

The Grow Light



November 2006

“PICTURE PEOPLE” BRING ART ADVENTURE ON “LET’S CELEBRATE LIFE” TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



“Growing in Grace and Knowledge”

-2 Peter 3:18

MLHS students had the opportunity to visit the Minneapolis Institute of Art. They studied eight original art pieces under the Art Adventure Program. The art pieces centered on the theme “Let’s Celebrate Life.” Trainees are known as “Picture People”. They were Elizabeth Bremer,

Kristin Diekmann, Bethany Flohrs, Hayley Koeritz, Robyn Rusert, Brittany Spence and Kathryn Wolle. They learned that people have celebrated life for centuries in all corners of the world.

During the month of October the “Picture People”

taught other students about these pieces using reproductions and “hands-on” props. They gave presentations to their peers at MLHS and visited: St. Paul’s, Truman; St. John’s, Willow Creek; St. Paul’s, Fairmont; St. John’s Vianney, Fairmont; and St. James, Northrop.

Your Lutheran Elementary Schools

- St. James Lutheran School, Northrop
- St. John’s Lutheran School, (Willow Creek) Vernon Center
- St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Fairmont
- St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Truman



Your Lutheran High School

- Martin Luther High School, Northrop



Bethany Flohrs and Kristin Diekmann talk about “The Plank Mask” from Papua New Guinea to students at St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Fairmont



Elizabeth Bremer, Bethany Flohrs, Kathryn Wolle & Kristin Diekmann answer questions about “The Lord of the Dance” at St. John’s Vianney Catholic School.

WHAT IS “THE GROW LIGHT?”

The Grow Light is a newsletter designed to provide information to parents and inform them of resources available to them.

The Grow Light is based on Colossians 1:10—“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in

the knowledge of God.”

The parochial schools in our community encourage our young boys and girls to “bear good fruit” by helping them grow up in the knowledge of God. These schools are a wonderful option for everyone. Students are nurtured in a very special way that supports the teachings of the church and Christian family values.

Christian schools equip our youth with a life-eternal treasure that can never be taken away from them.



Family traditions provide children with memories that give them a sense of belonging and security. Holiday celebrations give children something to look forward to with anticipation. Special holidays offer parents a unique opportunity to teach their children about family values and morals. These celebrations also give families specific time for recreational activities or working together on craft projects.

Children can be given "holiday responsibilities" such as making the Thanksgiving centerpiece, designing place cards, choosing a special movie for the family to watch or selecting a special Thanksgiving Day prayer. Children gain a sense of ownership when they are responsible for some of the day's activities.

If your family is invited out for Thanksgiving have your child design and purchase a "hostess gift", prepare their own "dish to pass" (even it is orange finger Jell-o) or bring pressed leaves to add to the table decorations.

Children love scavenger hunts! Why not let them "hunt" for all the ingredients to make a complete Thanksgiving feast? When they have collected all the items, take them to the food pantry and let them donate this gift in honor of Thanksgiving.

In addition to the well-known Charlie Brown, Bernstein Bears and Garfield

Making Thanksgiving Traditions

Thanksgiving movies, the Traverse des Sioux Library System has many Thanksgiving specific videos, book and DVDs available. You can start a family tradition of watching a "Thanksgiving" movie together as a family in preparation of the holiday. A list of videos with a short description follows.

Molly's Pilgrim [VCR] Quality Video for Youth, 1985.

"A Russian Jewish immigrant girl, teased by her American classmates for her ethnic mannerisms, is given a class assignment to create a doll based on a Thanksgiving character. She creates a Russian immigrant doll, because, to her mother, Russian Jews are Pilgrims too, having come to America for religious freedom."



William Bradford, The First Thanksgiving [VCR] A Living History Production, in association with Rich Entertainment; Family Entertainment Network; c1992. (Animated hero classics)

Squanto and The First Thanksgiving [VCR] c1993.

Family classics from the Stars American heroes & legends

"Graham Greene narrates this

true story of Squanto, a Native American sold into slavery in Spain, and later returns to teach the Pilgrims how to survive in a harsh new land."

