

## Weekly Eagle News – Middle School

Hello Middle School Community,

Wow! If you did not take advantage of the opportunity to see the Middle School production of *The Adventures of Peter Rabbit and His Friends* this weekend, you missed out! I continue to marvel at the acting skills of our middle school students, and I was *especially* blessed by seeing some new faces in the cast who have never participated in a school production before. As I watched on opening night, the word that kept resonating in my mind was “joy”. With so many humorous exchanges and funny lines, the show naturally brought joy to the audience. But I was struck more by the joy on the faces of the students on stage. The cast was clearly well prepared and well directed because they were all having an absolute blast on stage. Congratulations to Mr. Strachen and the entire cast and crew. Well done!

Thursday's Regional Fine Arts Festival was a wonderful day of our students glorifying God through their musical, dramatic, and academic gifts. While often the focus for students is on the score they receive from the judges, more important is the feedback and encouragement they receive from the university-level professors.

A personal highlight of the day was watching our phenomenal 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band perform and then be evaluated by one of Mr. Anema's former professors from Azusa Pacific University. This professor spent at least fifteen minutes working with the band, giving them several little tips and ideas to improve their play as a group. At the conclusion of his time, he gave the band one final piece of advice that I wholeheartedly support: “Stick with band! Play next year and the year after that and the year after that! Music is more fun the more challenging it gets! Music is a gift you will enjoy your entire life!”

This has been true in my life. I *loved* sports as a young man and played soccer and baseball throughout high school. But my parents also strongly encouraged (forced?) me to be a part of the band and choir. As I get older, playing athletics has become rarer (and more painful!), but participating in musical groups remains an important and meaningful part of my life. Band and choir parents, encourage your students to stick with music! They may complain now, but I am willing to bet they will thank you later. And, as they grow and develop, you will have the opportunity to hear phenomenal performances along the way.

One other note from the Fine Arts Festival, our knowledge bowl team finished in second place, which is our best result in many years! The students were well prepared, and we were the most balanced team with several different students answering questions throughout the competition. Kudos to Mrs. Rogstad and Mr. Fenderson who coached and developed the team during lunchtime practices over the last couple of months. Awesome job!

### News and notes:

- This Monday, March 4 is the mandatory Washington DC Trip Meeting at 7 PM in the Eagle's Nest. All travelers **MUST** attend (and at least one parent of students traveling on their own).
- Go Eagles! Our middle school athletes are preparing for their first competitions of the Spring season with a golf tournament and soccer and basketball games this week. Parents of athletes, make sure you are connected on the SportsYou app for details about upcoming sports pictures and about how you can help with team transportation for away games.
- New student-designed House shirts! Some very creative students designed new gear for their houses. Click [this link](#) to purchase Epimeleia, Efthyni, Tharros, Synergasia, and Igesia shirts and sweatshirts.
- Please continue to be in prayer for 8<sup>th</sup> Grader David Stan. Thankfully David was approved to receive the experimental chemotherapy drug. This does mean he will be in Houston for an extended period of time, which obviously presents housing challenges. Please pray fervently for David and his family and if you feel so led, you can support them financially [here](#).

### Key Dates:

- March 4: Washington DC Trip Meeting – 7 PM in the Eagle's Nest
- March 25 – April 1: Spring Break/Easter Monday

- May 22: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion – 3 PM at the University of Redlands Chapel

Have a fantastic week,

Matt Wiers  
MS Principal