

May 6, 2010

Summer News

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom” Pro. 4:7

The S.A.T.'s are done. We await the returns. And what will they tell us? Certainly they will offer us a picture of how well your students are doing when measured against the standardized grid that has evolved out of our American educational tradition. You will see how they measure up to students across the nation when strapped to the great bell curve in the sky. It is a day when we earnestly hope our students are not average. Just who the average children are is always a great mystery to me. We may have some here, but few parents will take comfort in that label. Regardless the outcome, the standardized test result will offer some objective perspective on progress across the standard academic paths. It is of value in spotting weaknesses as well as strengths. By it, we can plan strategies for improvement.

Yet we need to keep in perspective just where and how the standardized test has come into being. It is a product of our nation-wide, educational system that is built upon an inherently secular basis. The people who have authored it bring certain assumptions to the table in laying the foundation for this measurement tool. First and foremost, they are unabashedly secular. Spiritual or moral values are not a part of the program when computing a standardized test. Our particular S.A.T. offers a voluntary section that tests Biblical knowledge, but as we do not put forth a Bible education curriculum, we bypass it. Still, it would be hard to measure such ephemeral values as virtue and wisdom in any form of standardized test. Bible knowledge is easy to gauge. Measuring spiritual maturity is another matter.

Paul Spears and Stephen Loomis have come out with a book, Education for Human Flourishing,* which points out that secular education begins with a rather materialistic and mechanistic model of humanity. Children are a blank slate and empty hard drive waiting to be filled and programmed to execute pragmatic purposes in a materialistic world. And so we create a class of action robots to fulfill the needs of a society that values production and management. Spears and Loomis insist, however, that Scriptural truth gives a totally different slant on human existence. We are spirit as well as flesh and are born to give glory to God as well as subdue and manage creation. We are made in the image of God and as such are creative beings to shape the world and not simply react to it. We are born to serve as well as master. Somewhere, they insist, this difference ought to manifest itself in any educational system that calls itself “Christian.” Certainly, such growth is not reflected in any standardized test coming from the secular establishment.

How well are your children *flourishing* in realizing their potential as God’s agents in this world and in preparing for the next? How are they developing the fruit of the Spirit, a sense of servant hood, Godly wisdom, and finding their spiritual gifts? I’m sorry, but your S.A.T. results will not provide that information. Even secular critics are quick to point out that the standardized tests “...do not measure a child's motivation to understand new material and perform well in school. They also will not measure a child's creativity or curiosity, nor the ability to cooperate in a group, challenge assumptions, or complete in-depth projects. None of these characteristics is tested, yet they are all essential skills for further education, workplace preparation, and life in general.”**

I hope you will understand that you are only getting half of the picture when results come in. And nothing would make me happier than to have parents lining up complaining that we should do more to cause students to “flourish” as children of the Heavenly Father, mighty in spirit, with servant hearts and curious minds, scoring high on God’s S.A.T., the Zion inspired Spiritual Aptitude Test. I live with the question, “Are we doing enough?”

Mercy and Truth,

Mr. Moe *Education for Human Flourishing, Spears and Loomis, IVPress, Sep. 2009, **PBS Frontline, Testing Our Schools

LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Below is the schedule for the last week of school. This week can be quite confusing so PLEASE read this completely and let us know if you have any questions. You don't want your family to miss out on fun and festivities.

Monday, May 17th – Regular School Day

Kindergarten Graduation at 7:00pm in the WTCC auditorium

Tuesday, May 18th – Regular home school day – follow teacher lesson plans

Wednesday, May 19th – Party Day with special visit from Ponderosa Zoo at the WTCC campus. Please send in \$3.00 per student to the school office for this in-school event. Any students not paying will not be allowed to attend the event.

Thursday, May 20th – Clean-Up Day: This action packed day is designed to help teach our students that manual labor is a good thing and serving those around us is something our Savior did daily. As an extra incentive this year, each student attending will be given a participation ticket at the end of the day by their teacher. Additional tickets will be handed out by teachers, staff, and Mr. Moe (and perhaps some parents) if they witness a student doing a particularly good job, having a great attitude, or showing a servant's heart. Those tickets (with the student's name written on it) need to be turned into the office before leaving school Thursday. That evening is Awards Night. We will have drawings for special prizes that will include a MP3 player, DVD player, and more. Parents that participate and help with the cleaning duties and student supervision will be put into a special parents drawing as well for a gift certificate from High Tech Salon! All winners must be present to win.

