

April 15, 2010

Thursday News

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” –Psalm 139:14

I know a little and have heard about genes, chromosomes, and DNA. But what about RNA, ribosomes, templates, codons, eukaryotes, and prokaryotes? Then there are alleles, polypeptides, nucleotides, introns, exons, markers, bands, knobs, knots, and catenanes. Such are the terms and the vocabulary of the genetic scientist today. Such study continues to push beyond any simple understanding of the basic building blocks of life that we may have once possessed. If you want to be amazed, here are a few facts about DNA, the blueprint for life contained in each of our living cells. *“There’s an estimated 3 billion DNA bases in our genome. One million bases (called a megabase and abbreviated Mb) of DNA sequence data is roughly equivalent to 1 megabyte of computer data storage space. Our entire DNA sequence would fill 200 1,000-page New York City telephone directories. A complete 3 billion base genome would take 3 gigabytes of storage space. If unwound and tied together, the strands of DNA in one cell would stretch almost six feet but would be only 50 trillionths of an inch wide.”**

Does anything ever go wrong? Yes, unfortunately, it does. We live in a fallen world. Yet, given the utter complexity of life, it is all the more amazing that everything works together so perfectly as often as it does. We have one in our midst, however, who has experienced a glitch in the gene system: Brooklyn Allison (4th grade). She has suffered from cystic fibrosis since being diagnosed at six months old. Somewhere in the depths of all those complicated switches that regulate our bodily systems, Brooklyn had a defective gene that regulates the essential balance of mucus and salt. Mucus is essential to keep certain organs moist and keep them from drying out. CF results in thick and sticky mucus that clogs and shuts off tiny ducts and openings such as are in the pancreas and lungs. The regulation of bodily minerals, sweat, and salt levels are also affected. Everything from normal digestion to breathing is ultimately affected. Brooklyn has had to live with daily regimens of breathing treatments and inhalers, and a heavy dependence upon synthetic enzymes and powerful antibiotics. One to two times a year she undergoes a surgical procedure to open her airways. There are contraptions she must wear to do daily “bouncing” exercises. Every month the bill for medicines runs into thousands of dollars. All this just to try to live a normal life and compensate for that faulty switch that will not do what we all take for granted.

How does one adjust to such extreme and uncompromising demands? The toll on the human spirit is daunting. The temptation to bitterness and despair is very real. Yet Brooklyn has not succumbed to either of these and continues to model the peace of Christ and joy in the life she has been given. In visiting her in the hospital last week, Linda and I were blessed as we traded songs with this very musical family. In her turn, Brooklyn shared this song with us: *“God told Abraham to go and take his little boy to a lonely place they call Moriah’s hill. God says there you’ll sacrifice your precious pride and joy but you’ll be blessed in ways you cannot tell. He said, ‘Lord, I’ll trust your perfectness as you rule from up on high and as this trial is pressing us this is how we will reply.’ (Chorus) If this is what God wants, if this is what God says then who am I to doubt or try to figure out this circumstance. If this is what God has chosen for me in all His majesty, then surely I can trust and lean on what God says.”* And we grumble at a pimple or a toothache. How humbling.

We have an idea to share with you about how we could help those struggling with cystic fibrosis and show our love for Brooklyn and the Allison family. Please see our suggestion on the next page.

“We Love You, Brooklyn, Day”

Please plan to join the River’s Edge family on May 15, 2010, as the Cystic Fibrosis chapter of Knoxville will be hosting a walkathon at Victor Ashe Park (9:00 AM). We would like to register as many folks as possible under the River’s Edge Team name to take part in this walk and fundraising effort. Go to www.cff.org and look for *Great Strides* to register. It will be our way of saying, “We love you, Brooklyn,” and our way of fighting against this dreadful enemy of God’s perfect creation. Please keep your eyes open for upcoming ideas for ways to raise money for this important event.

