

## No Excuses



I am currently reading *A Civil War- Army vs. Navy* by the acclaimed sportswriter John Feinstein. In his book he describes the lore of the game and chronicles the competitive seasons of the two teams as they prepare for the 1995 Army- Navy game.

Losing 16-14 in the 1992 game, the freshman Navy kicker is sent in to kick the game-winning field goal from 18 yards out. Unfortunately for the Navy team and the plebe kicker, the ball sails wide right and Navy is denied victory in this iconic football rivalry. Many games have been won or lost on last-second field goal attempts, but what is so memorable about this story is how the plebe kicker, Ryan Bucchianeri, responds during the post-game press conference.

In Naval Academy life, when addressing an upperclassman, a plebe is allowed three answers: "Yes, sir."; "No, sir." and "No excuses, sir." During the press conference, Bucchianeri bravely stated "No excuses" for his missed opportunity, though the press offered chances for the kicker to cite reasons of a bad angle, the wet field, the severe game pressure for a rookie, or a bad snap or hold. Instead, this young man took sole responsibility for his failure.

At Bishop Leibold School it is our hope that by the time our Eighth Graders graduate, they understand the importance of individual responsibility. Our students are given many opportunities to be successful: academics, athletics, the arts, and growth in their faith through practice, service or social justice work. There are many demands placed on our students as we encourage them to develop positive attitudes about work, assist them in their ability to become good decision makers, and help them understand successes and failures are an individual responsibility placed on their shoulders.

Similar to the military academies - and similar to our students' future high schools, colleges and employers - we place many demands on our students and have high expectations. Sometimes our students fall short, yet we continue to push for them reaching a standard. Students who take individual responsibility for their life possess a foundation that allows them to be strong and forthright when a challenge confronts them.

It is gratifying to know that others see the evidence of our "no excuse" attitude. Recently our Eighth Grade returned from a tour of St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati. The group tour guide stated to our chaperones that "Hands down, you are one of the BEST groups that tour the Cathedral." It was further noted by two parish chaperones on the trip, "We are thrilled to see the tradition of BLS lives on. It provided an excellent foundation for our girls to build on as they entered high school and moved through college. The morals, respect for life, and excellent education go hand-in-hand, making BLS a special place."

BLS is a special place with special families, students and teachers. I believe we continue to educate students who take a "no excuse" attitude as each tries to look, listen, and keep an open heart to fulfill their potential and God's mission on earth.

Yours in Catholic Education,



Paul Beyerle, Principal

# Artist in Residence Provides Dimension to Faith Instruction

*This Artist in Residence Project for Social Justice was funded by the Bishop Leibold Parent and Teachers Association (PTO) and a grant from The Saint Remy Initiative. The Saint Remy Initiative is a collaborative effort between the University of Dayton Center for Catholic Education and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic School Office. The initiative is to provide Catholic school principals and teachers with an opportunity to strengthen their knowledge and skills in the spiritual, academic and managerial dimensions of their ministries. Mr. Chris Rowlands, a talented local musician, artist and naturalist returned to BLS to share his talents and his appreciation of all of God's creation.*

The homily Father gave at the all-school Mass for Catholic Schools Week provided the inspiration for a mural project for Students in Kindergarten through 3rd Grade. Art Teacher Rebecca Curran remembers: "The homily was based on a passage from Luke 8: 5-15, the parable of the seed falling on hard ground and dying, and the seed that fell on good ground and thrived and bore much fruit. The passage ends: 'The seed is the word of God.' I related Father's remarks in his homily about the Catholic education to Bishop Leibold School nurturing the seeds of God, through our faith and our actions -- the students' faith takes root here. The mural concept began as an impressive sunflower with its strong roots in the soil, at various heights as it grows, and the seeds from the sunflower spreading and providing new life for others. Animal life runs throughout the mural, for the plants and the animals support each other in their habitat. "



All the K-3rd students would be involved in the painting so the process needed to be carefully planned for composition and logistics. Mr. Rowlands and Miss Curran sketched out the design in pencil on the 9x7' canvas, and mixed the various paint shades that created depth in the mural when layered. They taught the students the Impressionist technique of pointillism, in which small, distinct dots of pure color are applied in patterns to form an image. Over approximately 50 hours, all the West campus students in K-3 took their turn using Q-tips and paint to fill in the sketched areas with dots of paint.

