

THE KNIGHTLY HERALD



La Sierra Academy - Elementary

Learning Serving and Achieving through Christ



October 6, 2014

Principal's Corner



"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

~Matthew 11:29

What a promise!

From the beginning of time, our Lord knew we would have moments and experiences that would demand drawing upon His guidance, love and strength. In our walk with Christ we are encouraged us to lean upon Him and to learn from Him. What are we to learn? *To be gentle and humble in heart.* The formula is not long or complicated. The components of the formula are simple and attainable.

Gentleness has been defined as a state of being considerate, kindly in disposition and tender. Such a quality emanates from the loving character of Jesus and from the throne of grace. Through Him, we all can access and exercise the gift of gentleness.

So how do we exercise this

gift, this character piece of Jesus, this gentleness?

Everyday we interact with people who are broken and fragile from life's burdens. We walk by people who are laden with the inner turmoil of breached relationships, undermined confidence and poise, missed opportunities of victory and crushed or shattered hearts. When we interact with people, we can do so with gruff and brusque tones or with gentleness divine. We can present our words and actions in an abrasive, harsh manner or establish lasting connections elicited by soothing words of comfort, peace and kindness. These opportunities to utilize the gift of gentleness is such a blessing to those who walk with Christ. In planting seeds of gentleness we reap wonderful benefits and joy!

Aesop tells us of a story between the North Wind and the Sun. It seems the North Wind boasted of great strength. However, the Sun argued that there was much greater power in gentleness.

"We shall have a contest," said the Sun.

Far below the heavens, a man traveled a winding road. He was wearing a warm winter coat.

"As a test of strength," said the Sun, "Let us see which of us can take the coat off of

that man."

"It will be quite simple for me to force him to remove his coat," bragged the Wind.

The Wind blew so hard, the birds clung to the trees. The world was filled with dust and leaves. But the harder the wind blew down the road, the tighter the shivering man clung to his coat. Then, the Sun came out from behind a cloud, warming the air and the frosty ground. The man on the road unbuttoned his coat. Slowly, the Sun grew brighter and more intense. Soon the man felt so hot, he took off his coat and sat down in a shady spot.

"How did you do that?" said the Wind.

"It was easy," said the Sun, "I lit the day with lots of warmth. Through just a nudge of gentleness I got my way."

Light each day with warmth, my fellow Christians. Use this gift of gentleness and see how your soul and others will be entered into a realm of rest and at peace. Dear one, Jesus is soon to return and the imprints we leave on the lives of others will resound like trumpets in the halls of heaven. Learn from the Master and lean upon His gentleness! When you spend time with Him, I guarantee you, it will rub off.

"Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near." ~Philippians 4:5

- Spring Benfield

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Taste of LSA—Come Celebrate Fall!



Pumpkin Tossing



When you see the leaves changing color and the mountains varying in hues of dark greens to deep purples, you know that fall is upon us.

Celebrating fall is best remembered when we attend the *Taste of LSA at La Sierra Academy on October 23, 2014 at 4:00 pm.* This is an event that you just can't miss!

Come with the whole family and maybe you could even bring a few neighbors. Plan to spend time playing games, eating and having a great time hailing in the autumn season.

We have heard you will be able to throw a ball and dunk a special someone in the cold water; a bounce house will be available, to let all the wiggles out; face painting will allow

you to express your creativity and there will even be a massage booth to provide our parents with a moment of rest and relaxation.

So come eat some tasty food, rub shoulders with those who love LSA and see what LSA has to offer! It truly is a wonderful school!

BOX TOPS for Educating La Sierra Academy-Elementary

Have you ever walked through the grocery store and looked at the products with the labels - **Box Tops for Education**? We want you to look for all the products that endorse **Box Tops for Education** and purchase the ones that will most benefit your household. Then when you have an

opportunity, please cut out the labels and bring them to Mrs. Orr or the homeroom teacher.

La Sierra Academy - Elementary is asking our dear students and families to reinvest in our school La Sierra Academy - Elementary through the **Box Tops for Education**.

We are able to purchase items for our students and able to build our P.E. and playground items.

There is a competition for the class bringing the most **Box Tops** labels and at the end of the school year, that class will have an ice cream sundae fest!! Mmmm Good!

We look forward to seeing those Box Tops roll in!!

“Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela

LSA Celebrates 92 Years of Educating Students

Founded October 3 in the fall of 1922, our school, La Sierra Academy, has offered generations of students an outstanding preparatory Christian education.

Our school has grown from a junior college into an academic institution that now

expands from TK (Transitional Kindergarten) through twelfth grade and beyond. Beyond, because many of our students choose to spiral higher in their education pursuits by attending the noted La Sierra University.

All of our schools are accredited with the Western

Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the distinguished Board of Regents of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

We are blessed and we thank the Lord that we can celebrate our 92 years of educational service! **Go Knights!**



*Happy Birthday to LSA!
Happy Birthday to LSA!
Happy Birthday dear LSA!
Happy Birthday to you!!!*



THE KNIGHTLY HERALD

HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU ABOUT...?

