



The Fourth Wall

The Weekly Newsletter of East Cobb Christian School

April 24, 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 2	Track Meet at Perimeter School
May 3	School-wide workday
May 6	Class pictures by Jan Sanborn
May 7	Spring Musical, 11:00 a.m.
May 20 – 21	Consignment Sale
May 21	Talent Show; 12:15 dismissal
May 22	12:15 dismissal; Graduation, 7:00 p.m.
May 23	Field Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are sad to announce Mr. Browne will be leaving us this year. When I persuaded him to teach math this year, he said it would most likely be for one year. While I have begged, challenged his calling and desire to teach Bible at the college level, berated him for thinking he has a life of his own, often quoted the line from "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" saying "Mr. Brown, why you do this to ME?", he has stood firm that he loves us, but his plate is too full to do the job well. The faculty and students will really miss him.

If your student has participated in the "Honors Reading Program," please send your forms to the office so we can recognize this achievement. **Forms are due Thursday, May 1.**

Thanks to those of you who contributed past photos for the 20th Anniversary Celebration. The photos are now available for pick up in the front office. Call Karen Brothers if you have questions at 770-713-5215.

ECPC/ECCS Workday: Please join us on May 3 from 8:00 a.m. to noon to help improve the facilities and grounds. Tasks will include: spreading pine straw, planting shrubs, repairing doors and windows, painting, and cleaning windows. Please bring the following tools: hammer, wrench, screwdrivers, pry bar, painting supplies, gloves, shovel, wheelbarrow, rake, tarp, and spade.

IMPORTANT MUSICAL INFORMATION FOR K-5th GRADES: The musical is fast approaching! We will do any extra rehearsals during school hours. Dress for the musical is as follows: Students in fifth grade should wear apparel representative of the country of their

choice (they may choose to be American and wear red, white or blue). All others (kindergarten through fourth) should wear blue jeans and a brightly colored shirt of their choice. Modesty guidelines from the dress code apply.

We are looking forward to our program as it will allow the children an opportunity to share with us a collection of songs they have worked on during the year. The program will be entitled "Forever He Reigns!"

CLARIFICATION ABOUT PERIMETER TRACK MEET : Next Friday, May 2, is the track meet at Perimeter Christian School. This is considered an official school day; however, we will not hold classes in the building. If your child is not participating, you may go to cheer on our other students if you like. We will not take attendance. Rain-out day is Friday, May 9.

Remember ALL athletes need to be at Perimeter Christian School by **8:45 am**. We will have a time of prayer and photos. If your athlete can not be there by this time, please email me at crhunt@bellsouth.net. Students should have their navy shorts, (the last ones were distributed during PE today). Remember we are wearing the shorts with the tan ECCS t-shirt the day of the meet. I still need two volunteers to help as timers the day of the meet - let me know of your availability.

EXPLORATORY CLASSES

Art:: All of our "artists in residence" have been painting! Each grade has been using a different medium: K-colored chalk dipped in tempera paint, first and second-watercolor flowers in the style of O'Keeffe, sixth and seventh-oil pastels in the style of Chagall, eighth--acrylic landscape of Tuscany. Several parents have been helping out in the art studio this semester: Mrs. Rule, Mrs. Goering, Mrs. Burnett, and Mrs. Meyer. Also, Mrs. Porter wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and interest in her trip to Munich, Germany.

Computer and Technology: We will only have two more class periods for middle school to complete RenWeb data entry. This will be followed by the statistics project.

In fourth and fifth grades, we will complete the typing tutor program over the next few weeks. These students should continue to practice typing using the correct fingering over the summer, to cement proper form.

CLASS NOTES

Kindergarten Thank you to everyone who drove to the Botanical Gardens. We had a wonderful time on a beautiful day.

Everyone is doing a great job on sending the readers back in, in a timely fashion. We are seeing improvement in their reading skills. Keep up the good work. When you feel like your child has mastered the book and is having no difficulty reading to you, please send it back in for the next book.

