

Ambleside Boerne



The True Meaning of Community

By Melinda Boshears

Very recently, I was reminded of what being part of a community really meant. A tragic event shook my hometown to the core. What came as a direct result of that horrific accident has left many in awe. People from all over the nation demonstrated empathy, compassion, love, and support and became Christ's hands and feet for the Iraan/Sheffield community. It has been inspiring to witness God using His people to care for others.

I then began thinking of our community at Ambleside. What does it mean for us to be a part of this community? Why do people wait until a terrible or sorrowful event to express what community really is? What can we do NOW and CONTINUALLY to display to one another we are united by not only being part of God's work at Ambleside, but also by being a child of Christ?

In the most basic sense, community means sharing a common bond, belief, locality, etc. What does it take to strengthen our community when all seems to be going well?

“What can we do
NOW and
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display to one
another we are
united...?”

At Ambleside, we have thoughtfully planned many community-building experiences. Although families aren't required to attend, we strongly urge everyone to join us. Being together to share experiences during good times is a wonderful way to build relationships. There are Dads' Night Out and Mom's Night Out activities scheduled for the year. Never underestimate the power of a meal to bring people together. There are All School Field Studies you can sign up and volunteer to help with, and make it a priority to attend any All School Community events and meetings. Take the time to have fun and enjoy what is already great about Ambleside. Be a part of striving to make it better.

There are many opportunities for us to band together and serve the needs of our school. Being an active participant in the PVA is a huge one and the need is great. Active interaction and communication are imperative for a healthy community. This, alone, is achievable from each and every one of us.

“The greatest gift
you can ever give is
the gift of prayer.”

Prayer weaves a strong community. There are many occasions for building the Ambleside community through prayer. One simple way is by attending our weekly chapels. Other ways are daily and deliberate prayers for our school, students and staff. You can also start an Ambleside prayer group that meets on a regular basis if you are called to do so. The greatest gift you can ever give is the gift of prayer.

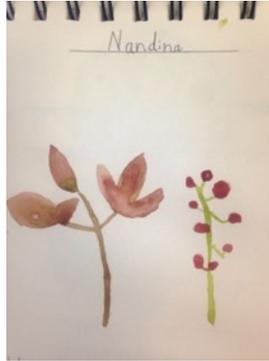
Coming together for a common purpose for the benefit of everyone is also a powerful way to build bonds. A strong community demonstrates mindfulness of other's needs, being compassionate, showing empathy, giving a much needed hug, cooking a meal, offering to help with someone's children and praying for one another. You can also start or join a book study together which enables togetherness and strengthens a common bond.

As we know from our philosophy, it's not always how much we know, but how much we care. If you still aren't sure how to help build our Ambleside community, do not despair. There are always people willing to help you plug in and become part of God's great work in providing these students a life-giving education. For your part, just come as you are with a willing spirit.

Kindergarten Nature Study



3rd/ 4th grade nature study



5th Grade Calligraphy



1st/ 2nd grade transcription and nature study

December 21, 2016
Every action
done in company
ought to be
with some sign
of respect to
those that are
present.

7th Grade Nature Study



"I am a child of God. I ought to do his will. I can do what He says. And by His grace, I will."
- Charlotte Mason



Buddy lunch on a cold day



3rd/ 4th grade classroom on exam week

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR: 2017!

DATES	DETAILS
M: 1/2	Student Holiday
T: 1/3	Back to School
W: 1/11	PVA 2-3 pm RM 119 St. John Lutheran Church
Th: 1/12	Community Night 7 pm Coffee and Conversation @ Dienger 8:30 pm
M: 1/16	MLK Day/ Student Holiday
Th: 1/19	Perspective family tour and observation 8:30-10 am Dad's Night Out/ Dodging Duck 7pm
Th: 1/26	All School Field Study
F: 1/27	Reports of Growth Sent Home

Finding Grace

By Chandler Gum

At the beginning of this school year, I started my first job out of college as a six- week substitute for the 1st and 2nd grade class. It wasn't perfect and it wasn't easy. From day one in the classroom there were tears, voices talking over each other, more tears, and frustration; however, through it all, I learned (and what I'm sure the students learned with me as well) was grace, giving and receiving it abundantly and consistently. It was so amazing to see us all transform from day one, to see timid smiles turn into loud, shared laughter and to even see myself grow into this new leadership role as the weeks progressed.

It was such a privilege and joy to get to know each student and the immense, intricate beauty within them. There are moments I will always cherish during my time with each one of the students: the prayers spoken at lunch time, soft voices asking forgiveness, the wild, springing hugs like gusts of wind throughout the day, the smile of pride from writing that perfect "k", the excitement of pointing out a leaf's design like it was a delicate piece of artwork, and so much more. Over the first six weeks, seeing the relationships bloom within the class was as subtle and beautiful as noticing the leaves on the trees change color to welcome in the new season. I'm so grateful to have experienced that and have had such support and acceptance from the staff, students, and parents.

Henry David Thoreau once wrote, "Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence." This season wasn't what I initially expected after receiving my diploma, because teaching wasn't on my career path, but after following God's leading to this opportunity and resigning myself to the noise, the beautiful mess, the laughter, the tears, and the learning, it turned out even better than I could have imagined. It is the people within this Ambleside community that have taught me so much and challenged me to grow in more ways than one. Charlotte Mason was once described as follows: "When she talked with you

she brought out the best that was in you, something that you did not know was there." From day one even the students brought out something inside me that I didn't know was there. I learned this gentle strength, enduring patience, and peace filled joy.

I'm now excited to continue my time with the Ambleside community as an intern and substitute. I'm still not sure what my next job will be or where I will find myself this time next year, but right now I'm grateful to be here because Ambleside isn't just a school. It's one of the places in Boerne where heaven meets earth, where sacred work is being done each day, in and through the students. It's a family, and I feel blessed to continue to be part of this living education and be a witness to the Kingdom work happening here. After graduation, God knew how much I needed to learn about grace, and He brought me to Ambleside to find it.

“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.” - 2 Peter 1:2
