



American Heritage School News

November/December 2008

Message From the Principal

A wonderful little proverb states very simply: “Learn a new language, and gain a new soul.”¹

As a young missionary in St. Petersburg, Russia – I learned to communicate and empathize with a people who were marked by a deep sense of conflict and human endurance.² Although difficult to explain to someone who has never spoken more than one language, in learning to speak Russian, I eventually added a certain “Russian soul” to my own.

Language, broadly defined, is any system, faculty, or power employed to communicate ideas or thoughts. Thus, music is often referred to as a language.³ So is mathematics. And so is art, and logic, and dance, and so forth. In the mastery of these and other disciplined “languages”, a new soul is gained. In the language of holy writ, mastery of the divine discipline even conveys a “new heart.”⁴

As a young lawyer with a little background in musical composition, I experienced one of those unexpected watershed moments when one of my personal mentors in law school, Professor Scharffs, leveraged the language of music to shatter my shortsighted view of the discipline of advocacy.⁵

He began by recounting an experience shared by President Hinckley in 1988 (who was at the time First Counselor in the First Presidency of the Church). In the words of President Hinckley:

We live in an environment where there is much of litigation and conflict, of suing and countersuing. Even here the powers of healing may be invoked. As a young man I worked with Elder Stephen L. Richards, then of the Council of the Twelve. When he came into the First Presidency of the Church, he asked me to assist him with a very delicate and sensitive matter. It was fraught with most grave and serious consequences. After listening to him discuss it, I said, “President Richards, you don’t want

me; you want a lawyer.” He said, “I am a lawyer. I don’t want to litigate this. I want to compose it.”⁶



*Elder Stephen L. Richards, 1879-1959
First Counselor to President David O. McKay,
1951-1959*

Professor Scharffs seized upon the word “compose” and proceeded to conduct one of the most beautiful and profound word studies I have ever encountered. What caught me most by surprise is that he employed the language of *musical composition* to examine the critical character traits that every good *lawyer* should possess in “composing” conflict, “especially if we are to transcend the role of hired gun or mercenary and realize our potential as healers and unifiers.”⁷

Professor Scharffs then drew upon words like “dissonance” and “resolution”, “harmony and counterpoint”, “tension” between “major and minor keys”, “crescendo” and “decrescendo”. In summation, he concluded that “a true musical masterpiece includes all of these elements in a grand and delicate balance”.

I was stunned. Suddenly I was not just hearing another lecture on what it meant to be a good lawyer – I was *feeling* it. He was speaking to one of my other souls. It was as if Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos were expanding my view of the proper role of government!

A Season for Composing Conflict

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, I often reflect with admiration upon those who so ably “compose” the uncertainty and conflict of their lives long enough to access the divine glimpse of perspective necessary to make their ongoing burdens lighter.⁸

In this spirit, I am reminded of the two great Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamations, delivered in brief moments of respite just following the great American Revolution and also during the great American Civil War.

On October 3, 1789, the first President of the United States issued the following proclamation to a new nation that had found temporary calm in the wake of its first great military, economic, and constitutional conflict:



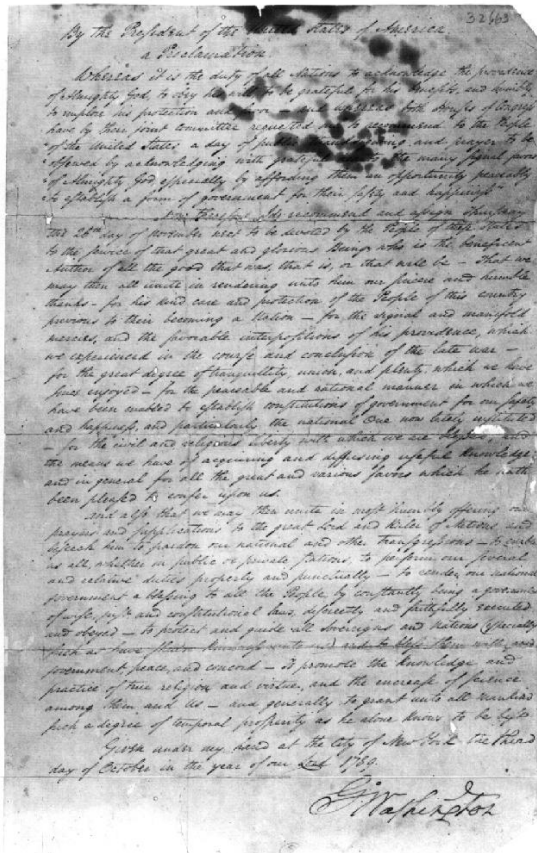
“By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation:

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor – and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be – That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks – for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation – for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war – for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed – for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted – for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions – to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually – to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed--to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord – To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us – and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789. [signed, G. Washington]⁹



Copy of the Thanksgiving Proclamation
 Issued by George Washington, October 3, 1789

On exactly the same day, 74 years later (October 3, 1863), President Abraham Lincoln issued another powerful Thanksgiving Proclamation addressed to an America in crisis:

“By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been

maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.



No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.

And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and

disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth. By the President: [signed Abraham Lincoln]¹⁰



In these two proclamations we find a divine breath of hope in the face of uncertainty – that in “remembering the source from which our blessings come”¹¹ – the greatest of all Composers will remember mercy in “composing conflict” for our good.

May we also speak the language of gratitude in our classrooms and homes and always “acknowledge with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God.”¹²

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

--Grant Beckwith

¹ At least one source indicates this is a Czech proverb, but I suspect that there is a similar proverb in every language!

² The Russian word for patience, often used in context of endurance, is “terpenyeh”. The Russians and their Slavic descendants have endured more protracted national warfare than almost any people on earth, not to mention the extremes in climate, topography, and living conditions.

³ Georgetown University Medical Center (2007, September 28). (Researchers have long debated whether language and music depend on common processes in the mind. In 2007, Researchers at Georgetown University Medical Center found evidence that the processing of music and language depend on the same brain systems.)

