The Four Envelopes

By

Drew Buccellato

May 27, 1997

and

May 21, 2016

Once upon a time in a place not far from here, a young man was wondering what he would like to do with his life. As it happened, he entered a park and saw an old man sitting on a bench. The old man seemed to glow with such a sense of richness and contentment that the young man decided to seek his advice about what path in life he should follow.

The young man approached the old gentleman and asked him if he was rich. A smile crossed the old man's face as he told the young man that he was much richer than most men. Heartened by the news, the young man asked how he too could become as rich as the old gentleman and was told to return to the park the next morning where he would be given the answer.

Early the next morning the young man hastened to the park where he found the old man sitting on the same bench. Excited about learning the secret of the old man's wealth, the young man waited anxiously for the old man to speak. Finally, the

old man handed the young man four envelopes and told him that if he followed the directions carefully he would become rich just as the old man had done.

The young man gratefully took the envelopes, and after thanking the old man, hurried home. He reached for the first envelope and quickly tore it open. The message inside instructed the young man to further his education and to increase his knowledge in all things. The last line of the message said to open the next envelope in five years.

So the young man went on to school and worked hard at furthering his education even though at times the learning was difficult for him. He read and he studied just as the letter had instructed, and each year his knowledge grew. When five years had passed, the young man had completed his schooling and was anxious to open the second envelope. When he did, the message instructed him to pursue a life where his knowledge would help other people. Again, the last line in the message said to open the next envelope in ten years.

So the young man chose to become a teacher and to share with his students all the things that he had learned. He met many students in many places. Some were very willing to learn while others did not seem as interested in hearing what the young man had to say or learning about the many things he wished to share. But the young man worked hard at his craft and tried to find ways where all of the children would listen and share the knowledge he had to give.

Ten years went by very quickly, and the young man was surprised to see that it was now time to open the third envelope. When he did so, the message instructed him to settle down and start his own family. The last line of the message said to open the next envelope in fifteen years.

So he married and had children of his own; and his own children learned from him, and he learned from them and he became a better teacher because of it. The young man was no longer young now and though he loved his family and had enjoyed teaching so many wonderful children throughout the years, he wondered if the old man had tricked him in some way and had really not shown him the true path to being rich. The man had become so busy with his own family and the children at his school that he failed to realize that fifteen more years had passed and that it was now time to open the fourth and final envelope.

When the man went to get the envelope he saw for the first time that there were instructions on the outside. They told him to gather the many people and things that had affected his life during the past thirty years and have them present when he opened the last envelope.

So the man gathered his favorite books and maps and smiled as he thought how hard it was to learn about some of these things but how enjoyable it was to share that knowledge with other people. He brought diagrams and blueprints of the school where he worked and marveled at how much it had grown and how beautiful it had become. He brought his family and was proud to see how his own children had grown and was thankful for all the support and help they had given him over the years. He brought his fellow teachers who had worked so hard to teach with him and to share their knowledge with so many children.

Finally, he brought the children who had studied with him and the other teachers at his school. He was proud that they had become fine young men and women who had learned a great deal and were now ready to go out on their own and pursue and fulfill their own promise.

