Padded Pants

By Chaplain Donald Moss

Long ago, in an ancient land, there lived a boy named "Padded Pants." That was not his real name. Everyone called him that because he always stuffed rags and papers into the seat of his pants. There was a reason for all the stuffing. He did not always tell the truth. When his mother caught him telling lies, she would grab the broom and chase him until she caught up with him. Then, she would smack him with the broom on the seat of his pants.

One day, he got home from school late. His mother asked him why he was late. Padded Pants lied that an ugly dragon had him trapped and he could not escape. His mother wondered why there was no report of a dragon at the school. No one had seen one. Padded Pants said it was an invisible dragon. He said the dragon got tired of harassing people and decided to leave. That is how he was able to escape. At that, his mother grabbed the broom and chased him until she could get close enough to smack him with the broom on the seat of his pants.

Now, it happened that when Padded Pants arrived at school, there was no school that day. All the students and teachers had gone out to the country to listen to the great teacher. So, Padded Pants also went out to the country, to the hills near the sea, to hear the great teacher.

As Padded Pants approached the crowd and the great teacher, he decided to try to catch some fish swimming in the tidal pools along the shore of the sea. He caught a few and put them in his lunchbox that already contained several small loaves of bread. Then took his lunchbox and climbed the hill toward the crowd so that he could listen to the teacher. The teacher was talking about making a better world by "looking out" for our neighbor. Padded Pants was amazed at how well the teacher explained the truth. As Padded Pants listened to the teacher, his heart was changed.

A man by the name of Andrew approached Padded Pants and asked him what he had in his lunchbox. Padded Pants showed him the few fish and the loaves of bread and Andrew took them to the teacher. The teacher prayed over them and broke the bread into pieces. The teacher gave the fish and the pieces of bread to his disciples and they gave them to the people in the crowd. There was enough to feed 5,000, not counting the women and the children. Padded Pants was amazed at this great miracle.

No one had ever seen anything like this before and there were seven baskets of food left over when the people had finished eating. The disciples gave Padded Pants a basket of food in appreciation for his contribution and Padded Pants took his basket home.

When Padded Pants got home, his mother was waiting for him and she was not happy. She wanted to know why he was late and she was reaching for her broom. Padded Pants, however, showed her the basket of food and told her about the great teacher. His mother believed him. She did.

From that day on, Padded Pants was known by another name. He was known as "Padded Lunch." He got that name because he always put extra food into his lunchbox, just in case he met a neighbor who was hungry. He also saved his money and bought his mother a vacuum cleaner. Maybe we should all be "Padded Lunch," ever ready to help someone in need.

Kinnick high students perform "Tartuffe" play at Little Theater

By Jenae Van Orden,
Kinnick High School student

The Kinnick high school (KHS) Performing Arts Department performed the play Tartuffe at the Little Theater Dec. 13.

The play, written by Moliere and translated by Richard Wilbur, takes place in France in the year 1669. The play is about a seemingly poor and pious man, Tartuffe, who hypocritically takes advantage of the family who takes him in.

Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, or Moliere, was born in Paris, France, Jan. 15, 1622.

Moliere's original script for "Tartuffe" was such an accurate view of the French nobility in the middle 17th century that King Louis XIV banned it and Moliere spent five years re-writing the play. To make sure the king approved of the play, "Tartuffe" ended with an officer sent from the king to arrest him. The play was not meant to be a religious satire as so many thought; but rather, a satire on religious hypocrisy.

Sean Bryan, an audience member, said "This is the second play that I've come to, the first being "Into the Woods" and I come because it is high-quality family entertainment that introduces my kids to art."

The set and costumes looked very authentic and matched the era. From the French doors built by a teacher, to the fluffy ascots worn by the men, it was truly like going back in time. The rhyming couplets were said with feeling like an actual conversation. The acting was professional and kept the audience laughing.

The Performing Arts Department puts on four plays a year and chooses plays based on a variety of factors.

According to Wil VanderMeyden, KHS drama teacher and director of "Tartuffe," students selected the play because many are required to read it in English class and also because of the positive reaction received for the shortened version the Far East Drama Team put together for the Readers Theater last year.

"Our fall production is on a three-year cycle," said VanderMeyden. "Each year we rotate from a classical play, to a modern play and a student-written production."

For more information about Kinnick High School performing arts productions, contact the Drama studio at 243-3374.

Head's Up Yokosuka!

Community Announcements

Indoor Window Insulation Kit Now Available – The Housing Self-Help Center has the vinyl sheeting available for all residents as a do-it-yourself project to help stop cold drafts and prevent frosty windows/doors. There are three different sizes available to fit townhouses and towers and easily mounts to the aluminum or painted frame by using double-faced tape, scissors and a hair dryer. Call 243-9067 for more information.

Health Care Consumer Council Meeting – U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka will host a Health Care Consumer Council meeting Thursday, Jan. 29 from 5:30 to 7 p.m in the auditorium on the 3rd floor of USNH Yokosuka. This meeting is open to all beneficiaries and will address a variety of health care topics. Call 243-8740 for more information.

USO Free Dinner for Single Sailors – The Yokosuka USO, located on the 2nd floor of Club Alliance, is offering free dinners during non-payday periods to single Sailors when their wallets run empty. The next scheduled free dinner will be Jan. 23. For more information about the free dinner or other USO programs and events, contact the USO Center Yokosuka at 243-3030.

YOSC Charities Season Begins – The Yokosuka Officer's Spouse's Club (YOSC) charities season has begun. Applications are now available for 2009 charitable contributions. Applications are available at Second Hand Rose Thrift Shop, Takusan Treasures Gift Shop, the Officer's Club foyer or by e-mailing to yosccharities2009@yahoo.com. Deadline for application submissions is Feb. 11. E-mail to yosccharities2009@yahoo.com for more information.

Japanese Imperial Navy Monument Missing – CFAY Public Works Department Environmental Division is looking for information regarding a missing monument which was constructed to remember the establishment of the Japanese Naval Shipyard. This monument was constructed in 1915 and was last seen about 10 years ago at the Chief Petty Officer's (CPO) Club which used to be the headquarters of the Japanese Naval Shipyard. It could have been possibly removed, relocated or disposed of during an air conditioning replacement project at the CPO Club where the monument was located. If anyone knows the whereabouts of this monument, please call 243-5136.

CFAY Environmental Protection Handbook – The installation Environmental Protection Handbook was recently completed and endorsed by CFAY Commanding Officer Capt. Daniel Weed. The handbook was designed to address local environmental concerns and to ensure that proper choices are made in managing the CFAY Public Works Department environmental program through compliance with environmental laws and regulations while, at the same time, providing service to the fleet. This bilingual handbook will soon be printed and disseminated throughout CFAY. Call 243-6592 for more information.

CFAY Qualified Recycling Program – The CFAY Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) recycles various items such as paper products, scrap metals, used vehicles and etc. Customers are able to dispose of items at no cost and QRP will be able to make a profit once a new QRP recycable materials contract is awarded. Profits are used to pay for approved base improvement projects. Call 243-6592 for more information.

American Red Cross Community Courses and Training – If you'd like to become a volunteer, register to attend one of our volunteer orientations held the first and third Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. Call 243-7490 for more information or register by visiting our office located on the 2nd floor of the Community Center.