(FROM TODAY'S CHRISTIAN WOMAN)

My adventure into personal storytelling began with a question from my eldest son: "Mom, did you ever do anything wrong when you were a kid?"

It had been a rough morning when eight-year-old Joshua popped that question. Though simple, it caught me off guard.

"Of course," I stammered. "Haven't you heard the stories?"

Joshua looked at me with surprise and shook his head. I dove into my memory bank, picked a good one, and shared it with him on the spot. In no time at all, Josh was off running through the house.

"Do you guys know Mommy cut off all her hair when she was three years old?"

While he whooped it up with his siblings, I sat quietly, one question haunting me: *Do my children really know me?*

Sure, they knew me as a mom. They counted on me for birthday surprises, bedtime prayers, and morning chores. But did it stop there? Did they know I twirled a baton, taught canoeing, worked on a Canadian Indian Reserve, and dreamed of parachuting while I was growing up?

The resounding answer was *no*. My children knew a slice of me, but they were missing many important parts of my life. They were missing my stories.

IN THE BEGINNING

I became a mom on July 5, 1994. Six-and-a-half years later, our family totaled seven - leaving me surprised, overjoyed, and overwhelmed on a regular basis. Sheer survival was my daily focus.

Who has time for meaningful dialogue, much less storytelling, when there are diapers to change, dinosaurs to identify, doctors to visit, and dinners to concoct? But the day of my son's question I made a commitment to embrace the adventures of storytelling, and I haven't looked back. Personal stories are fun, free, and with a little forethought, easy to add to our

overloaded lives. Every day is full of stories. News channels funnel the world's top headlines into our living rooms. Radio stations keep us up to date on local events. The internet feeds us its daily portion of news-making trivia. Unfortunately, this bombardment allows us to devalue and neglect both our stories and those of the ones we love.

Good news! There's a gold mine in each of our hearts waiting to be tapped. More good news! Mining this treasure isn't hard. It requires very little time or energy - just the acquisition of a few helpful tools and an attitude adjustment.

Every parent has an arsenal of stories, and God will use them to strengthen family ties and fan into flame the spark of faith He's igniting in our children's souls.

Real-life stories can give children roots, or they can be met with resistance. Take for instance the tale of Grandpa's three-mile walk to school through a foot of snow when he was a boy. It's a story designed to elicit a sense of guilt and distance, not community.

But stories can be powerful bridge builders.

They tie hearts together by sharing the joys and challenges common to all people, through every era and stage of life.

My family was missing out on this kind of bridge-building experience. After conferring with my husband, Tim, we did a quick inventory of our childhood and pulled a slew of stories that had been buried under an avalanche of busy days.

Dinnertime was the natural place to begin, yet it was also one of the most chaotic hours in our day. The noise level is often deafening as squabbles erupt, pouting crescendos, and children vie for Daddy's attention. Second only to a Mount Mama eruption, nothing quiets our children faster than the enticing question, "*Have I ever told you about...?*"

FAITH-FOCUSED STORIES

When I first realized the importance of storytelling, I began to explore the "how to" of

tapping into the treasures of everyday stories. The answer came from a bedtime routine I've had for years.

Trying to make my evening quiet time more meaningful, I focus my prayers on three questions: How did God bless me today? What did he teach me today? How did he use me today? It didn't take me long to realize my evening reflection could potentially unearth a faith-focused story to add to the usual repertoire of questions and commands I direct toward my brood each day.

Just last week a faith story emerged from a simple phone call with a friend. With a captive audience buckled into our van, I seized a quiet moment.

"Yesterday Mrs. Scheckler was on my mind all day long, so I decided to give her a call," I said. "As it turned out, she had just found out that her 11-year-old nephew was diagnosed with cancer. We had a chance to talk and then pray together on the phone. Just as we were saying good-bye, she got choked up and told me how much the phone call meant to her."

I wrapped up the story by taking the focus off me and pointing us back to God: "It's amazing how the Lord uses something as simple as a phone call to work in beautiful ways. I wonder how he's going to work through each of us today?"

HEAVEN-SENT HEROES

Scripture is filled with stories of heroes of the faith. Abraham, Rahab, and Peter were vessels of God's power, yet they were far from perfect. This is a source of comfort and encouragement as I often fall short of God's best for my life. Still, I want to seize the opportunity of being a modern-day hero to my children. It can happen - through the power of a story.

It took a while for Tim and I to unearth the faith stories buried in our souls. Some are exciting and full of adventure. Others reveal our mistakes, highlighting God's grace and mercy. Most seem rather mundane, yet they share a glimpse of God's handiwork in our lives.

Neither Tim nor I have ever fought a taunting giant or slept in a den of lions, but our stories hold great value simply because they're ours.

-continued on page 4



CONT. ... HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU ABOUT?



With eyes wide and hearts open, our everyday stories now fuel the faith God is igniting in our children's souls. Real-life storytelling is not an outdated pastime but an invaluable, underused resource ready to make a gentle comeback in the lives of families at any stage of the game.

Coming home from church one Sunday morning, six-year-old Joseph announced, "I've got a story."

As I readied my heart to listen, a grin crossed my face. The van was strangely quiet. No one moaned. No

one grumbled. It seemed the adventure of storytelling was taking root - and even growing wings."

