

Our Principal's Message

"When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her has an unfailing prize." (Proverbs 31: 10-11)

For thirty-one years I had the best prize a man could ever behold. My wife, Cindy, was my happiness and inspiration, she was the sunshine and joy I will always cherish and remember. It truly seemed we were made for each other.

Life has been good to my family, but like all in this world, recently it came time for me to experience the suffering and pain of losing the person I was the closest to, and loved the most on this earth. It was time to test my faith in the promises of Christ. How would I respond to a personal tragedy that I was ill-prepared to deal with? How would I ever overcome the numbness that overtakes one's spirit? How would I muster the courage to move forward?

And yet, did I not realize that our time on earth is a gift and that it is so minimal? In reality, all that life becomes is a résumé of memories. Did I forget that the real prize that we are to achieve on earth is the Kingdom of Heaven? Did I not realize God charts the path of our life and knows the ups and downs of the journey? How could I not be at peace, believing the person I loved the most achieved the top prize? After all, as Catholics we are a "Resurrection people", and I have truly found comfort and peace in my faith and the virtue of love that God has given for all of us to share.

A few weeks ago during Cindy's viewing, I realized I had never felt so much love in one place as I experienced that night. The prayers of the BLS and parish communities have created a peace in my heart that has led me through my periods of grief, and I have been uplifted by support from hundreds of friends, family, and colleagues. The goodness of Christ overcame the ugliness of death and manifested itself in the love of the people He created who share their love for Cindy and my family.

I am at peace with my wife's passing, although that does not mean I am not grieving and feeling the loneliness of not having Cindy here with me. But I am comforted by a passage I recently found:

"I do not remember what you said to me; I do not remember what you did for me, but I do remember how you made me feel."

Cindy knew how to make people feel good and my happiness and joy for life came primarily because she made me feel good. I hope to carry forth and do the same, as a legacy to the life she led.

Peace be with you,



Paul Beyerle, Principal

School Happenings



Visitors from Kosovo

This fall members of the Regional Board of Directors from Mitrovica, Kosovo visited BLS to better understand how educational systems function at the state, regional and local levels. The Montgomery County Educational Service Center selected us, along with four other schools, as a model of “exemplary achievement in academics, instructional practices, educational administration and management.” Among other activities, the Kosovo officials observed a STEM lesson technology application in our Computer Lab, and spent time visiting the West Campus, including observation of our Pre-K. The Kosovo visit to BLS was also featured on WDTN newscasts.

Ms. Schwertman Returns

Ms. Jennifer Schwertman, who was assigned to BLS for her student teaching last year, began as a third grade teacher at our school this January. She is replacing Mrs. Groshek, who is leaving us to care for her new baby, and who will be missed.

Ms. Schwertman is a May 2010 graduate of the University of Dayton, and her academic honors include Dean’s List and the Leary Award for Excellence in Research. Her field experiences include work at Belle Haven and Indian Riffle Elementary Schools, and the Bombeck Learning Center. We welcome her back to Bishop Leibold School!



An Act of Kindness

Sometimes there’s not a photo for a special happening, particularly one of quiet servitude. The Leibold Eagles Boys 6th and 7th Soccer Team decided to skip the traditional end-of-the-season pizza restaurant party and gather for an act of kindness: They collected meat, cheese, bread and fruit and worked as a team in St. Henry’s PAC to make lunches for St. Vincent DePaul’s Shelter. Way to go, Eagles!

Boonshoft Museum Brings Slimy Science

This fall Boonshoft’s Exhibits-to-Go brought our 4th Grade Slimy Science lessons and experiments, with topics of states of matter and their molecular patterns, polymer molecular structure, and Lab Safety. The chemical and physical reactions experiments conducted: “Reactions in a Bag” and “Polymer Popsicles.”



Bible Study Option for 7th Grade

The BLS Bible Study provides a time to spend with God during the busy school day and helps students grow more comfortable reading the Bible on their own. The students spend time listening to God while carefully reading the Gospel of Mark, and look for ways God might be speaking to us now and how this may apply to everyday life. The seventh graders, who have chosen this program instead of study hall, show much enthusiasm and have brought up many questions. Answers are found by seeking interpretation of our Sacred Tradition (i.e. the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Navarre Bible Commentary).

School Happenings



New BLS Preschool Program

BLS is pleased to announce that this fall, we are adding a Preschool option for three-year-olds to our Early Learning Program, in addition to our Pre-K program for four-year olds. To participate in the Preschool Program, children must be three years old by Sept. 30, 2011. The BLS Early Learning Program for three- and four-year-olds is designed to best meet the educational and social needs of our families and to provide a Catholic faith experience for our youngest parishioners.