Son-in-law [VCR] 1994. **PG-13** for "elements of sensuality"

"L.A.'s funkiest college student, Crawl, is hilariously out of his element when he spends Thanksgiving at the family farm of a straitlaced college co-ed."

Dutch [VCR] 1991. **PG-13**

"Dutch Dooley picks up his girlfriend's son from boarding school in Atlanta, and sets out to drive to Chicago for Thanksgiving. He thinks it's a good chance for them to get acquainted, but Doyle turns out to be an upper class brat. Their cross-country battles land them in big trouble and make it doubtful whether they'll ever make it home."

Generosity [VCR] featuring Mr. Rabbit's Thanksgiving 1996. Series: (Adventures from the Book of virtues)

Contents: Rocking Horse Land (English) -- Old Mr. Rabbit's Thanksgiving Dinner (English) -- Gift of the Magi (American) -- Poem: Count That Day Lost

"When Zach and Annie decide to deliver food to a homeless shelter, they get caught up in planning their rewards. Plato helps them discover the true spirit of giving."

A Journey to the New World [VCR] : The Story of Remember Patience Whipple; Scholastic, c1999. (Dear America video series)

"Twelve year-old Remember Whipple ("Mem," for short)

arrives in the New World in 1620 after a grueling 65 day journey on the Mayflower. Mem has an irrepressible spirit, and leaps headfirst into life in her new home. Despite harsh conditions, Mem is fearless. She helps to care for the sick and wants more than anything to meet an Indian. Join Mem as she embarks on a journey of triumph, tragedy and thanksgiving."

Seasons of Giving [VCR] The Walt Disney Company. Disney's Winnie the Pooh. c2000

"The adventure begins once upon a cold and blustery day in the Hundred Acre Wood when Pooh, Piglet, Tigger and Rabbit set out on a quest for winter--a favorite season they seem to have missed. And that leads to a wild search for the perfect ingredients for a festive Thanksgiving feast, and finally to Christmas, and a surprise visit from a special friend."

Stories for Thanksgiving [VCR] c2000. Giving Thanks -- Pilgrims of Plymouth.

"Giving Thanks is a native American good morning message also known as the Thanksgiving Address. The Pilgrims of Plymouth is a reenactment of the arrival and daily activities of the Pilgrims after they reached the new world."

The Hoboken Chicken

Emergency [VCR] c1984. (WonderWorks family movie)

Cast: Dick Van Patten, Peter Billingsley, Gabe Kaplan, Arlene Golonka.

"When the Bobowicz family asked their son Arthur to pick up a turkey for Thanksgiving, they weren't expecting him to

bring home a 266-pound live chicken named Henrietta.”

Mouse on the Mayflower
[VCR], 1990.

“An animated fantasy that tells the story of a brave little mouse who helped the Pilgrims survive both the dangerous sea voyage and the cold New England winter, while staying on peaceful terms with their Indian neighbors.”

Thank you, Sarah : The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving [VCR] c2002.

“Sarah Hale, a magazine editor and author, persuaded President Lincoln to transform Thanksgiving Day into a national holiday.”

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect and pray.



Thanksgiving is also a time of reflection and prayer. Here is a collection of prayers that could be used at your table throughout the season.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.
Know ye that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise;
be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth to all generations.

-Psalm 100



THANKSGIVING

Thankful Praises

Accept, O Lord,
our thankful praises
For all Thy goodness
did bestow;

May it increase our faith and lead us

Our praise by godly lives to show,

That every deed and word may prove
We trust and own
our Father's love.

Amen.

Thanksgiving Mealtime Blessing

For food that stays our hunger,

For rest that brings us ease,
For homes where memories linger,

We give our thanks for these.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Give us this day our daily bread, O Father in heaven,
and grant that we who are filled with good things from Your open hand, may never close our hearts to the hungry, the homeless, and the poor; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

-from the abbey of New Clairvaux, Viña, California

Praise the Lord - Psalm 111

Praise the Lord.

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who have pleasure in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures for ever.

He has caused his wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy, they are established for ever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for ever. Holy and terrible is his name! The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who practice it. His praise endures for ever!