⁴ Ezekiel 36:26.

⁵ See Brett Scharffs, “Composing Conflict: The Lawyer as Composer” in *The Clark Memorandum*, Spring 2002 [Composing Conflict].

⁶ Gordon B. Hinckley, *The Healing Power of Christ*, Ensign, Nov. 1988, 52, 54.

⁷ Scharffs, *supra*. Composing Conflict.

⁸ Mosiah 18:8; Romans 8:39.

⁹ Printed in the Massachusetts Centinel, Wednesday, October 14, 1789.

¹⁰ According to an April 1, 1864, letter from John Nicolay, one of President Lincoln’s secretaries, this document was written by Secretary of State William Seward, and the original was in his handwriting. On October 3, 1863, fellow Cabinet member Gideon Welles recorded in his diary that he complimented Seward on his work.

¹¹ Abraham Lincoln, Thanksgiving Proclamation, October 3, 1863.

¹² George Washington, Thanksgiving Proclamation, October 3, 1789.

Student Submissions

The Parable of the Lord and the Fortress

(by Erik Heras, 10th Grade)

There once was a town atop a large knoll. In the center was a fortress – tall, mighty, and built of the sturdiest stone. One day, the lord of the town and of the fortress within sent out a decree. He promised to the townsfolk, whom he loved, security; that if there were to be any siege by enemies, those who had done their duties might flee and be admitted into the cover of the impregnable stronghold. “I will give defense to my subjects, but only to them who have remained faithful to me and have done their part in my town. This I promise you.”

Many did not consent. Some believed and asserted that the enemy, if there really was any, would never attack and therefore did not submit to his plan. Some felt the lord’s help was unreliable and they themselves had far better solutions; they assumed that they could easily elude the enemy and retreat into the wilderness. Some believed that the lord would provide them with protection even if their duties went undone. Some believed many other erroneous ideas. The rest agreed to do what was asked of them and believed that they were in good hands. As time passed, the lord kept watch over his people. Not a single action or neglect went unknown to him. He frequently implored his people to stay faithful and true, and to be ready.

[You can view the rest of Erik's parable at the new American Heritage School Student Work Gallery! Just go to the following link (make sure to allow pop-ups for this page): <http://american-heritage.org/StudentWorkGallery2008-2009/Student-Work-Gallery.html>]

“Whom Do You Admire?”
(by *Elisa Huhem, 7th Grade*)

When I looked at the meaning of the word “admire” in the dictionary, I found the following definition: “To regard with wonder or surprise, mingled with approbation, esteem, reverence or affection.” Keeping this in mind, I had to think twice before I could choose a person that I really esteem and reverence. Queen Esther symbolizes many beautiful and timeless virtues that I want to emulate, such as courage, faith, integrity, and inner and outer beauty. Queen Esther is an inspiring example to me of overcoming fear with faith. From her, I can see how praying and fasting are powerful sources of strength when right choices need to be made, and integrity must be kept.

“Whom Do You Admire?”
(by *Maddie Gibson, 7th Grade*)

I admire Jesus because he loves me and cares for me – and I love him very much. Even though I cannot remember him, I still know my spirit knows him. He not only cares for me and everyone else, but He also died for me and sacrificed for my sins and everyone else's. I miss him terribly and can hardly wait until He comes again so that I can hug him again. I long to hear his voice. Even though I have friends on Earth, He is my ultimate and dearest friend. I hope I can live to see Him come to the Earth again. He is my older spirit brother.

Some friends or relatives may turn away from the Church and Him, but you and I can count on Jesus our whole existence, no matter what happens to us. Some turn away when He gives us trials. But, we must not turn away. We all have trials. The way we accept and handle our trials depends on us and our testimony of Jesus.

Word Study on “Repository”
(by *Misha Duncan, 7th Grade*)

A repository is “a place where things are or may be deposited for safety or preservation.” (Noah Webster's *1828 American Dictionary of the English Language*). I need to choose which things are the most valuable and important to me that I should put in my repository. A repository that I use is my journal. It is where I put my most important experiences. In Jacob 1:2 it says, “And he gave me, Jacob, a commandment that I should write upon these plates a few of the things which I considered to be most precious....” I need to use my agency to follow Jacob and only deposit my most precious things.

A repository doesn't have to be a physical object; it can be a place such as your heart or mind. Other people can be our repository when we trust them with our knowledge or truth. It is important that we choose wisely what we put in our repository because what we choose may affect others. Heavenly Father has commanded us to put only the plain and precious things that He has given us in our repository. When we do this, we will be able to teach others and share with them the testimony that we have gained because of the truths that we keep with us.

“To My Teacher, Who Always Inspires Me
To Do What Is Right”
(by *Marinn Duncan, 2nd Grade*)

In the darkest hours of night,
The Lord will help you with His might.
When you feel that fear has come,
He will help you, dearest one.
Believe, believe, believe in God,
Be brave, be bold, but carefully trod.

Things may be difficult all through your life,
But you must remember always to strive.
There is a difference between God and you,
Be careful in all you say and do.
Help is surely what you need,
Please be kind and do good deeds.

Autumn Poem
(by Elena Hadlock, 5th Grade)

Autumn leaves of red, yellow, and brown
Fall to the whistle of the wondrous wind
The dimly lit sky like a sunset on the each
Slowly leaves fall as they twist and they bend

Beautiful birds fly under half of the sun
Squirrels lay down in bed
As the sun disappears
Every animal rests its head

In the silence of the night
The moons glow is bright
To its light in the dark
One last leaf falls to mark
That spring is on its way

As few weeks go by
Leaves are blown to the sky
They dance away slowly
They know spring is nigh

Forgiving Father
(By Catherine Bowen, 10th Grade)

I remember well that night, maybe not the night, but the feelings. I was trying to maintain or create some kind of order among my five younger siblings. It was bedtime and my brothers were not yet ready for it. They seemed to leap, jump, spring, FLY through the living room as they continued with their boyish playtime fun. Unfortunately, boys' play usually involves throwing something..."