Brother Erik from Kenya Speaks to Our Students

Brother Erik, a Marianist who has worked at our sister school, Our Lady of Nazareth in Nairobi, (OLN) spoke to our 6th graders in December. Brother Eric was born and raised in Kenya and told of the value of education in his country, and related how hard the students and their families work to pursue an education. For example, Kenyan schools are not well-equipped by US standards. He showed us how five students lay around a single textbook to share it during class, and told how he and his siblings would run to their distant school each morning, run home and back for lunch and run back home after school. This is a typical practice, which explains why Kenyans are world-class distance runners! He had many fascinating and entertaining stories for our students. Brother Erik will be taking classes at the University of Dayton for two years, and then will be returning to Nairobi to help train Brothers to be teachers at OLN.



8th Grade Retreat for Christian Character

The Youth Ministry Programs of both St. Henry and OLGH spent the day with BLS 8th graders on a retreat focusing on building their class as a strong Christian community. Students were challenged to take personal ownership of the Christian character (as opposed to secular) of their class through a variety of activities including games, discussion, self reflection, and prayer. Throughout the day the students' responses in small groups and attentive participation in the activities showed that they were genuinely considering the importance of Christian community in their own lives and the life of their class.

Annual Christmas Program

The Bishop Leibold Christmas Program is a much-loved tradition as old as our school itself. In addition to traditional Christmas carols, this year's program presented some novel selections, such as "The Twelve Instruments of Christmas" (including kazoos), "Santa is My Buddy" "Don't Eat the Poinsettia".



Alumnus and Seminarian Tim Fahey

As the second week in January is Vocations Awareness Week, our profile is of alumnus and seminarian Tim Fahey. Tim is a graduate of Bishop Leibold ('02) and Bishop Fenwick High School ('06). He attended the United States Air Force Academy, and in May will complete his seminarian undergraduate studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Next fall he plans to attend The Seminary of the Athenaeum of Ohio-Mount St. Mary's of the West in Cincinnati. The program is five years in length, culminating in a Master's degree in Divinity and ordination as an Archdiocesan priest. We caught up with Tim over Christmas break to talk about his Bishop Leibold years.



As a warm-up question, tell us some of your earliest BLS memories.

I remember Mrs. Coudron's Kindergarten, especially painting and the Fix-It Shop, where we really just tore old radios to shreds! I recall a fun 2nd Grade to Japan, going across the hall with our passports to eat rice crackers. I remember our teachers were always enthused, and I really felt they were whole-heartedly dedicated to teaching us and to being great teachers. Their beliefs were just part of everything they did -- how they acted as teachers and shared their faith. Only later in high school, did I understand the sacrifices they make to teach in a Catholic school.

Were there any other role models at school for you?

We always had priests coming to talk to our classes and encourage questions, which was great. I remember Father Amberger and Father Stretch coming to talk to us, and Father Steve would eat lunch with us and buy us snacks from the snack table. It wasn't until I met Catholic students who went to public schools that I appreciated the time priests spent with us; we got to know them better as people. For me, memorable role models were Father

Amberger, Officer Gray from D.A.R.E., and all our principals, who knew everyone's name and had high expectations for behavior. Father Ben's health limited his time among students, but as our pastor he was present in my life from early on, and as an adult I was blessed to get to know him better.

What things were consistent between home and Bishop Leibold School, in terms of your faith?

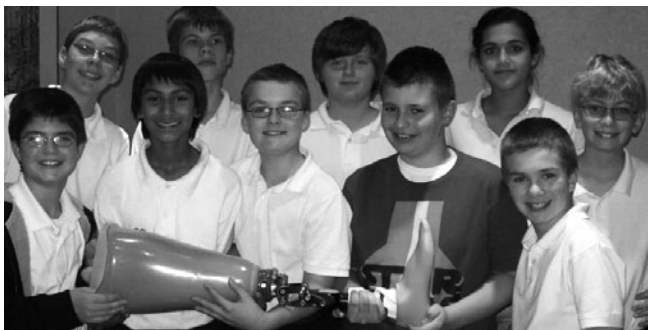
We always went to weekend Mass as a family. It was surprising to me when the priest at school Mass would remind the students to bring their parents to church on Sunday, and hard to understand that some kids did not get to weekend Mass. Prayer at home and at school were consistent, and there was always community service. Since we had always served with our family, our Junior High service requirements seemed natural to me. My dad, my brothers and I helped maintain the parish cemetery, collect money for the mentally handicapped, and worked the Starving Artist booth to fundraise with the Knights of Columbus. My brothers and I stuffed a lot of inserts into bulletins, and were Mass servers. It seemed natural to paint the parish property fence for my Eagle Scout Project.

