On Academy Day **Pastor Glassford** presented our worship thought for the morning. He vividly illustrated the deeper meaning of Isa 49:2, “He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of His hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in His quiver.” During his presentation, he was making an arrow and noting how God must do the same as He works on each one of us in forming our characters. As he cut away at the stick, he shared how there may be pain as Jesus polishes us (we are as the “arrow” in the text). But in being polished we can be a much better “arrow” for Him. Our prayer is that each student who attends Andrews Academy will choose God, be willing to be “polished” for Him and be an awesome worker for Jesus.

Following the devotional, the principal gave a broad overview of the programs available at Andrews Academy, including the Educational Tour which is going to England March 31-April 10. This tour is on a three-year cycle so that other places in the U.S. can be visited as well. In the past we have gone to Washington D.C., Boston and the New England area, Eastern Canada including Quebec and as far south as Atlanta, Georgia. This represents a part of the selective curriculum that is such a wonderful concept at Andrews Academy. Very few schools have the ability offered for students to choose the subjects they will take in order to meet the requirements for graduation. With the excellent faculty and the variety of different diploma programs available, students will find just the right one for their needs. Now with new principal **Robert Overstreet** arriving, we are truly blessed as we proceed.

There are also Student Association activities that occur during the school year such as their annual campout in Muskegon State Park, the children’s Christmas Party, the free banquet that is coming up in just a few days as well as the vespers occurring on a monthly basis along with the SA Beach Church in the spring. Each of these events is for the purpose of developing the whole person—the academic (thinking process), the social (students will socialize before and after the programs), the spiritual (frequently focused on at the event) and the physical which will occur when there is a combined vespers and activity night.

Prospective students were also told about the yearly Bible Camp events in January. On these occasions students are able to meet other AA students in a wholesome manner different from what is available on campus. The camp setting offers the opportunity to come closer to one another and to God through nature, spiritual dialogue, and fun on the frozen lake. SOW Safari (Service, Outreach and Witness) is also a program that occurs every other year where students have the choice to go abroad to build a church under the specific direction of Maranatha Volunteers International. The lives of students are transformed as they become aware that many people in the world struggle just to have enough food to eat for one day. Our “needs” are their “dreams.”

The following is called **The Cost of a Child—Is the cost worth it—you decide** (From Cuddle Karrier – Author unknown, italics supplied). The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up with $160,140 for a middle-income family. Talk about sticker shock. That doesn't even touch [academy] or college tuition. For those with kids, that figure leads to wild fantasies about all the things we could have bought, all the places we could have traveled, all the money we could have banked. For others that number might confirm the decision to remain childless. But $160,140 isn't so bad if you break it down. It translates into $8,896.66 a year, $741.38 a month or $171.08 a week. That's a mere $24.44 a day. Just over a dollar an hour. Still, you might think the best financial advice says don't have children if you want to be rich. It's just opposite.

What do you get for your $160,140?
1. Naming rights - First, Middle and Last.
2. Glimpses of God every day.
3. Giggle under the covers every night.
4. More love than your heart can hold.
5. Butterfly kisses and Velcro Hugs.
6. Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds and warm cookies.
7. A hand to hold, usually covered with jam.
8. A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites, building sand castles and skipping down the sidewalk in the pouring rain.
9. Someone to laugh yourself silly with no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day.

For $160,140.00, you never have to grow up.
10. You get to finger-paint, carve pumpkins, play hide-and-seek, catch lightning bugs and never stop believing in the impossible.
11. You have an excuse to keep reading the adventures of Piglet, Pooh and Tigger too, watching Saturday morning cartoons, going to Disney movies and wishing on stars.
12. You get to frame rainbows hearts and flowers under wreaths for Christmas, hand prints set in clay for Father's Day.

For $160,140.00, there's no greater bang for your buck.
13. You get to be a hero just for retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof, taking the training wheels off the bike, removing a sliver, filling the wading pool, coaxing a wad of gum out of the bangs and coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless.
14. You get a front-row seat to history to witness the first step, first word, first date, first time behind the wheel.
15. You get to be immortal. You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you're lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren.

16. You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications and human sexuality no college can match.

17. In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there with God.

18. You have the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever and love them without limits, so one day they will, like you, love without counting.

On Wednesday, the 9th of March, Dr. Kingman continued his discussion with us regarding the incomprehensible goodness of God. He told of John the Baptist and how he became a forerunner of Jesus. He was there for a particular reason – to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and to make ready for the Savior of the World. As he preached in the desert, he attracted great crowds. It was during his ministry that he baptized Jesus. In so doing he questioned whether he should be baptizing Jesus or whether Jesus should be baptizing him. Yet at some point after that experience, he was thrown in prison and began to lack faith and to wonder if he had been forgotten. As recorded in Matthew 11, John even sent his disciples to inquire if Jesus was really the Messiah. Finally, at the order of King Herod, John the Baptist was beheaded and when Jesus heard the news he retreated by boat (as recorded in Matthew 14:13) to a solitary place.

Dr. Kingman mentioned the situation of a professor who found himself in the class of an atheist. As he continued to learn more and more of the philosophy of the professor, he began to doubt the teachings of the creation story that formed the basis of his beliefs. Finally, when questioned as to how he knew that God had a plan for his life, he responded, “I don’t know how I know, I just know.” Jesus at the moment of his faith crisis said, “It is finished.” Professor Kingman challenged us to remember John or Jesus on the cross when we experience our own faith crisis.

“Labor and wait. Give time a chance to work its miracles.”
– Anonymous

The SA Speech screening takes place for all candidates running for an SA office at 12:30 pm in the academy chapel on Monday, the 28th of March. Students who plan to deliver a speech on Tuesday must have it screened on Monday. Five minutes are allotted to those juniors or seniors seeking the presidency and three minutes are allotted to all other officer positions. Voting by all SA members will occur following speeches on the 29th.

Because of Parent/Teacher Conferences, we will have morning classes only on the 28th of March and we will have only afternoon classes on Tuesday morning, the 29th of March. No hot lunch will be served either of those days.

Please do not hesitate to sign up for the Parent/Teacher Conferences that will take place on Monday evening the 28th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm or on Tuesday afternoon the 29th from 2:00 to 5:30 pm. It might be advisable for you to dialogue with the teachers regarding the academic progress of your son/daughter. Call (269) 471-3138 for an appointment.

Recreation night will take place this coming Tuesday night from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. This affords a great opportunity to work off some stress or excess energy before the conclusion of the day.

We do not even conclude entirely with the SA Elections before nominations are in order for the officers of the Class of 2012. Those who have that desire should prepare to run make their desires known beginning Monday, March 28. Nomination forms are available through Friday, the 1st of April.

If your son/daughter was requested to resubmit their portfolio, that is due on Wednesday, March 30. If the portfolio was never submitted, then it is due by the 30th also. Failure to do that will cause a forfeiture of potential points.

The SAT registration deadline is on Wednesday, March 30. The actual test will be administered at the Andrews University Testing Center on Sunday, May 8.

All online courses, correspondence classes, or anything else that is of that nature is due in the academy office by Wednesday, March 30 for graduating seniors. Please advise your son/daughter plan accordingly.

The last day to withdraw from a class for the second semester is on Thursday, March 31.

The Band will leave the academy parking lot on Thursday afternoon, March 31 for their tour to Chicago. The plan is that they will return to the same location on Sunday, April 3 in the late afternoon.