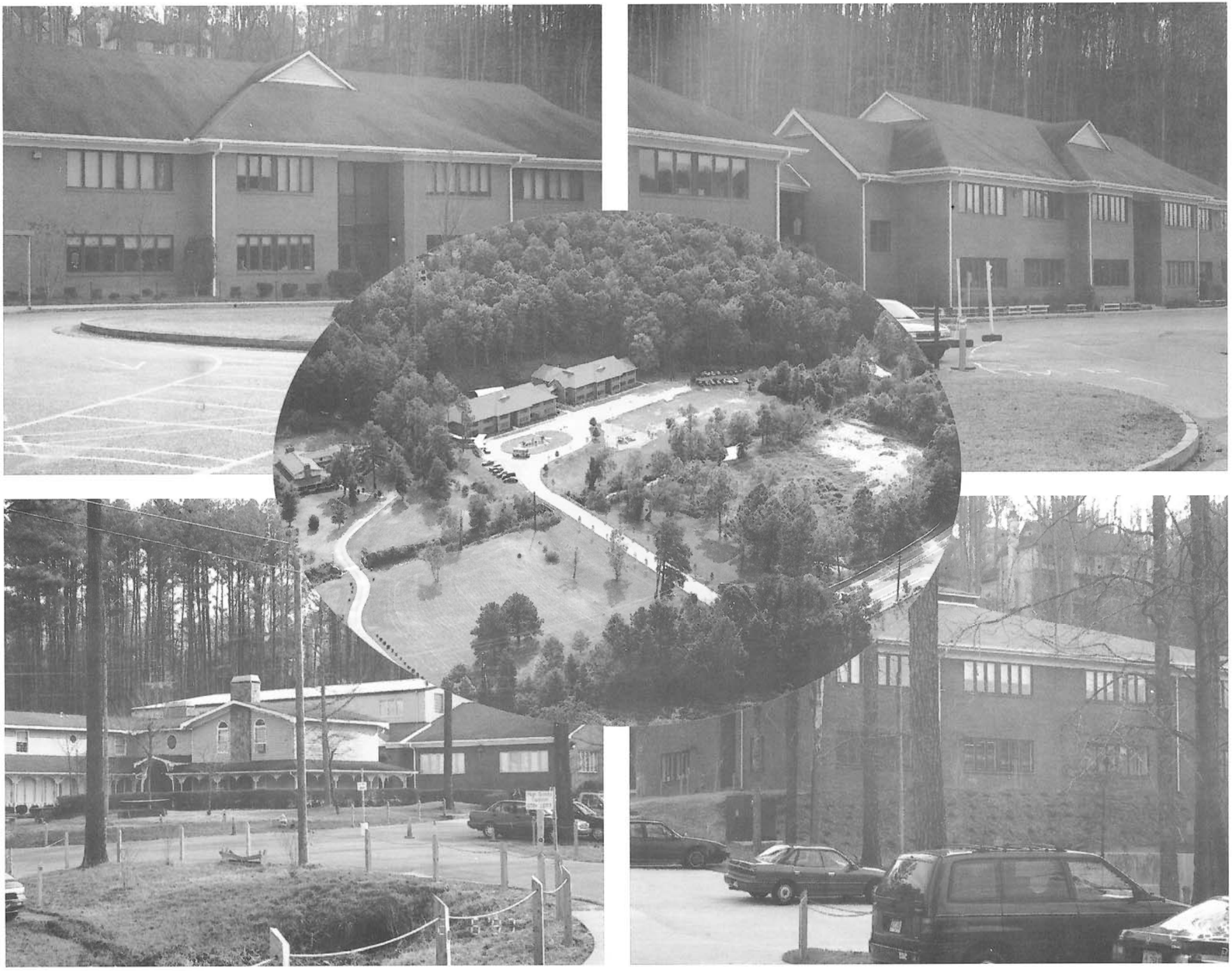
Carefully, he opened the fourth and final envelope and read the message out loud to all who were there.

"Look about you and see the things and the people that have been such an important part of your life. They have given you the satisfaction and fulfillment that few men enjoy. They have truly made you the richest of men."

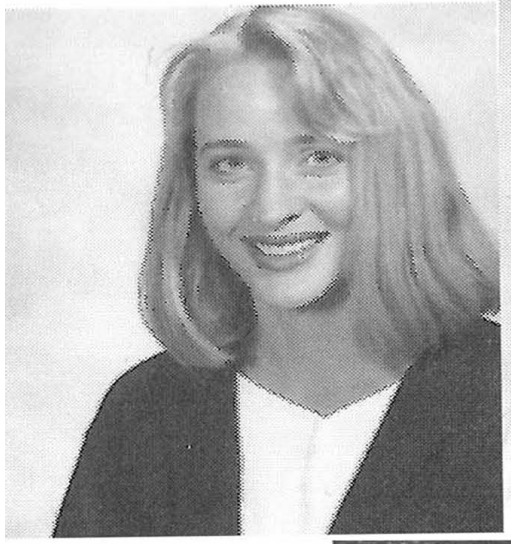
The man looked at his family, his friends, and his students and immediately knew that the old man in the park had been right all along.