Show and tell for Friday will be the /ks/ sound as in six, and the /z/ sound as in zipper. Please remind your child to bring show and tell as each child loves to participate.

Mother's Day Celebration is May 7 in our room at 9:00 a.m. Please be on the lookout for your special invitation. We are looking forward to celebrating this time with all you special moms.

First Grade We are continuing to review all the sounds that we have learned this year as we study our unit on *Being Afraid*. Please work on fluency and intonation when reading homework selections. Record them reading if possible; that can be a wonderful tool.

We hope that you are using RenWeb at home. Homework assignments are listed each day. Spelling words will be on the list for Monday, as well as a new scripture verse.

Our new scripture verse will be sent home next week. It is Psalm 145: 13B, 17-20. It will be due Wednesday, May 14. We continue to learn about Johann Strauss and his style of music and read *Rufus* at the end of the day to practice narration. As school winds down, remind your child to finish strong.

Enrichment Day News: Please have your student wear pants or shorts this Friday.

Second Grade We are enjoying our journey with Pippi. Most of the children are keeping up with the daily reading and side assignments. Please check to make sure your child is getting his work in on time. Some assignments are coming with this book that will require some time but will greatly help our daily sharing.

In Bible we are continuing to learn about Jesus' miracles and how the Pharisees and his hometown responded. The children have been very attentive. We have a new Bible verse from Matthew that will be due May 1. In math we have been working on multiples of 2, illustrating equal groups, parallel lines, and right angles. In spelling we are working with the ghost letters /gn/, /kn/, and /wr/. Our daily reading has been focused on plants and trees. In grammar we are learning how to write a paragraph with a topic sentence. Our Pippi activities are helping us write these descriptive paragraphs.

We shared most of the children's creative writing last Friday in class. We so enjoyed hearing the children's work from the Enrichment Day teachings. The enthusiasm was wonderful to see and to hear. We are keeping the notebooks at school to share some with Mrs. Atkins when she is able to return. Please continue to pray for her healing and peace in this difficult time of waiting. It has been very difficult being patient. Thank you to all who have served her with emails, calls and meals. She is most appreciative.

Third Grade We enjoyed a beautiful morning at the Wright Environmental Education Center on Tuesday. It was a wonderful introduction to our study of plants and trees. As part of this study, all students have received written instructions for completing a tree project. The projects "in progress" are to be brought to school on Tuesday, May 6 for a check. The final, completed project is due on Thursday, May 15.

In reading, we are continuing with *These are My People*, the story of missionary Gladys Alyward. Students should read each day's assigned chapter aloud at home, and write a journal entry in his or her folder.

Fourth Grade We've been working hard in math to understand fractions. It's exciting to see the lights coming on. Speaking of lights, we're also learning about inventors, including the inventor of the light bulb, Thomas Edison. I am looking forward to the Invention Convention coming up next week.

The trip to the Chattahoochee Nature Center will go along with our next unit of study which will be about ponds. Drivers: Edmondson, Fuller, Jennings, Holton, Doyle, alt Mrkonich. Leave by 9:30 and back by 11:15. Dress is navy blue field trip shirt and jeans or nice jean shorts.

This week I will be telling the students about my adventures in Uganda over the summer. As a class, we have been praying for different Ugandans throughout the school year and I have been telling the students snippets about my trip from time to time. I will have on display a number of items I brought back from Uganda, as well. **Parents are welcome** to come if interested on Tuesday, April 29th 9-10am.

This week's tests and events:
Bible Memory James 1:2-4—Friday, April 25
Inventors Test—Friday, April 25

Next week's tests and events:
No memory work so you can work on memorizing your Invention Convention monologue
Miss Work's Uganda Talk—Tuesday, April 29
Field Trip—Wednesday, April 30
Wordly Wise Lesson 19 Test—Thursday, May 1

Fifth Grade What a wonderful evening we had at the Van Hosen home on Monday. If you were unable to attend, it is understandable. This is a busy time of year.

