

Taking Note of a Good Book

“Drop Everything and Read!” This is a phrase that may be commonly heard throughout the classrooms of EMS on a particularly exciting week that takes place in January. For those of us with the bookworm spirit in our souls, nothing compares to this week. This fun-tastic week is called Book Week (betcha didn’t see that one coming:)! During this week students in grades K-6 are allowed the pleasure of randomly holding off on their work to pick up a book and read for a few minutes when the announcement reaches those eager ears that “it is now time for D.E.A.R! Drop Everything and Read!” The teacher ceases instruction and students are allowed the pleasure of immersing themselves in stories from around the world. There is something so serene and powerful when one thinks of all the stories and ideas that are flooding the minds of students as an entire classroom is reading a book. As Jhumpa Lahiri says, “That’s the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet.” The theme this year was “Taking Note of Good Books.” It was a creative way to incorporate music into reading. Each grade had a goal of the number of books they were going to read that week, and each time a book was read, the students were allowed the privilege of taking note of each book. There was a large music staff on the wall, and they placed their thumb in ink to stamp another

note on the staff. After the close of Wednesday’s chapel, the Ministry Arts Team sang a song for elementary to reiterate the theme of this week. Another exciting feature of this week was the mystery readers that randomly popped into elementary classrooms to read a book to the students.

As a bookworm myself, I believe that it is very important to read books consistently and am one of the few who is disappointed that book week is no longer a part of my life. But life moves on, and you learn to create your own times of D.E.A.R. These times of immersion can be personal devotions and quality time in the word of God. Sometimes as Christians we forget that the greatest book of all time to immerse ourselves in is the Bible. Instead we may read other books about theology and Christian ideas, books that have Christian ideas with a cute little verse in every chapter but aren’t actually speaking the hard core truth of the Bible. I’m not here to say that we should only read the Bible, but we do need to be careful what books we do read. Sometimes we get this idea that any book written by a so-called Christian author must be a good book, but that is just not necessarily the truth. We still need to filter what we are reading because people have different ideas on how to live out the gospel, and we can’t just listen to any old idea we glean from our reading. I’m also not saying that we can’t read non-Christian books. There are some really good books out there without the Christian label that we can definitely learn from. But an aspiration I have for myself and others is to make a habit of reading the Bible just as much as we read all the other good books out there.

~ Hadassah Martin

The Purpose Driven Life

As people go through this life, it is almost guaranteed that they will have a sudden inquisitive question come to their mind: “What on earth am I here for?” Although the question will probably not come in these exact words, it will still be essentially the same question for everyone. So, it is in response to this question that Rick Warren formulates an answer via Scripture in his book *The Purpose Driven Life*. This book compiles his answer to one of life’s most thought-provoking questions by presenting 40 chapters that should be read in a successive 40 day devotional journey. *The Purpose Driven Life* is an extraordinary read, and as Timothy Burkholder recounts, “The book is extremely instrumental in the forming of an identity in Christ, convictions, and purpose. It is a book that really influenced me and one that I recommend to every young person.” As a reader of this powerful book, I strongly agree with Timothy’s description. As one walks through this 40 day journey, he is bombarded with spiritual information that is very influential in providing a firm foundation for the believer’s identity. Within this 40 day journey is an outline of five different purposes God has for our lives. This book overall is very foundational and must be read from start to finish. It touches on many different aspects of being a believer and sets one up for the next spiritual step: missions.

~Rondre Weaver



EDITORIAL

The Mission in Front of Me

The life of a believer should be one grand mission. However, before this is discussed further, the word *missions* must be defined. Missions is defined as “the vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith.” This definition implies that missionaries are just those who go out of their current place of living and go out into the world to spread the miracle of God’s grace. However, it does not seem right that all believers are meant to be missionaries in places other than the location they’re at currently. For example, when Jesus gives the great commission the only Greek action verb that isn’t a past participle is “make.” “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and

of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:18-20). The emphasis on this verse isn’t the “go” but the Greek action verb “make,” which means wherever disciples are to be made or wherever one feels a calling towards is their mission. A believer is commissioned to make disciples, and so it is between them and God where that may be. However, being a missionary is not just subjective to going out into the world, but being a missionary can be accomplished right where somebody is if they feel that is where God is calling them. So, a believer’s mission is to spread this marvelous news of reconciliation to those around them or in an entirely new location according to their calling. There is, however, a danger in staying back to do missions in someone’s own community. This danger is that a

believer will become passive and inactive in sharing their belief because of the comfort of their life. A follower of Christ is warned of this in Revelations: “So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth” (Rev. 3:16). A lukewarm believer may believe in God and go to church, but the cold water that keeps them from being a hot Christian on fire for God is their inactiveness in using their faith. This unused faith will become weak and may jeopardize their relationship with Christ even further down life’s road. Any person can be a missionary where they are at; they must not, however, allow the comfort of life to choke out their fire so that they become lukewarm. The analysis of the Great Commission was inspired by 12th grade Bible teacher, Mr. Priest. ~Rondre Weaver

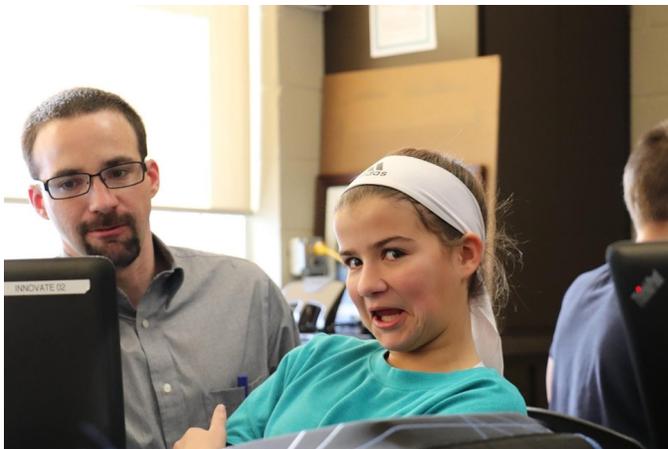
HUMOR

Caption This...