Based off your experiences, why should someone consider sending their child to a Catholic school?

When I was in the Air Force Academy, I called my mom to thank her for sending me to a Catholic school; until then I did not realize how many young Catholics did not really understand their faith. A Catholic education allowed me to make my faith my own: It was not just something my family did, but something I did. I took ownership of my faith through the things I did away from home. In high school, I had the opportunity to lead retreats and show up early for Communion Service. While at the Academy, I attended Mass and Adoration during the week, and joined the Fellowship of Catholic University Student (FOCUS) and these choices helped me discern my vocation. As an adult, some of my spiritual rituals are praying The Liturgy of the Hours and the Rosary daily, and whenever walking or driving, I pray The Hail Mary. My Catholic education provided faith opportunities for moving beyond family, grade school, high school, and college, into adulthood. It was a tool to build my life.

STEM at BLS – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

BLS Eagles Robotics Team Take Second Place in Regionals



Robotics Team members learn about prosthetic design and meet a new friend at Fidelity Orthopedics

Bishop Leibold is proud to have a Robotics Team that competes in the FIRST LEGO® League. In December, our team placed second of 24 teams at the First Lego League (FLL) Regional Competition held at Sinclair Community College and received an invitation to compete among 60 teams in the state of Ohio for the State Championship. They also received the Research Award for their solution in developing a moveable ankle for a prosthetic leg.

The First Lego League is multi-disciplinary, combining computer programming, engineering, problem solving, researching, presenting, and teamwork. Student teams build and program a robot to complete a number of tasks in a 2.5 minute robot round. Robot design, programming and problem-solving strategies are evaluated by Design Judges. Project Judges score the research, solution, and outreach, and Teamwork Judges gauge how well the group functioned.

Our school team was formed of interested 6-8 Graders who meet after school once a week for three months. During this, our inaugural year, we put together a team of nine students. All team members had previous experience with The LEGO® MINDSTORMS® NXT Software and robots through the BLS Robotics camp, after-school Quest Math and Science Enrichment Program or seventh grade robotics unit.

In preparation of the design work, the team visited with two above-the-knee prosthetic wearers, one congenital and the other a victim of violence. The students were touched by their stories and found the technology to be amazing, and this combination of

concern and interest led them to begin the design and build a model for a moveable ankle. They wrote a script to explain the story to the judges and presented it in a creative way, and this project presentation was judged as “outstanding,” thus earning the Research Award.

For eight weeks the team met six hours a week to learn the competition objectives, develop a project, design programs for the robot game, and develop team skills. The coaches provide structure and guidance; however, the team is responsible for the direction, the goals, the decisions, and most importantly, the work. The judges deduct points if student contribution and influence are not strong.

This team was coached by teachers Beth Allaire, Joyce Kerschner, and Jill Klimaski, and they had a favorable evaluation of the team: “It was a very rare occasion that a team member would miss a practice session....and we met on Fridays after school, early Saturday mornings, and a few days when school was off for the day. These kids were quite committed to meeting the goals of the FLL competition. Each brought different skill sets to the team to put together an outstanding robot game program and project presentation. They learned to listen to one another, put everyone’s input into a plan, and are having fun. We think they would practice every day if the coaches and parents agreed to it. They do have a good time and they are pushing each other academically in a team setting.” We look forward to seeing what they can accomplish at the next level of competition.”



Virtue of the Month

This school year, Bishop Leibold School is asking its students to focus on virtues we hope will become attributes of each student. As Catholics and as Christians, it is our responsibility to reach out to people, to spread the Good News and model the life of Christ. Thus it is important to learn about and talk about the good qualities an individual should embody. The Virtue of the Month program provides another way to study the virtues and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to consider as a blueprint of how a Christian should lead their life to overcome the sin and evil present in our world. The Virtues of the Month from October through next May are Obedience, Temperance (Order/Discipline), Fortitude (Courage), Sincerity, Charity, Joy, Responsibility and Love (Friendship).



Each month a flyer defining the virtue is sent home with each student, and parents are asked to place this on a spot it can be easily seen, such as posting on the refrigerator. A prayer is attached to the flyer, provided for the family to pray together. With this prayer is list of suggestions of ways we might practice and grow in the virtue of that month. Courage practiced at home may take the form of “recalling short and long term goals each day, and ask yourself how the decisions you made that day helped or hurt you.” Trying to promote sincerity in oneself at school might be “Never lie, gossip or criticize anyone at school, and do not permit others to do so.” At home, Generosity can be encouraged by reminders such as “Be generous with your prayers and specifically pray for three classmates.”