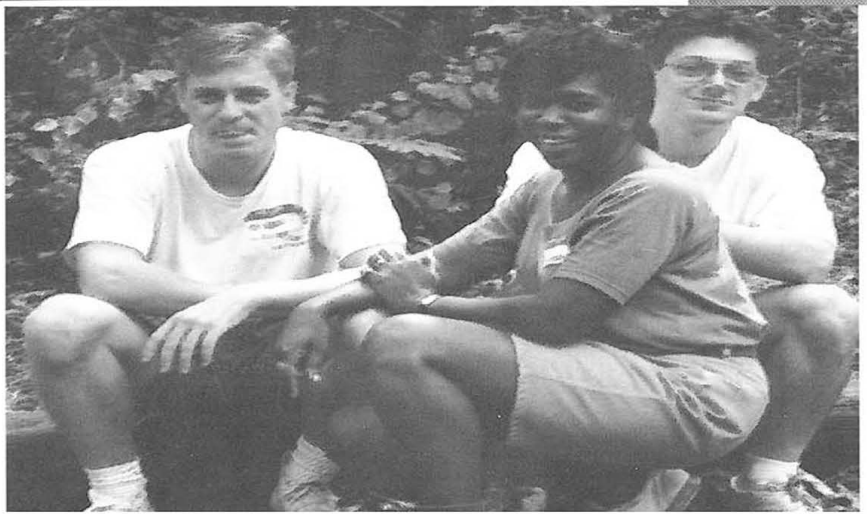
Years later, when the man no longer taught, he would spend his days in the park reminiscing about the wonderful things that had happened in his life. He was an old man now, but he seemed to have a certain glow about him that made him seem quite content and even rich to many people.

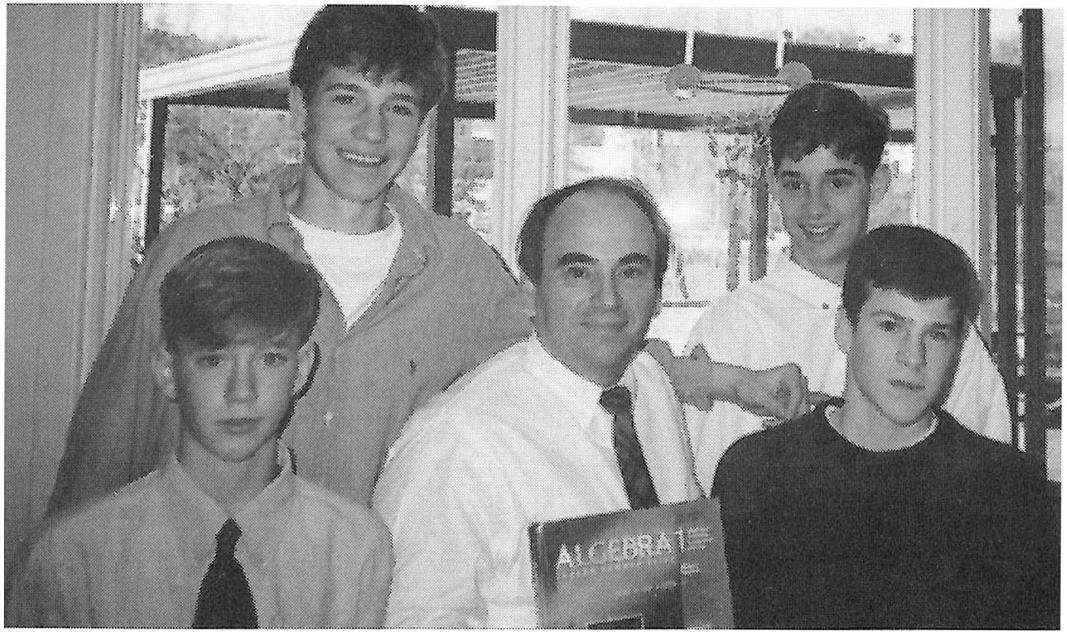
One day a young man approached the old man and asked how he too could become so rich. The old man just smiled and said, "Meet me here tomorrow, and I will give you the answer."






