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RLA NEWS AND NOTES

Jan. 23, 2020



**"May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace**

as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Knowing Where We Belong

By Jasmine Williams of Proverbs31 Ministries on January 17, 2020
<https://www.proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2020/01/17/knowning-where-we-belong>

"See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him." 1 John 3:1 (NASB)

"I'm the blue one!" "I'm the red one." "No, I'm the red one!" This is the kind of conversation I overhear anytime my children are watching one of their favorite cartoons, and it certainly brings back memories. My brother, cousins and I used to do the same thing, often getting into heated arguments about who was which character. Oh, the joys of childhood.

Interestingly though, this longing for identification and wanting to see ourselves in someone else doesn't stop at being a kid. I remember days in high school, and even college, when I wondered which crowd best fit me, which label most applied. *Was I a cool kid? A nerd? One of the athletes? Maybe an odd mixture of all three?*

In adulthood, it looks a little different, but it's still the same. We find groups on social media that think like we do. We join organizations or clubs that validate our hobbies and give us a sense of belonging. So when I hear my children quarreling about which cartoon character represents them, I'm reminded of how deeply our desire for identification is planted. Just as I do, they will one day ask who they are and where they belong. In our church circles and around Christian friends, identification comes naturally for some, but in other places, that's not always the case. Perhaps at work, amongst extended family, or at a neighbor's party, we feel that awkward pressure of wanting to fit in. We spend more time wondering rather than remembering who God already says we are. Our key verse, 1 John 3:1, says, *"See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."*

Scripture explains so much! God already gave us an identity. He calls us His children, and anyone who doesn't know Him won't really understand His people. No wonder I often feel misunderstood, as if I'm on the outside looking into a room full of people who just don't get me. I suppose that's how Jesus felt many days, doing the will of His Father while being misunderstood by almost everyone around Him. Hebrews 4:15 says, *"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin"* (NASB).

Jesus can relate. He gets it. He gets us! We don't have to search for ourselves in anyone else but Him. We don't have to question whether or not we fit in because we're part of the most amazing family that ever existed! God calls us His children. He has given us promises with immeasurable worth, and our heavenly Dad doesn't lie. He will do all He's said He will do. In every endeavor, big or small, we can trust His heart for us. We never have to worry about belonging when we know where we belong. Our home, identity and purpose are in Him. Grabbing a hold of this sooner would've saved me a lot of worries in high school and college. So, the next time I hear my children going back and forth about which TV character they are, I'll gently remind them they are children of God, planting seeds to reassure their future adult selves they already have an identity. God calls them His own, just like He does you and me.

Dear God, I'm so grateful You've claimed me as Your child. Thank You for always pursuing me, even when I forget where I belong. Please help me to remember I am Yours, my identity is in You, and I will receive all You have in store for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Pizza Day

We will be serving Marco's Pizza as a hot lunch option on Tuesdays. All orders must be placed the Monday before pizza day. We will be paying upon delivery so the \$3.50 MUST be your family's lunch account to order. Family balances can be viewed on FastDirect. Next week will be cheese and sausage.

Special Person's Day

Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts, Neighbors and other special adults are invited to join us for breakfast and games on Feb. 14th from 10-11:30am. If your child doesn't have a special friend in town, let the office know and we will make sure they have a new friend from our churches!

Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Auction

Join us for the 3rd annual Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Auction on Feb. 22 (5:30-8pm). Come and taste a feast of chilies or set up a booth of your own! Donate home-made desserts or show off your paddle bidding skills! This is a fun for all event that helps our 7th & 8th graders raise money for their class trip to Washington DC!

K-8th Late Start Day

Our next Late Start Day is Feb. 14th. The front doors open at 9:30am and students should be in their classrooms by 9:45am. Preschool starts at the usual time.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 14 – Report Cards Mailed
- Jan. 26 – Celebration Service (10am)
- Jan. 30 – Social Studies Fair (6:30-7:30pm)
- Feb. 3 – Returning/Sibling Enrollment Opens
- Feb. 3 – Property Committee Meeting (7pm)
- Feb. 13 – New Student Open House (6:30-8pm)
- Feb. 14 – K-8th Late Start Day (9:45am)
- Feb. 14 – Special Person's Day (10-11:30am)
- Feb. 17 – No School (Possible Snow Make-Up)
- Feb. 20 – School Board Meeting (7pm)
- Feb. 22 – Chili Cook-Off and Desserts (5:30-8pm)
- Feb. 23 – Church Sing at Our Redeemer

Winter Weather

RLA does not follow any specific policy for cancellation of school due to bad weather. We do watch to see what other Districts and other private schools do besides going out on the roads ourselves around 5:30am. Watch WSBT, WNDU, ABC57 and Fox28 television stations, as well as their affiliate radio stations: 99.9FM, 95.3FM, 101.5FM, and 960AM. We will send out a FastDirect message and you may also check the calendar at www.rlasouthbend.com. We make every effort to make a decision before 6:00am. Sometimes the weather worsens after 6:00am and we are forced to make later decisions. We try to stay open as often as we can. We will be lenient issuing tardies on bad weather days, so please take your time and arrive safely. ***We also have the capability to send out text messages through Fast Direct. If you need help, please call the office.

Chapel



Join us on Wednesdays for about a 30 min worship at 8:30am.
Special Event: On Jan. 29 Camp Lutherhaven will be presenting a fun message at 9am

RLA T-Shirt & \$1 Jean Fridays



Every Friday, our students may show their School Spirit by wearing official RLA t-shirts. You may also wear jeans for \$1.00 on Fridays. Our National Junior Society chooses and organizes charity drives for the school as part of their leadership.

January donations will go to support the Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Niles, MI.

\$2 No Uniform Day - Feb. 11

Since Feb. 11th is the 2nd Tuesday of the month, students who donate \$2 to our charity collection can enjoy a no uniform day (must still comply with school standards published in the Parent Handbook).