[You can view the rest of Catherine's story at the new American Heritage School Student Work Gallery! Just go to the following link (and make sure to allow pop-ups for this page): <http://american-heritage.org/StudentWorkGallery2008-2009/Student-Work-Gallery.html>]

Changes to School Calendar

Please take note of the following changes to the official school calendar:

December 12, February 27, and May 8: These dates were previously listed on the school calendar as K-6 inservice days; however, we will be holding important combined faculty inservice sessions for ALL teachers in grades K-10 on these dates, and thus there will be no school for all students.

December 3 and 4: The school calendar previously listed December 3 as a "4th-8th Grade Christmas Concert" and December 4 as a "9th-10th Grade Christmas Concert". As a result of various factors related to the December 4th benefit concert featuring Michael Ballam (advertisement attached), we will be holding the December 3rd Christmas Concert at 1:30 p.m. for all students in grades 4-10. The December 4th Benefit Christmas Program (still scheduled for 6:30 p.m.), will be for selected students in grades 7-10 who have been invited to participate in the AHS Combined Festival Choir.

Calendar at a Glance

November

- 7 Combined AHS/Liahona Dance @ Liahona Academy, 8-11:00 p.m., ages 14-up, 80's theme, \$5 per student
- 10-14 Custodial Appreciation Week
- 12 American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic Fall Classics Concert (at AHS) 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Family Lecture Series, Dr. Mark Butler, "Spiritual Exodus from Addictive Behaviors", 7:00 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. lecture
- 14 **Teacher In-Service, No School (K-6th)**
- 21 Second Grade Devotional, 8:40 a.m.
- 21 Mid-Term
- 24-28 **Thanksgiving Break, No School**

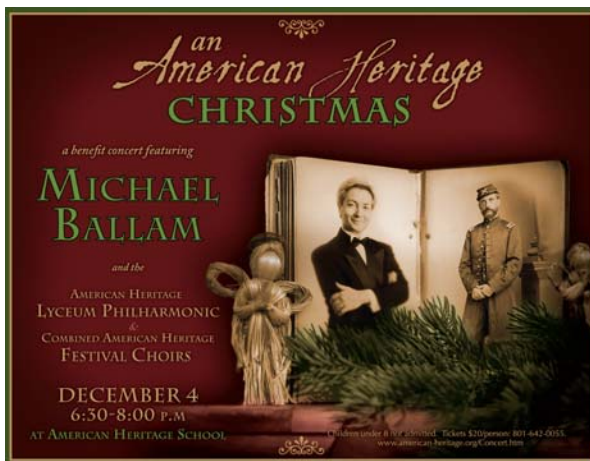
December

- 3 4th-10th Grade Christmas Concert, 1:30 p.m.
- 4 American Heritage Christmas Benefit Program, featuring Michael Ballam, Combined AHS Philharmonic and Festival Choirs, 6:30 p.m.
- 5 AM Kindergarten Devotional, 8:40 a.m.
- 5 PM Kindergarten Devotional, 2:00 p.m.
- 12 **Teacher In-Service K-10, No School All Students**
- 19 All School Sing, 8:40 a.m.
- 19 Teddy Bear Project, 10:00 a.m.
- 19 All Kindergarten attend A.M. (8:30 – 11:30 a.m.); Kindergarten School Concludes, 11:30 a.m.
- 19 School Ends, 12:05 p.m. (1st -10th)
- Dec 19 – Jan 4 Christmas Holiday, No School
- Jan 5 School Resumes

***Building Expansion
Campaign and Construction Update
100% Participation! That's Our Goal!***

Construction for the elementary and high school expansion is still scheduled to begin in late November or December 2008. Our fundraising efforts for the building expansion have been admirable: we have raised approximately \$2.2 million in the last year since we began our building expansion campaign, but we have not yet achieved our \$4 million goal and we need everyone's help! Our goal is to demonstrate to ourselves and to other potential donors that 100% of our families at American Heritage School are making a donation – of any amount – in addition to tuition. This is OUR school and we plan to improve it for the next generation to come.

Since we do not include capital improvement costs in tuition, the actual tuition paid by families at the school represents only a portion (approximately half) of the “real” cost of per-student education at the school factoring in the would-be costs for building, land, facilities, furniture, fixtures and equipment. We are all grateful for sacrifice of those who made this school possible for our children. Let's show our gratitude! There are many ways to give to the Building Expansion Fund! Purchase a ticket for the Michael Ballam benefit concert, participate in the Student Pledge Fund, or use the donation form attached to this donation letter. “Sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven!” and we THANK those who have donated and continue to donate to the ongoing needs of the School. You are angels on earth!



“So amidst the conflict, whether great or small, do not be discouraged, God is over all!”



“Civil War Christmas” by Thomas Nast, 1863.

This print shows a touching scene of husband and wife with children - separated by war on Christmas Eve 1862. The picture is from the January 1863 edition of Harper's Weekly.

***Welcome to the New
American Heritage Youth Orchestras!***

We are very pleased to announce that the best-in-state youth orchestras formerly sponsored by *The Music School* in American Fork have merged with American Heritage School effective October of 2008. We welcome Kayson Brown, director of the combined orchestras and conductor of the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic (advanced, approximately 70-member, ages 13-18). We also welcome Denise Willey, conductor of the American Heritage Chamber Orchestra (intermediate, ages 8-15) and American Heritage Lyceum Jr. Strings (beginning, ages 6-10). Both Mr. Brown and Mrs. Willey have joined the AHS faculty.

The orchestra students that come with Mr. Brown and Mrs. Willey are some of the most accomplished young musicians in northern Utah. Mr. Brown, Mrs. Willey, and the new American Heritage Youth Orchestras bring with them the nation's only community music program affiliated with the Utah Symphony, including unparalleled access to Utah Symphony conductors and musicians, as well as visiting guest artists from Gina Bachauer and a professional Artists in Residence program that draws

visiting professionals from some of the finest orchestras in the world to mentor the American Heritage Youth Orchestra students.