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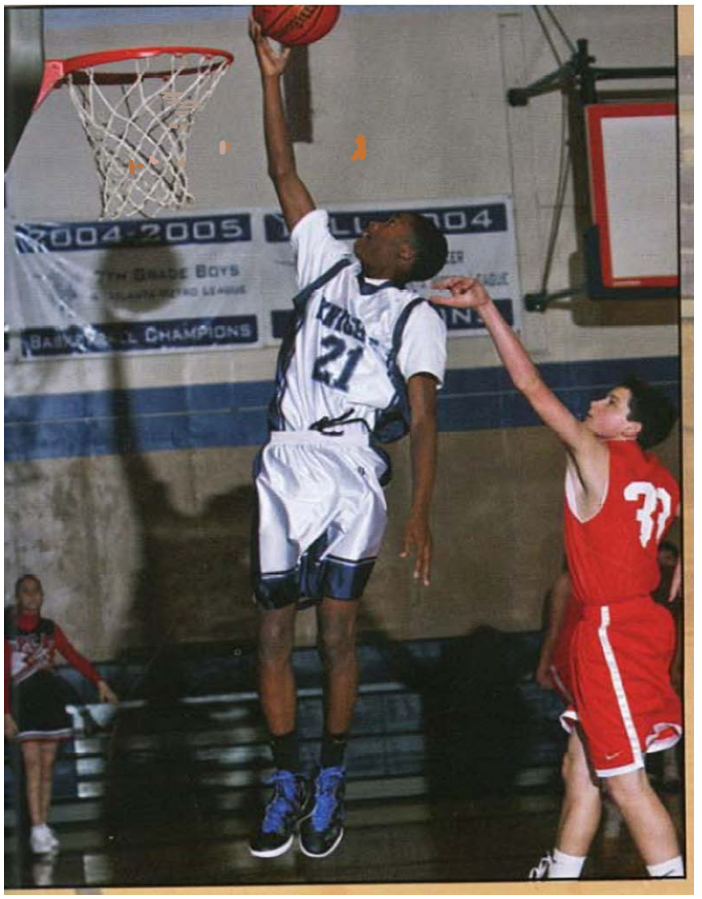

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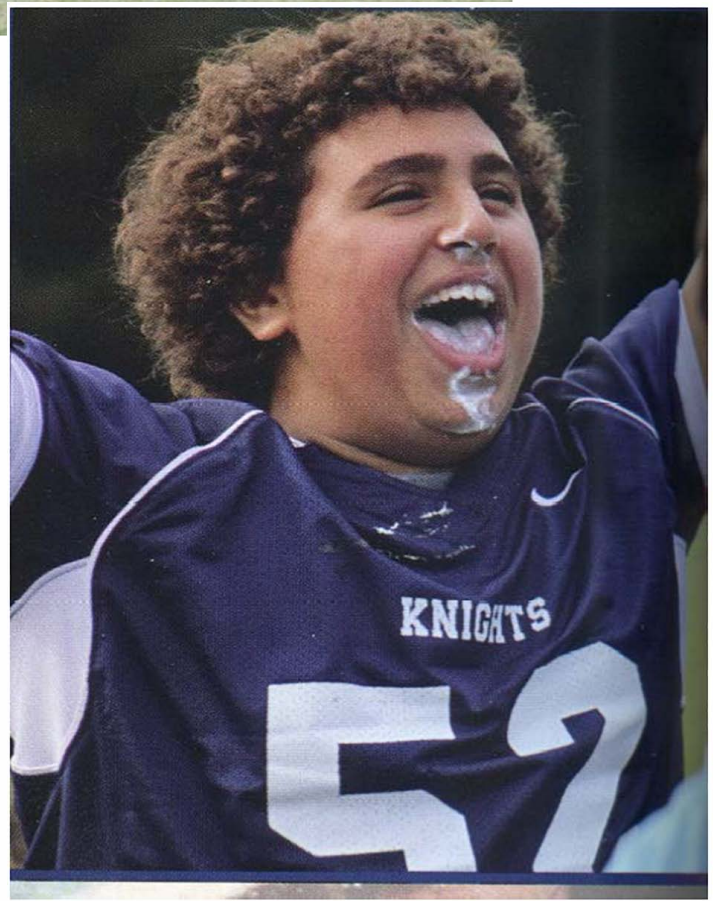