It was a blessing for students and adults alike to visit the courtroom and chambers of Judge Timothy Batten. What an excellent role model for our children!

Tomorrow we will attend the Bremen Museum. Students need to wear dressy uniforms. We will eat lunch at school.

Our last trip out of the classroom is to Marilyn Neff's home. Please have your children wear jeans and ECCS T-shirt, and bring work gloves and garden tools (rakes, trowels, shovels, etc.) for a morning of outside yard work. Drivers are Mike Van Hosen, Jon Swierenga, Rich and Jill Kearney (Mark Mansheim alt.) Mrs. Cranfill will send in cookies and Mrs. Earhart and Mrs. Muniz will send in bottled water. We will leave at 8:45 and return by noon. A \$2-\$5 contribution is appreciated for the purchase of bedding flowers - please bring in an envelope to Mrs. Hull by Monday.

Please note the upcoming dates:

- Friday, April 25, Winston Churchill report and drawing due
- Friday, April 25, Bremen Museum field trip
- Monday, April 28, Service Project at Ms. Neff's
- Tuesday, April 29, science quiz, section 1
- Thursday, May 1, 1 Corinthians 15:20-22
- Friday, May 2, Track meet (no school)
- Wednesday, May 7, Spring Musical
- Thursday, May 8, Parade of Powerful People of the Twentieth Century

Middle School

Washington, D.C. trip news: The menu options for The Silver Diner are in your student's folder. Please make sure these forms are filled out and returned tomorrow. Also, remember that all eighth graders must be at school by 8:10 to participate in the breakfast fundraiser. Thanks!

Social Studies Students are doing a lot of reading for this unit (Age of Exploration). They should be reading about their explorer in their assigned book as well as reading the chapters in their texts that I've been assigning daily. These reading assignments prepare them for lectures and also for the discussion questions the next day (which result in a participation grade). Some of the students seem a little surprised by this so I encourage them to *keep up* with their reading! The next quiz is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29.

Language Arts We are continuing to work on writing skills. This week, we practiced using details that appeal to the five senses, and I have loved hearing what the students have come up with! They are continuing to develop the habit of organization in their writing, and we will further build this skill with more five paragraph essays between now and the end of school.

Math There is only one week of class after this for math because the week before the class trips we will working on our statistics project all week. Stay on top of all assignments and be prepared for the last unit test to be next week in every class. Also, there will be a cumulative final over this year's math material Monday, May 12, prior to the class trip. Because math builds upon itself, most of the material has been reviewed recently. In addition, we will be sending home cumulative review assignments this week to help prepare for the final. We have started giving finals this year in preparation for the students' high school courses which all require end of course tests.

Algebra 1 (Browne—1st period): Our chapter 12 test is scheduled for next Tuesday, April 29, and then we will wrap up with a review on some material necessary for high school.

Algebra 1 (Browne—2nd period): With only a limited number of days left, we need every day in order for us to fit in this chapter. Our test over chapter 4 is scheduled for next Wednesday, April 30.

Pre-Algebra (Browne—4th period): Our test over chapter 4 is scheduled for next Tuesday, April 29, giving us a day or two to review for the final.

Pre-Algebra: If you have dry erase markers at home, please send one in for your student to use in math class. The students may store the markers in the classroom. Also send a calculator with your student to use periodically in class if you have one at home. I only have two to lend. Before the class trip, we will cover parts of chapter 10 and will then have our statistics project. We will test over these sections of chapter ten next week, tentatively Wednesday, April 30. As time permits before the school year ends, I plan to review salient parts of chapters seven and eight. We will have and ECOT exam on Monday, May 12.

Geometry: We will test over chapter 12 next week, tentatively Wednesday April 30. After this, we will have our statistics project. We will have an exam over the year on Monday, May 12. The students have worked hard all year and kept up at our rapid pace. I am pleased with their work and very proud of them.