American Heritage School will serve not only as the parent organization and sponsor for these three extraordinary orchestras, but will also be the location of their after-school rehearsals and various performances. Beginning in the Fall of 2009, we also plan to offer curricular orchestra classes and instrument instruction in grades K-12. Students need not be enrolled at American Heritage School to audition for the American Heritage Youth Orchestras; however, merit-based tuition scholarships will be considered for high school students (9th-12th grade) who successfully audition for the Lyceum Repertory Orchestra and who are also admitted to American Heritage School.

Come hear the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic perform at the Fall Classics Concert, Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 p.m. at American Heritage School! The concert will feature talented youth from across the state ranging in age from 6 to 18. The Lyceum Philharmonic will perform masterworks by Mozart and Czech composer Dvorak and will also feature viola soloist Ammon Chung in a work by Johann Hummel. The Jr. Strings and Chamber Orchestras will be performing crowd pleasing favorites like "Indian Drums" by Lawrence Lyon as well as the music from Masterpiece Theater and Bach's beloved Brandenburg No. 5. The evening promises to be fun for the whole family. Come and support the newest members of the American Heritage School Family this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.



Kayson Brown, Director, American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic and American Heritage Youth Orchestras. Kayson Brown has directed all five BYU Orchestras, both University of Utah Orchestras, and numerous community, youth, and district honors orchestras across

the state. Additionally, he is the Director of Music at American Heritage School and a member of the cello faculty at Brigham Young University. Kayson earned a Master's Degree in Orchestral Conducting at BYU

and has performed to critical acclaim in Europe and across the United States. Welcome Mr. Brown!



Denise Willey, Conductor, American Heritage Lyceum Jr. Strings and American Heritage Chamber Strings. Denise Willey, founder of the Lyceum Orchestra Program in 1987, was named Utah Studio Teacher of the Year in 1997 by the American String Teachers Association. An expert on teaching children to read music, she is the author of *Sight Reading for Strings Music Literacy Program*, and *Suzuki Steps to Music Reading*. Mrs. Willey has directed young musicians from across the country at Intermountain Suzuki String Institute, in public school music programs and after-school orchestras. She is a Suzuki Registered Teacher Trainer and a proud mother of six, all of whom have received national recognition for their playing and who now teach music. Welcome Mrs. Willey!

For more information, see the Youth Orchestras link on our school website.

<http://american-heritage.org/Lyceum.htm>

Welcome to the New American Heritage Teachers!



Nancy Willis, Morning Kindergarten. Mrs. Willis has well over 20 years of teaching experience in kindergarten through third grade. She grew up in Provo where she attended Brigham Young University and graduated with a bachelor's in Elementary Education. After

serving an LDS mission in the Massachusetts Boston Mission, she taught first grade at Lindon Elementary for two years. She and her husband then moved to Alaska where she lived for the next 24 years until moving back to Utah in August of this year. In Alaska, Mrs. Willis worked in public schools for 20 years as a teacher of kindergarten, first, second, and third grades. While in Alaska, Mrs. Willis also completed a Masters degree in Educational Leadership and spent two years as an Elementary School principal. After retiring, she volunteered with

the Alaska PTA, taught piano lessons, and home-schooled her youngest child. She and her husband have eight children. In her spare time, Mrs. Willis enjoys spending time with her family, going for walks, playing games, reading, doing family history research, baking, playing and listening to music, and she's learning to make quilts. Mrs. Willis indicated to us that she feels blessed to have found the kindergarten teaching position at American Heritage School, not only because of the wonderful atmosphere at AHS, but also because kindergarten children are her favorite age of children to teach! Welcome Mrs. Willis!



Heidi Boden, Elementary Art. Mrs. Boden has over four years of elementary art teaching experience in both public and private schools. With a bachelor's degree in Art Education from Brigham Young University, Mrs. Boden has significant experience

working with elementary art students of all ages and has been instrumental in the development of art curriculum for the former Ensign School and also for Odyssey Charter School (American Fork). Prior to her work as an art teacher, Mrs. Boden also taught seminary for the CES program in Abingdon, Virginia before moving to Utah. When she is not at school or at home with her family, Mrs. Boden serves as an American Fork City Arts Council Committee Member and Steel Days Chairman, a Young Women Leader for the LDS Church, and also as a Utah State Delegate. Welcome Mrs. Boden!

Important Christmas Concert Information

This year, American Heritage School is celebrating Christmas in a truly one-of-a-kind way, that only American Heritage School can – and with TWO concerts!

On Wednesday, December 3 at 1:30 p.m. American Heritage School's 4th-10th Grades will present a Christmas Choir Concert entitled *A King is Born*. The concert is open to all parents and community members, all ages, free admission.

On Thursday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. we will be holding a special benefit concert entitled *An American Heritage Christmas* featuring Michael Ballam, the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic, and an audition-only American Heritage Festival Choir. Tickets are \$20/person; and no children under 8 will be admitted. Proceeds will benefit the American Heritage School Building Expansion Fund. A percentage of the proceeds will also benefit the AHS "Teddy Bears for Christmas" children's shelter project (see attached flyer) and an orphanage in Vera Cruz, Mexico that our high school students will visit and serve in connection with the School's service-learning initiative. **Benefit Concert tickets will be reserved for school patrons to purchase during the week of November 10-14 and can be purchased at the front office. After November 14 all seats will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis to the general community.** We expect a sell-out crowd and hope to see you there! See the School's website or the attached flyer for more information!



Dec. 3 Christmas Concert Instructions for Students:

The Dec. 3 Christmas Concert, *A King is Born*, is required for all 4th-10th students (choir and curricular orchestra students) and counts for 25% of the students' 2nd term choir grade. Please contact Mrs. Hancock in advance (in writing or by email please) if your child will not be attending the Dec. 3 concert.