By Brenda Jank
(Freelance Writer)

We must continue sharing stories of heritage. Our children thrive, grow, and improve in their confidence; when they learn to treasure and value their inheritance.



LOW GRADE ALERTS - RenWeb Up-dates

How is my child doing in school? Ren-Web is the communication tool for La Sierra Academy - Elementary. Parents are able to receive grades, newsletters, field trip up-dates, calendar events and more!

In an effort to keep parents alerted to their student's academic standing,

we utilize a school wide *Low Grade Alert*. Parents will receive emails, indicating that their student may be 67% or lower in their class standing. This is reflective of each class, in which students are credited with a grade for their report card.

Our sincere hope is to assist parents in being more

cognizant of what is actually occurring academically with their child; and hopefully encourage a closer working relationship with the teacher, to keep the student on track.

Please remember, these alerts are just a reminder tool to keep parents aware of what is occurring with their child. As they say... "Knowledge is power".

"You know, I'm fairly intelligent, but I don't think my grades reflected that."

- Barry Sanders

DATES TO REMEMBER, REMEMBER, REMEMBER

There will be **NO SCHOOL** on **Monday, October 13, 2014**. All teachers in the South Eastern CA Conference will be attending an In-service Day, where they will enhance their educational development.

On **October 14, 2014** students who did not have an opportunity to take their school pictures or students who have serious flaws

in their school pictures, will have a **PICTURE RETAKE DAY!** Please note: The original pictures must be returned in order to participate in **RETAKE DAY**. Come with your smiles!

Finally, La Sierra Academy will have another **LATE START DAY** on **October 21, 2014**. Instructional time will begin at **9:20 am**. Please be on time. You do not want to miss a thing!



THE KNIGHTLY HERALD

SIXTH GRADE DEDICATION & PROMOTION SERVICE

This year, La Sierra Academy - Elementary will host a Promotion Ceremony for the Sixth Grade students. This service will provide our students an opportunity to be dedicated to the Lord prior to their entrance into the Junior High.

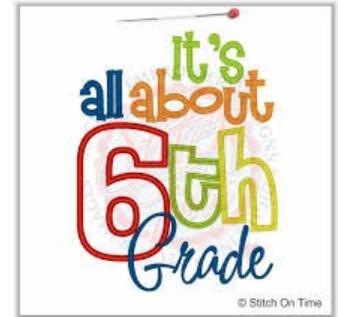
Transitioning to Junior High initiates excitement and a little trepidation. As a team we are preparing our students to enter into the life of a Junior High student with confidence and self-assurance.

On June 4, 2014, our last day of school, we

will host the Promotion Service in the La Sierra Academy Chapel at 8:15 am. The service is designed for the parents of the sixth grade students to join us for a short time. There is a part for the parents in this service.

We are looking forward to this event. It promises to be a time where our school Chaplain Mr. Valenzuela will issue our students a spiritual challenge, a time of dedicatory prayer for the 6th Grade students and parents and a time where the enveloping of the Holy Spirit is sure to be present.

Afterwards the students will take off to the water park to further bound and anticipate summer.



SIXTH GRADE YEARBOOK DEDICATIONS

Our yearbook is being designed around the theme for our school year, *Celebrating His Faithfulness*.

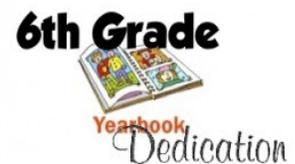
This year we are reserving pages in the yearbook for our sixth grade parents. You will have an opportunity to write a blessing, share a special verse, or write a few words of encouragement to your sixth grade student. In addition you will be able to include a very special picture of your child. The space reserved in the yearbook will be just about 3 x 4 inches. This accommodation to our sixth grade students and parents will cost \$40.00 for each student entry. Payments may be made to LSA with the attention of 6th Grade Yearbook Dedications.

Only one photo will be used and we are asking that you bring or email the photo to school to be scanned. Please make sure that the name of the student and the homeroom teacher accompanies the photo. Also, please limit your characters to 250 - 300 (including spaces). This yearbook section will be in color.

Please send your formats and pictures to Ms. Karina Montiel at kmontiel@lsak12.com.

Also, if you have any questions that need clarifying, please call her at (951) 351-1445 ext. 213.

We are looking forward to creating a beautiful dedication to our 6th Grade students!



STEM IN PRACTICE - ACCESSING TEXTBOOKS ON-LINE

Students of La Sierra Academy – Elementary are utilizing e-textbooks. Our Math, Science and Language Arts programs facilitate on-line textbook usage.

Although students have access to the hardbound textbooks in the classroom, they now are able to utilize the on-line version at

home. Also, the on-line versions have chapter or unit quizzes, games and learning tools to assist in imprinting the information. Carrying heavy textbooks is no longer a practice.

Such practice is saving the school textbook loss and maintenance fees. What a blessing knowing that our 21st Century elementary

learners are very adept at accessing on-line sources.

As we encourage practices of STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering and Math*) La Sierra Academy - Elementary is thrilled to offer this service for our students.