FRIDAY ADDITION DELIVERS EDUCATION

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

November Edition 2011

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS...

Ephesians 4:12

"...to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up..."

In this issue...

Open House November 29 page 1
Teachers / Board / Reminders page 2
HS Poll - Thankfulness... page 3
Kindergarten page 4
1st / 2nd Grade / EL Spanish page 5
PE / Music page 6
Drama / Art page 7
MS Science / MS Art page 8
MS Spanish / Taking a Language page 9
MS Writing page 10
FLEX - Postcards... page 11
Chemistry / Govt & Econ page 12
Biology / English GWL page 13
Self Defense / Speech & Debate page 14
Spanish 1 / Personal Finance page 15
Make a Difference / Incredibles page 16

November 29, 2011

Save the evening of Tuesday, November 29! All students and their families are invited to join us for an Open House in the gym of the church from 7-8pm. Come and talk with teachers, see the work of the students, and fellowship with other families! There will be activities for the elementary age children to participate in and refreshments to enjoy! Hope to see everyone there!

Friday Addition is a Christian homeschooling group of families, students, and teachers who meet weekly during the school year to enhance, experience, and enjoy learning. FA is thankful to meet in a beautiful facility, First Baptist Church in Zeeland, MI. Classes range from kindergarten to high school, including a variety of classes. We start the day with worship, and the tones linger throughout our day... For more information contact any board member, or visit our website @ www.fridayaddition.com.
**FRIDAY ADDITION STAFF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Barbara Boersen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:forward2us@yahoo.com">forward2us@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st/2nd AM</td>
<td>Patty Buehler</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pattyb1@centurytel.net">pattyb1@centurytel.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Joanna Yu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maiyasmom1972@yahoo.com">maiyasmom1972@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art/Drama</td>
<td>Kathleen Veenstra</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kathleen.veenstra@sbcglobal.net">kathleen.veenstra@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLEX/MS Science</td>
<td>Barb VanderPloeg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dbvanderploeg@netscape.net">dbvanderploeg@netscape.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.E.</td>
<td>Carrie Zeilsta</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zeilsta_ca@yahoo.com">zeilsta_ca@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Joanna Yu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maiyasmom1972@yahoo.com">maiyasmom1972@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art/Drama</td>
<td>Kathleen Veenstra</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kathleen.veenstra@sbcglobal.net">kathleen.veenstra@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self Defense</td>
<td>Bill Church</td>
<td><a href="mailto:masterbillchurch@crusademartialarts.net">masterbillchurch@crusademartialarts.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Finance</td>
<td>Sarah Ash</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarahash2003@live.com">sarahash2003@live.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech &amp; Debate</td>
<td>Linda Dykstra</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindadykstra7979@gmail.com">lindadykstra7979@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Shannon Tyler</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rstyler@fridayaddition.com">rstyler@fridayaddition.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Lynda Leuschner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edwardleuschner@sbcglobal.net">edwardleuschner@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle and High School Writing</td>
<td>Linda Schaap</td>
<td><a href="mailto:linda@theparagon.org">linda@theparagon.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FRIDAY ADDITION BOARD**

- **Brian & Kim Luurtsema**
  bkluurtsema@fridayaddition.com
  TEACHER COORDINATOR/SUPPORT
  SET-UP/TAKE DOWN CREW

- **Dan & CJ Pletcher**
  dcpletcher@fridayaddition.com
  CHURCH LIASON
  HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR

- **Brandon & Ruth Kaercher**
  brkaercher@fridayaddition.com
  FINANCES
  REGISTRATION

- **Ryan & Shannon Tyler**
  rstyler@fridayaddition.com
  WEBSITE/ADVERTISING
  HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

**[616-298-1843] FA ON FRIDAYS**

*There will be no FA on November 25 - Thanksgiving!*

*Save the evening of Tuesday, November 29! All students and their families are invited to join us for an Open House in the gym of the church from 7-8pm. Come and talk with teachers, see the work of the students, and fellowship with other families! There will be activities for the elementary age children to participate in and refreshments to enjoy! Hope to see everyone there!*

*There are several students who have an allergy to nuts and even the smell of peanut butter can bother them. The FA board is requesting that ALL students not bring anything in their lunch that has nuts or peanut butter in it. Thank you for being sensitive to the needs of these students with a nut allergy.*

*Do you have a name tag that is broken? Please bring it to the Friday Mom to be replaced!*

*Are you running late to pick up your child(ren)? Students who have not been picked up by 3:30p on Fridays, will be found in the transition room (room right next to Kindergarten). The class clipboard will be there to sign your child out.*

*PIZZA DAY is December 2 ~ also the LAST DAY of CLASSES for FA K-8. HS continues until December 9.*

---

**NEED FA VOLUNTEERS...**

*Volunteer helpers are one of the ways that Friday Addition is able to keep the cost of running the program as low as possible. FA counts on several helpers each week to assist teachers, monitor students and join in other ways to support the running of each Friday! As the program continues to grow, the board members really rely on extra hands, eyes and ears throughout the day. This year has been really difficult with people not showing up for their assigned time to help on a Friday! The board asks everyone to be responsible for fulfilling their helper position! The board is pondering other options but they would likely include the raising of tuition. Please support the program with a little bit of your time! The board really does appreciate all the help!*
FA POLL
Today, what are you thankful for?

