

# AMBLESIDE OCALA

October 2017



But the people themselves begin to understand and to clamor for an education which shall qualify their children for life rather than for earning a living.  
~ Charlotte Mason

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Nature Study

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**Ambleside**  
SCHOOL OF OCALA

## Connect Four Program

We are excited for our new Connect Four program, which begins with the October 10th campus meeting. All Ambleside families have been assigned to groups with four other families, with one family serving as the group's host. Designed to help facilitate connection among both new and familiar families, Connect Four hosts will be reaching out in the next few days to introduce themselves.

Connect Four groups will sit together at campus meetings and hosts can answer general questions about life at Ambleside that arise throughout the year. Many thanks to Sherry Loria for her thoughtfulness and hard work to get this program off the ground!

"To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and a free mind." ~Pearl S. Buck

True confession: I loved the movie Wonder Woman. "What?! Me, too!" you may say. Some may need to cover my personal admission with grace, if you might be so kind. While there were bigger themes and reasons why I found the movie inspirational, a simple scene struck me unexpectedly: after escaping from her mythical island paradise, Wonder Woman spends a few days in England, experiencing many simple things for the first time because she was raised by female warriors on a magic island. After they've dressed her up to blend in with the culture, the guide rushes her to their train. In passing, a street vendor offers her an ice cream cone resulting in a most exaggerated and comical response. After a few licks, she goes completely wide-eyed and circles back to the vendor exclaiming, "Oh my! You must be VERY PROUD!" The scene is both oddly funny and emotionally of interest. The vendor is most likely just doing a thankless, mundane job, but because of the remarkable qualities of the product he represents, she automatically determines he's worthy of recognition and respect. She equates him with the product, implying that her culture had instilled a value of integrity and purpose in work.

As to why the scene might have resonated with me, I only venture to say that perhaps I recognize in myself a similar sense of pride and wonder about our school and the work we do. Immersed in this life-giving place, I see beauty,

purpose, growth and eternal love. Humbly, our staff pick up their cross daily, and serve with their whole heart. When someone asks me about Ambleside, or I get opportunity to talk about our community, my heart overflows with joy. I am very proud of it all, even the messy parts. Perhaps though, the greatest gift is the ongoing revelation of God's presence and His work through our school. Our hearts turn to Him, expressing with expectant hope, "We hope You're very proud".

For the children's sake, Jill Romine

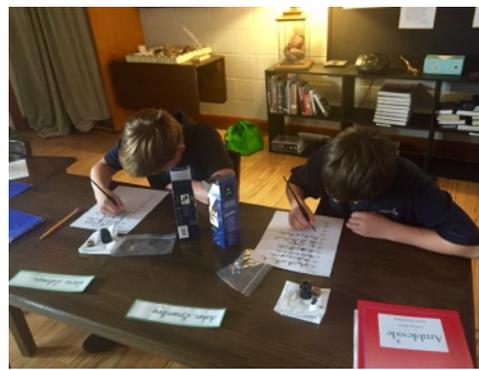
## PVA

Fill a shoebox and change the life of a child through Operation Christmas Child. It's as simple as putting items such as school supplies, small toys, washcloth, soap, etc into a shoebox. Boxes will be handed out at the Oct 10th Campus Meeting and will need to be filled and returned to the school office by Friday, Nov 3rd. For more information or additional boxes, please contact Leslie Simpson at 361-4888

## Dates & Details

Tues - Oct 10 - Campus Meeting #1, 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Wed - Oct 16 - Early Release/Teacher Workday  
Mon - Oct 26 - All School Lunch

Fri - Oct 27 - Picture Day 1: Grades K-3rd (All School Photo)  
Wed - Nov 1st - Early Release/Teacher Workday  
Fri - Nov 3 - Picture Day 2: Grades 4th-8th  
Fri - Nov 3rd - Parent Observation Day 10:45 - Lunch  
Fri - Nov 10 - Veteran's Day Chapel - 9am



Mrs. Egan's  
5th Grade  
Calligraphy



# Upcoming Events

## What You Need To Know

**Campus Meeting #1** - October 10th 5:30-7:30. The first of three required community meetings. We'll share a meal and then spend time engaging ideas together. Please bring the following: (by last name)

- A-F : Side
- G : Drinks
- H-K: Bread
- L-Q: Main Dish
- R-Z: Dessert

Please plan for about 15-20 people.