Choir dress for the Dec. 3 concert is: Girls, Navy blue skirt, white Peter Pan collar blouse with crossover tie, **dark tights and dark dress shoes**. High school girls should also wear their navy blue blazer. The boys should dress in a **long sleeve button down white Sunday shirt**, navy dress pants, dark

dress shoes, dark socks and the navy blue tie (middle school only). High school boys should also wear their blazer and Friday dress tie.

Orchestra dress for the Dec. 3 concert is “concert black”, which consists of: Boys, long-sleeve black dress shirt and black dress pants with dark socks and shoes (no tie required); Girls, long-sleeve black dress (or blouse and knee-length-or-longer black skirt) with black nylons and dark dress shoes.

Instructions for Festival Choir: Those students who have been invited to participate in the Thursday, December 4 Christmas Program featuring Michael Ballam, info will be circulated to them separately.

The students are singing and playing beautifully!!!! We look forward to sharing these wonderful musical events with your family and friends. Thank you for all of your support!

Spelling Bee

Get a head start on studying for the Spelling Bee! The 1st-3rd grade words can be found on Edline. For the 4th-8th grade words, you may go to www.myspellit.com and download the *Spell It* book containing the words. The dates for the American Heritage School Spelling Bees are as follows:

- AHS Class Spelling Bees are held by individual teachers in their classrooms as scheduled by each teacher.
- AHS Junior Bee for grades 1st-4th will be Tuesday, January 15th (time TBA).
- AHS Senior Bee Competition for grades 4th – 8th will be Tuesday, February 3rd (time TBA).

School finalists from the Senior Bee Competition will be submitted to the Daily Herald in mid-February for the state competition to be held in March. (The date and location is yet to be announced by the Daily Herald.)

Congratulations to AHS Intra-School Debate Competition Winners

Congratulations to Erik Heras (10th), Austin Hill (10th), Lacey Monson (9th), and Stephen Duncan (9th) who took top honors in the inaugural AHS Intra-

School Debate Competition. American Heritage School is a member of the National Forensics League and held a month-long competition in October focusing on the NFL debate topic for September: “Resolved: That the United States Should Implement a Military Draft.” Approximately forty students in 9th and 10th grades participated in the five rounds of debate competition, which were judged by parent volunteers who scored the students according to the NFL ballot for public forum debate. Thanks to Mr. Lofgreen, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. White, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Hunsaker, and Mrs. Updike for their assistance as debate judges! Congratulations to all the debate students – all of whom did an absolutely phenomenal job in their first debate competition!

We Need Your Input! **2008/2009 Parent and Student Surveys**

Beginning Monday, November 17, please log on to Edline and complete the annual Parent Survey. This year, we are also providing a separate survey for middle and high school students. Many important issues will be addressed, including your feedback with respect to individual teachers and programs, the school expansion plans for K-12, use of technology, school discipline, uniform policy/suppliers, homework and grading, and more. The survey will remain open for one month (until December 17) when administration will begin analyzing the survey data in connection with various decisions that could be announced as soon as the all-parent meeting on Wednesday, January 14. We need your input! Don’t let your voice go unheard!

New Online Application for Enrollment!

Beginning January 5, 2009, all families at the school who are interested in applying for the 2009/2010 school year are requested to complete a secure, online Application for Enrollment that will retain and “roll over” family information from year-to-year. The objective is to reduce the time/effort spent on paperwork for parents and office staff, as well as facilitate early admissions for returning families. If you have any questions or concerns about the online application for the enrollment process, please do not hesitate to speak with an administrator.

Student Pledge Fund for Building Expansion

We are very pleased to announce that in connection with the School's capital campaign, Student Government Association President and Vice President Kaden Caldwell and Aja Tolman have proposed an exciting way for every student to be able to participate in the building expansion project. Here's how it works: The Student Pledge Fund is like a walk-a-thon, but instead of walking long distances in exchange for donations, the students memorize scriptures (e.g. see <http://seminary.lds.org/scripture-mastery/>), read great books, or abstain from television and video games in exchange for donations to the school. Canvassing neighborhoods for pledges is discouraged, but approaching family members (parents, grandparents, a favorite uncle/aunt) is encouraged! The idea is that by building themselves, the students will also acquire and earn pledges payable to the American Heritage School building expansion fund by the end of this school year. Years from now these students may tell their children, "I helped to build the American Heritage School. When I was your age, I helped personally to pay for it, and I'm so glad."

The form for Student Pledge Fund is attached at the end of the newsletter. It is adaptable to students – both young and old – and it accommodates various self-improvement goals. Thanks to our Student Government for sponsoring this wonderful initiative and please join us in this excellent opportunity to build the students and expand the school building simultaneously!

Kindergarten News Christmas Cards Wanted



STOP!!! Don't throw those holiday cards away! Kindergarten needs the pictures for their annual ABC Christmas Book. Please save them and bring to the office for the Kindergarten students to use next year. Each year, we need a total of just over 1,000 cards (45 pictures of each of the following: angels, baby Jesus, candles, donkeys, evergreen trees, gifts, holly, ice, jingle bells, Chris

Kringle, lanterns, Mary, Noel carolers, ornaments, poinsettias, quiet cold winter sight, reindeer, shepherds, trees, universal peace, wise men, extra goodies, and young ones). Your help with this project is much appreciated.

Construction, Inconvenience, and Christian Stewardship

Stewardship is the concept of responsible caretaking; based on the premise that we do not own resources, but are managers and agents of blessings that we did not necessarily earn or deserve – and that we are responsible to future generations for their condition. Christian stewardship is a principle that recognizes God as the source of all good things, and man as his agent in perpetuating blessings to future generations of God's children.

This is another historic year for the School as we begin major construction to expand and improve the School's facilities from kindergarten through high school. There will be heavy equipment, piles of construction materials, some occasional background noise, and lots of dust.