“When the teacher looks at your tabs”

“I was definitely not playing Pac-Man”

~Anonymous Entries



Captions Above

Captions Below



“Trying to stay calm after the teacher assigns homework after the bell”

“When you’re trying to study and the whole class is talking”

~Anonymous Entries

Babblin' with Bruce

It was a blustery January day, and the snow was happily dancing down upon the lawn...well, what was left of it. Most of the grass was covered with a blanket of powdery snow, and the part of the lawn that peeked its eyes out of the fleece covering was a dull brown color. Everything was a drab collection of beige, brown, and tan colors...except for everything that was white! The snow decorated the world, making it bright and beautiful. On this cheery day as the snow danced down, a flamboyant young snowman waddled up to my door. I've never had a conversation with a snowman before, but I was about to. I opened the door, startled, and stammered out, "Well, h-h-hello! Can I help you, Mr. Snowman?" That's when the snowman blurted out, "The name is Bruce, thanks for your help. I'm looking for a place to stay, so don't mind if I do." As Bruce said this, he laughed, and his

laugh was as contagious as the flu. I never thought I could learn something about joy from a bouncy



snowman, but I did. Due to the fact that Bruce is a snowman, his lifespan is quite a bit shorter than some. Bruce understands how important it is that he make the best of every moment because winter passes by quickly. He exhibits joy in every

word, action, and deed. Bruce and I chatted for three hours, and just so he wouldn't melt I bundled up in coats and hats until I was as round as him and sat outside under the falling snowflakes. Bruce was a fun snowman to talk to; he used all the cool winter lingo like "snow way!" and "ice cool, bro!" I told him I had never seen a coat so white and that his buttons were coal. Apparently Frosty the Snowman was Bruce's great, great, great, great, great grandpa, or some relation like that, maybe it was an uncle. Either way, I learned a lot in those three hours. Flamboyant snowman have a lot to offer, so next time one bounces up to your front door shielding his face with an iced scarf, I suggest you make yourself as round as he and see what knowledge you can draw from a conversation with Sir Snowman.

~Shanda Nissley

SPORTS UPDATE

Bouncing Into Third

"BOING BOING, PASS, SHOT, PASS, BOING BOING!" Faith Basketball Tournament plays a big part in the month of January, specifically the third weekend. This year the Ephrata Legends varsity and junior varsity guys jumped into the tournament competition at Faith Mennonite High School. The JV guys played hard and gave the Faith JV and Fairview JV teams some solid competition although they were eliminated after their two games. The varsity team, on the other hand, scored their way to a third place spot in the tournament. WAY TO GO, GUYS! Friday evening, the EMS varsity Legends took on Mountain View and the Fairview Falcons. They came away with one win and one loss. On Saturday morning, the Legends' varsity guys team kicked Terre Hill out of the

tournament and moved on to do the same for Maranatha. Being in the third



place seat, Derek Martin, Josh Wenger, Jeremy Weaver, Dexter Zimmerman, Dustin Martin, Denver Good, Jaden

Musser, Kyle Martin, and David Kauffman set out to secure a second place seat in a game against Faith. The game was so close, and from the beginning EMS was on fire! Although EMS varsity guys played so well, Faith still managed to pull ahead and win, but only by five points! The Ephrata Legends would not be moving on to the championship game. HOWEVER, the varsity guys placed third at the very end of the tournament, which is a record for EMS at the Faith Tournament! So while the placement was not at the very top, they were still able to walk away with the satisfaction of a job well done and multiple games well played. The spectators and supporters of the Legends were very impressed and pleased with this ending result as were the EMS students.

~Shanda Nissley

Stuco Update

This month Student Council offered an afternoon of leisure by providing iced coffee and donuts to the secondary students after the rigorous mock PSAT and SAT exams were completed on the morning of January 14th. Spikeball and games then came after this treat. The junior high students excitedly participated in a Spikeball tournament in the gym. Meanwhile, the high school students played a variety of games in the modular until the end of the school day. Also, during this month the Student Council held a Friday morning devotions which consisted of praise and worship followed by some fellowship over coffee and glazed donuts. This coming month's activities will include a Spikeball tournament for high school students and staff and a secondary praise and worship session. These events will not fall short of even the highest of expectations, and the Student Council expects and hopes for total student participation in the month of February.

~Rondre Weaver

February Calendar

1st: Bible Quiz-A-Thon @ LAMS

7th-9th: MAT retreat cabin weekend

11th: HS Girl's Basketball vs. Alumni

13th: MS Basketball vs. Fairview

14th: Bible Quiz-A-Thon Regionals @ Honey Brook Community Church

14th: 3rd Grade to Fulton Theatre

18th: Grades 6-8 Academic Fair

20th: Faith Mennonite Job Fair

21st-25th: MAT Tour

24th: 9-10 Grade Volleyball vs. Schaefferstown

29th: Spelling Bee

Meet the Team

The Student Newspaper Team experienced a bittersweet transition as we said goodbye to the services of Bradley Hurst, Taryn Mellinger, and Alia Summy. In their places, however, we are excited to welcome Rondre Weaver, Alisha Weiler, and Hadassah Martin to the SNP team as we complete the second portion of the 2019-2020 school year! We will miss our seasoned veterans, but we are excited to have the influence of fresh perspectives! Welcome aboard!

~ Tim Burkholder

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Learning to Serve

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