

August 21, 2008

Thursday News

What was once the virtually private spectacle of a privileged few has now become the riveting, everyday drama of America's living rooms. The Olympics capture the attention of young and old alike and turn good, normal people into TV junkies. It is the ultimate in reality TV with real people competing in real sport where dreams collide and bodies stretch to the breaking point. As we view this international drama illustrating our universal humanity, a few observations beg the making.

The spotlight is without doubt shining upon the young and strong. In some sports, teenagers are totally dominant to the exclusion of all others. As we watch these young stars bounding down the runways to vault to dizzy heights, one can easily forget that none of them would be there if it had not been for moms and dads who carefully prepared them for such a burgeoning and early career. Behind every young athlete stands a family that imparted a love for the sport, groomed them from infancy, paved the way with expensive training, and, in many cases, built their family around a promising youngster and their practice schedule. To compete at the Olympic level is rarely done upon a late-blooming impulse. Often, these young athletes come from multiple generations of families who have developed an intense love of a particular sport. Looking back, we, too, can easily see where we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before. My father did not even finish middle school because of the compelling needs of the family farm. Yet he made it possible for me to go on well through college and beyond. I fumbled my way along that path at many points, yet I was able to coach my children with hard earned experience.

A healthy sense of gratitude is always in order as we converse along generational lines. But also, a dearly grasped sense of responsibility should grip us as we hold in our hands the reins of influence upon our children. What excites us can excite them. Our priorities can easily become their priorities. And our small indulgences can become their excesses. Our example is a silent witness for good or ill.

Secondly, the Olympics remind me of the stages in life that we briefly occupy and so quickly move through. I always find amusement in an announcer's voice that must emphasize that a particular athlete is actually in their thirties. No denying it that the strength of youth blooms in the late teens and the early twenties. It is the prime time for bearing young and bearing arms as well as carrying dreams of Olympic gold. Yet, we value every stage of life. The thirties see the flourishing of careers and families. The forties should see a flowering of leadership skills. And the 50's and 60's should see mature and secure grandparents emerge who can brace up and encourage younger families. The 70's and 80's should see grey heads full of wisdom and grace that bestir us all. And the 90's gives us those frail beings that test our humanity and challenge us to carry with dignity the weak in our midst. There is value in every age and stage of life. It is the rhythm of life we cannot stop, and we must learn to accept and treasure each step of the way.

There is such potential for a tragic future for those who stand in the Olympic spotlight today. The winners must go on and embrace the future and try not to keep glorying in their accomplishments, to keep living in the past long after the gold has tarnished and their skills have left them. The losers must go on to fuller and richer lives and not stay preoccupied with regrets, a wondering of what might have been, or, worse yet, lingering bitterness toward a fraudulent result. Of course, the same pitfall and temptation they face is present in us all: a preoccupation with either past success or failure. May we, with Paul, forget those things which are behind, and reach forth unto those things which are before, pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Mercy and Truth,

Mr. Moe

Committee Meetings Results

We had a great turnout for our initial committee meetings this week. Art Fair will have their initial committee meeting Monday, August 25 at 8:45 a.m. The chairpersons of the committees are as follows:

Chapel-Nancy Twigg	Science Fair-Julia Zerkel	Yearbook-Michelle Wilkins
Fun Day-Pungercar/Yerger	Spelling Bee-Julie Acree	Spring Fundraising-??
Fall Fundraising-?	Room Parent-LeAnn Hilemon	
Hospitality-Rachel Witt	Spring Program-Larry Varnum	

If you missed your initial committee meeting, please contact the chairperson of your committee to get the information you need.

WTCC Pick-up

Thank you for your patience with us as we tweak our pick-up procedures. It is working and will get better – we trust! Right now, we are working on speeding up the annex pickup line. Anything you can do will be appreciated. Hint: the pick-up line is a bad time for a parent-teacher conference. Please be aware that the line of cars to the right of the incoming driveway is for families picking up students located in the annex. If you do not need to pick up a student in the annex, you can **carefully** get into the left part of that driveway and go to the **end of the pick-up line** of vehicles picking up students in the main part of the building under the portico. Just be sure and get in the line at a point where you will not be blocking the path of families exiting the parking lot after picking up students from the annex.

Calling All Musicians and Singers!

The Chapel Committee is in need of a few musically gifted teachers, parents, or students to help with the praise portion of chapel. There is a particular need for musicians for chapel at the FCoN campus. Chapel is held once a month; the praise portion consists of leading the students in two songs. If you are willing to help out with singing and/or playing an instrument for chapel, please contact Chapel Committee Chairperson Nancy Twigg (531-3947 or nancy@countingthecost.com).

Lost and Found

There is a lost and found bin located at WTCC near the CFC office. It is between the vending machines. If an item is discovered, it will be placed in the lost and found bin. Please check this bin if you believe your child has lost something while at school. You may want to check with your child's teacher first.

Easy Fundraiser

You will find a separate sheet of paper in your purple folder today that has information regarding a Kroger fundraiser. The directions are on the sheet. Basically, you just need to take this sheet with you to Kroger and have the cashier scan the barcode on the sheet along with your KrogerPlus Card. This will automatically set up your KrogerPlus Card to be enrolled in our fundraiser. Every time you shop at Kroger, you earn a percentage of your purchases for CFC! Pretty easy, right?? Please feel free to pass along this sheet with the barcode to anyone who is willing to help us out in this very simple way. If you need more sheets with barcodes, just let us know in the office.