“The idea for this program and the supporting materials was brought to the school by one of our parents,” says Assistant Principal Kathy Borchers, “and we felt the program would be of great benefit in providing another way of giving students an awareness of the way they should live their lives. For many of the students, making them understand what each of the

virtues means and how they can practice that virtue is extremely important. If you ask them today what it means to practice the virtues of Obedience, Humility, Order and Discipline, and Courage, they would be able to tell you and they could probably give you an example of the virtue in practice and even name students they saw practicing a particular virtue.”

Students are reminded in many ways of the virtues and how they can nurture their development. At school Masses, the priests will often speak about that month’s virtue, particularly if it relates to the readings at that Mass. Our Principal, Mr. Beyerle and Assistant Principal, Mrs. Borchers speak about the virtue for that month after Mass, and students who exemplify that virtue are chosen by their teachers to be recognized at

that time. In the morning, the virtues are discussed over the PA so the students are reminded of them and can reflect on their own thoughts and actions. The names of East Campus students recognized for living these virtues at the East are on the bulletin board in the cafeteria, and at the West the students are mailed post cards and recognized after Mass. The East Campus students are asked to reflect and write about what the virtue of the month, how they or a classmate exhibits it and how they can strengthen it. Following are some insights of our 5th and 6th graders we hope you will find beautiful in their simplicity:

“If you’re humble, you would do an act of kindness without telling anyone. ”

“_____ is the nicest sweetest person I know. She never asks questions when she is told to do something. She is, I think, a very good student but, if not, she is in my book. Her kindness is large in size.”

“If there is a time where you see someone hurt or sad -- comfort them, help them, be a friend to them. God will recognize you in heaven. ”

Linked to Leibold...

We are happy to share the following news we have received from BLS graduates:

Steve Scaia (BLS '90, Alter '94) moved to Hollywood after majoring in Mass Communications Film at Emerson College. He landed a job working as a production assistant on "The West Wing," quickly being promoted to writer's assistant. He signed onto to "Jericho" in 2006, establishing him as a writer and allowing the establishment connections within the industry. Steve was approached to be the writer and producer of "Human Target," which premiered on FOX last year, and which has been nominated for three Emmys.

Wes Stichweh (BLS '97, Alter '01) recently traveled to Togo with a team of medical professionals to deliver and distribute medical supplies. A Business major (Miami University) working on a Youth Ministry degree at the College of Charleston, he joined Water Missions International installing potable water, as well as witnessing for Jesus Christ in the villages visited. Non-potable water is a leading cause of disease in many developing countries, and the free purification systems and wells built in the villages of Togo will last for many years. Wes said "The trip was one of the most rewarding things I've ever done. . . if you heal a medical condition; you cure them for a few months or years, but if you tell them about Jesus, you've healed them for eternity."

Lauren Hausmann (BLS '00 and Alter '04) graduated from UD in 2008 with a degree in Special Education. After attending Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" at her parish, she applied for and won the Miami Valley Innovative Teaching Grant, enabling her to start her own finance class at Chaminade-Julienne High School. She has piloted the program with special needs students, teaching a daily class titled "Foundations in Personal Finance" and introducing concepts such as budgeting, investing, saving, and retirement preparation. She hopes the class, having been proven a success, will move into the general curriculum at CJ.

Martina Maleike (BLS '01, Miamisburg '05) is on the Dean's List at the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning. She has worked design co-ops in Larkspur, California; Mt. Adams, Cincinnati, Westerville, Ohio, and San Francisco.

Marisa Maleike (BLS '04, Miamisburg '08) is on the Dean's List at Ohio State University, majoring in Athletic Training. She has experienced clinical with OSU Football, Ohio Dominican Football, OSU Men's Soccer and Women's Track and Field. She also volunteers her Athletic Training experience in the Columbus community.

Paul Fahey (BLS '04, Fenwick '08) is studying Biology in the Neuroscience Track at Washington University in St. Louis. As an undergrad researcher at Washington University's Medical School, he was awarded a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Grant to present his research at Neuroscience 2010, an international conference of neuroscientists. His findings point toward a novel mode of Fragile X Mental Retardation Protein regulation mediated by intracellular functions, to help unravel pathways associated with Fragile X Syndrome and related disorders, such as autism. Paul plans to head to medical school after his undergrad degree.

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! Please email to: BLSGradNews@bishopleiboldschool.com with subject line of "LINKED TO LEIBOLD - Graduate News."



LEIBOLD LINK

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