Thanksgiving Thought

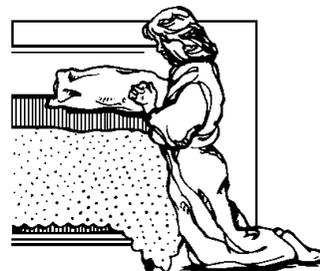
For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,

For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thank You, God

Thank you God for all that grows,
Thank you for the sky's rainbows,
Thank you for the stars that shine,
Thank you for these friends of mine,
Thank you for the moon and sun,
Thank you God for all you've done!



One special Thanksgiving memory that many people have is Rev. Robert Hintz's Thanksgiving sermons. Each year he would end his sermon with this moving poem.

Lord, Forgive Me When I Whine.

Today, upon a bus, I saw a girl with golden hair.

I envied her, she seemed so gay, and wished I was as fair.

When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle. She had one leg and used a crutch. But as she passed, she gave a smile.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two legs, the world is mine. I stopped to buy some candy.

The lad who sold it had such charm. I talked with him, he seemed so glad.

If I were late, it'd do no harm. And as I left, he said to me, "I thank you, you've been so kind. It's nice to talk with folks like you. You see," he said, "I'm blind."

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two eyes, the world is mine.

Later while walking down the street,

I saw a child with eyes of blue.

He stood and watched the others play. He seemed not to know what to do.

I stopped a moment and then I said, "Why don't you join the others, dear?"

He looked ahead without a word. And then I knew, he couldn't hear.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two ears, the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go.

With eyes to see the sunset's glow.

With ears to hear what I'd know.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.

author unknown



Tuning Up Young Minds: Music Lessons Give Kids a Small IQ Advantage

Retrieved 9/26/2006 from www.sciencenews.org; [Science News Online](http://www.sciencenews.org), The Weekly News Magazine of Science; Week of June 19, 2004; Vol. 165, No. 25, p. 389; by Bruce Bower

"Researchers have debunked the much-publicized idea, known as the Mozart effect, that listening to classical music improves children's ability to reason about spatial relations and other non-verbal tasks. Learning to play a musical instrument or to sing, however, may indeed give youngsters an intellectual edge over their peers, a new study suggests.

"Six-year-olds who took weekly piano or singing lessons throughout the school year exhibited an average IQ increase of 7.0 points, says psychologist E. Glenn Schellenberg of the University of Toronto at Mississauga. Other 6-year-olds who either took weekly drama lessons or received no extracurricular lessons displayed an average IQ rise of 4.3 points, Schellenberg reports in the August *Psychological Science*.

"The small, but statistically significant IQ advantage for music students became apparent from standardized intelligence tests administered at the start and end of first

grade. The apparent benefit of the musical training showed up on the test's verbal and nonverbal sections.

"For his study, Schellenberg tracked 132 first graders, who were randomly assigned to one of the four groups. Teachers at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music provided the free piano, singing, or drama lessons. Extracurricular activities such as chess lessons or science programs, in which none of the 132 students was involved, may also nudge IQ upward, Schellenberg theorizes.

"The children's scores on a standard academic achievement test further reflected a musically inspired advantage.

"Music lessons involve experiences that could have a positive effect on cognition, particularly during childhood, when brain development is . . . sensitive to environmental influence," Schellenberg says. For instance, musical training requires kids to pay attention for long periods, to read notation, to memorize extended passages, and to master fine-motor skills.

"A different benefit emerged for the kids given drama lessons. According to parents' ratings, those

children improved their social skills by the end of first grade, whereas the rest showed no such changes.

"The additional IQ boost reported for children who took music lessons is so small that it probably wouldn't yield any dramatic upgrades in their school performance, remarks psychologist Ellen Winner of Boston College.

"We cannot say from this study what aspects of music education led to this modest improvement in IQ," she adds. Further investigations will be required to explore the influence on intelligence of specific facets of music training. Winner also notes that the IQ disparities Schellenberg measured could derive from differences in how well the music teachers and drama teachers inspired their students to learn.

"Winner and neurologist Gottfried Schlaug of Harvard Medical School in Boston are looking to resolve some of these issues in an ongoing long-term study that's tracking the brains and intellectual development of children as they learn to play musical instruments."