Of course, all of this might strike us as inconvenient – and we might expect to see signs such as "PLEASE PARDON THE DUST!" But in honor of those who have sacrificed more than we comprehend to make these improved facilities possible - we have decided instead to post signs that read "PLEASE BE GRATEFUL FOR THE DUST!"... and we will rededicate our efforts as an entire school community (including students) to act as more grateful stewards of our beautiful campus, beginning with an opening all-school assembly on the topic of Christian Stewardship and continuing through the year with activities focused on preserving our building for future generations to come.



Our fundraising efforts for the building expansion have been admirable: we have raised approximately \$2.2 million in the last year since we began our building expansion campaign, but we have not yet achieved our \$4 million goal. We need everyone's help! Since we do not include capital improvement costs in tuition, the tuition paid by families at the school represents approximately half of the "real" cost of per-student education at the school (factoring in the would-be costs for building, land, facilities, furniture, fixtures and equipment).

Thus, as we honor the sacrifice that all families are making to pay tuition at the school, we will also continue to invite each other, and the larger community, to give to our annual campaign as we are reminded that we all "drink from wells that we have not dug."

Sincerely,
American Heritage School
Administration and Board of Trustees

***Internationally Acclaimed Cellist
Visits AHS for Philharmonic
"Masters Class" Series***



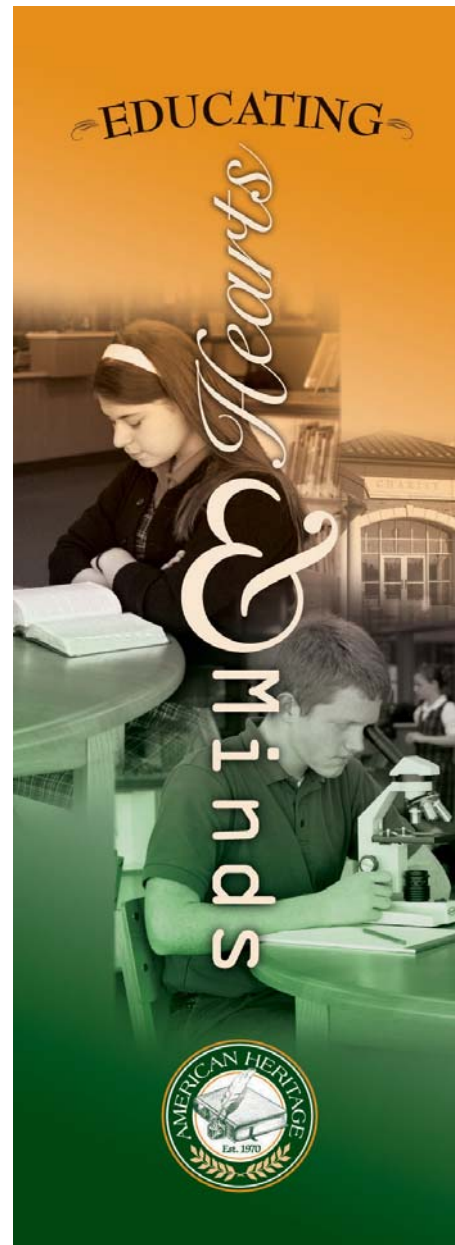
On November 6, Natalie Clein, a renowned international cellist, made a special visit to the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic at American Heritage School.

As a special guest performer for the Utah Symphony, Ms. Clein volunteered some of her time to come visit American Heritage School in connection with a Masters Class series hosted by the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic.

Ms. Clein's exceptional musicality has earned her a number of prestigious prizes including the Classical Brit Award for Young British Performer of 2005 and the Ingrid zu Solms Cultur Preis at the 2003 Kronberg Academie. She won the BBC Young Musician of the Year (aged 16) in 1994 and in the same year was the first ever British winner of the Eurovision Competition for Young Musicians in Warsaw. She

was awarded the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Scholarship by the Royal College of Music before completing her studies with Heinrich Schiff in Vienna. Ms. Clein has performed as a soloist with most of the UK's major orchestras. Her international career continues to gain momentum with concerts in the United States, Canada, South America, Germany, Austria, and Spain. Ms. Clein records exclusively for EMI Classics.

Many thanks to Ms. Clein for sharing her talent with our orchestra students!



AHS Honor Roll First Term

American Heritage School posts the Honor Roll each term for grades 4 and higher. Students qualify for the honor roll through exemplary performance in either academics (minimum 3.75 grade point average) or self-government (highest self-government grade of "Outstanding" in all classes). A student receives an "Outstanding" self-government grade who demonstrates exceptional respect, effort, and work ethic; makes significant or frequent contributions to the class; and completes and submits all in-class and homework assignments on time during the term (unless otherwise excused by the instructor).

Anderson, Brody	Holmstead, Christopher	Morris, Michael
Anderson, Macie	Holmstead, Nathan	Morris, Michelle
Bahr, Jonathan	Huhem, Natasha	Mullen, Nathan
Bailey, Brayden	James, Harrison	Mulvey, Lauren
Bigelow, Catherine	Jensen, Sarah	Munoz, Samuel A.
Bleyl, Ariaiah	Johnson, Lauren	Nawahine, Breesa
Boggess, Daphne	Johnson, Madison	Nazer, Katherine
Bowen, Catherine	Johnson, Walker	Nitta, Haley
Brown, Erika	Jorgensen, Jens	Nunes, Jared
Brown, Mckenna	Jorgensen, Josh	Ostler, Hannah
Burnham, Devynn	Kennedy, John	Pearce, Connor
Carr, Merrick	Kirby, Hunter	Roberts, Ashley
Casale, Blake	Kirby, Jordan	Rose, Daniel
Covey, Madalyn	Kittell, Anna	Rose, Joseph
Crawford, Rebekah	Lambert, Alexandra	Sessions, Amber
Da Silva, Michelle	Leininger, Sara	Sessions, Andrew
Duncan, Misha	Lofgreen, Carsyn	Smith, Madison
Duncan, Steven	Lofgreen, Kaytlyn	Sutton, Olivia
Edholm, Emma	Lytle, Emma	Thurston, Gabriel
Graff, Bryce	Mathews, Ella	Tolman, Aja
Gunther, Kaitlyn	McGuire, Stephanie	Tolman, Hannah
Hales, Christopher	McMillan, Benjamin	Tovey, Emma
Harbaugh, China	McNamara, Paige	Uhl, Connor
Hart, Spencer	McSpadden, Dillon	Van Der Watt, Ariane
Heaton, Chelsea	Miner, Ashlynn	Waddel, Hannah
Heras, Alexandra	Miner, Linnea	Wall, Derek
Heras, Erik	Monson, Rosie	Webb, Jack
Hilmo, Eli	Morales Llan, Arturo	Wooden, Mason
Hilton, Sarah	Morales Llan, Sasha	Young, Sidney
Holmes, Megan	Morales Llan, Shirley	

Congratulations Honor Roll Students!!