Miss Curran was pleased with the students' work. "The students worked well collaboratively and were so proud of their accomplishment. Among other things, the students learned that in art, there are "happy mistakes" if you are creative and look for solutions together. On one occasion a paint spill became a mole when someone said 'Let's make something out of this!' It was so neat seeing the whole West Campus come together to create one piece, and it was clear they enjoyed learning and working together."

At the East Campus, students in Grades 4-8th worked with Mr. Rowlands to write songs related to the Social Justice themes of Civil Rights, Poverty, Native Americans, Solidarity, and Civic Responsibility. Each student was encouraged to submit a line of lyric based on their grade's theme. For several months in their music classes, Mr. Rowlands added the music and instrumentation, and the students learned, practiced, and recorded their songs. The songs were presented in a concert for the BLS Community, and the CD sold as a fundraiser for the Artist-in-Residence program.

## Bishop Leibold Class of 2011



On Thursday, June 1, 2011, a Graduation Mass will be held to give thanks to God and ask His blessings on the 60 Eighth Graders graduating from Bishop Leibold School. Our heartfelt thanks to the graduates' families, the faculty and staff of Bishop Leibold, and both parishes for their support throughout the years. Congratulations, graduates! We wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors!

## Operation Rice Bowl

Junior High Teacher Daniel Verdon engaged his students in lessons of Social Justice and the principles of rights and responsibilities through this unique learning program from Catholic Relief Services. The program ties the Stations of the Cross, scripture readings and prayer to lessons on the deprivation of basic rights of life, food, water, shelter, and education. The program's daily activities called students to the Lenten observances of sacrifice, charity, prayer and repentance through simple but meaningful donations to their personal Rice Bowl. For example, a suggestion to help the 25% of Kenyan children not enrolled in school would be a donation of 25 cents for every grade our students have completed. At the end of Lent, the students sent their collected money to aid students in Kenya, then enjoyed a simple Kenyan dish of potatoes, watercress, peas and corn prepared by their teacher.



## School Happenings

### Stations of the Cross

During Lent, we reflected on Christ's suffering and our own sinfulness through the Stations of the Cross. In the Sixth Grade, student teams wrote the prayers for each of the Stations of the Cross and make a poster illustrating that station. Complete sets of the station prayers were prepared and used to pray in school once a week, and the students were encouraged to also pray and reflect upon them at home. Copies of these Stations of the Cross are also sent to their Second Grade prayer pals. In the Fourth Grade the students carefully learned about all the stations, then presented the Living Stations as a prayer service for the East Campus and parents.



### Waterbotics / State Science Fair

Our 8th Grade Students learned much about programming and robotics in the 3rd quarter of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum, and maybe learned much more about The Design/Re-design Process! Through arduous trial and error, they proved competent enough to proudly demonstrate their Waterbotics at the East Campus Open House in March.

BLS had nearly 30 junior high students qualify for the District Science Fair this year, and Molly Borchers, Sierra Morris and Paul Willinger qualified for the State Science Fair. Congratulations to all on these notable achievements!



### Dome Theater Presents

Students in Grades 1-8 were treated to a special day and an entirely different science presentation in March. A museum-type educational production was brought into the St. Henry PAC through a state-of-the-art mobile digital theatre system. Once in The Dome students were immersed in one of eight programs with titles such as "Secrets of the Dead Sea," "The Dinosaur Prophecy," "Saturn, the Ring World," and "The Secret of the Cardboard Rocket." Our Parent Teacher Organization helped in funding part of this special programming.

### May Crowning

As our students do each May, we gathered to honor Mary our Mother. The students prayed the Living Rosary together, sang songs honoring Mary, presented an offering of flowers, and crowned her as our Queen of Heaven.



### Pajama Party Winners

Mrs. Agnew's 5th Grade Class and Miss Schwertman's Third Grade Class were the official winners of the Classroom Coin Challenge. As such, each class was awarded a Pajama Party! The contest was part of our annual Book Fair, and based on total donated coins of each class. The total collected from our school was matched by Scholastic Books' donation of books to schools or organizations in need. Bishop Leibold was proud to have collected over \$1000 to help enable other students to read. Our books sales also provided bonus books to be used in Bishop Leibold's classrooms and library.

