

# RLS Rams: Middle/High News

“HONORING CHRIST THROUGH EXCELLENCE”

DECEMBER 16, 2016



*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. — 1 Peter 2:9*

## 7th Grade News

**Bible (Mrs. Podeszwa)** - This week we looked at the angels' visits with Zechariah, Mary, and the Shepherds. Their responses varied. Zechariah failed to take God at his word and asked for proof that the angel's message was true. Mary, confused and bewildered, agreed to take on an overwhelming task, that she wasn't at all qualified for, because it was God's will. The shepherds rejoiced and immediately told everyone they could the best news ever -- the Messiah had come. May our response to God's Word be more like Mary's and the shepherds' than Zechariah's, yet at the same time we thank God that Jesus won forgiveness even for our doubt.

**Math (Mrs. McKenzie)** - the students continued working with rates and proportions this week. We wrapped up the week with a test on these topics, as well as graphing and the Pythagorean Theorem. On Monday they will apply their knowledge of proportions to determine whether or not triangles are congruent.

**Spanish I (Mr. Snyder)** - We continue studying and building our verb vocabulary and are working towards writing our first essay.

**Literature (Mr. Driscoll)** - Students finished *Romeo and Juliet*. We concluded with watching act 5 from the 1968 film version. Students will be working on a short story next week. When we return from Christmas break, students will begin their next novel.

**Social Studies (Mr. Snyder)** - We have finished our studies of China and are finishing up Mongolia.

**Life Science (Miss Kuehm)** - We have spent the week preparing and studying for our Chapter 1 test on Monday. We also began a controlled experiment using cut flowers. We placed 3 tulips in a cup of 12 oz. tepid water with varying amounts of sugar. The sugar ranged from 1 Tablespoon to 9 Tablespoons. We wanted to see if the amount of sugar made the flowers last longer. Stay tuned to see what happened!

## 8th Grade News

**Bible (Mrs. Podeszwa)** - The students were surprised this week to learn how much they thought they knew about the Christmas story. According to the Bible, we can't say for sure that Mary rode to Bethlehem on a donkey, or that three wise men showed up (We only know that it was more than two.), or even that Jesus was born in a stable or a cave (It could have been the lower room of a house in town.). We humans wish the Gospel writers included more details about the birth of Jesus. However, God let us know all we need to know. The promised Messiah, the son of God, took on flesh to live among us and give us peace with God.

**Algebra (Mr. Gerth)** - Students reviewed everything they've learned this year to prepare for their midterm. They reviewed expressions, solving equations and inequalities, and graphing equations. After Christmas we'll begin looking at functions and more efficient ways to graph them.

**Algebra 1a (Mrs. Podeszwa)** - We worked on solving equations that require us to combine like terms on either side of the equal sign.

**American History I (Mrs. Podeszwa)** - We are done with our study of the causes of the Revolution and moving into our study of the Revolutionary War itself. This week we read portions of *Common Sense* and *The Declaration of Independence* to help us better understand these documents that are foundational to our American identity.

**Literature (Mr. Driscoll)** - Students continue to work through "Flowers for Algernon." It is my hope that we can finish it next week. Upon return from Christmas break, we will begin our next novel.

## High School News

**Theology I - Old Testament II (Mr. Gerth)** - There are many "arguments" leveled against Christianity by the secularists of today's world. Some of them say, for example, that Christianity was founded in 500 AD by a group of old men who chose what the Bible would say. They chose the beliefs that *they* wanted, the atheists argue, and not what was actually true. This, however, is a lie. And to help us see that, we've read St. Clement's First Epistle to the Corinthians, written in about 90 AD. We found St. Clement confess the following: Salvation by grace through faith, Jesus was true man and yet true God, that Scripture was inerrant, and that Scripture included the Gospel and Paul's letters.

**Theology IV - New Testament II (Mr. Driscoll)** - Students finished reading 1 Corinthians. We had great conversation revolving around the love of God for His people through Jesus Christ. We will begin 2 Corinthians upon return from break.

**Algebra (Mr. Gerth)** - Students reviewed everything they've learned this year to prepare for their midterm. They reviewed expressions, solving equations and inequalities, and graphing equations. After Christmas we'll begin looking at functions and more efficient ways to graph them.

**Geometry (Mr. Gerth)** - We spent the week reviewing proofs, angle pairs, slope and everything else we learned this year. After Christmas, we'll learn about parallel lines and their proofs.

**Geometry (Mrs. McKenzie)** - The students spent the week discussing parallel lines and triangles and using past knowledge to calculate various angles in triangles. On Monday, we will get out our compasses again and learn to use them to construct parallel and perpendicular lines.

**Pre-Calculus (Mr. Gerth)** - We did lots of reviewing this week. Students got a chance to practice and review a great deal from Algebra 2, as well as everything we've learned about Trig so far.

**Statistics / AP Statistics (Mr. Gerth)** - Students reviewed for their midterm this week.

**AP Biology (Mrs. McKenzie)** - The students focused on the process of photosynthesis this week, wrapping up our unit on cellular energy and metabolism. We will finish this chapter on Monday. I am going to assign a chapter to read over Christmas break on viruses, as well as a brief study guide. This will help us to stay on target so that we can finish the year with enough time to review for the AP test in May.

**Earth Science (Mrs. McKenzie)** - The students wrapped up our unit on Earth's layers by creating and playing Jeopardy games. It's been quite a close competition a few times! On Monday we will begin our new chapter on Plate Tectonics by talking about continental drift.

**American Literature (Mr. Driscoll)** - Students continue working through *The Scarlet Letter*. We will finish this novel before Christmas break. Upon return from break, students will begin working on a research paper. We will also begin our next novel.

**AP Language and Composition (Mr. Driscoll)** - Students continue to work through *Death of a Salesman*. Unfortunately, we were unable to complete this before break. Upon return, students will view the first act of this play and then read the second act. They still are working on practicing for the AP Exam, which is May 10th.

**World Literature (Mr. Driscoll)** - Students continue to work through *Death of a Salesman*. Unfortunately, we

were unable to complete this before break. Upon return, students will view the first act of this play and then read the second act.

**World History (Mrs. Podeszwa)** - We completed our study about the rise and spread of Islam as well as the Crusades. On Monday Nigel Naumann will be here to speak with students about his experiences in the Middle East and help them better understand what is going on in Syria. I am curious to see how what they have learned about the past will help them understand what is happening right now.

## **Mission Project - Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries**

### ***Upcoming Events:***

**December 19 - Christmas Concert at Penn Hills High School**

**December 20- Middle/high students caroling at Concordias**

**December 20 - Middle/high Christmas parties**

**December 20 - High School Mock Debate**

**December 21- January 2 - Christmas Break**

**January 3 - Students return**

*Remember for  
r good grades*