Teddy Bears *for* Christmas



Each December, American Heritage School holds its annual Teddy Bears for Christmas Service Project. To prepare for this event we ask that every able student bring a new teddy bear (teddy bears only please) of medium size (24 inches or under as the homeless children need to be able to carry them wherever they may go) to put under the school Christmas tree. The school will deliver the bears to a medical facility for the homeless in the Ogden area. The facility depends on the bears that we collect as it lasts them throughout the entire year! Every child that comes to the shelter receives one of our bears to have for their own!

In keeping with the spirit of sacrifice associated with this very special project, we ask that every child try to earn their own money for the bear they will donate. We would love to collect stories on how children have earned the money (either this year or in years past). If you have a story to share please submit it to the office.

This is one of the most memorable activities that we do here at the School. Please feel free to join us on Wednesday, December 19th at 10:00 a.m. for a devotional presented by Mrs. Updike, followed by a long hugging line and a send-off of each bear as they are gathered for the shelter. This is a great photo opportunity, so don't forget to bring a camera. Please bring your bears on or after Monday, December 1st, 2008.

Thank you for your generosity!





AMERICAN HERITAGE
SCHOOL & FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER

Dear Friends,

With each new generation comes their moment in time to carry the torch and to build upon the dreams, sacrifices, and good works of those who precede them.

In our administration office, placed on a desk where we can see it often, rests a token of one sacrifice by a family who preceded us at American Heritage School. It is a personal check, written on January 17, 1970, by H. Verlan and Shirley Andersen, in the amount of \$1,000. This check, by which the Andersens faithfully drew upon their own modest resources, was the down-payment to secure a mortgage on a small building where they and other devoted families planned to start a school where their children's academic learning could be enhanced and enlightened by principles of morality, religion, liberty, and patriotism. On August 31, 1970, American Heritage School opened its doors with 80 students enrolled.

Nearly four decades later, American Heritage School has become a model for families and educators nationwide who are seeking an educational atmosphere in which Christ-centered curriculum places "God, Family, Country, and Academic Excellence" deeply in the hearts and minds of the children. We are building upon the dreams and sacrifices of those who preceded us! We desire to extend the blessings of American Heritage School to more students and families by expanding our campus to facilitate additional elementary classrooms and a high school program, including a choir and orchestra facility.

Our goal is to raise \$4 million for the building expansion by the end of the academic year. To date we have raised approximately \$2 million from families dedicated to the mission of American Heritage. We cannot do this alone! We ask you to please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the School – paid monthly, quarterly, or all at once – to help us achieve the vision of a full K-12 program that prepares our children for their future like no other school in the world! And, this year, **all donations up to \$100,000 will be matched 5-to-1** by generous and devoted supporters of the School who believe in this vision!

No contribution is too small! We appreciate your sacrifice in giving a matchable donation to the School. Thank you in advance for your time and generosity and for making American Heritage School such a special environment for the children.

Yours very truly,



Laurie Swim
Chairman, Board of Directors



Grant Beckwith
Principal

Yes, I Would Like to Give!

If you would like to help support American Heritage School by donating, no matter how small the contribution, please do any one of the following:

1. Mail a donation and contribution form (below) to any Administrator or Board Member at American Heritage School at the following address:

American Heritage School
736 North 1100 East, American Fork, Utah 84003
Attn: Educating Hearts & Minds Campaign

OR

2. Make a donation online! Log on to american-heritage.org/giving and make a secure payment using your credit card. If you would like to make a regularly scheduled donation, please use the contribution form below and deliver it to the School.

OR

3. Make an in-kind contribution to school (please call first if it is a large or unique item).

OR

4. Arrange a time to discuss a potential donation with Mr. Beckwith. You can contact Mr. Beckwith directly at 801-642-0055 ext. 302 or you can arrange an appointment with Mr. Beckwith by calling Shari Wheeler at the front desk, 801-642-0055.

Contribution Form, American Heritage School Educating Hearts & Minds Campaign
"God, Family, Country, Academic Excellence"

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Total amount \$ _____ Designated For: _____

Type of Payment: Check
 Credit Card _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Discover _____ American Express
 Charge my credit card now. Charge my credit card monthly. Charge my credit card quarterly.

Acct. #: _____ Expires: _____

Signature: _____



Thank you for your contribution!
Your gift is tax-deductible to
the extent allowed by law.

736 North 1100 East
American Fork, Utah 84003
801-642-0055
www.american-heritage.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Contributions to American Heritage School are tax deductible. American Heritage Schools, Inc. is a Utah non-profit corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt organization under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. A donation receipt and IRS tax-exemption determination letter can be provided upon request.

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL

BUILDING EXPANSION STUDENT PLEDGE FUND

To Participants and Pledge Givers: Thank you for participating in the American Heritage Building Expansion Student Pledge Fund. As you may know the modest tuition rates cover only the operating expenses of the school—not the building expansion needed to make American Heritage School a full-menu K-12 school. The students of American Heritage have been excited to contribute to the four million dollar building expansion project and felt that expanding their minds and talents in return for donation pledges to the school would be a worthy way to participate. The American Heritage School administrators agree and are grateful for your generous support of the Student Self-Improvement, Building Expansion Pledge Fund.

