



October 31, 2008

Reaching for the Stars!

What's Up at Calvary?

Honoring Our Veterans

On November 11, 2008, at 8am, the CES/CECP family will once again gather to



celebrate Veterans' Day with a special chapel honoring our veterans. The 8th grade history class continues to sponsor a poster project to provide commemoration and a moving illustration of the veterans who have touched the lives of CES families. We invite you to submit a poster for display. Students may make the posters on their own, or together with their families as a special project. Students in all grades, Pre-K through high school, are encouraged to submit posters. Please turn posters in to the office, or directly to Mrs. Mann in Room 225, by Monday, November 10, or sooner, if possible. Listed below are some basic suggestions for posters:

1. Poster size should not exceed 22" x 28" (posters of course may be smaller)
2. Please *do not* attach precious original photos – have photos scanned/copies printed, as we cannot guarantee they won't be damaged somehow
3. Posters should be regular cardboard poster stock, not foam board; foam board is difficult for us to hang without marring walls
4. Please try to include the following information about the veteran(s) on your poster:

- Full name

- Branch of service
- Rank/military job
- Length of service
- Theater of combat (if any)
- Awards and honors received
- Relationship to CES student and/or staff

5. Don't forget to put the student's name and homeroom teacher on the poster, so that it can be returned. Please invite your veteran parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, neighbors and friends to join us in a special salute to them.

Dining with the Headmaster

You won't want to miss out on our annual "Dining with the Headmaster" event on **November 6th OR November 7th** at 6:30pm in the gym.



This is your opportunity to hear about the "state of our school," listen to results from the 2008 Spring Parent Survey and receive more information about Edline, our newest online grading tool which provides parent access to student's grades on a regular basis. **All parents who attend will receive their "access" codes and use of Edline before the official launch.**

We know it will be a great evening of fellowship, fun and food that you won't want to miss. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP Brooke Valet, bvalet@ces-richmond.org.

Honor Roll Chapel

The first quarter Honor Roll Chapel will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 8am. This is a special chapel honoring those students who have met the criteria (as outlined in our handbook) to be on one of our honor rolls. **Dress Uniforms** are required for this chapel.

Calvary Golfers Tee-Off!

Over 80 golfers gathered Monday for the third annual Calvary "Tee Off for



Tournament winners Mr. Jarrett, Mr. Putz, Mr. Lamont and Mr. Turner pose with trophies.

Technology" Golf Tournament. A windy but fun day was had by all out on the course at the Pecan Grove Country

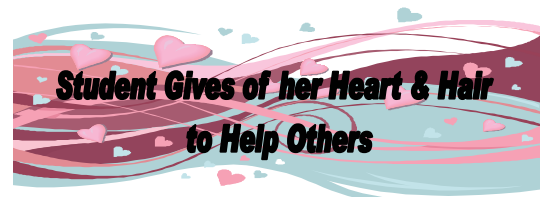
Club. We truly appreciate all of our sponsors and teams for braving the breeze and having a super day. A special thanks goes to **Jason Kniss**, school board member, whose tireless efforts, enthusiasm and hard work paid off with a highly successful event. Thanks to **Ms. Jaster**, **Ms. Frias** and **Ms. Seeley** for coordinating the registration, goodie bags and all of the fun and festivities on Monday. The funds from this golf tournament will go towards a technology grant program for our teachers.

Join "Mom's In Touch"

Mom's in Touch meets weekly on Thursday's from 8:00am - 9:00am in the Church Library located next to the church offices. All mom's/grandmothers are invited and encouraged to attend this powerful prayer time. No experience is necessary. Prayer requests may be sent to **Jean Hurdle** at crybaby55@comcast.net or to **Leigh Ann Cloutier** at leighcloutier@comcast.net.

All prayer requests are kept in strict confidence. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and

petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". [Philippians 4:6](#)



Alison (Ali) Evans, a second grade student in **Mrs. Palmer's** homeroom, followed through on a commitment she made last year to give her hair to "Locks of Love," an organization that creates wigs and hair pieces for individuals fighting cancer and have lost their hair during treatments. So, this past summer Ali made a trip to "Snip-Its," a hair salon in Sugar Land. Ali's hair was very long, about 15 inches. Upon arriving at "Snip-Its," one of the hair stylists fixed her hair into a braid of about 10 inches. With one snip, Ali went from having long hair to short hair. The stylist took the braid, placed it in a special bag and mailed it to "Locks of Love." Though Ali says it took her awhile to get used to her short hair, she was happy and proud to have done something to help people battling cancer. In fact, she says she is growing her hair this year so that she can give again next summer!