JUNIOR HIGH
Gracie Immink ~ “Fast horses”
Amber Mango ~ “The gift of photography and videography”
Jubilee Winkel ~ “Needed sleep”
Sammy Boes ~ “Puppy dogs and Res Life Church”
Emma Jo Wedeven ~ “My dog Meika”
Hannah Kleyn ~ “My friends; my family”

Random FA parents caught in the hallway...
Deb Friend ~ “The hope of eternity with the Lord, and chocolate!”
Mary VanFarowe ~ “Bike rides with friends while the kids are at FA”
Kimberly Kleyn ~ “My family & the rich preaching of the gospel at church”
Cheryl Gordillo ~ “God’s faithfulness”
Brandon Winkel ~ “My children”
Connie Immink ~ “Medical technology”
Dorie Barron ~ “Umbrellas and coats and braces for teeth”

Deb Friend ~ “The hope of eternity with the Lord, and chocolate!”
Julia Molewyk ~ “Family, health and friends”

1st and 2nd GRADE
Ellie Sanders ~ “A pet pot-belly pig”
Claire Kaercher ~ “My 2 geckos”
Olivia Sikkema ~ “My gecko and 2 dogs”
Zoe Streiff ~ “My house and family”
Davie Cochran ~ “My family and chocolate”
Sarah Seay ~ “American Girl: Marie Grace”
Nicholas Pretrowski ~ “My dog Hazle”
Easton VanderZwaag ~ “My family”
Noelle Luurtsema ~ “Church”
Katelyn Boersma ~ “Friends”
Aidon Schippers ~ “Friends and family”
Garret Tyler ~ “Friends”
Katie Kaynor ~ “My family”
Anjali VanFarowe ~ “Family and friends”
Kadie Passorelli ~ “My dog and cat”
Rus Alles ~ “Birthdays”
Caroline Kaercher ~ “My bed”
Marissa Tyler ~ “My bed and my family”
Ellie Hazard ~ “My house, food, family, friends, and God”
Caleb Staal ~ “My house”
Abby Hagar ~ “A warm bathroom”
Elley Buehler ~ “My family and friends”
Kaleb Passorelli ~ “Snicker, our dog”

3rd and 4th GRADE
Nathaniel Kaercher ~ “God”
Samuel ~ “House”
Luke Rotman ~ “food”
Nic Wedeven ~ “Football”
Ross Mango ~ “Football”
Drew Schippers ~ “Guys”
Elsa Luurtsema ~ “pet pig”
Grace Boersen ~ “Skoool”
Payge Hager ~ “Mom and Dad”
Abbi Hazard ~ “Future baby brother”
Sophie McClard ~ “God”
Karsten VanFarowe ~ “Food”
Spencer VanderZwaag ~ “Water”
Grant Immink ~ “Dog”
Sarah Boersen ~ “Imagination”
Lexie ~ “Friends”
Anna Kaynor ~ “For my mom taking me to Williamsburg”
Ellie VanFarowe ~ “Cat and Mom and Dad”
Aden Tyler ~ “Dogs”
Zoe Boes ~ “Family”

5th and 6th GRADE
Jade Molewyk ~ “My dog”
Sophia ~ “My parents”
Abigail Friend ~ “My family”
Weston ~ “Pizza”
Alyssa Boersen ~ “Morty”
Emma Rotman ~ “F.A.”
Christina ~ “Friends”
Maddie Sikkema ~ “My house”
Chloe Damron ~ “My neighbors”
Jayden VanderZwaag ~ “My parents”
Joshua Buehler ~ “My dog”
Clara Luurtsema ~ “My pig”
Nathan Pletcher ~ “Friends”
Riley Mosterd ~ “Animals”
Connor VanFarowe ~ “Pizza and pork”
Caleb Slagh ~ “Bubbles”
Josh Passorelli ~ “Wii”
Owen Swanson ~ “F.A.”
Caleb Timmer ~ “Family”
Schaeffer ~ “A home”
Adam Lowell ~ “Friday Addition”

HIGH SCHOOL
Laura Nagelkirk ~ “My horse”
Faith Herrema ~ “Friday Addition”
Tori Gann ~ “Toilet paper”
Casey Adams ~ “Owls”
Jessica Adams ~ “Ability to dance!”
Grace VanderPol ~ “Tap dance :)”
Kaitlyn Holder ~ “Friends that I can trust :)& Mrs. Schaap”
Kelsey Holder ~ “Grandma’s cookies”
Meg Buehler ~ “Our freedoms as Americans!!!”
David Slagh ~ “Thumbs! (mine’s broken!”
Isaac Conroy ~ “My Oldsmobile!”
Nathan Conroy ~ “Snow days”
Isaac Buehler ~ “When we don’t get any homework!”
Benjamin Winkel ~ “Stuff & things”
Ashley Grace S ~ “Pizza”
Christina Leigh S ~ “Teachers”