Thursday, May 20th – Awards Night in the WTCC auditorium at 7:00pm

Friday, May 21st – **FUN DAY** at Nicholas Ball Park from 9:00am – 12:00pm

FINAL GRADE REPORTS

Final grade reports will be distributed at the end of the day Thursday, May 20, 2010. They will not be available for pickup any earlier.

FUN DAY

Mark your calendars for Fun Day which will be Friday, May 21, from 9:00am until noon at Nicholas Ball Park. We'll have pizza, drinks, kickball, relay races, and don't forget the water guns! Look for more information in next week's newsletter.

GOT CHANGE?

Don't forget to have your students bring in coins for the **COIN WAR** between classes! The class that brings in the most money will win a class treat and all of the money will be donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides Walk on May 15. All coins must be turned into the teacher by Wednesday, May 12. Please plan to join the River's Edge family for the walk. We would like as many families walking in support of Brooklyn and her family! You can register for the walk at http://www.great_strides/geraldallison6610.com

KARATE/BALLET CLASS

Next week is the last week for both Karate and ballet class. Please make note that neither class is held the last week of school, so please plan to pick-up your student in the carline. Thanks!

RUNNING FOR GOD

On Monday the RFG track team ran their first 5K race this year. That is a full three miles if you don't know! The team has worked hard all season preparing for this event. A very special thank you goes out to Coach Sofie Bell for all of her hard work and dedication! Below is the list of runners from River's Edge along with their placement and time. Please congratulate and encourage these hard working kids!

Name	Overall Placement	Time
Jada Bell	(2 Miles)	25:31
Ivan Bell	(2 Miles)	24:36
Caleb Klingerman	3	24:39
Camden Witt	8	29:09
Nicholas Duncan	10	30:27
Jasmine Bell	12	31:59
Karen Mee	15	33:54
Nolan Watkins	18	35:46
Tyler Bell	20	35:53
Caleb Reynolds	21	41:17
Natalie Duncan	23	43:27
William Duncan	27	52:08

Don't forget to come out and cheer for the RFG team on Saturday, May 8 at 8:30 am at Tom Black Track on the UT campus. This is their last race of the school year.

CURRICULUM CORNER

- There is a minor addition to the second grade curriculum list for the fall. Please add the novel Charlotte's Web by E.B. White to your list if you are purchasing for second grade.
- A Bob Jones representative will be hosting a meeting on Tuesday, May 25 from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the Hampton Inn on Cedar Bluff. All orders placed that day will receive free shipping!
- The next A Beka meeting will be May 6, 2010 at the Hilton Knoxville Airport located at 2001 Alcoa Highway from 11:00am – 3:00pm. All orders placed here will also receive free shipping.

USED CURRICULUM SALES

River's Edge will be holding a used curriculum sale Wednesday, May 19 during regular school hours. This is a great way for our families to purchase curriculum at a fraction of the cost and for other families to get rid of curriculum they no longer need. Please see the flyer in today's purple folder for more details.

The SMHEA Used Curriculum Sale and Home Business Fair will be Saturday, May 22 from 10:00am until 1:00pm at Knoxville Christian School located at 11549 Synder Road, Farragut. You can go to <http://www.smhea.org> for more information.

(OVER)

Cedar Springs Christian Bookstore is also having a used curriculum sale June 15 from 8:00am until 12:00 at their 504 N. Peters Road store. For more information contact Deborah at Cedar Springs. ALSO Cedar Springs has a Homeschooling Discount Card that gets homeschoolers 10% off all regular priced items in the store and 15% off any curriculum items required by River's Edge for school attendance. On top of that, there is **FREE SHIPPING** on items that are sent to the store! The discount card has a \$5.00 fee but is available for free in June and July. That is a great deal!!!

Thursday Connection will be hosting its Used Curriculum Sale 1-3 p.m. Thursday, May 6, in the basement of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 6900 Nubbin Ridge Road, Knoxville. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a table, e-mail becky@devolmillwork.com.