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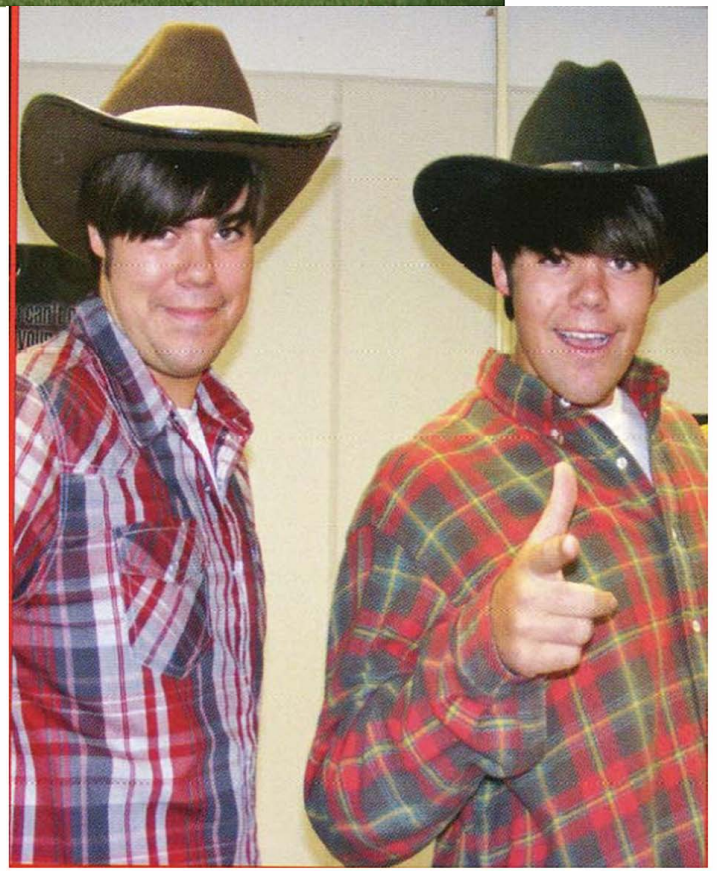

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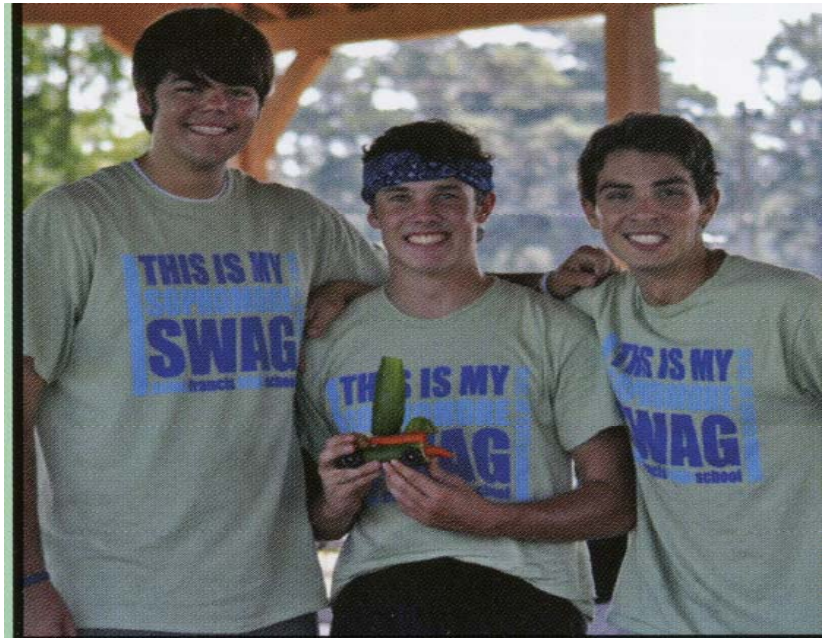



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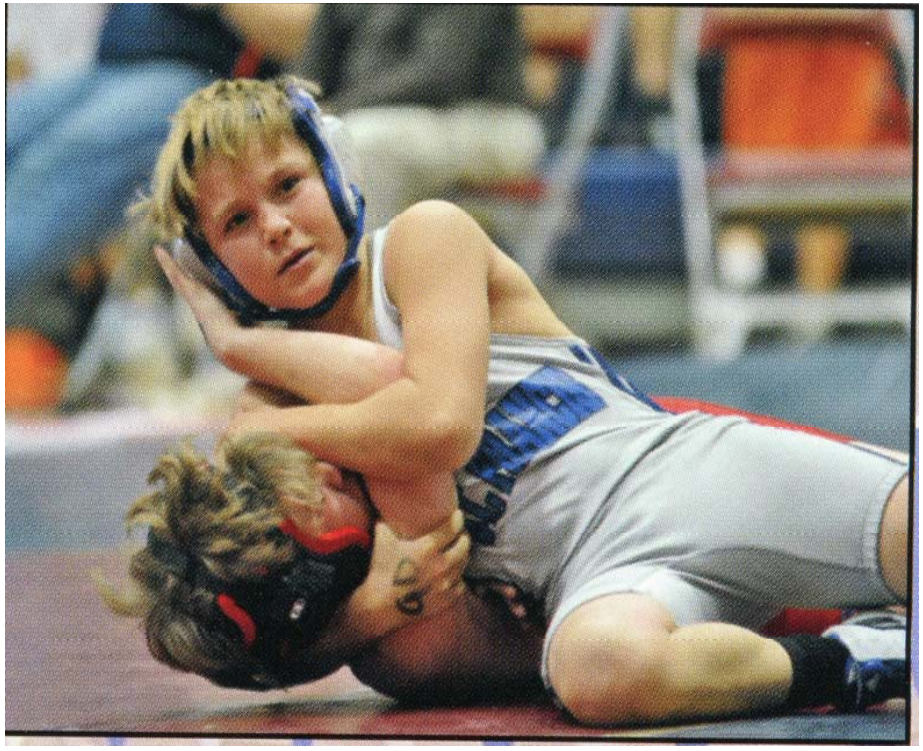