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Christina ~ “My parents”
Nathan ~ “Future baby brother”
Sophia ~ “Garden”
Corbin ~ “Dogs and we are going to Bug Out and have a yard sale”
Heather ~ “ Zelda”
Benjamin ~ “Fire trucks”

KINDERGARTEN
Mrs. Boersen ~ “Fall treats!”
Christopher ~ “Mom, Dad, and sister”
Alexander ~ “I’m thankful that my dad is making me a bunkbed”
Josie ~ “For God and the sun”
William ~ “For the snow!”
Dana ~ “Trick or treating!”
Doni Sanders ~ “All the pretty flowers, and my loft, and my worker toys”
Ethan ~ “That I have a bumblebee suit and cheetahs and bald eagles and my mom”

HIGH SCHOOL
Laura Nagelkirk ~ “My horse”
Faith Herrema ~ “Friday Addition”
Tori Gann ~ “Toilet paper”
Casey Adams ~ “Owls”
Jessica Adams ~ “Ability to dance!”
Grace VanderPol ~ “Tap dance :)”
Kaitlyn Holder ~ “Friends that I can trust :)& Mrs. Schaap”
Kelsey Holder ~ “Grandma’s cookies”
Meg Buehler ~ “Our freedoms as Americans!!!”
David Slagh ~ “Thumbs! (mine’s broken!”
Isaac Conroy ~ “My Oldsmobile!”
Nathan Conroy ~ “Snow days”
Isaac Buehler ~ “When we don’t get any homework!”
Benjamin Winkel ~ “Stuff & things”
Ashley Grace S ~ “Pizza”
Christina Leigh S ~ “Teachers”

JUNIOR HIGH
Gracie Immink ~ “Fast horses”
Amber Mango ~ “The gift of photography and videography”
Jubilee Winkel ~ “Needed sleep”
Sammy Boes ~ “Puppy dogs and Res Life Church”
Emma Jo Wedeven ~ “My dog Meika”
Hannah Kleyn ~ “My friends; my family”

Random FA parents caught in the hallway...
Deb Friend ~ “The hope of eternity with the Lord, and chocolate!”
Mary VanFarowe ~ “Bike rides with friends while the kids are at FA”
Kimberly Kleyn ~ “My family & the rich preaching of the gospel at church”
Cheryl Gordillo ~ “God’s faithfulness”
Brandon Winkel ~ “My children”
Connie Immink ~ “Medical technology”
Dorie Barron ~ “Umbrellas and coats and braces for teeth”

Deb Friend ~ “The hope of eternity with the Lord, and chocolate!”
Julia Molewyk ~ “Family, health and friends”

1st and 2nd GRADE
Ellie Sanders ~ “A pet pot-belly pig”
Claire Kaercher ~ “My 2 geckos”
Olivia Sikkema ~ “My gecko and 2 dogs”
Zoe Streiff ~ “My house and family”
Davie Cochran ~ “My family and chocolate”
Sarah Seay ~ “American Girl: Marie Grace”
Nicholas Pretrowski ~ “My dog Hazle”
Easton VanderZwaag ~ “My family”
Noelle Luurtsema ~ “Church”
Katelyn Boersma ~ “Friends”
Aidon Schippers ~ “Friends and family”
Garret Tyler ~ “Friends”
Katie Kaynor ~ “My family”
Anjali VanFarowe ~ “Family and friends”
Kadie Passorelli ~ “My dog and cat”
Rus Alles ~ “Birthdays”
Caroline Kaercher ~ “My bed”
Marissa Tyler ~ “My bed and my family”
Ellie Hazard ~ “My house, food, family, friends, and God”
Caleb Staal ~ “My house”
Abby Hagar ~ “A warm bathroom”
Elley Buehler ~ “My family and friends”
Kaleb Passorelli ~ “Snicker, our dog”

3rd and 4th GRADE
Nathaniel Kaercher ~ “God”
Samuel ~ “House”
Luke Rotman ~ “food”
Nic Wedeven ~ “Football”
Ross Mango ~ “Football”
Drew Schippers ~ “Guys”
Elsa Luurtsema ~ “pet pig”
Grace Boersen ~ “Skoool”
Payge Hager ~ “Mom and Dad”
Abbi Hazard ~ “Future baby brother”
Sophie McClard ~ “God”
Karsten VanFarowe ~ “Food”
Spencer VanderZwaag ~ “Water”
Grant Immink ~ “Dog”
Sarah Boersen ~ “Imagination”
Lexie ~ “Friends”
Anna Kaynor ~ “For my mom taking me to Williamsburg”
Ellie VanFarowe ~ “Cat and Mom and Dad”
Aden Tyler ~ “Dogs”
Zoe Boes ~ “Family”

