




The Fourth Wall

The Weekly Newsletter of East Cobb Christian School


March 11, 2010

<i>Important Dates</i>		<i>Announcements</i>
March 18	Parents in Touch; 8:45 - 9:30 a.m.	<p>Parents in Touch: Please join us in the sanctuary from 8:45 - 9:30 on Thursday, March 18 for a time of prayer and praise. Our focus will be on God's compassion, and we will use the following scriptures to guide our time together: Ps. 116:5; Ps. 145:8-9; Lam. 3:22-23; Col. 3:12.</p> <p>Oratorical Recital: Please join us in the sanctuary March 24 at 11:00 to hear students from all grades participate in the Oratorical Recital.</p> <p>School-wide Workday: A school-wide workday is scheduled for Saturday, March 27. Please mark your calendars and plan to send at least one family representative! The tasks will range from cleaning inside to spreading pine straw outside. Let's show East Cobb Presbyterian Church how thankful we are for their gracious support of our school. Details will follow regarding specific tasks to be done and any tools or supplies needed. The men's ministry at ECPC will be serving breakfast. Donations of any amount will be accepted.</p> <p>Testing/Conference Week: Standardized testing will take place the week of March 29 - April 1 for grades 2 - 8. Please be sure your student gets a good night's sleep and has a healthy breakfast each day.</p>
March 24	Oratorical Recital; 11:00 - 12:15	
March 27	School-wide Workday	
March 29 - April 1	Testing/Conference Week; 12:15 Dismissal	
April 2	Good Friday Holiday	
April 5 - 9	Spring Break	
<p>Conferences will also be that week. Please look for information to come home from your child's teacher regarding your conference time. School will be dismissed at 12:15 that week.</p>		

Exploratory Classes



Art: God has gifted each one of us with different creative expressions. Since many of us struggle with drawing well, I desire to help our young artists boost their confidence in drawing well. We continue to work on projects which will help improve their observation habits and different skill techniques. These habits and skills will carry over into their classroom art projects and dry brush nature studies.



P.E. Rules: Congratulations to the following who completed an Active Lifestyle Log and have been exercising for at least six weeks: Matt, Meredith & Carter Eget (4th time), Constance Doyle, Mrs. Glass, Mrs. Swierenga and Mrs. Hull (4th time). The last Active Lifestyle Log is due by April 22. Many of you already have an active lifestyle – complete the log and let's see how many logs we can get this last time.

During P.E. we have been working on the fitness testing for grades three through eight. Kindergarten through second grade are using the big parachute and the hula hoops. We will begin soccer in all grades next week, but continue to practice for the track meet. Remember the track meet is for third to sixth grade. Every student in those grades is part of our ECCS track team. Some will participate and others will be alternates. The meet is scheduled for Friday, May 7. I will let the students know what event(s) they will be in after spring break. P.E. Rules; GOD REIGNS!!



Class Notes

Kindergarten We had a wonderful time with our dads last Friday. We enjoyed celebrating you and having you visit our classroom.

Our sounds for show and tell on Friday will be /f/ as in frog and /r/ as in rocket. Each child may bring in one item for each sound to share with the class. They need to know where they hear the sound in the word (beginning, middle, or end).

I want to thank Mrs. Preece for being in our classroom while Mrs. Saylor is recuperating from surgery. She will be here through March 19. Mrs. Saylor is due back in the classroom on Tuesday, March 23.

Our judging for oratorical representatives is tomorrow, March 12. Each child will have an opportunity to recite their piece for the judges in our classroom. We will let you know the representatives on Tuesday, March 16. We will have a practice with K-2 representatives on Thursday, March 18 at 11:45 in the kindergarten room. Parents are invited to hear their child.

First Grade Finally. . . warm weather is here!! We can see signs of an early case of spring fever! This week we finished our study of wise King Solomon and are beginning a new unit about Israel and the divided kingdom. We will study the kings, prophets and Daniel during the exile. A new verse, Proverbs 3:3-6, will be coming home today and will be due on Tuesday, March 30.

We had so much fun making our friendship quilts this week; it was a great way to end our Patricia Polacco unit. A huge thanks to Dawn Roach for helping us assemble the quilts. For the next three weeks we will study the life of Margret and H.A. Rey, authors and illustrators of The Curious George series and other children's books. In math, we are continuing to add number facts. "Sums of ten" facts, congruent shapes and measuring inches with a ruler are the concepts we are working on this week. Please make sure that you work on math facts at home.

We are so proud of each of our students as they performed their oratorical poems on Wednesday. Congratulations to our first grade winners and the alternates. Winners are Carter Eget and Abigail Preece. Alternates are Grace Ellen Griffin and Taylor Leonard. The school Oratorical Recital will be March 24 at 11:00 and we encourage all our parents to come.