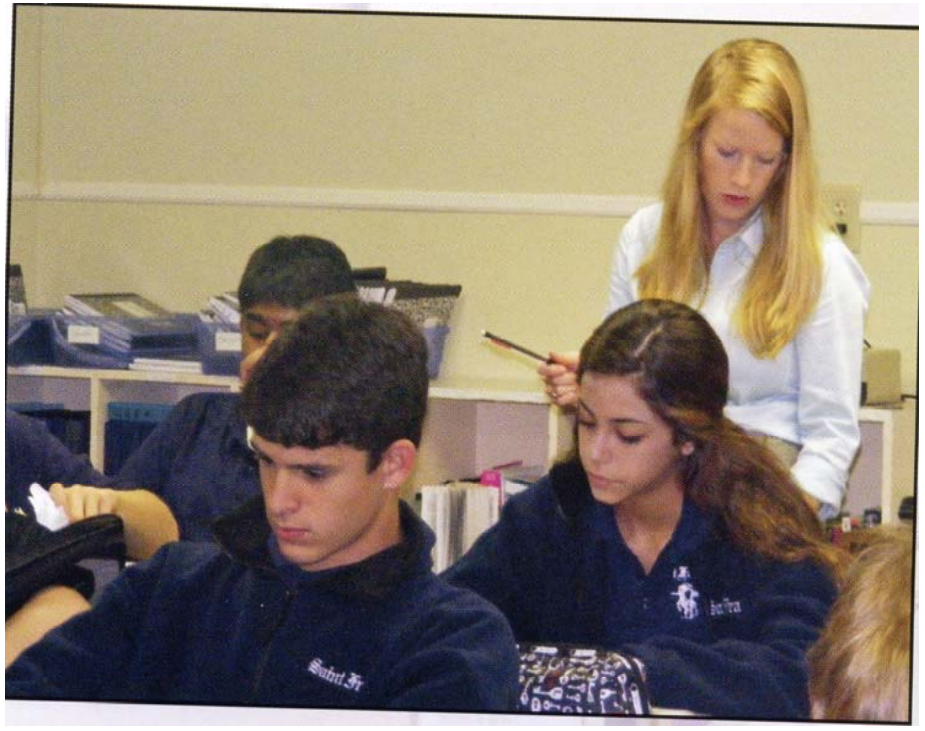

8th Grade Boy's Basketball




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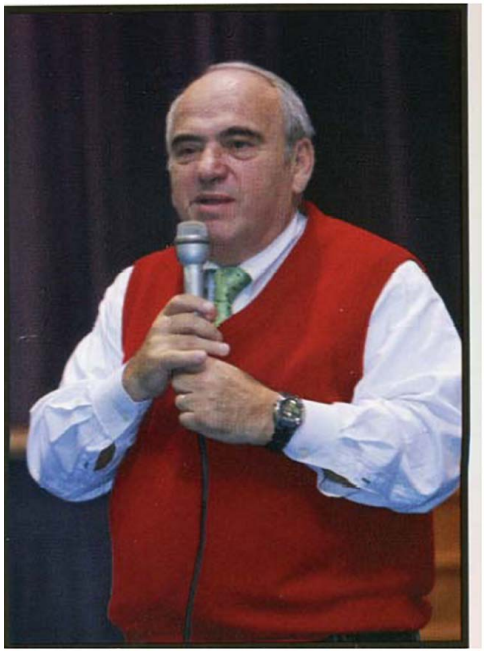







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ATHLETICS








Saint Francis High
School
Milton, Georgia