5th and 6th GRADE
Jade Molewyk ~ “My dog”
Sophia ~ “My parents”
Abigail Friend ~ “My family”
Weston ~ “Pizza”
Alyssa Boersen ~ “Morty”
Emma Rotman ~ “F.A.”
Christina ~ “Friends”
Maddie Sikkema ~ “My house”
Chloe Damron ~ “My neighbors”
Jayden VanderZwaag ~ “My parents”
Joshua Buehler ~ “My dog”
Clara Luurtsema ~ “My pig”
Nathan Pletcher ~ “Friends”
Riley Mosterd ~ “Animals”
Connor VanFarowe ~ “Pizza and pork”
Caleb Slagh ~ “Bubbles”
Josh Passorelli ~ “Wii”
Owen Swanson ~ “F.A.”
Caleb Timmer ~ “Family”
Schaeffer ~ “A home”
Adam Lowell ~ “Friday Addition”
The students are doing very well with their language development center activities. It is important for the kids to continue to expand their knowledge of the way in which we use letters. There is a great article about ways to have letter fun with your child in the kitchen and at the store at http://www.scholastic.com/resources/article/letter-fun-with-food. I encourage you to check it out. In the last four weeks we will be concentrating on Oo/Rr, Gg/Ee, Jj/Qq and Cc/Kk.

Our morning message is an important way in which we work with our weekly Sight Words. Over the past few weeks we have not only found the sight words, but have also talked about the use of punctuation and capitalization. A good way to reinforce this at home is to ask about whether your child can find the beginning or end of sentences in stories that you are reading. We have talked about three types of punctuation: periods, exclamation points and question marks. During this last four weeks we will spend two weeks doing “word families” On November 4 we will work with the “_an” family and on December 2 the word family will be “_it”. On November 11 and 18 we will work with the following sight words: there, a, on & are.

Our math concepts have expanded into simple addition problems. As the children use colored shapes to come up with different ways to “make” totals of 5-10, the children will solidify their understanding of the digits.

As we have shared the colored objects over the month of October we have been able to do some sorting using Venn Diagrams. In November sharing will be as follows:

- Nov. 4: Anything they want!
- Nov. 11: Something that fits inside the palm of your hand
- Nov. 18: Tool used by your parent to do a job.
- Dec. 2: Favorite gift

As part of our “Harvest of Blessings” we will look at the many ways in which God blesses us with talents. I am excited to have new community helper outfits to share with the kids as we look at the ways in which we are all called to use our skills to help out in the community. On November 18 I would like the kids to each bring in an object to share that is a tool used to perform a job done by a parent. Please think outside the box on this. If you work with computers it may be a can of compressed air leading into a discussion of why we need to keep the components clean. These don’t have to be “tools” in a traditional sense, but things that make it possible for you to accomplish the job. Please make sure to discuss the object with your child. They will be asked to share what the item is, what job it is used for, and why it is needed for that job.
The first and second graders are ready to take off from the America's and explore Europe! With all of the history, scientific discoveries, and great art that Europe has produced, we should have a great time! I look forward to building castles and learning about some different kinds of architecture in Europe and the different languages that make up this interesting continent. In science we'll learn about it's native animals, ice and snow (since that is coming soon to us too!), how our ears work, and about how our eyes are able to communicate to our brain. Art should be lots of fun making painted tiles like those found in Spain and Portugal, making ice skating paintings to remind us of the Netherlands, crayon mosaics like some of the amazing mosaics in Italy, and something from Sweden that I can’t tell you about now (it's a Christmas secret!).

The kids have been picking up Spanish very quickly (much better than me)!! We are just starting to work on names of foods, especially fruits and vegetables. We will then be moving on to days of the week. I will sometimes be sending Spanish papers home -- you are welcome to work on them with your child if you wish. They are certainly not mandatory, but should be helpful for your child.

Many of you have asked for snack ideas because we do have some allergies in the class. Here are some suggestions: Rice Chex, potato chips, veggie chips, raisins, pumpkin and sunflower seeds, rice krispie treats, fruits and vegetables, and popcorn are some ideas. Anything that is free of gluten, egg, dairy, and nuts (both peanuts and tree nuts) is good! Thank you all for keeping this in mind when planning the snack for our class.