Second Grade We have completed our study of dinosaurs and the novel *Cam Jansen and the Missing Dinosaur Bones*. The children made beautiful and informative posters about their dinosaur. I hope you will let your child tell you all of the facts they wrote for their presentation. If you have math fact cards, please focus on -6 and -7 problems. We are learning these now. We are also beginning the basic concepts of multiplication and division. I am not assigning Bible memory work for the purpose of using next these two weeks to focus on the oratorical recitation on Wednesday. Please emphasize speaking clearly, loudly and with expression. We will select representatives on Wednesday and recite for kindergarten and first grade on Thursday. The recitation will be on March 24.

Third Grade This has been a busy and fun week in third grade. Thanks to all of you for helping your child with costumes and props for our tabernacle presentation on Monday. It was a joy to listen to the students share with parents and younger students what they have learned about the tabernacle.

We want to say a special thank you to Mrs. Goodwin, and her daughters Phoebe and Lucy, for sharing with us on Tuesday afternoon about their experiences living in China.

We are scheduled to complete the reading of *These Are My People*, a biography of Gladys Aylward, early next week. We will also be finishing our class diaries of the book. Upon completion of the diaries, each student will have the opportunity to bring the diary home to share with his or her family.

Next Tuesday, March 16, each third grader will be reciting his or her oratorical piece in class, and representatives for the March 24 recital will be chosen.

We are continuing to work on the mastery of multiplication facts, with our goal being for every student to complete 100 facts in 5 minutes or less.

Fourth Grade (Mrs. Ficarrota) Great week! We have started our unit on measurements and capacities. We are learning to convert these units. We are seeing how God's double measure has impacted Elisha's ministry in Israel. Our Bible verse from 2 Kings will be due on Friday. We will then focus on oratorical pieces for next week.

We look forward to seeing you at the Invention Convention next week. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Fourth Grade (Miss Work) It's been another whirlwind week with several big projects coming together. I can't wait to take a look at the State Projects and I'm looking forward to seeing the Invention Convention presentations. We are studying adjectives and adverbs in grammar and had an entertaining time drawing crazy monsters and using a variety of adjectives to write a description of them. We then traded monster descriptions and tried to draw the monsters based only on the written descriptions. It was interesting to see how close to the original we were able to get! Following our study of inventors and inventions, we will be studying economics. We'll even be using some of our knowledge about inventing in this new unit as we complete one of my favorite projects of the year during the unit!

We had a great time at the Atlanta History Center learning about the Civil War. It was an excellent introduction to our studies later in the week. Thank you, drivers, for all your help!

Class Notes

Upcoming tests and events:

Inventors Test - Friday, March 12

Invention Convention - Monday, March 15

Class Oratorical - Wednesday, March 17

Computer & Technology: We will be finishing our MS Publisher unit tomorrow.

Fifth Grade Next week we begin our study of World War II. We will delve into the lives of exemplary leaders and infamous dictators. We will look at how nations and individuals were affected.

The students learned about quatrains and their various patterns. Ask your child about them.

Please note the following:

- Monday, 3/15 Research paper's rough draft due
- Tuesday, 3/16 Recite oratorical poem in class (student receives a grade)
- Wednesday, 3/17 metric system quiz
- Friday, 3/19 Chapter 8 math study session, 8:00 a.m.
- Friday, 3/19 Wordly Wise Lesson 17 test
- Tuesday, 3/23 Quatrain due (minimum of two four line stanzas)

Computer & Technology: We will continue creating Power Point presentations of our 5th grade research topics tomorrow.

Middle School

Field Trips: Monday, March 15 we will celebrate Pi Day with a math field trip to the Federal Reserve Bank downtown and a tour of *TVS Design*, a renowned architectural firm. Special thanks go to Mr. Rob Rule for helping us learn this combination of math and art, and Mr. Shawn Brasfield for arranging this visit to TVS. Everyone needs to be here by 8:15 a.m. so we can leave by 8:30. Please wear casual field trip uniforms and bring money for lunch at the food court at Colony Square. Drivers are Lee Earhart, Kristin Doyle, Cynthia Meyer, Andy Cranfill, Carolyn Van Hosen, and Eric Muniz with Julia Brasfield as the alternate. Parents, we are so grateful for your commitment to drive and chaperone our field trips!

We are going on a field trip to see the special exhibit "Nature Unleashed" and the Imax film "Nature's Fury" at the Fernbank Museum next Tuesday, March 16. Please have your student at school by 8:30 wearing the embroidered navy blue field trip polo shirt, khakis and sneakers. Students need to bring a disposable lunch. There is a gift shop if students want to bring money. Drivers for this field trip are Keim, Fulkerson, Gregory, Rule, Palmer, Mitchell, Smith and the alternate is Cranfill.