Science A huge thank you to all the chaperones for the Botanical Garden field trip! We had a great time and I look forward to next year's field trips already! We are currently studying general aspects of birds and flight and will start a two week pigeon dissection next Monday! It is also almost time to head to Savannah and wildflower projects will most likely be a finished project by the time you are reading this! Hang on everyone ☺ I have sent a few emails re: our Savannah trip and you should have a final cost for the trip in your email. Please have a check to the school office by May 1 for your student. Thank you for your prayers as our year comes to a close.

Bible Eighth graders are now reading Lee Strobel's *The Case for Faith*. It takes a look at the "toughest questions to Christianity." Pray for us in this study. The subject matter is so useful for challenges the students will face next year. In the sixth and seventh grade Bible classes, we are doing a quick study of the book of Acts. Several students commented this week that they had never heard the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5. It's always fun to tell them a "new" story after years in a Christian school!!

Spanish Hola! Let's finish the year strong! The students need to complete their lessons in the workbook and study for final exams on May 12. The eighth grade will have a comprehensive test of the entire program (we will have general review in class also); seventh grade will have a comprehensive test that will include important material of what they have learned so far, and sixth grade will have a chapter 3 final test. This week they need to work on a writing assignment due May 1.

I am planning ahead so they will not be loaded with other end-of-the year assignments. By May 12 we will finish the program for this year and we will focus on extra curriculum activities that will include cooking with Mrs. Muniz. Details will go home next week.

Health The quiz is with the weekly review. We have two more lectures and one test (May 12) left before the end of the year. Ask your students what types of first aid we are learning about in health.

THE PRINCIPAL'S PLACE

One of my most beloved heroes died Monday night. You won't read about him in the newspaper or hear about him in the broadcast media. My hero is my father-in-law, Hector Albert Staley. He was ninety.

His friends called him Bert or Albert, but to us he was known as "Dad" or "Grandpa." He was born and raised in South Africa of British descent (the British descent is an important descriptor). He drove a tank in WWII in North Africa. His tank was hit, and he lost his hearing in one ear as a result.

He and Bea, his wife of 60 years, love to tell stories about growing up and raising children in South Africa. Dad was a foreman over Zulu's on a sugar cane plantation before they moved to the states. He sacrificed to send his children to boarding school so they would get a good education, and he would drive back and forth to see every soccer and rugby game. He owned a car (as the story goes) that he would have to take the engine out of and put it in the oven to get it warm so it would start.

He decided to move his family to America around 1970. He didn't foresee a good future for his three sons in SA due to the draft and persistent border wars. Two of Bea's sisters had moved to the states and one could sponsor the family to come over. The family sold all their possessions and gave away all of their beloved pets to come to the "land of milk and honey." His first job in this land was cleaning trailers so they could be rented. The sons also helped to support the family in those first days here.

Dad and I shared a love for the Lord and a love of reading about the Lord. He would share articles and books he had read with me. He has been expecting the Lord's return since I first met him. He would tear up as he would share Scriptures. Some felt he was old-fashioned because of his values.

He was silly. If you asked him who someone was or who did something, he would reply "Buck Jones." He would speak Afrikaans and Zulu. He played with all of the grandchildren by taking them on hikes, reading stories, building blocks, and making the girls' dolls talk. I asked my daughter if she ever heard Grandpa say anything mean or unkind. She replied, "He yelled at me once, but I was aggravating Daniel (her cousin) and I deserved it." My son Chris said, "All he had to do was say "Christopher" with a certain tone and I would straighten up."

He was healthy until about two weeks ago. He was ready to go home. He flat-lined on Monday and the doctors revived him. He complained to them saying, "Why are you keeping me alive? Dial 0 and tell them I am ready to go home and meet my Maker." He was given morphine because he was so agitated. As Errol and I were getting ready to leave he woke up. His eyes met mine, I waved and he returned the wave. I blew him a kiss, and he blew one back. He died a little later and is finally with his Maker. My hero....steady, simple, faithful, hardworking.