## Profile: All BLS Volunteers

Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. We are so blessed at Bishop Leibold to have wonderful parents and grandparents who share their time and talents for the betterment of our school. They are seen in our school buildings, in the athletic arenas and behind the scenes helping with fundraisers that benefit the ongoing expenses of running our Catholic School. Our volunteers believe that learning about our Catholic Faith is of the utmost importance. This is what spurs them on to work tirelessly for our school. They are God's gift to our children and our teachers. We thank God for all they do.

- Assistant Principal Kathy Borchers

Teacher helpers, field trip chaperones, coaches, we salute you! These hardworking individuals are a few examples of the wonderful volunteerism that allows BLS to run smoothly and cost-effectively, and provide many of the extras that enhance the academic, physical, and spiritual development of our students. Without parent volunteers, our hallways would be barren, our special events lackluster, and our athletic fields empty. Even more importantly, our volunteers are a stellar example of the selfless service that Jesus calls us to provide, and we hope to instill in our students here at Bishop Leibold School.

**Athletics** Nearly 750 athletic roster positions are filled by BLS and Parish Schools of Religion students each year, with many playing more than one sport from the selection of soccer, basketball, track, volleyball, golf, cheerleading, and football. All these teams require coaches, assistant coaches and parents who pitch in with everything from snacks to transportation. Besides these everyday heroes, the Athletic Association is helmed by hard-working officers who handle the big-picture operations and decisions, and by the Sports Directors, each of whom coordinates the activities of an individual sport.

**Extracurriculars** Many of our extracurricular programs are headed by teachers who generously give their time to help our students discover their God-given gifts and to strengthen their faith. The Rosary Club, Leibold Leaders Service Group, School Choir, the math and geography competition teams, and the robotics teams are led by teachers still teaching in their free time. We are blessed to have parents involved in service and faith-filled volunteerism as well: The Bible Study group, Mission Day, "Jesus Day" First Communion Retreat, and Challenge Service Club would not be possible without the volunteer leadership and assistance we receive. The Girl, Cub and Boy Scouting programs are populated with dedicated leaders who embark on adventures with their scouts and enjoy helping them explore, learn, and grow in character.

**Behind the Scenes** Who are the good people who organize the many of the volunteers, throw rays of sunshine into a teacher's day, provide funds for "the extras", organize special events, and run our Uniform Exchange? Most parents know it's the PTO, as every parent is a member and every student a beneficiary. CommUnity is the organization providing a good deal of the gas to run the BLS engine with their hard-working volunteers who bring in the dollars. CommUnity's fundraising supports the PTO, Athletics, parish youth programming, and has become integral in school operations in times of state funding cuts.



**Classroom Help** BLS wouldn't be BLS without the familiar sight of volunteers hanging student work in the halls, hosting homeroom celebrations, readying for class trips, helping a student with math facts, and generally being somewhere in the school doing something! These volunteers make some activities possible (like the tradition of Mini-Sessions and the Book Fair) and make some activities run better (manning Learning Centers, filling take-home folders, and often-cited as the most memorable and laughter-inducing volunteer job of all time, being a Kindergarten Helper.) So no parent is left out of the fun, "Late at Leibold" provides a once-a-month volunteer opportunity for parents who cannot help during the day. Changing times also brings us many grandparent volunteers, a welcomed and treasured addition to our school.



### Why We Do What We Do

**From a Scouting, Athletics and CommUnity Volunteer:** I feel like a part of a large family of friends all working toward the enrichment of our school and support programs and events. BLS and my parish have fostered my attitude of being entrenched within the community to serve the children of our community.

**From a long-time Classroom Helper and CommUnity Volunteer:** As a new school parent, I never gave a second thought to volunteering as a classroom helper and considered it a privilege. To be able to be personally involved with my child and the teachers during a school day is a wonderful advantage to sending my children to a Catholic school and being a part of a family community built on service and faith.

**From a "Behind-the-Scenes Techie Dad":** I feel it's my obligation to give back to the school for everything they do to help educate our children. I became very interested in giving back several years ago at a school event when a parent leader gave a passionate speech that "every one of you has a God-given talent that you can use to help better this school and community". A few days later, I was working on the school web site. Volunteers can positively affect the lives of all the students. How anyone pass on a chance to do that?

