

**Special  
Veteran's Day Edition**



# LOS ALTOS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



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**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Nov. 14    | End of First Elementary Trimester   |
| Nov. 21-22 | Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences<br><u>Report Cards Available</u><br><b>NO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b> |
| Nov. 18-21 | Preschool Parent Conferences<br><b>NO PRESCHOOL</b>   |
| Nov 23-25  | Thanksgiving Holiday<br><b>NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS</b>   |
| Dec 1      | Priority Applications Accepted for 2012-2013  |

## Hitting the Mark By Susan Goff

**Simba (Seung Hyun) Jeon** was chosen for the lower grades for "Press Towards the Mark." Friday, October 28th was Simba's last day as his family has moved back to Korea, so it is fitting that he should win this month. Simba is kind and helpful to his classmates and obeys his teacher. Simba is five years old and in kindergarten. He lives with his parents and older brother Simon. His favorite class is computer class and he said that his family loves to play on computers. At recess he enjoys playing with his friend, Nathan, and at home he likes to play with his brother. He and his family had fun camping this summer; especially eating



the roasted marshmallows.

**Stephanie Jue** was chosen for the upper grades. Step-

hanie is eleven years old and in the fifth grade. She lives with her parents and sisters, Megan and Allison. She was chosen for her great participation in the classroom. Stephanie has some sea monkeys at home and a rabbit at her Grandma's house. Her favorite subjects are math and writing. At recess she enjoys playing with friends and at home she



likes to read and do arts and crafts. Her favorite craft project was her solar system project in third grade. Stephanie takes piano lessons. She enjoys going to National Parks and Monuments with her family. Her favorite was Yellowstone National Park where she saw buffalo and a coyote. Thank you for being such great students, Simba and Stephanie!

- Grade Level Honorable Mentions:
- 1-Stephanie Bae-good helper
  - 2-Jacob Jasper-good friend
  - 3-Jennica Downer-helping a classmate
  - 4-Danny Lucas-helped a classmate with math

## Operation Christmas Child Next Week!

The Student Council will collect the filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child at LACS next week.

**November 14-18.**

*Operation Christmas Child* sends more than 7 million gift-filled shoeboxes each year to

needy and poverty-stricken children around the world. Along with the gifts, a gospel booklet in the child's own language is included with each shoebox. Please find it in your hearts to participate in this worthwhile ministry this

year. For more information on Operation Christmas Child visit [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)



## A Hero Comes Home After Over 65 Years MIA By Elizabeth Parker

On Saturday, April 29, 1944, eighteen B-24J Liberator bombers of the US Army's 392nd Bombing Group took off from their base in England and flew toward their intended target, a rail yard in Berlin. My great-uncle, 2nd Lt. Arthur Luce, was the co-pilot on one of those planes. Of the 18 bombers in the 392nd that left in the morning, only eight would return to England. Uncle Art's plane was not among the surviving aircraft. We would later learn that his crew had not even made it to Berlin, but had been shot down near the German village of Meitze, crashing into a farmer's field. None of the ten man crew survived.

For over sixty years, my great-uncle was officially listed as "Missing in Action, Presumed Killed." The Army could not give my family the answer to our questions as to where Art was, or how he had died. This was frustrating for us, but we were not alone – over 73,000 US servicemen and women are still listed as "MIA" from World War II, more than all other conflicts we have been involved in as a nation combined. The large numbers of the missing and the multiple theaters of operation make the recovery of remains a logistical impossibility for our military. Like the families of the other MIAs, we were left to wait for an answer.

For our family, that answer came about a year ago when the remains of one of the gunners in Art's crew, Staff Sergeant John Bonnassiolle, were positively identified. I learned that a private German company that specializes in finding Allied plane crash sites in Europe had been able to locate the crash site using after-action reports and eyewitness accounts from locals. Bonnassiolle's name tag from his jacket had been found, and his family was notified. The Bonnassiolle family put pressure on the Army to complete the excavation. During

the dig, Art's class ring was found near some remains. Using DNA samples provided by one of Art's sisters and a nephew a match was made – Art was found. In all, the remains of nine of the ten crewmen were positively identified.

