ourselves and compassionate and merciful to others.

Jack Baronas

What issues would you like Jack to discuss in his next column on practical parenting? Let him know via email at john@drbaronas.com.

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.