



Friday News

OCTOBER 24TH, 2008



Raising Responsible voters by: Jenny Runkel

Car-pooling is an underrated parenting tool. True, you have to be willing to trade your clean car and peaceful commute for chaotic chatter and OKR (other kids' residue), but I have found that it is well worth the sacrifice. Why is that? Because carpooling has taught me more about my children than any other school related activity. Carpooling is the legal equivalent to truth serum. From the bowels of the back seat, children reveal incredible things. If you just listen long enough without interrupting or prompting them, you'll find out more than you ever thought possible about their friends, their teachers, and their views of the world.

The other day after school, I picked up my kids and two of their friends, Dana and Delaney. After the usual shuffling and maneuvering of 80 lb. bookbags and cumbersome musical instruments, we got situated and buckled in.

At first, the conversation from the back was like any other. Talk of crushes from the older ones and disgusted protests from the younger set. I had the radio on and a local dj was commenting on the primary results here in Georgia that took place earlier this year. He mentioned that Barack Obama had won the Democratic primary and began taking calls concerning all the presidential candidates.

As soon as the dj finished his commentary, my 8-year-old son piped up, "Yes! He won! I love 'the rock Obama'. He's just so cool." I was simultaneously surprised by Brandon's enthusiasm for the candidate and amused by his mis-hearing of Obama's name. I was about to correct him when my



daughter beat me to the punch – but for a reason far different than mine. With a horrified gasp and raised eyebrows, our 5th grader Hannah lunged toward her brother. And with all the urgency and seriousness she could muster, she whispered through clenched teeth, "Brandon!!!He's a Democrat!" "So?" came his reply. "So?!?! Democrats just wanna take our money and send it to people in other countries!" replied my obstinate offspring. I wanted more than anything to jump in and correct her horrible misconception (and his Freudian slip), but I just bit my lip and continued to listen with the utmost curiosity, wondering what his retort would be.

"So, do Democrats believe in unicorns?" "Umm ... I don't think so, sweetheart." "Well then, I'm a Republican, 'cause that's what matters to me." I relayed these events to my husband Hal and after a good laugh, we thought some about how most parents tend to steer clear of political discussions with their kids. Because of that, children are on their own to splice together the bits and pieces

they get from the airwaves and in the hallways. We decided to be a little more proactive ourselves and we came up with three principles of politics to live by at our house. They are:

- 1. Model What You Don't See Enough.** Our kids will catch most everything we say, so let's try to model political conversations the way we wish politicians would do it — calmly centered on the issues at hand. Besides, there's nothing like a little conversation with a child to sharpen your own intellect. They will want to know why you feel a certain way, so be ready to tell them.
- 2. Let Our Kids Disagree with Us.** Encourage them to do so. Not only will such discourse grow their thinking skills, it will drastically increase their respect for you.
- 3. Fight for the Right to Fight.** Whether we disagree (with our spouses, friends, or kids) is not the issue — whether we can freely disagree without violence or hatred or dirt is the issue. Think of the change for this world if our kids grow up practicing ScreamFree politics. Like I said, I learned a lot that day. I learned that kids hear and pick up on more than you think. I learned that they need guidance in sorting out all of the stuff that they think they understand. I learned that apparently, my skills in unraveling complicated political intricacies need some work. And I learned that by matter of default, if nothing else, Republicans have a staunch supporter in the 2nd grade who is really hoping for a win this November, for the sake of all the unicorns out there.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Thursday October 30th-Primary Pajama Party**
- **Sunday November 2nd- Daylight Savings (Fall Back)**
- **Tuesday November 4th-Elceton Day- don't forget to vote**
- **Thursday November 6th-Holiday Picture day**
- **Tuesday November 11th-Veteran's Day Assembly In Great hall**
- **Thursday November 27th & Friday November 28th- NO School.**



Thanksgiving



CDS Teacher Attends Seminar for Outdoor Project

Mrs. Kellie Whitt, our first grade teacher here at The Country Day School attended The Alabama Wildlife Confederation Alabama Outdoor Classroom program in Millbrook, Alabama on Thursday and Friday. The seminar is designed to give educators like Mrs. Whitt ideas



sustainable outdoor classroom

and resources to bring back and share with everyone to help us create a

site to be used as an effective educational tool for hands-on, outdoor learning opportunities. This is one of the many projects that will tie in with our Outdoor Project. We are hoping to receive a grant from the Alabama Wildlife Federation that will give us even more resources and tools.