To Pledge Givers: For the following acts of self improvement by _____ (student), please fill in a dollar amount that you will contribute to the American Heritage Building Expansion Fund.

SCRIPTURES

\$ _____ for memorizing (e.g. Seminary Scripture Mastery passages) _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for memorizing _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for memorizing _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for memorizing _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for memorizing _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for memorizing _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for memorizing _____. Checked _____.

GOSPEL INSTRUCTION BOOKS

\$ _____ for reading (e.g. *Way to Be*, or *Miracle of Forgiveness*) _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.

OTHER BOOKS

\$ _____ for reading (e.g. *1776*, or *Uncle Tom's Cabin*) _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.
\$ _____ for reading _____. Checked _____.

NO TV

\$ _____ for not watching TV for (e.g. 6 months) _____. Checked _____.
Exceptions: _____

POEMS OR SPEECHES

\$ _____ for memorizing (e.g. "The Gettysburg Address") _____ . Checked _____.
\$ _____ for memorizing _____ . Checked _____.
\$ _____ for memorizing _____ . Checked _____.
\$ _____ for memorizing _____ . Checked _____.

TALENT PERFORMANCE / RECITAL AT AHS ON RECITAL NIGHT

\$ _____ for performing (e.g. "Clare de Lune" on the piano) _____ . Checked _____.
\$ _____ for performing _____ . Checked _____.
\$ _____ for performing _____ . Checked _____.
\$ _____ for performing _____ . Checked _____.

OTHER

\$ _____ for _____ . Checked _____.
\$ _____ for _____ . Checked _____.
\$ _____ for _____ . Checked _____.
\$ _____ for _____ . Checked _____.

TOTAL VALUE OF PLEDGES FOR PROPOSED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS: \$ _____

PLEDGE :

For the excellent works of self-improvement listed above, I hereby gladly make the following tax-deductible pledge of \$ _____ for the American Heritage School Building Expansion Fund.

ADDITIONAL PLEDGES:

Please accept my additional tax-deductible contribution(s) of
\$ _____ for the AHS Tuition Scholarship Fund.
\$ _____ for the Teacher Compensation Fund.
\$ _____ for AHS discretionary use.

TOTAL PLEDGES: \$ _____

Pledge Giver Name: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Pledge Giver Signature: _____ Date: _____ Date paid to AHS: _____

THANK YOU!

an
American Heritage
CHRISTMAS

a benefit concert featuring

MICHAEL
BALLAM

and the

AMERICAN HERITAGE
LYCEUM PHILHARMONIC
&
COMBINED AMERICAN HERITAGE
FESTIVAL CHOIRS

DECEMBER 4
6:30-8:00 P.M.

AT AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL



Children under 8 not admitted. Tickets \$20/person: 801-642-0055.
www.american-heritage.org/Concert.htm



American Heritage School Music Department

Presents our

Annual Christmas Concert

“A King Is Born”

Featuring

American Heritage 4th -10th grade Choirs

and our 7th -10th grade Orchestra

December 3rd

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. at

American Heritage School

All ages welcome to attend - Free of Charge


AMERICAN HERITAGE
SCHOOL & FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER

FAMILY LECTURE SERIES

WITH



Dr. Mark H. Butler

“Spiritual Exodus from Addictive Behaviors”

Mark H. Butler is Associate Professor in Marriage and Family Therapy in the School of Family Life. He earned his B.S. Magna Cum Laude in Political Science and M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy at Brigham Young University. After receiving his Master’s degree, Dr. Butler began practicing in the field of substance abuse, and since that time he has continued to research, teach about, and provide therapy for behavioral and substance addictions. Following years of practicing therapy, he returned on fellowship to earn his Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy at Texas Tech University, after which he joined the MFT faculty at BYU in 1996. He has presented extensively throughout his career in such well-known venues as Family Expo, Women’s Conference, and Education Week. Dr. Butler and his wife, Shelly D. Butler are the parents of five children and reside in Orem, Utah.

Date:	Friday, November 14, 2008
Time:	7:30 pm - 9:00 p.m. 7:00 - 7:25 p.m. Reception, Boardroom
Place:	American Heritage School 736 N. 1100 E. American Fork directly east of Mt. Timpanogos Temple
Who:	All are welcome - ages 14 and up.
Cost:	Free
Info:	mpatch@ahsmail.com or 642-0055

*The Family Lecture Series is free and open to the public, ages 14 and up.
Our next lecture is Friday, January 9, 2009.*



Pizza Monday Sign-ups for January

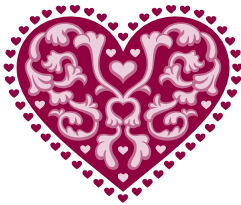
This is our pizza-ordering sheet.

Your students' pizza orders will be for the entire month. This means that if they want 2 pieces of pepperoni that is what they will get for all the weeks in the month. If your student wants a change, they may change next month. **The cost is \$1 per slice of pizza ordered.**



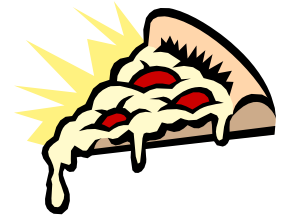
January 5 th , 12 th , 26 th					
Name of Student (First & Last Name)	Teacher	Pepperoni	Cheese	Ham	Total Pieces
Total ordered					
X 3 weeks =					
Total price					\$

Pizza Monday Sign-ups for February



This is our pizza-ordering sheet.

Your students' pizza orders will be for the entire month. This means that if they want 2 pieces of pepperoni that is what they will get for all the weeks in the month. If your student wants a change, they may change next month. **The cost is \$1 per slice of pizza ordered.**



February 2 th , 9 th , 23 th					
Name of Student (First & Last Name)	Teacher	Pepperoni	Cheese	Ham	Total Pieces
Total ordered					
X 3 weeks =					
Total price					\$

**** Please return your order form for the months of January and February with a check (NO CASH) no later than Friday, December 12, 2008. (This deadline will be firm.) All checks are made out to American Heritage School. Thank you.**