I am so enjoying teaching this great bunch of kids! They are so well behaved, enthusiastic about our activities, and all very kind to one another! I really look forward to my time with them each Friday morning!
Wow! It’s November already? Time flies when you’re having so much fun in Physical Education class. We did so much in October in the gym! The Kindergarten, 1st/2nd grade classes began the month with jump ropes, had fun working on general hand-eye coordination challenges with hoops and scarves, and ended the month throwing and catching. It is neat for me to see the 2nd graders, who have been in my class for a few years, really become proficient at the movement concepts and skills that we review each year in these younger classes. These basic skills set a good foundation for students to stay active through sports or other activities now, and in the future. The Kindergarten and 1st/2nd grade classes will continue baseball skills at start the month of November by batting off a tee. Then, we will work on fitness and coordination by playing with the scooters, and we will wrap up the semester with review stations and a day of games.

The 3rd – 6th grade class started October off by finishing up our “internationally active” unit. Then, we moved right into baseball. Students worked on the skills of throwing, catching, pitching to the strike zone, batting from a tee, and batting a pitched ball. They also learned the concept of base running and (as always) we focused on teamwork and sportsmanship. We finished our unit with a Friday Addition World Series. Teams played to see which team could score the most runs, and which team showed the best teamwork. It was a fun day, and all of the students showed great sportsmanship! During the month of November we will shift our focus to fitness by doing a jump rope unit. Then we will have a day for review and a day for games.

What a great time we had recently listening to students perform during the Performance Day. Piano, guitar, violin, sax, baritone, trombone, recorder, and...I hope I didn’t forget something. Beginners to advanced performers played and were enjoyed by everyone. I’m considering having another focused performance day for the Christmas holiday, so stay tuned (pun intended)!

I appreciated the Elementary classes for treating Mrs. Sooy with lots of respect and courtesy when she substituted for me recently. She really enjoyed her time, and maybe the kids will see her again on some Friday.

In November, we continue our journey of Folk Music -- interspersed with Solfege and Boomwhackers. I have assigned particular notes to each student on the Boomwhackers, so we are actually making some progress and each class is working at their level and ability to play together and make some music. They get excited when they play well, and those students who have not been involved in music are coming along well. Often I notice students that have taken lessons helping those that are unfamiliar with notes and timing. They explain what to look for on the music, as well as how to know when it’s their turn to play their notes. This informal "teaching" is really good and a positive way that students are interacting and learning together.
DRAMA

Kathleen Veenstra
Elementary/MS ART
Elementary DRAMA

DRAMA (Only Elementary!)

1st/2nd
I hope your children are relaying to you some of the fun things we have been doing as we explored body movement. Ask your child about the objects (such as a washing machine, popcorn popper, lawn mower, lamp) that their teams had to become last week. It was so cute and fun to see the creative ways that they acted out their part of the object! In the month of November, the focus is on good vocal technique: articulation and projection for the first 2 weeks, then Imagination and Improvisation for the last 2 weeks. We hope to work on some Readers Theaters and act out some books.

3rd/4th
The Mystery Objects continue to be a big hit with the kids. Thanks for helping your son/daughter come up with some great ideas to bring in! The list till Christmas is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 4, 2011</td>
<td>Nathaniel Kaercher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11, 2011</td>
<td>Grant Immink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18, 2011</td>
<td>Abbi Hazard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 25, 2011</td>
<td>NO CLASS Happy Thanksgiving!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2, 2011</td>
<td>Paige Hager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have been learning about pantomime and incorporating props and objects into our improv skits. This coming month we will focus on vocal technique: articulation and projection for the first 2 weeks. We hope to use Readers Theaters to accomplish this. The second two weeks we will be focusing on using our imagination and improvisation. *Please note that on December 2 I would like every student to bring in at least one hat that we can use for some skits we will do. I hope the kids will be creative: cowboy hats, farmer’s hats, hard hats, baseball caps, tiaras, top hats are just a few ideas. Thanks!

5th/6th
I wish you all could have heard the great job your students have been doing working on their readers theaters for the past few weeks. They have worked hard on expression and projection. We have one more team to present theirs next week. For the next month, we will be focusing on developing our imagination and improvisation skills. It is really fun to see some of the more quiet children come out of their shells and do a fabulous job with participating in the class! What a wonderful time of creativity!

Thanks for the awesome privilege of teaching with your children on Fridays! I don’t take that responsibility lightly!

ART

3rd/4th
We’ve been having a lot of fun looking at Georgia O’Keefe as an artist and creating close-up flowers from tissue paper. This past week, we began looking at the art of Eric Carle and made a plan for our own collage using his ideas for textured paper. I’m so impressed with the plans that the students came up with and can’t wait to see the finished products in a few weeks. Depending on how long this project takes, we hope to do some work with oil pastels and also do a Christmas collage with nutcrackers as the theme.