Social Studies I'm going to be hard pushed to finish up the 19th Century this week, but we will persevere! Subjects we are studying are communication and transportation inventions and technology, cowboys and cattle drives and the frontier, women's suffrage, and the industrialists of the late 19th Century. Whew!

Language Arts I'm looking forward to our study of *To Kill A Mockingbird*, which we will begin soon! Until then, we'll continue focusing on grammar and composition. The chapter 14 Wordly Wise test is next Thursday.

Math

Please help your student build the habit of completing neatly written, nicely spaced homework that has been self-checked for accuracy. (Odds in back of text book.) If your student is confounded by a homework problem, have him or her follow these steps:

1. Look at examples from the text or notes
2. Look at a similar (odd) problem
3. Ask parent
4. Phone a friend
5. Call Mrs. Cranfill or Mrs. Herring for help.

Math 6: Your students are doing a great job! We have started our chapter on proportions and ratios. Yesterday they learned how to calculate the better buy. They can help you on your next shopping trip with what they are learning! Our test over this chapter is tentatively planned for Thursday, March 25.

Math 7: We have completed our first chapter in geometry. I am proud of how well your students have done! Today and tomorrow we are having fun with tessalations and next week we will continue geometry, learn about pythagoras, and introduce trigonometry. Our test over this chapter will be Friday, March 26.

Math 8: In our study of polynomials we are learning to graph quadratic and exponential functions. We will also learn about arithmetic and geometric sequences and how to write an equation for them. Does it seem like your money flies out of your wallet faster than you put it in? That is a geometric sequence! Our test over this chapter should be on Tuesday, March 23.

Computer & Technology Students were assigned a MS Publisher project this past Monday (March 8) that goes along with Living History. Students are to create an information brochure that could be given out to patrons of Living History. An exciting aspect of this assignment is that one student's brochure will be selected to be used as the actual brochure handed out at Living History. This assignment will be worked on in class – so no homework! This assignment is due Friday, March 26.

Science There will be a test on the history and science of space exploration tomorrow, Friday, March 12. This is the last test of the term.

Formal lab reports will be due in homeroom on Tuesday, March 16. Rocket labs were returned to the students on Tuesday with corrections and comments to help them with their formal labs. We will not have anymore science or computer class time to work on these reports but students may e-mail me any parts they want me to preview for them.

Next Wednesday and Thursday, March 17 and 18, I will be available in my classroom at 8:45 if you would like to stop by and pick up the information packet for the class trip and ask me any questions you might have. This is not a required gathering as I will send packets that are not picked up home with the *Fourth Wall* on Thursday. Feel free to call me or e-mail me at any time with questions about the trip. Remember that if you want to order dog tags, I will need to mail the money and order forms on March 18.

Next Thursday, March 18 we will work on shell projects. Students should bring in a portion of their project to work on and any shells they want help identifying.

Bible The sixth and seventh graders are learning about the last week of Christ's life. Did you know that 21% of the New Testament covers the last week of Christ's life? Eighth graders are continuing on in the reading of *The Case for Christ*. Did you know that the New Testament is the most well documented ancient text in existence; 24,000 NT copies as compared to 30 copies of Plato's writings and 650 copies of Homer's *Iliad*?

Spanish We are working on a new chapter in every Spanish class. The students will have about 5 minutes of Spanish homework every day. They are doing very well in class conversation and completing work.

Health The test will be coming home today with the weekly review. The "Me, Myself & God" project has been fun grading. Please



THE PRINCIPAL'S PLACE

Memorizing and reciting the oratorical piece--some love it and some hate it.

Over the years I have watched students who were petrified to speak in front of people overcome and conquer their fears. I remember one seventh grade student who took a zero instead of reciting her piece in front of her classmates. In eighth grade she decided she wanted to represent her class and speak at Perimeter. She did and she wowed them. What a blessing to watch her conquer her fear!

As a child I was petrified of speaking in front of people. My knees would knock, my hands would shake, and my tongue would swell. Speech was a required course for college. My mother gave me wise advice so I would pass--- don't cut class, sit on the front row, smile and encourage each speaker. The "B" she guaranteed was received.

There are many benefits for children who are comfortable with public speaking. Some are

- Improved ability to listen
- Improved ability to memorize and improved memory
- Improved reading and writing skills
- Improved self confidence
- Enhances ability to help, train, and motivate others

One way to help your child is to have him practice before a mirror until he feels comfortable. This was how Winston Churchill prepared to speak. Practicing builds confidence.

Reassure your child that no one will laugh unless he says something funny. Everyone in the audience wants him to be successful. It's normal to feel nervous, but it usually goes away once the speaking starts.