

SCHOOL NEWS

March 2008
Volume 1, Issue 5

College Park UMC Primary School & CDC
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MASSEY'S MESSAGE

I am a little late in getting our monthly newsletter out this time. As most of you know, my dear friend, and one of our Primary School parents, Kathy Frohnappel, was called home to Glory on March 1st, after a long battle with breast cancer. While sitting at her bedside, one of the things she mentioned to me was that she had enjoyed reading the monthly newsletter. She said it helped her feel connected to the CDC parents, since her son had moved on to the Primary School. That was just like Kathy . . . wanting to stay connected with the people God had placed in her life. And so, I am determined to get the March issue out this week. Kathy's Celebration of Life was held last Tuesday evening and was a testament to the many lives she touched in her 44 years on this earth. Kathy was, also, a member of CPUMC and sang in the choir and on our Praise Team every Sunday in Worship, even through her chemo treatments. Her deep and abiding faith carried her (and her friends and family) through her journey and served as a comfort and assurance of Life Everlasting. Even in the last days of her life, Kathy spoke eloquently about that assurance, knowing she would be fine, but concerned for all those she would leave behind. That, too, is just like Kathy . . . always thinking of others. Kathy was co-founder of the Primary School PTO and served as Treasurer for two years. She has been an integral part of our church and school and she will be missed dearly. She has left an incredible legacy, as well as precious heartprints within each of us. My tears still flow freely at the mere mention of her name; but, those tears are for me, not for her. She is enjoying a new healthy and whole body, as promised in the scriptures, and we are all better people simply because we had the privilege of knowing and loving her. Go rest high on that mountain, Kathy. Until we meet again . . .

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PARENTING TIPS

Talking to Your Children About Death

Children respond best to simplistic honesty. They will take their cue from you. If you are calm and reassuring, they will feel calm and reassured.

- **Prior Knowledge** - In order to relate to what you are saying, children need to make a connection with something they already know and understand. A good example would be a caterpillar spinning a cocoon and turning into a butterfly. The cocoon (the body) is returned to the earth and the butterfly (a new heavenly body) emerges for a new life (everlasting).
- **Life Cycle** - Explain to your child that everything dies; that's the way the world was created. Point out the green leaves in the Spring, the beautiful colored leaves in the Fall, and the brown, fallen leaves of Winter to give your child a visual of death in their natural environment.
- **Routine** - Children function best in a routine. It makes them feel safe to be able to "predict" their schedule and their surroundings. If their routine is interrupted by a death, it is important to return them to their routine in a timely fashion in order to help them feel safe and secure. It also helps them understand that death is a natural part of life and, by the grace of God, we continue to put one foot in front of the other, despite our grief.
- **Feelings** - It is important for children to be assured that feeling sad is acceptable and that it is okay to cry. Make yourself available for your children to talk to and allow their questions to guide you in how much or how little information you choose to give them.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Maundy Thursday
- ◆ Good Friday
- ◆ Easter

We're on the Web!
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*"Each person should
 judge his own
 actions and not
 compare himself
 with others. Then
 he can be proud for
 what he himself has
 done. Each person
 must be responsible
 for himself."
 Galatians 6:4-6*

TEACHING TIPS

Teaching with Children's Trade Books

There are many wonderful Children's Trade Books that can help parents approach various subjects with their children, in a developmentally-appropriate manner. A few of these are:

- Gram's Song, by Karyn Henley (the death of a loved one)
- What is Heaven Like?, by Beverly Lewis (answering questions about Heaven)
- I Knew You Could, by Craig Dorfman (a book of encouragement)
- Testify to Love, by Stephen Elkins (Creation and God's love)
- A Chocolate Moose for Dinner, by Fred Gwynne (a child's perspective on literal speech)
- The Giving Tree, by Shel Silverstein (the gift of giving)
- The Crippled Lamb, by Max Lucado (God has a special place for everyone.)
- Who Moved My Cheese? for Kids, by Spencer Johnson, M.D. (a way to change and win)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

CPUMC will host a Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. on March 20th, remembering the Last Supper and Jesus' special time with his followers. On March 21st, also at 7 p.m., we will host a Good Friday service, reflecting on Christ's death on the cross, and on Sunday, March 23rd, at 10 a.m., we will celebrate EASTER with a choir cantata, "My Utmost For His Highest", which will feature guest soloists and our Primary School students, PreK - 5th grade. It will focus on our calling as Christians and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

This entire week is a wonderful time to grow deeper in our faith, honoring the inconceivable sacrifice of Jesus and His miraculous triumph over the tomb. I hope to see many of our Primary School and CDC families at these services. Developmentally-appropriate activities will be provided for all children in order to give them an opportunity to learn about these Biblical truths in a way that is appropriate for their ages and stages in life. What a wonderful opportunity to model our faith for our children!

PARENT INCENTIVE

This is a reminder of our new incentive for our parents. We would like to offer parents of currently enrolled students an incentive for speaking to friends, neighbors, and family members about our school, encouraging them to join our Primary School and CDC families.

We will distribute cards to those who are interested in this incentive program (located at the front desk). As you, then, distribute these cards to your friends, you will sign the card. If your friend comes in, presents the card, enrolls a child in the school, and stays for at least 90 days, we will credit YOUR

account with \$500. With the condition of our economy right now, we know this \$500 credit will be a big help to our parents.

We are hoping this incentive will encourage parents to discuss the school and their own child's positive experiences at the school, with those they associate with on a daily basis and the result will be an increase in enrollment in the classrooms that are not full. The incentive program begins immediately. Please see Amy or Will if you have any questions.

The Frohnappel and Hubbard Families would like to express our gratitude for the many cards, letters, gift cards and other expressions of sympathy from Kathy's friends and school family. We are blessed to have you in our lives.