Well Done

Congratulations to all of our students on a week of hard work and perseverance. SAT’s are now behind us and summer break is fast approaching. Once the school receives the SAT results we will send a copy home in your purple folder or drop them in the mail if school is out.

Spring Picture Order Forms

If you plan to order spring pictures of your students, please return the order form on Monday, April 19. If you plan not to order pictures, please return your proofs with “NO ORDER” written on them. These will be returned back to you.

Chapel

We would like to invite all of our parents to attend the next and final chapel of the year next Wednesday, April 21 at either campus.

10, 9, 8 days to go....

It’s only eight more days until the bi-annual River’s Edge Campout! Do we hear cheers and hoorays from all of the kids and campers out there? If you plan on going (or simply have questions) please drop by the office and grab a registration form and all the questions you want. We need all registration forms and payments in by next Wednesday, April 21 in order for the food to be purchased. Remember, Mr. Moe has tents to loan, so you have no real excuses not to come! We look forward to many of you there.

Grade Reports

Middle School grade reports are going out today. Please be sure to sign and return as soon as possible.

Dancing for Joy

Many of our little ladies at River’s Edge have been working hard to prepare for their Dance for Joy Ballet Recital. Please feel free to join them on Tuesday, May 18th at 6:30 at Fountain City United Methodist Church.

Curriculum Lists

Curriculum lists for K4-5th grade should be located in your purple folders today if your students are registered to return next year. If for some reason we didn’t get the right ones in the right folder, please drop by or call the office and we will get one to you. They will be available online very soon. Middle and high school lists will be completed as soon as possible.

A Beka Free Shipping

Please note that A Beka is offering FREE SHIPPING on all A Beka Book textbooks orders over \$50 placed online in April 2010. Visit their Web site at <http://www.abeka.com> and click on “Order Online.” For your convenience, you will always receive free shipping on ANY SIZE ORDER placed at an A Beka Book Home School Materials Display. These displays give you the opportunity to preview our quality, character- building textbooks and meet one of our helpful A Beka Representatives. To locate an A Beka Book display near you visit <http://www.abeka.com/materialsdisplay>.

Well Written

Caleb Klingerman is an eighth grade student at River's Edge and the son of parents Timothy and Kimberly Klingerman. Below is a poem he wrote for an English assignment. We challenge you to read it and not be inspired or brought to tears. Thank you, Caleb.

Story of the Bible

Created on the seventh day,
40 days and nights until a ray.
A rainbow colored cloak he wore,
The staff led Israel ashore.
David struck the giant down,
The greatest wisdom Solomon found.
Daniel in the lion's den,
Not a burn on his three friends.
Isaiah prophecies the king,
Jonah's eaten, or so it seems.
Born on Bethlehem that night,
Herald angels set all alight.
Teachings, miracles and more,
A big, wooden cross he bore.
Hanging there and doomed to die,
"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani," was his cry.
Three days later, from the dead,
God placed the crown upon his head.
Jesus is king; we know it is true,
"Follow me," is what He says to you.

Tuition Assistance Program Application Deadline April 30

If you are a current River's Edge family who needs tuition assistance for the 2010-2011 school year, the deadline to receive your application for tuition assistance and any accompanying FFNA application is Thursday, April 30th. Current recipients of tuition assistance will need to reapply for tuition assistance again if they want to receive it again for next year. (Families are not automatically eligible for tuition assistance for next year just because they received tuition assistance for this year.) Any requests for tuition assistance need to be submitted to the River's Edge office each year using Part I of the Tuition Assistance Application form, available from our website or from the school office. Part II of the application, completing the FFNA (Family Financial Needs Assessment), is required for the first year of application for tuition assistance and every other year after that (every two years). If Part II (FFNA application) is not applicable to your family because you completed it for the 2009-2010 school year, please complete Part I and let us know if and how your situation has changed since you completed the FFNA application.

If you have questions about this process, you may direct your questions to Mary Raney at finance@riversedgeCA.com or consult the website, www.riversedgeCA.com.