**From a CommUnity Volunteer:** The scope of the volunteer efforts at BLS includes opportunities for all sorts of participation. There is room for those who can give a small amount of time, effort or money, and there is always a need for those who can donate their time, talent, or financial support on a larger scale. Contributions of all types and sizes are both necessary and welcome - there is room for both leaders and followers. My personal enjoyment in donating time and effort comes from watching others come up with great ideas and put them into action. When the kids enjoy the items and services our fundraising efforts have provided, and their experiences are enriched because of those things, it's a nice source of satisfaction.

**From a Classroom Helper, Volunteer Coordinator and Ambassador:** I have had the pleasure of volunteering at BLS in a variety of ways and in each of these ways, what I enjoy the most are the relationships that I have established with others. As a classroom helper, I have gotten to know the children well, and seen them smile as they accomplish something difficult or laugh as they enjoy their friends. As an ambassador and helper coordinator, I have had the opportunity to build relationships with other parents and prospective parents. We have shared personal struggles and triumphs and what I value most is that I feel that there is a strong network of people that I can count on. I know that volunteering benefits our school, but I have also reaped innumerable personal benefits from it.

With heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers, thank you for your service to our community, and we look forward to seeing you again next fall!

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## Linked to Leibold...

### Updates from our local Catholic High Schools on BLS Graduates' activities:

At **Bishop Fenwick High School**, Theresa Gilmore served as Senior Class President, and Patrick Crane served as Senior Class Representative. Casey Volz served as Junior Class President, Kristin Leesman as Junior Class Vice President and Julie Griffith, Morgan Napier, and Anna Parks were Junior Class Reps. David Leesman served as Sophomore Class Rep. BLS grads Anna Fink, Daniel Gilmore, Amy Gilmore, Alicia Hansen, Sam Parks, Parker Phibbs, and Emily Rice served as Freshman Class Reps.

**The National Honor Society (NHS)** is an honorary organization of juniors and seniors who have distinguished themselves in four areas: leadership, character, scholarship, and service. Members must maintain a high grade point average, participate in school and community activities, volunteer for service each year, and maintain high standards of behavior. At **Archbishop Alter High School**, the following 2008 BLS graduates were inducted into NHS: Christian Jensen and Maureen O'Brien. Danny Walsh, inducted last year, remains a member of NHS. At **Bishop Fenwick High School**, these BLS 2008 graduates were inducted: Serena Daley, Rachael Helfferich, Morgan Napier, Casey Volz, Alyssa Zearley. Senior members from BLS include: Theresa Gilmore, Adam Griffith and Michael Orr.

At **Bishop Fenwick High School**, Junior Michael Popson and Sophomore Mike Burton emerged as **Class Chess Champions** following a grueling all-school chess tourney.

Several former BLS students were involved in their high school's **Dramatic Productions** this year. At **Archbishop Alter**: Danny Walsh, Allie Tura, Katie Fasoli, and Megan Roesch, who is also in the **Alter Ensemble**. In **Bishop Fenwick's Drama Department**: Kelsey Bignell, Adam Griffith, Alex Kuntz, Michael Orr, Kristin Leesman, Sarah Kotnik, Brandon Head, and Jessica Magness. Caitlin Thomas and Justin Orr will serve on the Drama Club's Direction Team.

BLS graduates Kaylie Beech, Melissa Bellamy, Brigid Bockelman, Katie Bockelman, Julianne Butler, Daniel Jasek, Victoria McGillvary, Allie Moorman, Sarah Stier, Casey Tromp are in the **Alter Knights for Life**.

The following BLS grads from Alter who advanced from their school to County, District and **State Science Fair**: Lane Breyer (BLS '10), and Daniel Jasek ('10). Kat Sandoval (BLS '07) and Tony Parel (BLS '09) were members of **Alter's Science Olympiad** team, placing 17th out of 40 teams.

Our graduates involved in the **Band Program at Archbishop Alter**: Lauren Guerriero, Emily Kline, and Katie Reinstatler. Former BLS students in **Fenwick's Music program**: Jack Breeding, Jess Bunn, Nick Gangl, Katie Sievers, and Johnny Plump. The following BLS students are in the **Vocal Music Program at Fenwick**: Kristin Leesman, Megan Cottongim, and Hunter Ramey.

If you have news about a BLS graduate, please share it with members of the Bishop Leibold Family; we would love to hear from you!



#### LEIBOLD LINK

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