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Apr. 11, 2019

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

Lord, Help Me to Love My Children Well

By Susan Merrill of Proverbs31 Ministries on March 20, 2019

<https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2019/03/20/lord-help-me-to-love-my-children-well>

"My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man." Proverbs 3:1-4 (NIV)

Recently, my poor, sweet kids were each trying to navigate life alone ... ranging from an emotional teen outburst to tolerating painful behavior by classmates, and I didn't see it. Eventually, God let me know what was happening to them. It's so like Him to bring truths about our children to light. I discovered my kids' lonely, inner struggles in different ways: through a journal we shared, a coincidental conversation with my son's teacher, and a laundry request to remove chewing gum from a costume inflicted by a student in my daughter's play.

According to several studies, loneliness is growing. How ironic that modern technology allows us to be more socially connected than ever while making us relationally disconnected. Well, the enemy is sneaky. It's so like him to take the phone, a tool of communication, and make it one of isolation. Loneliness is an emotional response to isolation. It's an anxious feeling about a lack of connection or communication with others. Loneliness and isolation are strategies the enemy uses because God designed us to love and to have relationships. Jesus made this clear: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:36-39, NIV). Love God and love your neighbor. Love is the only way to have a relationship, and relationships are the only way to overcome loneliness. My husband and children are my closest "neighbors," and I want to love them well. I want to *teach them* to love well.

The secret to parenting well is to teach my kids to love well. If I teach my kids to love well, they will never be alone. Especially in light of these reminders in God's Word: "My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man" (Proverbs 3:1-4). Can effective parenting be so simple it can be summed up in just three sentences? Yes! I must teach them that if they *keep His commands in their heart*, and don't let *love and faithfulness ever leave them*, then they will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

These are the things I crave for my children. But not if I am fixated on my laptop or too busy to even notice they are withdrawn or frustrated — which is sometimes easier said than done. And not if they are left to navigate life alone, something God never intended for a child. Could they miss the promise because I was not tuned in? I must *look up* when they walk through the door, *listen* when they chatter and *explore* when things don't add up. I must help them navigate life, teaching them as they grow. ... *then they will win favor with God and man.* Oh my, this sounds like someone else I know: Jesus. "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52, NIV).

Loving well, parenting well — we make it so complicated. It doesn't need to be. I think our children simply need *us*.

Sweet Lord, open my eyes to see my children with Your wisdom. Help me to love and teach them well so they will grow as Jesus did. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

3rd Quarter Honor Roll

Congratulations!!! Keep up the good work!!

A Honor Roll: Meghan C (8th), Cole C (7th), Cole H (6th), Rachel H (6th), Olivia L (6th), Lexie S (6th), Sohan P (5th), Emma H (4th), Easton M (4th), and Tanner L (3rd).

A/B Honor Roll: Ginger C (8th), Emily K (8th), Rebekah R (8th), Olivia S (8th), Hannah S (8th), Aaron H (7th), Keegan M (7th), Isabelle S. (7th), Trinity L (5th), Evangeline L (3rd), Josiah P (3rd), and Levi R (3rd).

Port-a-Pit: This Weekend

Don't forget to spread the word about our Nelson's Port-A-Pit event this Saturday from 10AM - 2PM at the corner of Cleveland and SR 23 in Granger.

We'd love to see you stop by too!

Prices:

Chicken is \$6.50

"Pitatoes" are \$3.50

Proceeds from this sale will go toward the all-school trip to the children's museum in Indianapolis. We appreciate any help you can give to make it a success.

2019-2020 Calendar

Stay tuned! Next year's tentative calendar is pending School Board approval and should be released next week.

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. During March, we collected money for Camp Lutherhaven.

Save the Dates

Apr. 26 – Sweets and Serenades (7pm)

A casual night out to support the school. Many of our students will be sharing their musical talents.

May 2 – Fine Arts Fair & NJHS Inductions (6:30pm)

K-8th grade students are required to attend. It will celebrate the academic and service achievement of several students as well as the musical and artistic talents of our student body.

May 4 – Work Day (9-noon)

Volunteers wanted to help with beautifying our campus. Indoor and outdoor jobs will be available.

May 8 – Sports Banquet (6pm)

Open to everyone to come celebrate our student athletes. This will be a pot-luck event.

Easter Break

No school Good Friday (Apr. 19th) and Easter Monday (Apr. 22th). Have a blessed weekend as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!

Illness

As a reminder, your child should be free from fever, diarrhea, and vomiting for 24 hrs before returning to school.

ILEARN

The state-wide tests for 3rd-8th graders will begin after Easter. Look for more information to come. Please make sure that your child is getting a good breakfast and lots of sleep during this time!