Huntsville biologists taking Donations For Haiti

Two Huntsville Biologists, Brian Pollock and Troy Moore who just got back from a trip to Haiti are holding a food rive this weekend. But both men say they will never forget

"It's more the magnitude. It's very easy to see impoverished areas. It's far different seeing four million people living in Port au Prince in the conditions they are," he said.

Destructive conditions and many lives lost.

"It's a desperate situation there. Period," said Troy Moore.

It's a desperate situation that means there is a dire need for food. The people there still battle widespread flooding after four hurricanes hit earlier this season. "...buses floating still, people paddling across. It's not like the damage has been repaired," said Moore.

"The hurricanes just really made a very, very bad situation much, much worse," said Pollock. That's why Pollock and Moore want your help with a Haiti food drive. Moore recalls the orphans in need: "sleeping 20 or 30 a

room. They're getting fed maybe

A 50 pound bag of rice will help feed a family of 5 for more than 2 weeks. If you would like to help, donations of rice, dried milk and vitamins are being collected everyday from 10AM- 4PM at the Hudson Alpha Institute, located on 127 Holmes Avenue in Huntsville, AL, through Monday October 27th.



Brian Pollock and Troy Moore in Haiti

Do you have an unused VCR just sitting around collecting dust? CDS needs several as we still have lots of tapes in our library, but we are down to one operable VCR player. Donations appreciated-see Mrs. Malcolm in the library.

Reminder: ZoomIn Photography will be at the School On Thursday November 6th for Holiday Photos.



Athens State Students Observe at CDS

You may have seen some unfamiliar faces here at CDS throughout the week. We had some students visiting from Athens State. The students observed in Preschool on Tuesday and Thursday to better understand the practice of Reggio and The Projects Approach. It is honor for us to have the students come to our school every year and learn our ways of teaching.

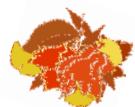
Spring Trip to Dauphin Island

The Voyagers and Navigators finally got a spot to attend the Sea Lab Marine Biology Camp in dauphin Island in April for their spring trip, after being on a wating list for several years. More information will be available as we get it.

Botanica



If your looking for something fun to do with the family this weekend, the Botanical Gardens is having their annual Botanical Festival. There will be a cauldron grab, jack-o-lantern jump, ghouls golf, witch's hat ring toss, and much, much more! There will also be a costume contest at 10 a.m. in the Boeing-Toyota Amphitheatre. After the games are over be sure to take a hayride or walk the Scarecrow Trail and Enchanted Forest. The event will take lace Saturday October 25th from 10AM-1PM. For more information call (256) 430-3572



Just for fun... ..

The Children's Pledge of Allegiance..

I pledge-ul-ee-junce to the flag of the new nighted steaks of America and to the real public 4 witches stand??? One nation under God invisible with lemon trees and jello for all!!

Save the date: October 26th... It's Jack O Lantern Day

The Jack-o-lantern custom comes from Irish folklore. The story tells of a man named Jack who carried an ember in a hollowed out turnip to light his way. So, early Jack-o-lanterns were all made out of turnips. When the Irish came to America, they found that pumpkins were far more plentiful than turnips - and easier to carve.





Aviator Friday news October 24, 2008



We had a wonderful time at Constitution Village. The children participated in a lot of hands-on activities to see what it would have been like preparing for fall during the colonial times. They got to carry a yoke and bucket, milked a "cow" for cheese and butter making. They ground corn, dipped candles and made scarecrows. Thank you to all the parents who came and helped out!



Spelling words A: free, drop, truck, drive, train, from, grass, brag, grade, bring * November

Vocabulary B: president, election, ballot, vote, elect, republican, democrat, citizen, poll, candidate * November

Current Even Report Due Monday, 11/03. Article must be on a topic that has to do with elections, presidency, vice-presidency, issues, etc.

This week in the art studio the students finished up work on their pointillism paintings. Each student had a beautiful seascape painting to finalize. The second and third graders continued to work on their billboard designs for the upcoming Panoply contest. Students created multiple billboards in hopes of being one of the winners

In Library class the Aviators are nearly finished with The End of the Beginning by Avi. They have enjoyed the journey of the snail and ant along a branch. Thank you for all your support in the Bookfair!

This week in French, we reviewed our numbers 1-29 and talked some more about telling time. Please ask your child to practice counting to 29 in French. They're all working so hard and are doing very well!