

April 13, 2010

Thursday News

"...let us run with patience the race that is set before us..." -Heb. 12:1

I remember well the very first wooden spoon I carved. It took hours and hours. I had no idea what I was doing, but I did have a picture in my mind of what the finished product would look like. Turns out I went about it entirely backwards from what I know now to be the proper method of attack. I carved out everything but the concave portion of the bowl itself. It seemed like the hardest part so I saved it for last. Big mistake. As a result, I had to figure out how to anchor this would-be spoon to a flat surface so I could bring some pressure to bear. Because it now had a rounded back, it rocked and rolled all over the place as I attempted to chisel out the interior portion. A subsequent flash of genius said to carve the inside first while the backside was still flat. That was perhaps the first of dozens of improvements in my carving methods that have long since reduced the time to carve a spoon from hours and hours to less than one. And the finished product is better.

How do you learn to do something you have never done before, something demanding skill and expertise? Fearless effort, lots of mistakes, and persistence. That's my recipe. Creativity is not neat, someone said. Yes, it is often quite messy and seldom comes easy. But persistence brings experience, experience begets skill, and skill produces beauty.

This school year is drawing to a close. The books will be folded, the last scores added up, and grade cards duly filed away. Was it a triumphant success? Was the outcome ever in doubt? Or were there some close calls or even outright failures along the way? I can tell you that every family I am even partially familiar with has had some struggles and doubts this year. Some struggled mightily. Others fought through tears or suffered embarrassing episodes of spiritual or mental shortcomings. It is all the result of aiming high, of having goals, and accepting the challenge of achieving mastery. But through the quest comes growth.

You have fought the good fight this year and as a result both you and your children are not the same as they were when school began last fall. There are those out there who purposely avoid setting goals or imposing standards so that failure is impossible. Betsy Hart calls them "unschoolers" who follow after the modish fads where children go wherever they please and learn whatever interests them.* It is not school at all, and the lessons learned are indeed quite dubious. We know the stuff we are made of; selfishness, slothfulness, preferring darkness to light. To allow children to follow their natural instincts is a recipe for all that is unholy.

I am proud of all of you who have chosen the straight gate and the narrow path even though it has meant blood, sweat, and tears poured into a thousand different lessons. You have chosen well even though you have scars, scrapes, and bruises to show for it. Raising children is work; some of the hardest work one will ever do. I count myself fortunate to have fought along with you through this school year. We have all learned and grown. It is what comes naturally with struggle. The picture that comes to mind is not of some gigantic athletic contest where winners exult and losers crumble in dejected slumps. It is rather that of long distance hikers who have labored together over miles and miles of trail. Each knows the weaknesses and failures of the others but in the end, there is a proud brotherhood as each exults in the triumph of the other in reaching the objective in spite of bloodied feet, aching bodies, bone chilling cold, or sweltering heat. They came, they saw, and they conquered. And so they rejoice together.

I rejoice with you in reaching this milestone along the way. We did it. It wasn't perfect, it wasn't easy, but we did it. Now take a good rest before we mount up and go again.

Mercy and Truth,

**Knoxville News Sentinel, 5-11-10*

Mr. Moe

Congratulations!

They have done it again! For the third year in a row, the RFG track team has won the KIDS ONE MILE ROAD RACE by having the largest team competing. Way to go RFG! Below is the list of runners from River's Edge and their placement out of 209 runners to cross the finish line. Take time to congratulate them on their hard work.

23	Caleb Klingerman	7:19
37	Nicholas Duncan	7:42
64	Jasmine Bell	8:12
71	Brittany Norris	8:17
85	Natalie Duncan	8:49
90	Karen Mee	8:57
92	Nolan Watkins	8:59
106	Caleb Reynolds	9:28
114	Tyler Bell	9:49
115	William Duncan	9:51
164	Ivan Bell	12:00

** Camden Witt was unable to run due to injury.

Fun Day Details

Plan to join us for Fun Day on Friday, May 21, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Nicholas Ball Park. We'll have relay races, face painting, water guns, kickball, Mr. Moe's crazy car, and food --of course!

Kickball schedule:

K4&5 vs. 1 st	9:30-9:50
2 nd vs. 3 rd	9:55-10:15
4 th vs. 5 th	10:20-10:40
Middle School	10:45-Lunch

We will have pizza for lunch, and each family attending will need to bring the following food items, according to the 1st letter of your last name:

B: fruit

C-F: finger sandwiches

A, G-K: chips

L-O: 2-liter drinks

P-R: vegetables

S-V: cookies or brownies

W-Z: cheese and crackers or dip

Don't forget to bring your water guns, sunscreen, and lawn chairs. We'll see you there!

ONE MORE WEEK

We are quickly approaching our last week of school for the 2009-2010 school year. Below is the schedule of events for next week, please read it carefully so you don't miss anything.

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

**** Every student needs to bring some form of cleaning supply for Clean Up Day. Please check with your room mom or teacher to see what you need to bring. Thanks!**

Final Paperwork

Just as our students have final things to do before they go running off into the sunset, so do our parents. Please remember to turn in your spring semester attendance form (and fall if you haven't done so). These were sent out at the beginning of this semester but also may be picked one up in the school office. All umbrella families need to turn in grade reports as well. Then, you can join your kids at the pool, beach, backyard, etc. without having to worry about unfinished business. The office staff appreciates your rapid response to this matter.

Teacher Appreciation

Our school is blessed with the best teachers in the world. They have served tirelessly this year to teach our children both academics and the love of the Lord. As they have served, our children have received the many rewards of their love and teachings. Please be sure you thank them next week for all of their hard work and sacrifice.

Purple Folders / SAT Results

What do SAT's and purple folders have to do with each other? EVERYTHING! SAT results are in and will be sent home next Thursday in your final purple folder. Therefore, the office staff needs every folder returned on Monday so we can begin getting them all in order. SAT results and several other important items will be sent home next week. Please be sure you pick yours up from your teacher at the end of the day on Thursday.

Final Grade Reports

Final grade reports will be handed out next Thursday from your child's teacher.

BoxTops for Education

Please continue to collect BoxTops over the summer. We have included collection papers in the purple folders to make this a fun and easy thing to do over the summer.

Office Closing

The River's Edge office will be closed the week of May 25th – May 29th. We will reopen the week of June 1st and plan to be in the office every Wednesday during the summer from 9:00 until 1:00.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are coming home today. If you didn't order one, we have some available in the WTCC school office. The price is \$20 for the first one and \$18 for the second one. Don't forget to get yours!

Great Strides Walk

Don't forget to join River's Edge families as we walk to support the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and our great friend Brooklyn Allison this Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 9:00am at Ashe Park. Come and be a part of Brooklyn's Pals!

THANK YOU!

The office staff would like to thank all of the many rotation workers that served so much this year. Your willingness to help out has made the office transitions much easier for all of us. A special thank you to Wanda Martinson for organizing the calendar for all of us. We appreciate all of your hard work.

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 an 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 and 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 for pickup 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.)

OTHER AREA USED CURRICULUM SALES

The SMHEA Used Curriculum Sale and Home Business Fair will be Saturday, May 22nd 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.

Cedar Springs Christian Bookstore is also having a used curriculum sale June 15th 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!!!

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 14th 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.