

OPINION

OUR VIEW

New ways of learning

Developments in technology have changed our lifestyles. We use technology to talk, work, travel, and shop, just to name a few. It's no surprise technology is changing the way we learn, too.

Students at Littlefork-Big Falls Schools are benefiting from the forward thinking and acting of administration and staff as they become more aligned with innovation and advances in technology.

The experiences students and teachers have with increased use of iPads will pay off now and into the future for the students and the community.

Students will be better prepared for higher education, the workforce and to contribute to the community as adults in ways we probably can't even imagine today. Instructors say students are able to customize the iPads to accommodate their needs.

Teachers will become more efficient instructors with the technology, able to customize lessons to fit each grade and topic.

More is coming, as the school will spend more money next year to expand the opportunities.

This new, accessible

technology brings great advantages for learning, and the potential for the future is even greater. But L-BF officials appear to understand this use of technology can never take the place of some of the traditional requirements in education. It's not a substitute for paper and pencil, but another tool in the toolbox to advance learning.

It's a smart way to look at the technology some blame for the lack of social skills exhibited by some young people who have substituted texts and tweets for person-to-person interaction.

Clearly, L-BF is financially poised for these advancements in technology. And that is a blessing, some of which can be attributed to the state's funding in sparsity aid, which provides additional funds for students in small, isolated schools, where transportation costs make consolidation cost-prohibitive. If only all schools had the opportunity to tap into a funding source that would help provide state-of-the-art technology for their students.

L-BF students, staff, administration and the community have embraced the future of learning and we will all be better off for it.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Town needs factories for jobs

**To the editor,**  
Let's look at the facts.  
The town of International Falls has three supposed industrial parks, plus the foreign trade zone, sitting barren, nothing there, empty, millions spent on this land.  
So the city council and Economic Development Authority wants to waste more money on the Donahue property for more land to waste away for nothing.  
Invest that money to bring in factories to the land that

the town already has for that purpose.  
The town of International Falls should be the size of Grand Rapids or Bemidji right now. Instead, it's going in the opposite direction.  
The town is holding its breath now, hoping Boise doesn't fire any more workers. They won't be hiring anybody anytime soon. There's 100 on the waiting list now, each and every day there's people leaving town for jobs.  
The town needs other

factories that are going to employ a few hundred people; not these supposed job prospects that will put five people to work.  
Bring in the factories which will bring the people so the town can grow, expand and prosper.  
Tourism is not going to do it. At best that's a couple of months out of the year. Business and labor have to come together for this town to make it. The town already has the land – fill it.  
**Darren Wallen**  
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How to contact your lawmakers

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GUEST COLUMN

‘Son of God’: Something for everyone

Just as Jesus Christ caught the attention of friends and foes alike, the “Son of God” movie has something to pique the interest of people from all walks of life.  
Obviously, it is geared toward churchgoing families (such as mine) who want something that sticks to the ribs better than the cineplex's latest bed-hopping romantic comedy or brainless shoot-em-up.

It also offers opportunities to the unchurched, who hunger and thirst after righteousness, but who feel more comfortable and less conspicuous washing righteousness down with theater Big Gulps instead of communion wine.

Activists and agitators — who never pass up a chance to piggyback their agenda on the latest trend — will have a field day with “Son of God.” The pivotal scene of Satan tempting Christ has already been edited out (because the Prince of Darkness actor allegedly resembled Pres. Obama), but I'm sure there are other scenes that will elicit outcries for apology or modification.

Someone will undoubtedly say that Jesus should have built a wheelchair ramp while out there walking on water, or that when healing the mute, Christ should have offered “Press Two if you would like to speak in Spanish.”

Similarly, Jesus probably should have stipulated that he who belonged to the stone-



Danny TYREE  
TYRADES!

casting union should cast the first stone. When feeding the 5,000 with a few loaves and fishes, he should have specified that no exploitative toy came with the kids' meals. And the angel announcing the Virgin Birth to Mary should have also noted the location of the nearest Virgin Planned Parenthood facility.

It goes without saying that Jesus' invitation should have been rewritten as “Suffer the little children to come unto me — that I may help resolve their gender identity issues.”

And “Son of God” gives the skeptics something to rally against, even though they're even more divided than the umpteen church denominations. “Jesus of Nazareth is a complete fairy tale; no historical figure remotely resembling the image ever existed.” “Well, he existed but he was just a deluded peasant who thought he was the Messiah.” “No, he was a good man who never claimed divinity, but whose

followers hijacked and altered his message. And the only commandments which have been faithfully preserved are the parts that I just happen to agree with. What are the chances?”

At the moment, the film (and the upcoming “Noah” and “Exodus”) appeals to Hollywood. Tinseltown moguls are notoriously lax on commandments about marital fidelity, substance abuse and honesty; but the film IS being touted as the first Jesus movie in a decade, so obviously the scripture “Yea, verily, thou shalt not neglect the franchise reboot” is irresistible.

(Hopefully, the movie won't be as over-merchandised as the typical animated blockbuster; but then again, the uncut version of the advertising tagline is “Their empire. His kingdom. Your Visa card.”)

As I say, something for everyone. Go to restore your faith. Go to find answers to life's troubling questions. Go to point out deviations from the Biblical text or to nitpick the Roman centurion's wardrobe. Just go.

It's not every day that I get to plug a movie about my Best Friend, so I hope that whatever your preconceptions and motivations, you will avail yourself of this opportunity to experience the Good Shepherd in a new way.

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The Journal welcomes letters from readers

Letters should be limited to 500 words or less. Longer letters may be edited. Letters must be signed and include the telephone number and address of the letter writer. Only the author's city address will be published.  
Mail letters to The Journal, 1602 Highway 71, International Falls 56649. Letters can also be sent by e-mail to laurel@ifallsjournal.com.