Financial Peace University

If you are struggling to make ends meet on your income and want to bring some stability to your finances, WTCC is offering another round of "Financial Peace University" to help you. FPU is a program from the nationally recognized Christian financial consultant Dave Ramsey. The class will be held on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. starting September 9 and ending November 18. There will be a class preview offered on Tuesday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Room A6 at WTCC if you want to come and see what the class is all about. The cost to take the class is \$90, which is the cost to the church. It can be paid in small increments. However, if you cannot afford it, there is assistance available through WTCC. Call Paul Sadler at 742-1956 for more information or stop by the signup table in the foyer of the church on Sunday mornings.



School Coupon Books

We have a few more details on the school coupon book sale we will have. The dates will be from September 18 through the end of September. This will be the East Tennessee coupon book, which covers a wider area than just Knox County. These coupons cover businesses in Knox, Anderson, Sevier, and Blount counties. Eighty percent of the sales go to our school! Look for more information in upcoming newsletters about our big fundraising event for CFC.

Attendance Forms

You should find a blank attendance form in your purple folder today. You should have one form for each co-op student (except K4 students) in attendance here. These forms have the instructions on them. If you have questions about the form, please contact the office. We are sending home the form for the first semester only. We will send home the second semester form toward the end of the first semester. Attendance forms should be submitted to the office twice a year (at the end of each semester). Please keep attendance (this includes days at the co-op and days at home) on this form throughout the semester. If, for some reason, you did not receive the correct number of attendance forms, you can also get this form from our school web site (www.cfcschool.com). Just go to the "Umbrella Programs" link and scroll to the bottom of the page to find a link to the PDF forms available. The attendance form is one of the forms on the window with PDF umbrella forms.

Thanks and Praise!

Oh, ye of little faith. Your administrator must now apologize for his somewhat dour portrait of our budget this year. On Monday of this week, the phone started ringing and folks kept walking in with the end result that we added 10 new students to our roster. This will float our budget out of its doldrums and make our finance manager relax. Of course, our budget still assumes that we will raise \$7000 with our fundraisers, so we can't let down our efforts in that area. But thanks for your prayers and praise be to Jehovah Jireh, who is our provider.

Possible Job

Are you looking for a job that is lots of fun, has hours that work with your children's schedules and you have the summers off? Then Mother's Day Out of WTCC has the perfect opportunity for you. MDO is in need of a teacher's assistant and a float for their fall program. You should be loving, patient and, most of all, enjoy being with children. If you would like more information about these openings or would like an application form, please see Rhonda Covert or call the MDO office at 357-2636.

Teacher ID Cards

The hot item of the week is the CFC teacher ID card! Many of you have asked about this card because you are eager to take advantage of some of the good deals going on in the area (check out the "Opportunities" listed at the end of this newsletter). Each family should receive a teacher ID card in the purple folder this week. This is something we provide for our families so that you have something that identifies you as a teacher and home educator. Keep these until you get another one next year. The expiration date is for the end of August of 2009. If you did not receive a card, please contact the office. Also, we only print ID cards for the moms of the family. If you would like to request one for the dad of the family, please let us know.

Policy Manual Moment

Check out the dress code located on page 29 of the Policy Manual. Some items to point out include the fact that students may wear shorts up to 3" above the knee. No tight fitting or excessively loose fitting clothing will be allowed. Girls' skirts must reach the knee in length. Only neat, presentable slacks and jeans may be worn. Therefore, cotton sweatpants with an elastic waistband are not suitable attire for school. No T-shirts with logos, words, or screen-printed pictures except for CFC school shirts, may be worn. Collared or crew neck shirts in solids, stripes, or prints are acceptable. No sleeveless attire will be allowed. **Parents** – please remember that the dress code applies to parents who are coming to the school to work rotation, attend a committee meeting, meet with a teacher, work in a classroom (even for classroom parties), or are present at the school for any reason.

Opportunities

WonderWorks in Pigeon Forge is hosting Homeschool Preview Days August 17-27. We have checked with the WonderWorks office to ensure that our ID card is sufficient proof of homeschooling. On Tuesday, LeAnn Hilemon (CFC Office Manager) made a field trip to WonderWorks and was able to get in without any problems. Visit www.wonderworkstn.com or call them at 868-1800 for details.

Another opportunity for homeschoolers during this same timeframe (8/17-8/27) is the Rain Forest Adventures Discovery Zoo in Sevierville. Homeschool Passport (a group committed to getting discounts and other opportunities for homeschoolers) has confirmed a discount for this location. Children ages 3 and up are \$4.00; adults are \$7.00. This is a self-guided zoo with some very unique animals, including an Aussie Walkabout. Details, including some educational support material, can be found at www.rfadventures.com.

Local News

We are saddened and shocked at the news regarding the fatal shooting of a student at Central High School. We join you all in praying for the families suffering loss at this time and for a hedge of protection around our students and those in our community.