

# SCHOOL NEWS

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College Park UMC Primary School & CDC  
Mary Massey, M.S., Principal



## MASSEY'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! How very blessed we are!! Have you ever really thought about that . . . all the many blessings that are ours to enjoy every, single day? Do you know that old hymn "Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done"? I'm counting my blessings this first week of 2008. I am continually reminded of God's love and overwhelming presence in my life . . . how could I NOT thank Him?? How could I NOT worship Him as my Creator? You know, the best New Year's Resolution any of us can make is to prioritize God in our lives and in the lives of our children. That's the greatest lesson a parent can teach a child. That lesson will serve them well in this earthly existence; but, the true gift in that lesson is that of eternal life, which comes from our relationship with Christ . . . a relationship children first learn about from their parents . . . by what their parents model for them. How about you? Have you prioritized God in your life? What lesson are you teaching your children about their Creator God, by what you model for them? The first step is to gather together with fellow believers, singing together, praying together, and studying God's Word together. We are all pilgrims on this journey together. If you don't already belong to a church family, please join us at CPUMC at 10 a.m. on Sunday. You will be giving your children a gift beyond compare, simply by stopping in to say, "Thank You, Lord, for the many blessings you continue to shower on me and my family. I have come to give You thanks and to praise Your name."

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## PARENTING TIPS

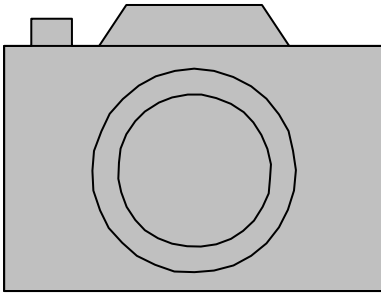
### *Raising Accountable Children*

Too often we witness those who play "the victim" and refuse to be accountable for their own actions. It is much easier to blame their circumstances, their family, the weather, their tough luck; somehow expecting their misbehavior or complete disregard for authority, to be excused; somehow expecting to be "the exception" to the rule. Children learn about right from wrong from their earliest experiences. How can we, as parents, raise our children to understand the concept of accepting responsibility for their actions?

- Be sure your child understands your expectations BEFORE putting him/her in a position of having to rise to them (i.e. "When we go to Publix, I expect you to sit in the shopping cart."). Clearly outline acceptable behavior and explain thoroughly and emphatically the possible consequence for unacceptable behavior ("If you fuss about sitting in the cart, you will lose the privilege of going to the park when we get home.").
- When a child misbehaves, be sure he/she experiences a consequence for his/her actions. This may seem like a simple concept; however, many times we feel badly for our children and think that allowing an exception "just this one time" is alright. Maybe it's a special family vacation, or the child has a friend over, or we're at Grandma's house and we think "just this one time" . . . that's the beginning of disaster. Making an exception creates a gray area for your child. He/She doesn't know when the "rule" applies and when it doesn't. Be consistent.
- Discipline without emotion. If you raise your voice or allow yourself to become agitated, your child feels as though he/she is in control and has caused you to react. That's empowering, even fun, for a child. Instead, remain calm and confident.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ TOM MARSHALL CANDID PHOTOS
- ◆ REFOCUS RETREAT



## TOM MARSHALL BLACK AND WHITE CANDIDS

Mark your calendars for January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> when Tom Marshall will be here to take black and white candid shots of all students. If you haven't seen an example of these adorable photos, stop in Mrs. Massey's office to see a 14 x 16 shot of her daughter, Alex, when she was 4 years old (she is now one week shy of 21 years old). You will cherish

these photos for years to come. Many of our parents have one from each year, lining their walls with beautiful memories of their little ones. Mark those calendars!

We're on the Web!  
[www.cpumc.org](http://www.cpumc.org)

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## REFOCUS RETREAT

On January 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> CPUMC is hosting a retreat, geared toward helping us look at life in a new way, refocusing, so to speak. This event has the potential of making your life less hectic and more meaningful, simply by looking at what brought us to where we are now and what that means for where we are headed. More information will go home the week of January 7<sup>th</sup>. Join us for this life-changing event!!



*“Train up a child  
 in the way he  
 should go and  
 when he is old, he  
 will not depart  
 from it.”*

*Proverbs 22:6 (KJ)*

## PARENT INCENTIVE

Parents continue to be the best advertisement for our school. We appreciate your trust in us and the educational programs we have to offer your child. You have been very kind to share with us your delight (and pride) when your child comes home, sharing something he/she has learned. Mrs. Baloun's class delighted parents with their knowledge and understanding of “onomatopoeia” at 4 years of age!!

As we continue to work to build enrollment, we would like to offer parents of currently enrolled students an incentive for continuing to speak to their friends, neighbors, and family members about our school, encouraging them to join our CDC & PS families. More specific information on this incentive program will be going home with our students in the next week. Watch for it!

## TEACHING TIPS

### *Ear Training*

By playing music, simple melodic pieces, and encouraging your child to sing along, you can provide ear training that will aid in your child's ability to follow spoken directions. Any stimulation of audio skills will prove beneficial to your child's ability to listen. Many children's recordings are available. Be sure, when searching for appropriate pieces, you choose CDs with children singing. It is difficult for children to match pitch to an adult singing, especially if songs are pitched lower than the child is physiologically able to sing. Hearing, processing, and then reproducing sound is easier for children as they match “apples to apples” or, in this case, other children's voices to their voice. Taking piano lessons at an early age (as soon as a child can read letters and count to ten) is another way to provide ear training for your little one. Listening is a skill that can be developed through fun and exciting activities, in a very natural setting. Enjoy some great music with your child today!