Blount Home Education Association (BHEA) is having its annual Used Curriculum Fair 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 15, at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, 860 Louisville Road, Alcoa (across from the Alcoa Wal-Mart). All information is online at www.BHEA.net.

The Annual TennKidsClub Used Curriculum Sale will be held on Friday, May 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cove Park in Farragut. The curriculum sale takes place rain or shine! The tables under the Gazebo have all been reserved, but there is still plenty of space available on the lawn for those wanting to bring their own table or blanket. There is no cost for setting up on the lawn. Please email your reservations or questions to dlbeth@yahoo.com; include your name, address and phone number to let me know you will be doing so. As per park regulations, you may set up a tarp or tent for shade/rain protection, just so long as it is no larger than 10x10.

There will **NOT** be a "21st Annual Used Curriculum Sale" at Calvary Baptist this year. The ministry team is thankful and honored to have served Knoxville and surrounding area home schoolers for the past 20 years.

YEARBOOK REMINDER

You still have time to order yearbooks. The cost is \$20 for the 1st copy and \$18 for any additional copies. They will be distributed next Thursday.

SUMMER HOURS

The River's Edge school office will be closed the week of May 25 – May 29 for a quick summer break for the office staff. Starting the week of June 1, the office will be open every Wednesday from 9:00 until 1:00 to take care of any needs you may have. You will also be able to reach us via email all summer long.

River's Edge Used Curriculum / Uniform Sale

River's Edge families are invited to bring used curriculum and related educational items to the WTCC gym to sell on the morning of Wednesday, May 19, 2010. River's Edge staff will manage the sale, so you do not need to be present during the sale. Ten percent of sales will be donated to River's Edge. We will also accept River's Edge middle school uniform clothing for this sale (tops and bottoms only – no shoes, socks, belts, etc.)

If you are interested in participating in the sale, please send e-mail to Mary Raney at finance@riversedgeca.com. Curriculum/uniform sale participants, you will need to prepare your items as follows:

- (1) Please place a piece of masking tape (easily removable) on each item and write your last name, the price, and the grade level (if applicable) on the masking tape. (It may help to place a piece of clear tape under the masking tape to prevent tears.) For uniform pieces, please write your last name, the price, the size, and the gender (if applicable).
- (2) Please bring your items for sale on the morning of May 19 between 8:00-9:00 a.m. When you arrive on the morning of the sale, you will be responsible to place your items for sale on the appropriate tables, which will be labeled by grade.
- (3) At the end of the day, please come pick up any of your leftover items that have not sold. Any items not picked up by 1:00 p.m. will be donated to River's Edge.
- (4) Checks will be written at the end of the day and should be available to be picked up between 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. CFC will retain 10% of your curriculum/uniform sales as a donation to the school. Any checks not picked up on the day of the sale will be mailed.

NEW THIS YEAR River's Edge Consignment Sale

Do you have additional items around your home that you'd like to dispose of but just don't want to go through all the trouble of having a yard sale? *New this year!* River's Edge will help you sell your items at the Used Curriculum/Uniform Sale so that you can make a little money, while at the same time helping to raise additional needed funds for the school. River's Edge will provide an opportunity for you to consign your items with 50% of the sales going to the school and 50% of the sales going to you. You price the items yourself. Simply attach a piece of masking tape with your last name and the price (or some other price tag) to each item. Bring the items between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 19. When you arrive on the morning of the sale, you will be responsible to place your items for sale on the appropriate tables, which will be labeled. We'll do the selling and cut you a check at the end of the day. At the end of the day, please come pick up any of your leftover items that have not sold. Any items not picked up by 1:00 p.m. will be donated to River's Edge. Items to consider consigning are children's clothing items (non-uniform eligible), household items, Christian books or music CDs, board games, toys, electronics, etc. If you have any very large items that you would like to sell, please contact Mary Raney at finance@riversedgeca.com or call 659-7367. As a courtesy to the families who are there to purchase, please only submit items which are in good working order, have all pieces, are not broken, stained, torn, or have missing pieces. (For minor issues, you may submit an item which has a notice to the buyer on the price tag.)

Everyone, be sure to come by and shop for great deals!