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Oct. 25, 2018

# RLA NEWS AND NOTES

**Thoughts, Words, and Deeds:  
Be Pleasing in Your Sight**

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14

## How Scissors Taught Me About Grace

By Angie Smith of Proverbs31 Ministries, posted June 4, 2018

***"The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?" Psalm 113:4-6 (NIV)***

At the end of my twin daughters' first "semester" in preschool, we had a parent-teacher meeting to make sure they were on the right track. In my mind, that meant we were going to find out the statistical probability of either one or both of them having their playtime at recess permanently revoked.

I sat down, fingers braided across my knees to project confidence. Ease. Displaying my fresh, "I'm doing a great job balancing life" manicure. They were effusive about the girls. They praised them for their empathetic natures and obedient hearts. *Yes. Those were my children. The ones I was raising perfectly.* I nodded, almost feeling sorry for the other moms. "The one thing we've noticed, Mrs. Smith, is that they could stand a little work on their fine motor skills." *Surely they are going to be banned from recess for life.* "Specifically with scissors. How often do you practice at home?"

*Was this a trick question? They were 3 years old. Three-year-olds play with bubbles, not with moving knives.* I started slowly, trying to gauge their expressions. "Not extremely often," I paused. "Ever." "Okay — well, it might be good to start working on it. Other than that, they're just doing fantastically." I couldn't stop my thoughts from blurting out. "I mean ... are they supposed to? Do the other kids cut things? Are we talking dotted triangles or lacy snowflakes here? Will they catch up? Is there some kind of physical therapy for this sort of thing? Can we regroup in a few weeks? Sorry. It's just a lot to take in." I bit my lip and blinked away hot tears. "I guess I'm just asking if it's safe for them to do that. I don't know why I didn't think of it. It's safe, right?"

For as long as I live I will never forget what the co-teacher said in response: "Well, they make scissors with rounded tips. Safety scissors. Because they're ..." she struggled to finish without sounding condescending, "umm ... *safe.*" She smiled gently. "Mrs. Smith, you're doing a fantastic job. Really." And then I went full-fetal and tried to stall because I had seen the next mom, and she didn't need help. *I needed help.* She was wearing mint-colored capris and a ridiculously stylish sweater that screamed, "We use safety scissors!" I can't even tell you the name of the teacher who spoke so kindly to me, but I can promise you I remember how she made me feel.

Of all of the attributes of the Lord, one of the most mysterious to me is His tenderness with us — His completely unnecessary, deeply personal and undeniably affectionate posture in response to our shortcomings as His children. Throughout Scripture, the Lord chooses to descend *to us* instead of being condescending *toward us*. "*The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?*" (Psalm 113:4-6) How often are we so busy listening to the condemnation in our minds that we don't hear Him telling us we're already forgiven? Our very best will never be enough. We will fall short and miss the mark. But His wild grace swallows every bit of it, and the best thing we can do is live like we believe it.

***Lord, help us from being so caught up in our human standing that we forget the stooping of the Divine on our behalf. How You love us this way I will never know. But You do, and that changes everything. In Jesus' Name, Amen***

### **Don't Forget!**

Empty, sign, and return the family folders to teachers by Monday!

### **Uniform and Seasonal Clothing Reminders**

As the weather is starting to change, we are seeing a few issues with regards to uniform guidelines.

- Leggings can only be worn under skirts or shorts of appropriate length. (This includes during no uniform days.)
- Jeggings fall under the category of leggings and cannot be worn as pants on jean or no uniform days.
- Sweatshirts/sweaters to be worn in the building (not recess/dismissal) must be RLA apparel or plain with no markings.
- RLA uniform shirts must be worn under sweatshirts/hoodies.
- Make sure your child is dressed for the weather. While it may seem alright to be in a t-shirt for the quick run into school, it can get cold fast (especially with the wind on the corner) for recess, fire drills, or other outdoor activities/emergencies.

**See page 10-11 in the Parent Handbook for more detailed uniform information**

### **Tardies**

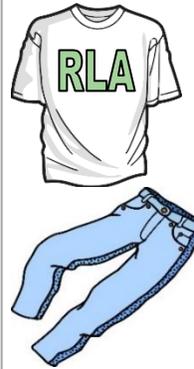
As a friendly reminder, classes start at 8:15am each morning. While we understand that sometimes things happen, it is important that our students start building responsible habits of timeliness, being prepared, and fulfilling obligations.

Our tardy policy is on page 6 of the Parent Handbook. Tardy slips are being distributed.

### **Upcoming Events**

Oct. 24-25: Parent-Teacher Conferences  
Oct. 26: Halloween Bash (6:30-8pm)  
Nov. 2: Late Start (K-8, 9:30am start)  
Nov. 11: Church Sing at St. Paul, SB (10am)  
Nov. 16: Polish Dinner (5-7pm)  
Nov. 21-23: No School - Thanksgiving Break  
Nov. 29: Cyber Safety for You and Your Child

### **RLA T-Shirt & \$1 Jean Fridays**

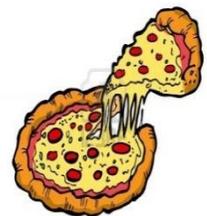


Every Friday, our students may show their School Spirit by wearing official RLA t-shirts. You may also wear jeans for \$1.00 on Fridays. Our National Junior Society chooses and organizes charity drives for the school as part of their leadership.

This month, we will be collecting for Hannah's House.

### **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 pepperoni.



### **Chapel**

Join us on Wednesdays for about a 30 min worship at 8:30am.

### **Saints**

Our cross country runners finished up a great season in some icky conditions. Taking on the competition at the Stanley Clark Invitational on Oct. 12, the Saints gave their all even though it was only 42\* and raining! Cole H. (6<sup>th</sup>) and Hunter R. (5<sup>th</sup>) placed 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> out of 40 boys while Rachel H. (6<sup>th</sup>) was in 6<sup>th</sup> place out of 30 girls.

The A-team fought hard at home against Trinity Elkhart on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, losing 1-3. The following day, the B-team got a home win against Lake Michigan Catholic (7-2). Monday the A-team finished out their season in a well-played make-up game with TMA resulting in a 1-1 tie. B-team played their last game away against Christ/Trinity and tied the game at 2-2. Thanks for a great season Saints!!

Basketball practices start next Monday!  
Check out the full sports schedule online!