

# TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION

This year our school theme is '**Pursuing Peculiar - Made to be More**'.

**Peculiar [pi-kyool-yer]:** 1. extraordinary, exceptional; 2. belonging exclusively to some person, group, or thing.

## February Focus: The Babylonian Captives

*"If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. **But if not**, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."*

*Daniel 3:17-18 (ESV)*

The book of Daniel predominately tells the story of four (of the many) Judean men who were taken captive by the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar - Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. As Daniel 1 points out, these 4 young men were "youths without blemish"; they were handsome, skillful, and wise. They were men of influence. Although throughout Daniel we see God use these men to interpret dreams and we see the prophesy of many world events be predicted, the book can also be seen as an example to pursue a life as **God-Worshippers**. We see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refusing to bow down and worship a golden image. Even with the threat of being thrown into a furnace, they refused, even going as far as saying that even if God does not save them, they will never turn their back on Him. Daniel had a similar story in that he refused to worship King Darius and instead continued to worship as he always had, praying three times daily to God. Even under the threat of being thrown into a lion's den, he continued to worship boldly and bravely. As a result of these men's *peculiar* actions - worship under the threat of death, showing that they belong only to God - those people around them were able to experience God in a whole new way. At the fiery furnace, those witnesses saw a fourth man walking among the flames. In the lion's den, God took special care of Daniel by sealing the lions' mouths. May our worship also be a tool for our Heavenly Father to use to reveal Himself to those around us.