The Army buried the crew together with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, October 26th of this year. Mrs. Litfin and I were able to attend, as well as our mother, and other members of our family. The funeral services were first held in the historical Old Post Chapel on Fort Myer, one of the two military bases that straddle Arlington. One casket was brought in to the Chapel, containing remains from all ten of the crewmen. The two Chaplains led us in the traditional prayers. After the brief funeral service, the casket was carried out and placed on a caisson, a type of horse-drawn carriage used for carrying artillery. The US Army band led the procession through the rolling hills of the National Cemetery. A full Honor Guard and Color Guard followed, with the caisson and its escort behind. Bringing up the rear were all of the mourners, some of us braving the long walk and threatening rain on foot, while those not able to make the hike rode in limousines behind the walkers.

The graveside service was like nothing I had ever seen before. There are many military rituals honoring the fallen and the families, but what struck me the most was the honor and respect given to the flag of our country. Five flags were presented to families (some families had been given flags earlier), including mine. Each flag was folded and presented with precision and a tangible sense of honor. A 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps" completed the ceremony.

After the services, I found myself looking at the seemingly endless rows of white marble

markers, rolling over the silent, green hills. I remember telling one of our military escorts that Arlington was a "sadly beautiful place." Knowing that each of those headstones represents a young life lost was very painful and humbling. My family then further humbled me by presenting me with the flag, as a thank-you for the research I had done into Art's military service and the excavation of the crash site.

I would like to publicly thank the US Army, Past Conflict Reparations Branch, for their support and help. Paulette Gooch, half-sister of Sgt. Bonnassiolle, is the real person who deserves all the kudos. Without her tenacity and determination the Army's excavation would never have happened. Enricho Schwartz and his company first found the site – none of this would have been possible without his work. We are forever in his debt.

I have been asked many times since coming home, "What was it like? What did you feel?" I struggle with answering those questions. I am surprised by the profound sense of loss and grief I experienced during this week. I never knew Art, but his absence was a presence in my family. In some ways, I'm wondering if I'm feeling some grief over the mystery and a certain irresponsibility of NOT knowing, of never having to face the real fact that Art was dead in that farmer's field for all those years. Still, I would not trade my current confusion for that simple grave of ten brave young men, now resting in the hallowed soil of their country, a marked, loved spot for all to visit and remember.



## LACS Flag Retirement Reminds LACS of Sacrifice and Service

The American Legion retired the flag at Los Altos Christian School on Friday, October 21st. The flag had become faded and torn from the many years of use at the school. Fifth grade students raised the new flag and all students, staff, and many parents pledged allegiance to the American flag, Chris-

tian flag, and the Bible. Then the five men who comprised the honor guard from the American Legion inspected the old flag, prayed, and then burned a replica flag. The flag was placed in a helmet which was held by three crossed rifles when it burned. There were many adults with tears in their eyes as they wit-

nessed this moving ceremony. It reminded all present that we are blessed to be in such a great country and it made us grateful for all those who have served and are now serving in the armed forces. May God bless and protect our service members. God bless the USA!



## Veteran's Day LACS Family and Friends Remembered

Many of the LACS family have family members and friends who have served, and are serving now, in the U.S. Armed Forces. We would like to take a moment to remember some of those service men and women that we know who have fought, and continue to fight, for the freedom of the citizens of the United States of America and abroad. There are many other men and women who serve us today, and in the past, that are not mentioned here. We encourage each and every one of you to take a moment to thank a veteran or armed service person for all that they have done, and continue to do for us:

- ★ 2nd Lt. Arthur William Luce (US Army Air Force, WWII)
- ★ Major Ken West (US Army, currently serving at Ft. Lewis, Gulf War vet)
- ★ Major James Rae (National Guard, currently serving)
- ★ Capt. Tess Neuman (US Coast Guard, currently serving)
- ★ Capt. Jeff Neuman (US Coast Guard, currently serving)
- ★ Hubert Parker (US Navy, WWII)
- ★ 2nd Lt. Darryl Parker (US Army, Vietnam Era)
- ★ Capt. William Hood (US Navy Reserves, active duty, Chaplaincy Corps., Gulf War and Iraq War)
- ★ Walter Asherbranner (US Navy, USS Nevada at Pearl Harbor-WWII)
- ★ Murle Skaggs (US Navy, WWII)
- ★ Nathan Wright (US Air Force, Afghanistan and Iraq War)
- ★ Capt. Kyleanne Hunter (USMC, Iraq War, currently serving in Washington D.C. Office of Legislative Affairs)
- ★ Ben Austin, PFC (USMC, currently serving)
- ★ Capt. Jack Fry (US Army, Vietnam Era, US Army Reserves)
- ★ Chad Garton (US Army Reserves, returned home from active duty in Iraq on November 9, 2011)
- ★ Albert Y. Gardner (USAF, WWII)
- ★ William Hill (US Navy, WWII)
- ★ Charles Horning (US Navy, Vietnam era)
- ★ Robert Carpignano (US Armed Forces 1950's)
- ★ James J. Shea (USAF, Vietnam Era)
- ★ James Donatelli (USAF, late 1950's to early 1960's)
- ★ Joseph Allan Benson (US Army Staff Sergeant, Korean War)
- ★ Allan Joseph Benson (US Army Sargent 101st Airborne Div., retired military)
- ★ Corp. Gregory Benson (US Army, MP Division, Iraq War, currently serving in Afghanistan)
- ★ Renar Benson (US Army, now a Police Officer)
- ★ Aaron Longill (U.S. Navy, currently serving)
- ★ Col. William Lew (USAF, WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam, retired military)
- ★ Wallace Sadler (US Army, WWII, Korean War)
- ★ James Sadler (USAF, Vietnam)
- ★ Wallace Sadler, Jr. (USAF, Vietnam)
- ★ Jack M. Day (USMC, Vietnam)
- ★ Coy Sadler (US Army, WWII)
- ★ James (J.D.) Sadler, 1st (US Army, WWII)
- ★ Russell Sadler (US Army, WWII)
- ★ Michael Damigo (USMC veteran)
- ★ Nathan Damigo (USMC, Iraq War)
- ★ Lt. Commander Robert Jones Ball (US Navy, WWII)
- ★ Pvt. 1st Class, Harry Coleman (US Army WWII)



# Bridges Community Church



## Service Times:

9:00 AM

### **Praise Service**

choir led hymns  
and praise songs

10:45 AM

### **Modern Service**

guitar and drum-driven  
worship

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### **Sunday Morning Teaching**

*Speaker:* Pastor Dave Gudgel

*Series:* It Starts

*Topic:* First Miracle



## Wounded Vets Get Warmth From LACS Middle School

The middle school National Junior Honor Society is in the process of making 14-15 fleece blankets for wounded vets who are being treated at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital! The money for the fabric came from the Jamba Juice sales... so in a way, the entire school participated! No parent/student money was gathered for this project. Way to go, LACS middle school!

**The LACS Staff would like to thank the first grade families and students for the beautiful luncheon today. It warms our hearts and souls to be so appreciated by those whom we serve. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your children.**

## Use Your Rewards for LACS

This is a reminder to use your E-Scrip memberships, Target Rewards, Safeway rewards and S.H.A.R.E.S. cards for your holiday shopping! Also, cut out those Box Tops and bring them to our school.

These are all very easy ways to help benefit your child's school. The programs will donate a percentage of your purchases as a contribution to LACS just for using their rewards programs.

The S.H.A.R.E.S. card program is an easy and efficient way to fundraise. It is the Lucky, Save Mart, Food

Max, and Smart Foods equivalent to E-Scrip.

When you use your S.H.A.R.E.S. card at any of the above stores, LACS will receive the benefits of a quarterly check for 3% of the qualified purchases. It's an easy way to donate to the school without spending an extra penny.



*A Ministry of Bridges Community Church*

Los Altos Christian Schools is dedicated to fostering the love of Christ and the love of learning in children of the Bay Area. LACS received the highest accreditation rating from both the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).



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