5th/6th
The birds your children made in the style of Charley Harper turned out beautifully. Can’t wait till you can see at the Friday Addition Open House the fabulous art work that your students are creating! I continue to be impressed with their artistic creativity! :) We will make salt dough stars for the next few weeks, and hope to get into a weaving project before the Christmas holiday. If anyone has 5” needles at home that we could use for our weaving project, please let me know! Thanks!
This month in science we will begin our study of geology (the study of how the earth’s history is revealed in the rocks that make up the earth). The goal of this study has been summed up in the introduction to the chapter. “If we want to use geology to learn about the earth’s history, we must know how the rocks we are observing were formed.” Since no one was around to witness this, are we stuck? No. We learned in the last month that, “Science does not depend on direct observation. Science depends only on the scientific method. Thus, we can still use science to help us understand the earth’s history. We simply must start with a hypothesis; test the hypothesis with experiments, etc., etc. As long as we perform our geological investigations that way, we will be able to learn a lot about the earth’s past”.

We will spend time investigating the two different viewpoints concerning the earth’s past; catastrophe and uniformitarianism. We will do that by learning about the main geological features of the earth and then look at those features from each of the two viewpoints. We will work to reach our goal of deciding which viewpoint gives us the best answer concerning the earth’s history.

As you can see we have our work cut out for us. It will certainly be interesting.

PS. This week the students should be completing experiment 6.2 at home.

---

In short, I didn’t become a Christian because God promised I would have an even happier life than I had as an atheist. He never promised any such thing. Indeed, following Him would inevitably bring divine denouncements in the eyes of the world. Rather, I became a Christian because the evidence was so compelling that Jesus really is the one-and-only Son of God who proved his divinity by rising from the dead.

- Lee Strobel
Dear Parents,

We have been working hard to finish up our first chapter and prepare ourselves for our FIRST EVER middle school Spanish test! I’m pleased to report that most are doing very well and it showed on their test results! The biggest thing that the middle school students need to work on is getting the right homework assignment written down and finished on time for the next week. This was a challenging part to our first few weeks together, but we are now writing the assignments down at the end of each class so that they do not forget what they have to do when they get home. There was some confusion as to which pages were which, but as we are starting our second chapter, those things are becoming clearer and we have put the new pages in the separate sections of our binders. The students prepared an oral presentation about 5 things they liked and 5 things that they disliked using the vocab from our lesson or from the extra handout I gave in class. We added this as the oral part of our Chapter 1 exam. The students prepared for this at home and had some time to run through it with a friend in class to practice. It had to be memorized and they did a really nice job overall.

As we enter Chapter 2, we will learning about what school supplies we need or want for school. We will be learning definite and indefinite articles, singular and plural nouns, items in our bedroom, and saying what things we want and need to do. We will be continuing to learn some subject pronouns and verb conjugations with these lessons, as well as noun/gender agreement. I hope to be able to squeeze in some culture about Christmas in Mexico and Spain before we end our first semester with our market day/movie day.

WHY PRAYER?

Prayer links us heart, body, and soul...

God is the only one who has any real idea just how powerful prayer is...

The angels, too...

The devil trembles...

And us?

When we come before Him, baring our souls, truly trying to eliminate all that stands between God and man, through forgiveness, through worship, through THANKSGIVING, we begin to get a glimpse of the gift of prayer...

The peace...the power...of prayer...

Make it a part of you...

- LMS

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS...
Students in the Junior High Writing class have definitely learned to SPLUNK - as they turned in their last SPLUNKING papers, The Splunking of the Jabberwocky! These kids have been doing an amazing job, and I can all ready see that our first writing sessions, “DECISIVE WRITING” where they became more conscious of their word choices, has been a success! Now we have made the change, after our first 6 weeks, from SPLUNK to SPLASH. Our Imagination focus now is “ABUNDANT WRITING” where we learn what to do when we have an abundance of information, how to organize, how to plan, and how to connect all the dots! We’ll be doing this by conducting polls, and by putting together our own short stories in the month of November. All ready the students are learning their quotation rules by creating a dialogue story, and conducting their first poll about TIME.

One of the blessings in class this past week was to give the students their oral and written test in our poetry session - because each student did a truly wonderful job with reciting, all by themselves, the poem by Lewis Carroll, Jabberwocky. Our next poem is a poem by Walter de la Mare entitled Silver, which the students will be reciting December 2. There is just something magical about the November harvest moon!

Two projects coming up are BUILD A TESSERACT and the WRINKLE PROJECT. Each student is encouraged to build a tesseract out of any materials that they wish to build it from home. Imagination, of course, is the KEY! These are due right before Thanksgiving. Our next project, we will be split into groups, and each group will need to meet at least a couple of times OUTSIDE OF CLASS in order to complete this project. Each group will decide on a scene from the book A Wrinkle in Time, and then create it on a two feet by two feet base. They are to be as realistic as possible. Groups will bring them to the Open House on November 29, to be enjoyed by all! A sheet explaining this project will be sent home soon! Isn’t it wonderful to use our imaginations?!! Short stories... are coming!
Dear Parents and Friends,

Our travels in geography have finally begun. In order to make the most of our time and resources we started our trip in our home continent of North America. The country we decided to spend our time in was Canada; the second largest country in the world. They are also the largest producers of maple syrup...something we took time to sample on our way through. We also discussed how thankful we can be for the blessing that we share the longest border in the world with a country which shares similar Christian values.

