

# THE CRUSADER TIMES

News from The Atonement Academy ----- Vol. 2019-2020. No. 17, November 14, 2019

“To the servant of God... every place is the right place, and every time is the right time.”--St. Catherine of Siena

Perhaps you know a family or two struggling with decisions about their child's education, trying to find "the right place" at "the right time"? If so, please let them know that The Atonement Academy has a few grades in which there is room for a few more students who can begin in January 2020! We have a "Friends and Family" Shadow Day coming up on December 11th--an opportunity to explore whether our school would be a good match for their child's needs! (See article later in this newsletter.) Interested families should correspond with our Director of Admissions, Mrs. Yolanda Joiner, at [yjoiner@atonementonline.com](mailto:yjoiner@atonementonline.com)



## Weekly Letter from Mr. Watson

Dear Atonement Families,

At my previous school, my dean of students and I would start every Thursday morning sharing one thing we were thankful for. We came to call this our “Thankful Thursday.” Even now, he and I text each other with our Thankful Thursdays every week. And here at The Atonement, if you listen closely, you might hear faculty and staff sharing theirs as you drop off your scholars on Thursday mornings.

This practice is on my mind for two reasons. First, we are at a good time of year to redouble our efforts at giving thanks. Looking behind us, at All Saints and All Souls, we are reminded that our earthly lives, whatever our age, are rapidly drawing to a close and only what is done for God will last. Looking ahead, even the secular calendar is bending our thoughts toward Thanksgiving. Secondly, at the school leadership meeting this past Tuesday, we looked at a section from *Humility Rules* by J. Augustine Wetta, O.S.B. that dealt with how the *Rule* of Saint Benedict treats the sin of grumbling. One passage read,

“Nothing will take the wind out of your sails like grumbling. This is Saint Benedict’s pet peeve, and he mentions it eight times in the *Rule*. Twice he begins with the emphatic *ante omnia*—‘above all else.’ The *Rule* is a short document, and Benedict

rarely repeats himself, so you know that stopping complaining before it has a chance to start is important to him. If you think about it, an outright fight is easier on a community than that ceaseless, cowardly, whining gossip that comes from a grumbler who 'spreads strife' and 'separates close friends' (Proverbs 16:28). Unlike direct disobedience, grumbling makes everyone restless and angry—including the grumbler himself."

After reading this passage, we all agreed that grumbling was to be avoided at all costs. But, most helpfully, someone reminded us that giving thanks was the best antidote to grumbling, because the two cannot coexist.

No one has a perfect family or a perfect job. No one's kids attend a perfect school. No one hits all green lights every day. But you can divide humanity pretty neatly between those people who nonetheless somehow find and give thanks for the blessings woven through their imperfect lives, and those who, on the other hand, only want to tell you about the blessings they feel they have been denied.

So let us be a people who always give thanks, and let us pray for one another.

Your servant,

Matthew David Watson  
Head of School

---

## ***NOTA BENE / NOTE WELL...***

### **Upcoming Events**

**November 19:** School Portrait Day, Lower School

**November 21:** School Portrait Day, Middle and Upper School

**November 25-29:** Fall Break--Return to classes December 2

**December 2:** Chores for Charity initiative begins

**December 3:** Giving Tuesday Initiative\*

**December 6:** Coffee with Mr. Watson, 8 am

**December 6:** St. Nicholas Day

**December 11:** Friends & Family Shadow Day\*

**December 11:** PreK-4th Grade Christmas Concert, 7-8 pm in St. Anthony Hall

**December 12:** 5th-12th Grade Christmas Concert, 7 pm in OLA Catholic Church

**December 13:** La Posada, 6-8 pm

**December 18:** End of Second Quarter

**December 23-January 3:** Christmas Break--Return to classes January 6

### **Every Wednesday at 3:00 pm in The Sacred Heart Chapel:**

Join us in praying a weekly rosary for our school -- and if you can't join us, set your phone for 3:00 pm to remind you to join us and pray the rosary together!

*\*More information may be found in this issue of the newsletter*

---

## **The Ku Family: Here is "The Rest of the Story"**

*Editor error resulted in an omission of "the rest of the story" in our feature on the Ku Family last week!*

Barbara and Paul Ku and their children are familiar faces on the Our Lady of The Atonement parish campus. They provided us with some inspiring insights into the reasons



families chose an Atonement education, and we wanted to be sure to share their responses with you!

**1) How many children do you have at the school? (names and grades, please)** John Paul (5th), Gianna (4th), Grace (2nd), and Frances (Kinder).