Your child can enjoy the gift of music and the sense of accomplish-

ment that comes with developing one's talents.

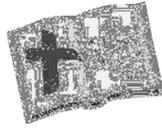
Mr. Joshua Taylor teaches elementary band lessons at area Lutheran elementary schools during the school day. He is also available for private lessons after school hours.

A graduate of Bethany Lutheran College, Mr. Taylor has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music. He attended Clemons Lutheran Elementary School in Clemons, Iowa where he began piano lessons in second grade. He expanded his interests when he entered Gilbert High School in Gilbert, Iowa and joined the band where he played a variety of percussion instruments as well as electric bass guitar in the jazz band.

Mr. Taylor cultivated his musical interests and talents into a career while studying at Bethany. In addition to his passion for music, he also enjoyed working with the broadcast communications department shoot and editing television commercials.

While studying at Bethany Mr. Taylor met his wife, Hannah (also an accomplished musician) The couple has a son, Jason. They are making their home in Fairmont.





Martin

Luther High School

Drama Department presents:

You Have the Right to Remain Dead

by Pat Cook

under the direction of Amanda Bergt

Friday, Nov. 17th

12:30 p.m. and 8:00 p. m. (after Glows Parade)

Saturday, Nov. 18th 7:00 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the door Adults-\$5 Students-\$3

~At the historic Fairmont Opera House

Settle down in a soft, cushy chair at the Fairmont Opera House and help to solve an audience-participation murder mystery. This frantic mystery-comedy will have audiences guessing until the last clue is dropped and the last ham overacts.

www.martinlutherhs.com



A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



CHRISTMAS

You are invited to a Christmas Concert performed by the MLHS Music Department under the direction of Mr. Joshua Taylor on Saturday, December 16th at 7:00 o'clock in the evening at the historic Fairmont Opera House.

After the concert Fairmont Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be serving Christmas cookies, cider and coffee in the Footlight Lounge.

Admission is a free-will offering.

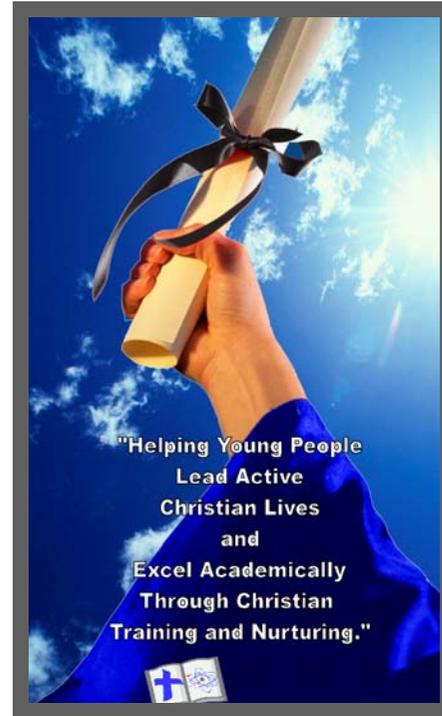


**Martin
Luther High School
A Choice Worth Making...**

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*"Keep me safe, O God,
for in you I take refuge...
Therefore my heart is glad and
my tongue rejoices;
My body will also rest secure...
You have made known to me
the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your
presence,
with eternal pleasures at your
right hand."
-Psalm 16: selected verses*

Can You Sleep While the Wind Blows?

Years ago, a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops.

As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals.

Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer. "Are you a good farm hand?" the farmer asked him.

"Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man.

Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work.

Then one night the wind howled loudly from

offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!"

The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows." Enraged by the response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm.

To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred.

The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down. Nothing could blow away. The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the

wind blew.

Moral of This Story

When you're prepared, spiritually, mentally, and physically, you have nothing to fear.

The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm. We secure ourselves against the storms of life by grounding ourselves in the Word of God. We don't need to understand, we just need to hold His hand to have peace in the middle of storms.

-author

unknown

Christian education grounds young people in the Word of God—every day. Lutheran Education is just as important in the teen years when they begin questioning everything as it is during elementary years.

There is nothing more important in this world