

October 16, 2008

Thursday News

Esteem her (wisdom), and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. -NIV Proverbs 4:8

So where are we going with our educational treadmill? That has been somewhat the focus of our past few issues. It is a question we need to keep in mind as we direct and encourage our children to put forth the effort every day to keep up their rigorous pace. How we answer it will in large part determine their future and the extent and direction to which we pour our time and treasure, college or no.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the realm of public education is rapidly losing its way. The threat of an amoral, secular, Darwinian education is now being surpassed by the corrosive effects of the no-child-left-behind mentality which is spawning a wasteland of mediocrity and intolerance of standards of any kind. (Ask your friends in the public schools about the new *minimum* grade of “60” for all student work.)

But where are we going and what do we want to maintain as the ballast in the bottom of our educational boats? If you want to tie your thoughts in endless knots of increasing complexity and confusion, there is no quicker way than to pick up some books on education. Just thinking about all the curriculum options available to Christian homeschoolers now is enough to give one a headache. Go to your university library and the volumes of opinions on education rendered over time require a whole wing. In light of that, I have come to appreciate the utter beauty of Proverbs 4:7 which so quickly reduces so many of our endless, human dialogues and all of our continual striving with its one, easily grasped truth: **“The principal thing is wisdom; therefore get wisdom.”** You have heard me beat this drum before. And you will again. It is our north star guiding us from infancy to adulthood. It influences our K5 curriculum choices and the “if” and “where” of sending our children off to college.

As such, we teach literacy because it is the key to reading the Book of Ages, the fountain of all wisdom. The wisdom of Scripture, in turn, tells us to subdue the earth and so we teach mathematics and science to restore, in part, the damage caused by the fall. As a dividend, Math gives us the discipline and exercise of logical reasoning and thinking. Science causes us to sit and ponder the majesty and mystery of creation and our creator. Scripture leads us also to examine History for it compels us to examine our ways and what we have done with our knowledge of good and evil which we so dubiously chose in the garden. Will all this show up on a SAT test? Only in small parts and pieces.

But regardless of test results, our goal is to bring our children to the point of being able to think clearly and rationally developing a passion for God’s Word as a touchstone of basic truth for all of life. We want them to be more than Bible ‘spouters,’ however, for God’s wisdom should propel us to be not only morally redemptive agents in this world but to be redemptive agents of change for all aspects of this world’s fallen-ness. We fight disease because it is an unintended but natural result of sin. We fight hunger, pollution, political deadlock, corruption, animal cruelty, poverty, crime, and urban blight because God’s wisdom compels us to, out of His love for all men. We are our brother’s keeper. In this, we are tested everyday.

Whether we learn this in our Sunday school classes or the second grade classroom or at our mother’s knee or as David did, out in the sheep pasture, it is of little consequence. The big picture is that we develop a passion for God’s wisdom and play it out to its logical end in the thousands of our daily choices, our places of service, our priorities, and our stewardship of time and treasure. God’s truth, taken to its logical conclusion, is the stuff that great families, churches, cities, and nations are made of.

Mercy and Truth,

Mr. Moe

School Portrait Proofs

Proofs for the school portraits were due in the office **TODAY** (October 16). If you did not turn your order form in, please bring them to the office the morning we return to class (Wednesday, October 29) so we can add them to the order. Instructions for ordering are on the form. Checks should be written to Klimas Studio. If you are **NOT** ordering pictures, please send the proofs back with **“NO ORDER”** written on the order form.



Home Study Week

It is here! Home Study Week is next week (10/20-10/24). Enjoy this opportunity to study and learn about your topic of choice. Please remember to keep a record of your time on the specific home study attendance form that was sent home a couple of weeks ago (check our web site for this form if you cannot find yours). Those attendance forms are due to your teacher on Wednesday, October 29. (K4 students are not required to keep attendance for Home Study Week.) Please make sure your student is prepared to present his/her experience as specified by your teacher on the day we return to classes.

Teacher In-service Day

Monday, October 27 is a teacher in-service day. Students will not be coming to class that day. It is considered a home study day. Classes resume at CFC on Wednesday, October 29.

Rotation Calendars

Please look for the rotation calendars coming home in the purple folder. **SAVE THIS CALENDAR** because it has both November and December on it.

Invoices

If you owe money for tuition, you should find the invoice for November in your purple folder. Please note that November 1 is three days after we return from Home Study Week on October 29.

Tents and Treats

If you have never treated your family to a night in a tent, here is your chance. CFC's fall campout, October 31-November 2, will be like no other. There will be tents and treats plus dressing up, games, a hayride, and large campfires. Rumor even has it that there will be a couple of horses attending (in addition to Mr. Bevins). Pick up a sign up sheet at the office for everything you need to know or email the office to declare your intentions. Even if you do not plan to stay the night, you may purchase individual meals and just come for the day! Tents available upon request. Candy will be available upon demand.



Our Own TV Star

Mr. Bevins will be on TV **TODAY** (October 16) during the “Live @ Five” show on WBIR. This show is from 4:00 until 5:00 p.m. We do not know exactly when he will be on during the show, so maybe you can just watch the entire show or record it. Please refrain from asking for autographs during P.E. time. ☺

Opportunity

The Doak House Museum is hosting a Bicentennial of President Andrew Johnson on October 27. This opportunity is for homeschooled children. Students will have fun learning about the 17th President of the United States through a variety of activities that are fun, fast paced, and interactive. Admission is \$5.00 for children, and one parent is admitted for free per household. Reservations are required for this event and must be made by October 22. Call the Doak House Museum at (423) 636-8554 for more information. You can also check the web site at <http://doakhouse.tusculum.edu/>.