**2) How long have your children been at the school?** Seven years; they all started in PreK-4.

**3) Why did you choose The Atonement Academy for your children?** We chose TAA for its strong Catholic tradition and culture.

**4) What do you cherish the most about the school?**

We love the fact that the children attend daily Mass. The faith is integrated into all aspects of their education which helps them to see God in everything. We love the teachers who are the heart of the school.

**5) How have your children benefited from The Atonement?** They are getting great formation to help them build a strong Catholic identity. We believe our children will be better equipped to be evangelists in the world as they go out to serve God and others.

**6) What would you tell someone who might be interested in enrolling their child?** We want to tell parents how important an authentic Catholic education is as a lifelong investment in your child. A Catholic education stressing truth, wisdom and virtue will ultimately lead the child to true happiness and success in whatever path they choose to follow.

### *SHARE YOUR CRUSADE!*

*What brought you to our school? What keeps you here? We would love to share your story with current and potential families. Contact Mrs. Halpin at [jhalpin@atonementonline.com](mailto:jhalpin@atonementonline.com).*

---

## **Sibling Shadow Day-- A Huge Success!**

The Atonement Academy's first Sibling Shadow Day was a great success! We had 19 Crusader siblings join us for a sample of what it's like to be a Crusader. Administrators greeted our visitors and their families at the start of the day, and when the day was over, all agreed it had been a wonderful experience!



Mr. Watson welcomes Isabella Le and her mom.



Charles Watson with two of his younger brothers, George and William.



Veronica Pecha visiting 7th grade.



Mrs. Fitzgerald had three kindergarten visitors who quickly seemed to become part of the class! William, Isabella, and Francis!



Cami Cerda, upon arrival with big sis Katie.



Christian Semrad received a rousing welcome!

## COMING SOON, BY POPULAR DEMAND: Friends and Family Shadow Day!



Sibling Shadow Day was such a success that we are pleased to announce a second shadow day, and this time participation is not limited to siblings! The Atonement Academy invites you to our first **“Friends & Family Shadow Day”** on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Friends and Family Shadow day is designed for our current families’ extended family and friends to have the opportunity to experience what it is like to be a Crusader.

Their day will consist of:

- 8:00 a.m., arrival at front office
- 9:55 a.m., Holy Mass
- Lunch varies with class schedule (we will provide pizza and fruit juice drink)
- 12:00 p.m., pick up for students in PK3 through 5<sup>th</sup> from front office
- 3:00 p.m., pick up for students in 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> from front office

Interested families should come by the Admissions Office by Monday, December 9th to register for this event and bring the "Prospective Crusader's" birth certificate and immunization records.

---



## **Your Growing Child: Uniform Review, Please!**

Please check over your children's uniforms as soon as possible! Now that we are well into the second quarter, we are seeing lots of saggy socks, scuffed shoes, broken or missing buttons, and slacks or skirt lengths that are getting too short! (Note that knee length socks should be just that: just under the knee cap, please!) Ties on our boys in particular need to be checked for length as well as laundering.

Our school handbook provides guidelines for everything from uniform conditions to haircuts, so give it a review as soon as possible (Forms and Documents tab on [theatonementacademy.org](http://theatonementacademy.org))



---

**Veteran's Day Salute to Faculty Who Have Served Our Country**

# WE SALUTE OUR FACULTY VETERANS!



Sandra Czech: US Air Force, 20 years.

John Markovetz: US Air Force, 20 years.

Deborah Wendtland: US Air Force, 13 years

Maria Kennedy: US Army Reserve, 6 years.

*The Atonement Academy is a better place because of these veterans who bring to the classroom the discipline, teamwork, love of God and country, perseverance, and respect for authority that the military developed in them.*

We appreciate your  
service to our country.

God bless America,  
and God bless you!

The graphic above ran on our social media sites on Veteran's Day this Monday and was very popular with our "followers"! The text may be hard to read in this format, but included in the details under the photos are the following: Ms. Sandra Czech (4th grade teacher) served in the US Air Force 20 years, Mr. John Markovetz (MS & US teacher, former administrator) served in the US Air Force 20 years; Mrs. Deborah Wendtland (librarian) served in the US Air Force 13 years, and Mrs. Maria Kennedy (1st grade teacher, former administrator) served in the US Army 6 years.