**3rd grade** parents are in charge of *set-up & clean-up*.

**Picture Days** - Students wear formal chapel dress for annual school photos.

- **Oct 27th** - All-school photo & K-3rd
- **Nov 3rd** - Grades 4-8

**All School Lunch** - Thursday, October 26th We need **six** volunteers from 11 am to 1:15 to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up. Please contact Leslie Simpson at [352-361-4888](tel:352-361-4888)

### Chapel Recitation Schedule -

- October 6th - 4th Grade
- October 13th - 3rd Grade
- October 20th - 2nd Grade
- October 27th - 1st Grade

**Yearbook** - Meets every Tuesday from 3:15-4:00. Remember to submit any photos you may take throughout the year that could be yearbook potential. You will find a Submit button on our website, under the Events page.

### **An Opportunity to Contribute -**

In memory of Rich Maitha and his love for music, Ambleside will be holding a yard sale on **Saturday, October 28** to fund the newly established **Rich Maitha Music Scholarship**. The scholarship will help students with financial need to participate in music classes at Grace School of the Arts. Please be gathering yard sale donations from your homes and drop off at the school the week of October 23. Assistance available to pick up larger items if needed. For more information, please contact Leslie Simpson at 361-4888 or [lsimpson@amblesideocala.com](mailto:lsimpson@amblesideocala.com).

**FAFO** - All students are invited to sing with us this year at the Fine Arts Festival downtown. Our time on the stage is Sunday, October 29th at 2:00pm. Please plan on meeting in the music room at 12:30 to warm up and we will walk downtown. Chapel dress.

### **Father-Daughter Dance-**

Now is the best time to recruit sponsors for the 2018 Father-Daughter Dance (before the holidays). More information will be shared at the October 10th Campus Meeting.

**Veteran's Day** - We need **five** volunteers to help decorate and setup for the event. We will meet by 7:30am to get the flags out before chapel begins at 8:30am. Please contact Leslie Simpson at [352-361-4888](tel:352-361-4888).

## “Conversation Starters” Ideas and Topics from the Classroom

### Kindergarten:

Count backwards to zero starting with 30. Tell what you have learned about Robert Schumann as a young child growing up in Germany.

### 1st & 2nd Grades:

1st: Tell back about Squanto in London.

2nd: What are the ways the swallow is sacrificing for the Happy Prince? How can we be like the swallow?

### 3rd & 4th Grades:

3rd: Why is Ancient Greek history unique to read?

4th: In what way did Heidi bring "light" to her Grandmother? What are the three big things that happened in our Virginia in 1619?

### 5th & 6th Grades:

5th: Share some facts about the French and English battles for America. Also tell of the end of the French rule in America.

6th: Compare the conquests of Napoleon and Nelson and tell back the effects each of them had on the European world, including the battles they won.

### 7th & 8th Grades:

7th: Tell about Captain William Kidd and the beginning of piracy. How do you set up a code for Arduino programming?

8th: Talk about what you've learned about the physical structure of the body starting with the smallest unit, cells; how cells grouped together form tissues; how tissues group together to form organs, and organs work together in several systems (skeletal, muscular, etc.).



ASO Supports

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<http://www.weargloves.org/>

4H	Yearbook	Philosophy Club	Library
<p><u>4H</u></p> <p>October: 11</p> <p>Future meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.</p> <p>Contact: Kim Dinkins 352-895-8693</p>	<p><u>Yearbook</u></p> <p>Yearbook - Every Tuesday 3:15-4:00pm.</p> <p>Contact: Debbie Ayton 352-502-2408</p>	<p><u>8th Grade Philosophy Club</u></p> <p>The book is called <i>Sophie's World</i> by Jostein Gaarder. It is a novel that presents the major philosophical ideas of Western Civilization, from Socrates to modern psychology.</p> <p>Oct. 12 - Ch. 9-12 Nov. 16 - Ch. 13-16 Dec. 7 - Ch. 16-18 Jan. 11 - Ch. 19-21 Feb 15 - Ch. 22-24 March 8 - Ch. 25-28 April 12 - Ch. 29-31 May 10 - Ch. 32-35</p> <p>Contact: Stephen Zedler <a href="mailto:stephen.zedler@gmail.com">stephen.zedler@gmail.com</a></p> <p><i>*Please note two date changes Nov 16th &amp; Dec 7th Mark Your Calendars</i></p>	<p><u>Library</u></p> <p>Monday, Oct 9th &amp; 23rd - K-3rd Grades</p> <p>Contact: Amber Martin 352-266-8037</p> <p><u>FAFO</u></p> <p>Performance Sunday, October 29th at 2:00pm Student art on display.</p>
AHS	Basketball		Service Projects
<p>The nearby building has been purchased.</p> <p>Current 8th graders and parents meeting Tuesday, October 17th.</p>	<p>7th &amp; 8th grade Basketball Team is currently practicing on Monday, 6:30 at One Life &amp; Friday, 4:00 at Blessed Trinity.</p> <p>Coach Todd Charske 937-272-5500</p>		<p>Oct 11th - 6th Grade - Interfaith</p> <p>Oct 27th - 8th Grade Service Project - Dignity Serves</p> <p>Contact: Kristy Gibboney</p>

Middle School Upcoming Events

\*The next Middle School luncheon is Wednesday, November 8th, where students, mentors and teachers spend time building relationships over a meal.



