

# BRADFORD BULLETIN

B R A D F O R D A C A D E M Y ' S P A R E N T U P D A T E

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

**May 20th**—Book Fair at Barnes and Noble! The book fair will run all day. Our students will perform at 6:30. Invite your friends!

**May 26th** -Patriotic Program

### Memory

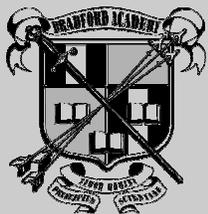
Mr. Nobody (1st)  
The New Colossus (2nd)  
Casey at Bat (3rd)  
States and Capitals Song  
*Non Nobis*

### PRAYER

- **Noah Mastin's recovery from pneumonia.**
- **Students** - Pray for a growing desire to do all things well.
- **Staff** - Energy and health! Pray also for wisdom, creativity, and discernment.
- **Enrollment**—We would like to average about ten students per grade to split the combined classes.

## FOR ART

We are in need of mirrors for 2nd/3rd grade Art class on Monday and Tuesday of next week. Thank you for your help!



## WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

I recently watched the documentary *Waiting for "Superman."* It illustrates the current undesirable statistics and difficulties that characterize American public education. It also highlights several successful school reform efforts, particularly public charter schools. While I cannot give the film my full endorsement, I do think it is well worth watching. The trailer can be seen here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHVhcog97N0&feature=related>

The title of the documentary comes from the feelings one reformer had as a boy. Geoffrey Canada grew up in a very low income and derelict neighborhood. He nurtured a sense of hope because he believed in Superman. He reasoned that if things got really bad, someone really powerful might just come and rescue him. He says this:

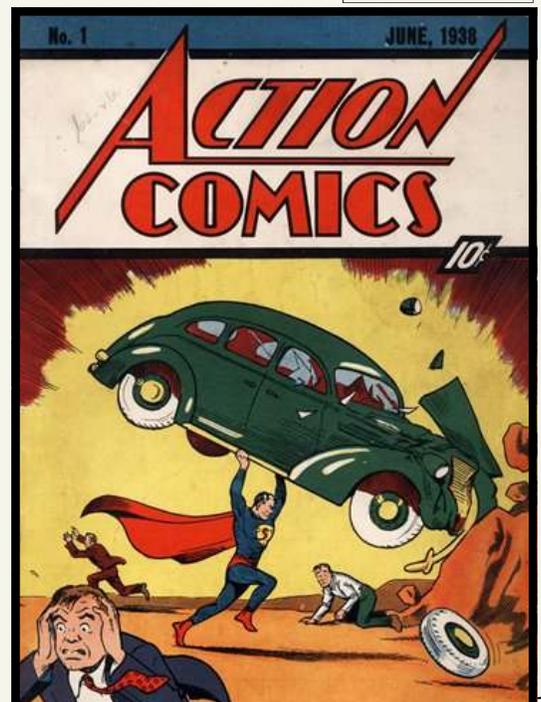
**"One of the saddest days of my life was when my mother told me "Superman" did not exist. Cause even in the depths of the ghetto you just thought he was coming... She thought I was crying because it's like Santa Claus is not real. I was crying because no one was coming with enough power to save us."**

He managed to work his way out of the cycle of poverty and poor education and has opened a high performing charter school. He looked for the lowest performing district in New York (a 90 block area of Manhattan) and planted a

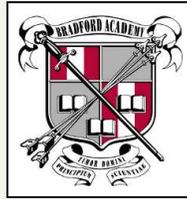
school, Freedom Academy, in what he has called Harlem Children's Zone. Because it is a publicly funded charter school and he now has more applicants than openings, children are enrolled via a lottery! In other words, now instead of waiting for Superman to rescue them, they are staking their hopes on an education that they can only be accessed if their number is drawn by chance. That and other stories in the documentary are heartbreaking.

The reason I can't give the film a complete and heart felt thumbs up is that it implies that charter schools are somehow the answer to our flawed school system. While a bright spot in

Continued, pg.2



FROM  
MR. JOHNSTON  
2ND / 3RD GRADE &  
HISTORY AND SCIENCE



FROM  
MRS. OGLE  
K/1ST & SPECIALS

**Language Arts:**

- 2nd - *The Boxcar Children*, reading comprehension, punctuation, capitalization rules and pronouns.
- 3rd—The students continue to practice summarizing written text. Began reading *Homer Price!*

**Math:**

- 2nd - Practiced making change, also reviewed division by 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9.
- 3rd- Continued mixed numbers, improper fractions and probability.

**K/1st History:** Colonial Period

**2nd/3rd History:** This week's topic was the Division of Rome

**Latin:** 3rd - direct objects and prepositions, 2nd - food words and review

**Science:** 2/3 Mt. St. Helens

Continued from pg.1 educational reform, charter schools are yet another Superman that will not come.

While many charter schools offer a more conservative rigorous academic approach, they remain at the end of the day non-Christian. That is, to imply by silence that Jesus Christ is irrelevant to human history is flawed education. To suggest by some token political correctness that Jesus is co-equal to other "spiritual leaders" is folly. To separate education from morality or morality from divine revelation will only create "more clever devils" according to C.S. Lewis. If we educate our children without a

pervasive sense of Christian ethics and gospel realities, we will have more Enron CEO's, Bernie Madoffs, self-serving politicians, and profane civic and cultural leaders. There is a reason for Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

This is not to say that I believe that every student that is educated in a publicly funded school will turn out to be dishonest or profane. I believe that God can overrule and provide grace in any situation. What I do believe is that if we have multiple generations being educated in an environment in which God is absent, there will be consequences. Should we be surprised that we have a generation of citizens in whose lives God is absent? If God says that the fear of Him has great educational value, should we be surprised by the poor academic performance where there is no fear of Him.

Several years ago I became convinced that I wanted a classical and Christian education for my children. I also wanted it for my friends' children, the children in my church, and the children in my community. I want it for sake of the Kingdom of God and because it is a better kind of education for America. I do not think we can do it alone, nor can we sit still waiting for Superman. We do need to wait on the Lord. Peace and grace.

**K Math:** Subtracting a number from 10, Identifying dozen and half dozen, and Estimating and measuring distance using feet.

**K Reading:** . This week the students read "Runs from Guns", reviewed alphabetical order, and practiced reading words.

**1st Reading:** Read "The Sword of Rob Roy" and "Caught in Smiles".

**1st Math:** Identifying intersecting line and perpendicular lines, subtracting three digit numbers and money amounts, Estimating differences, multiplying by 3 facts, making a table to solve a problem, and making and labeling an array.

**Language Arts:** Contractions using "not", and review of addresses, nouns, and verbs.

**Art (2nd/3rd):** Drawing faces using correct proportions.

**Art (K/1st):** Students thought about the line and circle families as they began work on a carousel horse.

**Music (2nd/3rd):** This week the students listened to "Stars and Stripes Forever" by Sousa. We talked about how it is the National march of the United States. We also talked about the significance of the stars (50 states) and stripes (13 colonies) on the American flag.

**P. E. (2nd/3rd):** The students practiced the overhead pass in volleyball this week.

**P. E. (K/1st):** This week we practiced catching "high" and "low" balls.

