

Thursday News

"... the glory of children are their fathers." Proverbs 17:6

A few weeks ago we had a very important event at CFC that was quietly conducted at an early morning hour involving just a handful of people. It was a small gathering, and yet, I marveled at how it demonstrated what was right and what was wrong with the world. The event was "Donuts With Dad" sponsored by our K4 teachers. The children had filled out questionnaires regarding their dads guessing their age, favorite foods, and what they did for a living, etc. Then they had drawn a picture of their dad on the back. These and some assorted donuts and juice were enough to entice 12 out of 13 dads to rearrange their work schedules, carve out an hour of their time to come and sit on little chairs with a bunch of four year olds around a little table in a totally foreign environment. I am sure they all felt a little funny sitting there, these manly brutes presiding over a mini-tea party, but the sight was beautiful beyond measure.

I asked Mrs. Skeen, our new K4 teacher, what kind of response she would have expected from the dads at her previous public school class of 17 students if she had held a similar event there. She said, "Oh, one or two, probably." My heart leapt and sank all at the same time. How blessed were these children at our little CFC school to have dads who were interested enough in the lives of their children to come to this little function and share in the lives of these little ones. I wanted to cry. And then I wanted to weep for all the fathers who would never come to any of their children's events, who never would stoop to touch their child's life in any form or function.

Men get a lot of bad press these days as wife beaters, family deserters, beer drinking thugs, and general perverts. Certainly there are plenty of cases of all of these. But when a man stays true to his wife and family, acts as a real husbandman to his mate and offspring, and cares to spend time with his little ones, he makes a huge contribution to all of society as well as extending the family line. Research has shown that children whose fathers are involved in rearing them score higher on cognitive tests (they seem smarter) than those with relatively uninvolved fathers. Such children are more likely to get mostly A's and less likely to repeat a grade or be expelled. Fathers who are involved in their children's schools and academic achievement, regardless of their own educational level, are increasing the chances their child will graduate from high school, perhaps go to vocational school, or even to college. A father's involvement in children's school activities protects at-risk children from failing or dropping out and tends to produce children who experience more success in their career. Involved fathering is related to lower rates of teen violence, delinquency, and other problems with the law. An active dad is associated with positive child characteristics such as empathy, self-esteem, self-control, psychological well-being, social competence, and life skills. Children who grow up in homes with involved fathers are more likely to take an active and positive role in raising their own families. Involved fathering is also related to better communication between fathers and family members, a greater sense of commitment to the family, and less troubling conflict with teenage children. Even dads who do not live with their children can have tremendous influence if they stay involved. These children tend to get higher grades, seem to have better social skills, make friends more easily, handle difficult social situations better, have fewer behavioral problems, and have fewer mental health problems as adults (especially true for daughters).**

The list goes on and on. Feminist paranoia about patriarchy is a myth. Dads have tremendous influence and are the ballast in the bottom of their children's boats. Sometimes the role of being ballast may seem dull and monotonous. Make no mistake. It keeps the boat upright, stable, and on course. Let's hear it for donuts and dads; a potent mix in any child's universe.

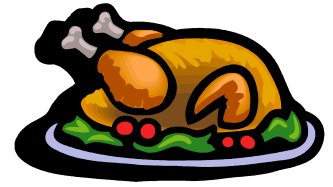
Mercy and Truth,

Mr. Moe

** *"The Hidden Benefits of Being an Involved Father,"* Garret D. Evans and Kate Fogarty, Univ. of Florida

Upcoming Holiday

Next week is a short week for CFC. Monday (11/24) will be normal with classes as usual. Wednesday (11/26) is a Home Study Day. Work is to be completed at home (follow your lesson plans). There will be no classes at the school on Wednesday. Thursday is, of course, Thanksgiving. Thursday and Friday (11/27 and 11/28) are holidays! Classes will return to normal on Monday, December 1. No purple folders will come home next week since we will only be in classes one day.



Opportunity

Two CFC middle school students (Claire Lott and Lydia McNeil) will be performing with their theater group SKIT (Southern Kids In Theater) in the classic story of "A Christmas Carol." It is the Broadway musical version that was performed in New York. This will take place at the Pellissippi Performing Arts Center December 6 and 7. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact Stephanie Lott at 216-6019 no later than Monday, November 24.



Football Time

Don't just sit around watching people play pigskin. Get up and work off some of that turkey, stuffing, and sweet potato casserole! CFC families will be playing a friendly game of two-hand touch football Sunday, November 30. Please join us at Nicholas Ball Park starting at 2:30 p.m. Students 2nd grade and up can participate, along with adults. Younger kids can play on the playground or CHEER! Contact Mr. Bevins or Mr. Moe if you have questions.

Smoked Turkey for Thanksgiving

The WTCC Holy Smokers grill team will be at it again the week before Thanksgiving cooking smoked turkeys for families that may be interested. The grill team will be cooking turkey breasts (6 to 8 lbs.) and whole turkeys (14 to 18 lbs.). The price will be the cost of the meat (~ \$12) plus a donation for smoking the meat. Most people usually pay \$30 per bird, some more some less depending on their finances. All profits will go toward the WTCC youth mission trip. If you are interested, please call Paul Sadler at 742-1956 by **Friday night (11/21)**.

Chili Cookoff/Talent Show

It's that time of year again--time to show off your culinary skills or entertain us with those hidden talents, and raise some money for CFC at the same time. Please see the separate flyer and get your forms in by December 15. This will be a fun time for the entire family.



Opportunities

Local Homeschool Groups are being invited to the Tusculum College Book Fair. This fair will be located off Pellissippi Parkway and Lovell Road at 1305 Centerpoint Blvd. Dates and times are as follows:

Monday, 12/1	11:30-7:30	Thursday, 12/4	10:00-7:30
Tuesday, 12/2	10:00-7:30	Friday, 12/5	4:00-7:30
Wednesday, 12/3	4:00-7:30		

The Appalachian Ballet Company Presents "The Nutcracker" at the Knoxville Civic Auditorium Thursday, December 4 and Friday, December 5. Both shows are at 10:00 a.m. Students ages three and up are \$5. Adults are \$10. Children two and under are free if they are sitting in your lap. If you are interested, please RSVP to HSPassport@aol.com, and you will be provided payment information. A limited number of tickets are available.