In November we will be off again. We may go south to South America or west to Asia. We plan to visit each of the seven continents. We will meet the people, sample the food and learn about the land and cultures on our whirlwind tour.

Along the way I have challenged the students to become more familiar with our planet by learning facts. We have covered the 9 planets, the 7 continents, the 4 major oceans, the 7 largest lakes and the 9 “extremes”. This week the challenge is to learn the water facts and next week they will tackle the largest deserts. They will also have to find them on a map. These are optional assignments. I would encourage you to challenge your children to give it a try.

Until next time!

Mrs. Vander Ploeg
Chemistry in November:
You've heard of a pair of socks and a dozen eggs, but have you heard of a mole of atoms? By the end of the month we will be learning exactly "how many" is in a mole (602,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 in case you’re wondering.) But first, we will continue working on how to balance chemical equations. Then we will learn about three basic types of chemical reactions: decomposition reactions, formation reactions, and combustion reactions. We end the month discussing the size (mass) of atoms and molecules, as well as how many atoms are in a mole.

During this month of Thanksgiving, I want you to know I am thankful for each of the students in the chemistry class, as well as the families who support them. I pray many blessings on all of you and look forward to seeing you at the Fall Open House, November 29. Happy Thanksgiving!

Government & Economics

We have been guided in our study of the Declaration and the Constitution by scholar and president of Hillsdale College, Dr. Larry Arnn (on video). The 30 minute lectures have been informative, and have helped the students to think more deeply about the founding of our nation, as well as the key documents that establish our republic. We have used those lectures as launching points for discussion.

As we finish those lectures, we turn now to consider the three branches of government: Legislative, Executive and Judicial. We will spend a full class session on each one, discussing the importance of each as well as how they interact with the others. We’ve all heard about "checks and balances," but I’m looking forward to seeing how the students might be noticing some "imbalance" in the way or government functions today! As we progress, we will look more and more toward how the government is functioning in today's world, and especially how that might differ than what the Founders envisioned.

The students are beginning their work on the research papers. I will be guiding them step-by-step and guiding them through the process. They have identified some topics and will begin building some research and reference lists this month, along with a tentative outline.
ENGLISH GRAMMAR, WRITING & LIT

Goosebumps on my arms has often been a criteria of substantiating a job well done. Perhaps that has never been scientifically proven, but then again, I AM an English teacher! And let me tell you that this year the goosebumps are alive and well, as I read the GWL students’ papers...

They’re getting it...they’re making better word choices, they’re trying desperately not to SOUND formatted, yet using a slightly hidden format to give them structure. This year is all about the structure of the ESSAY, and how to make it theirs, how to make them own it. We are still on the pathway to go from expository to descriptive to persuasive to narrative, and as we currently pause on descriptive, the students are creating their first WORD PORTRAITS. To do this, we have taken some selections from Dickens and from Alcott about Scrooge, and Jo March. As students try to create their own WORD PORTRAITS, they learn to capture the ESSENCE of a person, and not only what the eye can see...

Our essays will grow is size these next few weeks...

In our grammar lessons, we almost have a whole new texting-like language to learn. What is an SN V P1, and when will we get to SN V-t P2? What do you do with a PPA? Why are their independent and dependent sentences, and how do you connect them? You are telling me that a complex sentence is really the name of this? Yep! What is a coordinating conjunction? What are all of those quotation rules? If you didn’t catch it, we’re pretty busy, grammar-wise. I feel it is time the students MASTER some of these questions, instead of just letting the info go in one ear and out the other, until they’re responsible for it another year - no - they will become responsible for it THIS year, which is the difference between MASTERING and simply KNOWING the information. P2, P3, DO, are arriving without delay...

And if writing and grammar were not enough excitement...ahem...we love our lit time. The Old Man and the Sea, holds out his hope, his strength, his everything. Santiago, is the definition standard of RESOLUTION. Helen Keller, is the definition standard of STUBBORN. Annie Sullivan, is the definition standard of PERSISTANCE. The Miracle Worker is a joy, a gift. Students created their first FOUND POEMS this week - where they captured the book with words they chose from the author himself. Next, we learn what it would be like to burn books. Literally. Literally to live in a society where it becomes dangerous to think, dangerous to have an opinion, and therefore books are banned. Eliminated from society...until a 17 year old girl touches the heart of a fireman...and life will never be the same...
Our speech class has been lots of fun, as we have been hearing personal experience speeches by all the students. These talented high school students have been showing their sense of humor by turning a small life experience into a funny speech to share with the class. Everyone is improving in poise as they speak, as well as improvement in eye contact, voice, and content. Great job, students!

We focused on learning about audience appeal. The students took turns speaking to appreciative, bored and apathetic, sleepy, or excited audiences of small children, homeschool moms, veterans, and elderly. (All of the above parts being played by the same students, with the exception of some actual homeschool moms.) The class learned that different audiences may require different techniques and topics.

