

Oct. 2, 2008

Thursday News

The following is a "My Turn" article by Dr. Jerry Burns, former CFC Board Member and professor of Chemistry at Pellissippi State. His youngest is currently a 1st grader under the CFC umbrella program.

Our oldest son, Jonathan, finished eighth grade at CFC in 2005. He is now a high school senior, and in his second semester of dual enrollment classes at Pellissippi State. The dual enrollment program gives high school juniors and seniors a chance to ease into college classes early while getting both college and high school credit for it. Dual enrollment has given Jonathan a taste of what college classes are like without him having to carry a full load, which can put young students at risk of becoming overwhelmed, losing scholarships, or even failing.

For students for whom college is a certainty, dual enrollment is a great way to take such fundamentals as English Composition and get acclimated to the college regimen. Since one semester of college counts as one year of high school, it's also an efficient way to handle sequence courses like the foreign language requirement. Students can also correct any academic deficiencies through dual credit, and thus enter college full time with any necessary remediations already satisfied. The State of Tennessee also offers dual enrollment grants to students starting in their junior year of high school which are currently about \$300 per semester, essentially enough to cover one three-credit-hour course.

The dual credit program has been good for Jonathan, and Pellissippi as a whole is rather home-school friendly. It has required some extra effort from Jonathan but not beyond his ability. Has he been exposed to material and discussions that we would have preferred he not? Yes, but far less than we thought would be the case, and he holds to his ideals. Are there certain instructors we avoid? You betcha. But the opportunity has given him a wider understanding of the world, of what college is about, and of what it takes in personal commitment to succeed. It is making his high school experience far more beneficial. So when Jonathan makes the decision of whether or not to go to college, it will be an informed decision.

Whether or not to go to college? Yes, we read Mr. Nordmoe's most recent Thursday News with a great AMEN. We have long said that college education has ceased to be synonymous with a good career. Many non-collegiate vocations now pay just as well and without the burden of student loans to get there. We want each of our children to sample college through dual credit programs, then work a couple of years or, preferably, obtain a technical certification for an applied career. If after that they choose to seek a college degree, they already have some college experience plus a couple more years of maturity than their classmates, and certification for a technical career to fall back on if necessary. Each will have their own choice to make, but thanks to the dual credit opportunity they can choose based upon experience.

-Dr. Jerry Burns

My experience with Pellissippi State's dual enrollment program has been interesting to say the least. The whole college environment thing is a new experience for a homeschooler like myself. Though the whole setting can be a bit bewildering at first, it is easy to adapt, once you know your schedule. The homework itself is a step above high school difficulty, so studying is important. And deadlines are firm. There are lots of resources available on campus if you need advice or study material. The whole experience is cool, but as always when venturing into a secular environment, there are things or people that might try to challenge your faith. It's just important to be in the proper mindset when you venture out of your comfort zone a bit. Overall I rate the program pretty highly, and regard it as an excellent opportunity for those interested.

-Jonathan Burns, 12th gr. home-school senior

Pancake Breakfast Success!

We raised over \$1300 with the pancake breakfast last Saturday! Wow!! We appreciate all of the workers and volunteers, especially those who worked extra and those who even skipped their meal. We apologize to the few who were unable to be served due to the unexpected large crowd and appreciate your generosity in contributing to the fundraising effort anyway. What a wonderful group of families we have at this school! You are incredible examples to our children on how to handle unexpected disappointments with grace.

We would like to encourage our families to please patronize this branch of Applebee's and support them because this fundraiser was done at no cost to CFC! Applebee's provided the workers in the grill area, the food, and the paper products. What a blessing. If possible, please write a thank you note from your family to Mike at Applebee's and give it to the Applebee's staff when you visit the restaurant. This will display our appreciation to them in a very tangible way.

Grade Reports

Your teacher has sent home grade reports today. Please initial the grade report and return it to your child's teacher within a couple of weeks. There are usually some businesses that reward good grades in the area. In the past, these have included Chuck E. Cheese, Zuma, and Krispy Kreme. Check with the business first before going to celebrate. If you find out of other opportunities to celebrate excellent grades, let us know and we will pass along the information.

School Coupon Books

Please return all money and any unsold books on Monday, October 6. Thank you for your participation in this fundraiser.

Home Study Week

We are now in October. (Have you paid your October tuition yet?) Cool weather has arrived. Leaves are changing color. Home Study Week is just around the corner! We have some new forms we are requiring our families to use this year for Home Study Week. You should find a lesson plan and an attendance form in your purple folder (one of each per student). Instructions are on the forms, along with due dates. Please let us know if you have any questions.



RFG Tackles "The Beast"

Team RFG ran this past Tuesday at Melton Hill Park. It was a challenging hilly course called "The Beast." The team would love for you to come see them in the final Championship at Victor Ashe Park Tuesday, October 7 at 4:30 p.m. for the elementary runners and 6:00 p.m. for middle school runners.

Attention: Dell, HP, and Lexmark Printer Users

You can help CFC by donating your used, empty **HP, Dell, or Lexmark** printer ink/toner cartridges to the CFC office. Every eligible cartridge you donate will provide CFC with \$3 worth of office supplies!!!! What an easy way to make a big impact on our office budget! (FYI: Unfortunately, we cannot use any other brands of ink cartridges other than the three brands mentioned above.) Any eligible ink cartridges you can donate to the school will be sincerely appreciated! This is a tax-deductible contribution as well, valued at \$3 per cartridge.



Fall Camping Fun

For those of you planning on attending the CFC Fall Campout the weekend of October 31, we are planning on having a Harvest Festival on Friday night to kick off the fun! Plans are in the works, and details will come out soon. If you are interested in getting involved, please let someone in the office know!

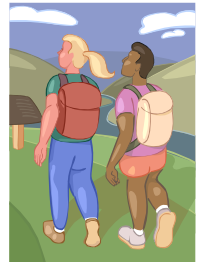
Educator Appreciation Weekend at Borders Bookstore

On October 3-5, current and retired educators can save 25% on purchases for personal or classroom use. (This includes homeschoolers.) Just bring proof of educator status. There will be a special reception at Borders from 4:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday October 3, which includes **food, fun, and prizes!**

Daycamp Experience for Homeschoolers

Camp Wesley Woods, a camp often visited by public schools, churches, as well as scouts, has a Day camp experience for homeschoolers. This might be a fun field trip activity for any of you parents looking for ideas for your child's class. For more information, visit the following web site:

<http://www.campwesleywoods.com/>



Good Deals

The Duck Duck Goose clothing consignment sale is going on now (October 2-6). They are open from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. (closed on Sunday). It is in the Downtown West Shopping Center. More details can be found online at www.dkdkgoose.com.

Prayer Requested

One of our students is in the hospital. Brooklyn Allison, a student in Mrs. Harmon's 3rd grade class, had surgery Thursday morning to help with respiratory problems she was having. Please lift Brooklyn and her family up in prayer to the Great Physician.