Also, the following was paraphrased from some remarks made by Mrs. Wendtland about her service: The Atonement Academy is a better place because of these veterans who bring to the classroom the discipline, teamwork, love of God and country, perseverance, and respect for authority that the military developed in them. Additionally, our parish pastor, Father Mark Lewis, also served our country in the US Marine Corps. *Semper Fidelis!*

---

## THE YEARBOOK CLUB NEEDS YOUR PHOTOS!

The 2019-2020 Yearbook is underway! Our Yearbook Club is looking for quality photos of sporting events and school events you may have taken. Please note that we cannot pull your great



photos from social media for the yearbook, as the quality is greatly compromised! However, if you will send the photo from your phone or desktop, the quality is usually just fine. Please email them to our yearbook coordinator, Mrs. Powell, at [apowell@atonementonline.com](mailto:apowell@atonementonline.com)

---



## **TMEA Regional Choir**

Congratulations to the following upper scholars who made it to the Texas Music Educators Association Regional Choir this past weekend: Mark Lane, Matthew Petroff, Maria Garza, Andres Sanchez, and Jack Moore. We are proud of you, Crusaders!

---

## **Crusader Sports Updates**

### Middle School Boys Basketball: Coach Vidal/Coach Cox

Boys have started off strong with two wins. First win came against Concordia with a score of 37-22. Nathan Groh had 18 points to be a leading scorer. Second win came vs. Castle Hills with a score of 30-28. Close game! Nathan Groh and Mick Skeens both led their team to a great victory. Nathan finished with 16 points and Mick finished with 11 points. They will be playing at the Shepherd of the Hills tournament this Friday and Saturday at Lutheran HS.

### Middle School Girls Basketball: Coach Buendia

Girls have started off strong as well with two wins. First win came against Concordia with a score of 22-9. Karolina Garza was the leading scorer with 13 points, opening the game with a 3-pointer. Second win came against Castle Hills with a score of 25-8. Karolina Garza was the leading scorer as well with 13 points. They will be playing in the Shepherd of the Hills tournament at Lutheran HS this Friday and Saturday.

### Lady CRU Varsity Basketball: Coach Buendia

Girls have started their season off with two losses against two tough opponents. They lost their first game against the Young Women's Leadership Academy 42-13, and their second loss came to BASIS Shavano- 43-31. Katherine Cerda had a double-double in their game vs. BASIS with 11 points and 22 rebounds. They will be playing the Cougar classic next weekend in Victoria, TX.

### Men's Varsity Basketball: Coach Vidal/Coach Cox

The Boys have started their season off right with a win vs. BASIS 46-31. Jack Moore recorded his 1st game with 32 points. On 63% shooting percentage, he had a total

of 6 rebounds, 6 steals and only 2 turnovers. They look to play Austin Tribe on November 21st at home at 7:00 pm.

### Lady CRU Varsity Soccer: Coach Ortiz

The girls have started their season off with losses to Saint Mary's Hall twice. They look to play Holy Cross tomorrow at 3:00 pm at home. They open up district play against John Paul II on November 21st at 4:00 pm on Crusader Field.

### Men's Varsity Soccer: Coach Miranda/Coach Hegedusich

The boys have started their season off strong with two wins and one loss. First win coming against FEAST with a score of 11-0. Second win coming against Saint Mary's Hall JV 3-0, and the only loss coming against Saint Mary's Hall Varsity. Franco Navarrete is leading the team with 7 goals scored and Andres Sanchez is second with 4 goals. Ian Pro has two wins under his belt as 1st year goalkeeper! They will be opening up District play vs. Pharr Oratory in McAllen, TX this Saturday at 11:00 am.

Spurs v. Houston Rockets / TAA v. Winston School: Don't forget! Our Crusader Men's Varsity Game against Winston School is December 3rd at the AT&T Center. If you purchase a ticket, you can also attend the Spurs game that night against the Houston Rockets! Contact Mr. Vidal at [dvidal@atonementonline.com](mailto:dvidal@atonementonline.com).



## **BUY YOUR CRUSADER YARD SIGN NOW!**

Just in time for your front yard's autumn beautification, we are pleased to announce the arrival of your special edition Atonement yard signs! HOA regulations? Most allow it near your porch, and if not, get creative with your backyard display!

Signs may be purchased for \$10 at the front desk during the day. Cash, check, and credit/debit card accepted. Supply is limited, so don't wait!