CES Awarded Houston Endowment Grants

We are excited to announce that Calvary has just received three grants totaling **\$10,000** from the Houston Endowment partnership with University of St. Thomas. These funds will go towards new science lab kits for Middle School, "6 Traits of Writing" classroom kits for kinder through 8th grade along with another license for "My Reading Coach." During this application process, we have also been approved for a consultant from the University of St. Thomas to meet with us on a monthly basis to do everything from classroom

observations, staff development to assisting with curriculum alignment. We are honored to have **Dr. Randall Soffer** as our consultant throughout the 2008-2009 school year.

Calling All Volunteers!!!!



Ms. Duckworth is putting together her fabulous kindergarten through third grade annual Christmas program and needs **YOUR** help. To pull off a smooth and professional

production, it takes quite a few helping hands. If you are interested in helping decorate the sets, coordinate costumes or just lend a hand, please contact Ms. Duckworth at fduckworth@ces-richmond.org. No experience required!

Revisions to Attendance and Tardy Policy Now in Effect

As you have probably already noted, there were several revisions and improvements made to the CES/CECP Parent/Student Handbook. Teachers and administrators met several times over the summer to discuss changes that might be needed, and near the top of everyone's list was the issue of attendance and tardies. Tardies and irregular attendance create hardships for the students and for faculty. Tardies in particular make it difficult for a student to get the day started right and cause administrative problems in the classroom. Teachers have noted a correlation between tardies and school achievement, as well. For these reasons, the tardy policy was revised. The new tardy policy, as noted in the current handbook, states that:

Students arriving after 8 a.m. are tardy and must sign in at the school office. These students will be counted tardy.... Three tardies to school are allowed per semester. Any tardies in excess of this number, regardless of the reason, will be reported and result in administrative action.

With this new policy, any tardies after the third during a semester, regardless of reason, (a doctor's note being the exception) will be unexcused, regardless of parents' walking in students and signing them in/giving a reason for the tardy. The three allowed tardies provide a cushion for unusual circumstances that arise only rarely and result in a tardy. Administrative consequences for **exceeding** the allowed 3 tardies per semester will vary as follows by grade level:

Elementary students with an unexcused tardy will conference with the Dean of Instruction and create a plan to change to "on time" behaviors. If unsuccessful, continued tardies will result in loss of student privileges and be reflected in the grade level's behavior system which impacts the student's overall conduct grade for the reporting period. A parent and student conference with the Dean of Instruction will be held to revise or re-create a plan to ensure student success.

Middle school students will receive a demerit for each unexcused tardy, and these demerits will be treated like all other demerits with regard to the progressive consequences in the Honor Level System.

High school students with an unexcused tardy will receive a phone call home and will **not** earn their behavior merit for the week. The lack of merits received each week will result in loss of student privileges and be reflected in the grade level's behavior system. CECP wants to emphasize the importance of attendance and the need to be a part of chapel every day. If the behavior does not change and tardies are still being obtained, the parents will need to come in and conference with the CECP Program Coordinator to ensure the success of the student.

Parents, we appreciate your cooperation in helping us make the most of every minute of the school day by getting your students to school on time. It gets their day, and ours, off to the best possible start, and tells them that you think school is important!

Lower School News

Native American Unit, 4th and Art

Fourth grade has kicked off their Native American unit by really getting into their studies. Wednesday, we were fortunate to have Master Naturalists **Ms. Cheryl Sedivec, Ms. Pam Tatge** and **Ms. Nancy Schaaf** share with us what lies beneath the calm pond, stream and river waters of Texas. Fourth graders explored



the waters and found everything from shrimp, snails, mosquito larva and even a fish!

Ms. Dennison, Mr. Krogel and **Ms. Thompson** followed up on Thursday with a fabulous afternoon filled with a series of hands on activities which allowed the students to learn first hand about Caddo Indian customs, ways of life and culture. They did everything from construct a Caddo Hut, mold effigy pots, create gorgets, make their own flute, sand art and much, much more. This cross-curricular effort has been so successful that **Ms. Dennison** has presented this program at the most recent SAES conference. Special thanks to **Ms. Laumen, Ms. Severence, Ms. Gaas, Ms. Deimert** and **Ms. Urbish** for their help in working with the fourth graders on all of these special projects!



Dinosaurs Rock

On Thursday, students in **Ms. Palmer's** and **Ms. Hamon's** classes had their learning enhanced through a presentation from Walt Whittington with Dinosaurs Rock. Students learned the difference

between a cast and a fossil as well as how museums put dinosaurs together. They handled ancient treasures which included fossils, minerals, rocks, and bones. The meteorite and a fossilized nest of dinosaur eggs were especially a big hit! Our students became paleontologists as they dug through sand for sharks' teeth, gems, fossils and shells, and as a special treat, each student was able to keep 3 specimens from their adventure. It appeared that both children and adults had a fascinating experience and thankful for the opportunity to see and touch pieces of Jurassic history.