MS 2017

**Campus Meeting #1  
Parish Hall**

(Parents and Caregivers only)

**Tuesday, October 10th  
5:30 - 7:30pm**

Please See Food Assignments  
Required Parent Meeting

Mrs. Costello's  
3rd Grade Class



# Community: How do we fit?

by: Dorothy Dersch

Recently, Fr. Jonathan French shared the simplicity of opening his home to the friends of his college-age children, and friends of friends who came home with them during the weekend that Florida experienced Hurricane Irma. After the young adults laughed their way through the evening, and slept their way through the storm, the French family had 11 healthy, willing people to help clean their yard of storm debris. The job was done quickly, and they energetically stepped across the street to help clear a Sheriff Lieutenant's driveway of a large tree as he came home from being on duty through the night. After wood was stacked and branches piled, Fr. Jonathan looked at the darkened home next door and told the group they had one more yard to clear. The students went back home energized as well as fatigued from the service they had done.

Later, when the owner of that home returned, he made his way across to the French's and shared his gratitude and amazement that a neighbor whom he'd never met would do that for him. The unexpected kindness of the group "restored his faith in humanity." He felt the love of Christ in the actions of service. We've all weathered September in various ways, but I believe we each could say we've experienced the give and take of community through Hurricane Irma. Homes have been opened; generators have been shared; thawed food has been grilled and passed along; tree limbs hauled; roofs tarped; aching shoulders massaged...this is what Community does at its best. At its worst, Community may occasionally generate fights (and even an arrest!) with irrational people wanting to hoard and self-serve provisions like food, water and gas.

So, what makes the difference? How do we choose to be part of a community that thinks of the Other over the Self? How can we instill real values in our children that will result in their becoming the caring, kind adults who are anxious to share deep, rich lives with those around them? It doesn't take much time or observation to recognize we are a part of a unique and endearing community at Ambleside. As parents, it's reasonable to arrive with certain expectations of what a teacher/our school should be doing with and for our children. It's also reasonable to come into this community recognizing there are expectations of each student, each family and therefore, each adult that interacts here. Some of those are clearly defined in the student handbook we've all read: students in dress-code; adults to attend all Parent Nights; both parents or guardians attending Parent-Teacher Conferences each semester; having a background check done in order to interact with students; well-defined, realistic expectations make for a more predictable community, but not the energizing type we enjoy on our campus. We can choose to be part of the deeper, fuller campus life when each of us engage in the next step of service in the "give and take" Community-equation. As a parent with lots of kids, I saw this play out as something I call "group think." While the term can have negative connotations when the group isn't actually thinking (which should be called group-stupidity instead), my idea of group think involves thinking how my attitude and actions affect those around me. Group think takes the rules for successful community, then adds kindness and love to them. Think...How can I serve this classroom? How can I deliberately be kind to this teacher? What can I do to make this school year remarkable for our staff? How can I show my child ways to quietly serve people? Is there someone at this meeting who needs to be welcomed, or encouraged? It doesn't have to be coffee (Dunkin Donuts Half-Caff with Dark Roast, add cream for me, if you're wondering) every Monday, although most of our teachers would be thrilled. It's as simple as how we speak in front of our kids about a change in policy, or a method of teaching. It's recognizing that taking my one student out of class for personal preference disrupts the classroom flow and costs my teacher time in make-up work/scheduling assessments. It means helping our students follow dress code (besides the obvious integrity issue here) so that there is less time taken from teaching to deal with "violations." Maybe it means planning to drive on a field study. It might mean encouraging an apple for the desk and a note from my child. It means whatever you intentionally consider as a way to make this year, this person in front of me, or this classroom know that you feel "It's good to be me, here with you."

This Community is blessed abundantly with precious people who consistently show the love of Jesus through their actions, much like Fr. Jonathan's family and friends showed his neighborhood Christ's love. I see it almost every time I'm on campus. I challenge you to take our Community to the next level of selflessly serving one another. How do you see it happening in your family and at school? Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, in Whom there is no variation or shadow cast by turning. James 1:17