*At top left: The Farber kids: Luke, Logan, Grace, and Simon. At bottom left, the LaBranch girls: Bernadette & Elizabeth.*

Send in your photos of your Crusader family and their yard sign to [mhavel@atonementonline.com](mailto:mhavel@atonementonline.com)



## Upper Scholars' Siblings Supported the Effort...

Last week's coverage of the WWII-themed Swing Dance did not include mention of some valuable assistance received that evening. The night was enhanced by the participation of some of their younger siblings, notably the Nyberg and Groh clans, who helped with distribution of "rations" in "wartime England" and supported the evening entertainment. Such participation encourages our young scholars to look forward to all the fun they will have as upper scholars at The Atonement Academy!



---

## ANNUAL BINGO GAME FAMILY NIGHT

BINGO Night at TAA was a huge success! Thanks to all our sponsors and the 200 guests who came out and had fun playing bingo, winning great prizes, enjoying delicious food and drinks, sharing laughter, cheers, and making it a really exciting event. Special thanks to our Head of School, Mr. Watson for his valuable time. He was a wonderful announcer! Thanks also to all of our hard working volunteers and to Fr. Moore for leading us in prayer. Of course, my appreciation also goes to our amazing PTC for allowing me to coordinate and lead the Family BINGO Night this year, all the volunteers who helped set up the event, as well as Ms. Nieto and Mrs. Treviño for all their support.

--Luddy Nelson



## Carpe Diem Soccer Game

First graders will face-off against their parents and administrators in a soccer game Friday afternoon. With help from several moms, first graders painted special shirts with "Carpe Diem" (Seize the Day) on the t-shirt front and added their name on the back in preparation for the game. If you're available, come watch the action at 2:15 on Friday!



## Giving Tuesday

The Atonement Academy will be participating in the Giving Tuesday Campaign on December 3, 2019. The funds will go toward the Campus Security Program. More information to come!

**SAVE THE DATE**



**#GIVINGTUESDAY**

---

### **Capture the Flag 2.0**

Much fun was had by 7th and 8th grade students at Capture the Flag 2.0 this past weekend. The students were divided into four teams. Then they had to complete tasks like putting a golf ball, shooting an arrow, or answering trivia questions to receive clues to find the location of the opposing team's flag. Thank you to all the students who came to the event. Thank you to the class sponsors and parents who helped with the event. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for directing cars to keep the kids safe. And a big thank you to Dr. Lamascus, Mr. White, and Mr. Markovetz for giving of your time to help.

---

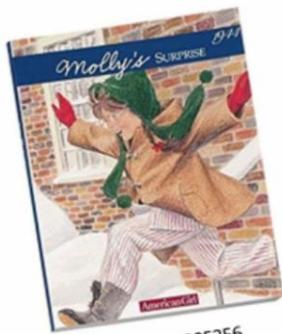
### **Upper Scholars Fundraise for the Junior Senior Prom This Sunday!**

**Breakfast Taco  
Sale**

**November 17**  
After all morning  
masses



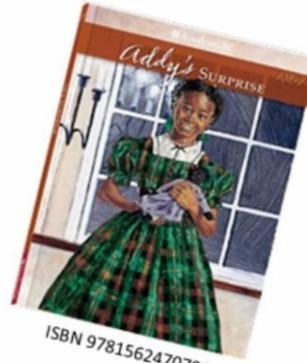
Please help  
fundraise the  
junior/senior prom!



ISBN 0937295256



ISBN 9781562475208



ISBN 9781562470791

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Two-Day Book Club



### Choose one or read all three books

*(cover image may differ)*

*Molly's Surprise* – BL 3.6 pts 1.0 Quiz #675

*Josefina's Surprise* - BL 4.6 pts 1.0 Quiz #17626

*Addy's Surprise* – BL 4.4 pts 1.0 Quiz #7653

### Who's invited?

**Boys & Girls (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades)**

**Discussion\*Crafts\*Virtue talk**

**Coming in December!**

# It's cold outside!

When there is inclement weather, we generally follow the actions of our public school district, Northside Independent School District. We realize that our school families travel through many parts of town, so families should use their own good judgement and not take any personal risks. We will post school closings or delays on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, the school website ([theatonementacademy.org](http://theatonementacademy.org)), and RenWeb communications.



Remember, as noted in our handbook, we follow the general notices provided by Northside Independent School District regarding weather alerts! If there is a change in our typical routine (classes delayed or suspended), we will send out notices via email and social media. Otherwise, school is in session!

[Website](#)

[About Us](#)

[Academics](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Resources](#)

15415 Red Robin Road  
San Antonio, TX 78255

[Contact Us](#)