Middle School News

Middle School Homework: Making it Work

Parents—now that our school year is well underway, the middle school teachers would like to remind everyone of our homework policies and help available for homework struggles. On average, a middle school student should be spending one to two hours a day on homework, depending on work pace, interruptions, etc. Independent AR reading is not counted in this time, since it is based on the principle of learning to read self-selected books for enjoyment. If you find that your middle schooler is consistently spending more than two hours a night on homework, please take the following steps:

1. Take a few days to write down how much time is being spent on each subject;
2. E-mail or phone the teacher or teachers whose subjects your students spend the most time on; or, contact Mrs. Mann to set up a conference with the entire middle school team.

Some of the factors that can influence homework struggles include:

- amount of time students utilize in class to work on assignments
- degree of perfectionism in students' work (some spend too long on an assignment that doesn't need to be perfect, and that will be gone over completely in class)
- time that homework is begun (the later in the evening, the more tired a student will be, and the longer everything will take)
- distractions during the homework process (while some students really need the background noise of an ipod or television, most cannot afford to be watching television, listening to their ipod, instant messaging on the computer, texting on their phone, AND attempting homework, all at the same time). You may laugh, but it happens!
- procrastinating on long-term projects (students should plot out daily amounts of time for big projects; otherwise, a night of panic may result eventually!)

So parents, please remember, we really do want to hear from you if homework is becoming unmanageable for your child. Most of your child's teachers are also parents, and we understand about homework; also, we can provide insight into what is going on in class. Together, we can make the whole process run smoothly and productively for our students.

WFW News

The 8th graders would like to thank all of you who came out to enjoy Movie Night with us! We had a great time and we hope you did, too. For those of you who did not get to join us this time, no fear! We will be having another one in February. We would like to especially thank our parents who came out to support us during this great event. We have more great things coming up for you all.

Poinsettia sales will begin soon so be checking your folders for order forms and information. And don't worry about making dinner before the Christmas Concert on December 5th. We will be taking reservations soon for a Lasagna Dinner to be served before the show in the Parish Hall. There will be Chick-Fil-A for the kids! Thanks for your support--we are forever grateful!

College Prep News

CECP 2nd Annual Fall Festival

Calvary Episcopal College Prep is very excited to announce our annual CECP Fall Festival! Our Festival is built for fun and excitement, and the food is wonderful. It will be launched on November 15th, from 1 to 4 p.m. just outside our building. We will have a Fine Arts Showcase, with our talented students in choir, band, dance, and theatre as the performers! We also will have a moonwalk (for the little children), games, and much more! Tons of people will be there from all over the county! Tickets are priced as follows: \$6 for hamburgers and \$3 for hot dogs during the pre-sale. The hamburger meal is \$8 and the hotdog meal is \$5 at the door. You may purchase your tickets in the CECP building or front office starting the week of November 3rd. Make sure you don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to have fun and eat great!

CECP Student Council conducted a safety survey in carpool on Thursday, October 30th. The intent of the project was to determine how “safe” our families are when driving. The students passed out candy to signify whether the families were wearing their seat belts. We are pleased to announce that 82% of vehicles in both lower and middle school carpools were “buckled up” for safety. CECP Student Council wants our families to be safe on the road, so keep those belts buckled!



Calvary Episcopal College Prep hired a private consultant to come in and conduct a career assessment and interest ability test on October 22nd. The assessment took over three hours and all students and teachers participated. Items on the test did not include anything you would normally see on a standardized or criterion-based test, but emulated that of a psychology test. The process was both enlightening and intriguing. There is an individual follow-up conference that occurs with all students and their parents to discuss the results of the test and the implications it holds. CECP will then use this data to better match universities with students in conjunction with the Career and College Counselor. Calvary is looking to offer this opportunity for all students’ grades 2-8 in the near future.

Did You Know...



...the **Holladay family** was inadvertently left out of the last issue, identifying faculty who was at Calvary during the last accreditation visit, ten years ago. **The Holladays** note...”After **The Stell family**, the **Holladay family** is the oldest family here at Calvary, with children attending CES since 1994 continuously.

COMING UP AT CALVARY

(Our Official School Calendar can be found on our website at www.ces-richmond.org)

Monday, Nov. 3-1st Grade Field Trip - Dewberry Farms

Tuesday, Nov. 4-Election Day Activities

Wednesday, Nov. 5-8am, Honor Roll Chapel; LOGOS

Thursday, Nov. 6-6:30pm, Dining with the Headmaster, gym

Friday, Nov. 7-6:30pm, Dining with the Headmaster, gym; Choir Rock-A-Thon

Monday, Nov. 10- Flu Shots, 9am-noon, Parish Hall Conference Room; WFW Poinsettia Sale begins

Tuesday, Nov. 11-Veterans’ Day Chapel; 6:30pm, CECP Open House for 8th grade students

Wednesday, Nov. 12-LOGOS