Our November speeches are going to be a retelling of a familiar story. These five minute speeches will include favorite children’s books, fairy tales, and a potential Gollum character appearance. It should be very entertaining. All parents are always welcome to visit and enjoy the students’ speeches.

The story retelling speeches will be focusing on including drama and emotion in the speech. Students are encouraged to “become” their characters, and draw the audience in with their words, actions, and facial expression. If you hear moans, yells, or even screams coming from the speech room next month, don’t become alarmed. It is just your students, doing their best to make their story come alive for the class.
Dear Parents,

Wow, are these high school students really impressing me with their phenomenal work ethic! We have been doing very well learning so much new material at such a fast pace! We just completed our Chapter 2 this past week. Students have light study work this week to prepare for the Chapter 2B exam on Friday, and then they will get busy again learning Chapter 3A materials.

So far, they can tell what they like to do and don’t like to do with a variety of activities. They can describe themselves and someone else in regards to personality traits. They can describe a school day schedule and class subjects and tell what people do during the day. They can also describe a classroom and indicate where things are located in the classroom. And if that doesn’t sound like much, well then you need to understand that there is a TON of grammar items that we have explored and learned in each of these areas! We understand infinitives, nouns (both singular and plural), articles, gender agreement in adjectives, -AR verb conjugations, subject pronouns, ordinal numbers, all while remembering what we covered in previous lessons! Coming up, we will be learning some food vocabulary for breakfast, lunch, and dinner items! I’m thinking that we may be doing some food tasting in class in the coming weeks (keeping in mind allergies, of course)!! ¡Delicioso!

I am pleased to say that most of the students are doing an excellent job of communicating with me when there are technical difficulties with our online materials. This has been helpful for me to know what things to count for a grade on their homework and which things will just be for completion. I assign many things each day for the students to do, but I am not grading each thing. They need to do them all to be prepared for class and tests. However, I am taking a sampling of each week’s work and will post their real “grades” on the Gradelink site. So if you see some scary scores on the Realidades site “gradebook”, please don’t panic. (The computer can only grade exact answers and can’t really give partial credit. I go back and edit the scores of those activities that I want to give feedback on or that I want to grade.) Check at the end of the following week to see what assignments were graded and then if there are things that need to be worked on or redone to improve, we will see what we can do. And encourage your students to write down any questions that they have during the week to either email to me or for me to address in our class time. These can be helpful not only to them, but also to others in the class! Keep up the awesome work!

I would like to start this month’s newsletter by expressing what a delight it has been working with the students in Personal Finance. It is a joy to see the students genuinely interested in the material we are covering and starting to take some of the principles to heart. Many students have already made decisions that will lead to a successful financial future. During the month of October, we discussed and evaluated different investment options. Now the students will be able to make educated decisions when it comes time to select what investments to use when funding their retirement account or building wealth. We also discussed the dos and don’ts when it comes to paying for college and that you don’t have to go into debt for it.

In November, we are beginning the unit on Debt. We are going to spend a good amount of time exposing various myths about debt and what steps to take when you do have debt. The main focus is going to be on the dangers of debt and why it is wise to avoid it all together.
Today I read one of my devotions. It was about how to make a difference. It said a few times that we are God’s masterpiece, and that there is a special place for us in this world. It really talks about how we need to serve the world. It says one place in the book that there is enough food in the world for everybody. It also says that just two percent of the world’s grain harvested would be enough, if shared, to erase the problem of hunger and malnutrition around the world. That shows that we have enough food to feed the hungry if we would just share. It says that 25,000 children under the age of five die of preventable deaths every day. That really hit me. Sometimes we think why, why can’t we have this or that? But instead we should think that we are very blessed to have everything that we have. There are so many homeless people that are always happy and cheerful, when sometimes we get mad when we can’t have something. Stuff like that always makes me think how lucky we are, and how we need to make a difference. We need to stop and thank God for everything we have, and need to stop asking, why. Praise God!

Most people think that superheroes are works of fiction, that there is no such thing as a person in a cape who will save the day. But I know that there are a few people in this world that are heroes. These individuals live normal, everyday, average lives. But they are also special. They raise their kids; lost in a sea of diapers, peanut butter sandwiches, and school books. They teach their kids how to make decisions, follow the Lord, and do their chores. They feed us, clean up after us, pay for us, and teach us. These people put their entire lives aside to do what God has called them to do. They walk a fine line between being involved with their children and letting them grow up at the same time. They pay the bills, act as chauffeurs, are the cheerleaders at the games, and show us through their lives what it means to serve the Lord. These are the many moms and dads that are sometimes overlooked. They aren’t especially glamorous or flashy, but they are today’s real life heroes. So thanks. To all you people who have sacrificed your wants and desires to raise your kids, and don’t be discouraged. God sees everything that you do, and He is with you every step of the way. You’re my hero!