

From the Head of School

Next Wednesday is Spirit Day/CE Day; No School on Jan. 18th for MLK Jr. Day

Happy New Year! I hope your resolutions were wise ones, and I am sure many involve watching what we eat and exercising. Because of that, I wanted to start out by sharing some important words from the ever-so-wise philosopher, Charles Schultz, "Exercise is a dirty word - Every time I hear it, I wash my mouth out with chocolate." Definitely words to live by!

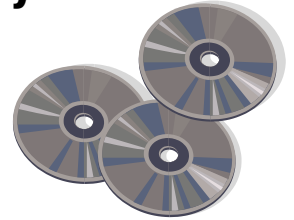
For those of you who did not join us yesterday after chapel, The Chinese Acrobats were awesome, and I couldn't *believe* the things they did right here in our Parish Hall! Thanks to the PSO for helping sponsor this and *all* of our amazing Fine Arts programs!

Please remember there is no school on Monday, January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church and St. Andrew AME invite you to celebrate with us the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 17th at 4pm in the St. Paul's by-the-Sea sanctuary. The Keynote Speaker is Jeannette C. Holmes-Vann, Pastor and Founder of Hope Chapel Ministries of Jacksonville, FL. The St. Andrew AME choir

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Christmas Program DVDs Available for Purchase in January

Here is a chance to hold on to your child's memories forever! DVDs of the school's Christmas programs are being offered for purchase through the month of January. Order forms can be found in the school office. You can choose from the following events: Pre-k/Kindergarten Christmas Program, Lessons and Carols service, and Pajama Day Cheerleading/Storytime with Bill Stewart. Prices for each event can be found on the order forms.



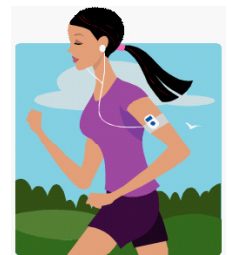
SIBLING APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2010-2011



Classes are filling up for next year, so don't wait to turn in your sibling application(s). Positions are held for siblings and parish members until Feb. 1st. After this date, admission will be open to individuals outside of the school and the church. You may download an application on our website or you can pick up one directly from our Admissions Director, Heather Wainright in the school office.

January 22nd Last Day to Register for Girls on the Run

A new program is coming to BES called *Girls on the Run of Northeast Florida* (GOTR). The mission of GOTR is to provide a life-changing experience for all girls ages **8-11 years old (3rd - 5th grade only)**. Each meeting will combine running and training for a non-competitive 5K race with life lessons along the way to encourage healthy habits, self-esteem, positive thinking and an active lifestyle. The last day to register for GOTR is January 22nd.



Head of School letter continued from page 1 and the St. Paul's by-the-Sea Chancel and Handbell Choirs will perform, and the Hope Chapel Choir are sure to inspire and uplift! A reception will follow.

Next Wednesday, January 20th is CE Chapel and Spirit Day, so please plan to attend chapel, and stick around for our cheerleaders and the introduction of the new Character Education theme! Interims will be sent home next Thursday. Please remember: "Interim Reports are sent home to all students at the midway mark of the first marking period and can be sent home at anytime after that to indicate the progress of PK-Gr.3 students. All Gr. 4-6 students will receive an Interim printout of grades, and will receive comments only when necessary" (2009-2010 BES Student/Parent Handbook p.18).

Finally, the 6th grade Flag Football Game has been re-scheduled for March 19th when the weather is a little warmer. Thanks again for helping your children make good choices when dressing for school during these past few wintry weeks, and I am looking forward to a little less ice this weekend!

Take care,
Bill Stewart
Assistant Head of School

Landscapers Needed!

If you have a green thumb or just enjoy being outside, why not volunteer for the BES Landscaping Committee? If you are interested, please contact Cindi Batts at 826-0709 or cindibatts@aol.com.



ChurchChat

News from St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 17th to Include Music and Inspirational Speaking



St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church and St. Andrew AME invite you to celebrate with us the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 17th at 4 p.m. in the St. Paul's by-the-Sea sanctuary.

The keynote speaker is Jeannette C. Holmes-Vann, pastor and founder of Hope Chapel Ministries of Jacksonville, Florida. The St. Andrew AME choir and the St. Paul's by-the-Sea Chancel and Handbell Choirs will perform, and the Hope Chapel Choir are sure to inspire and uplift! A reception will follow.

PSO CORNER

FISH TANK: The fish tank in Stormes Hall is a wonderful part of our school that every student, parent and visitor enjoys daily. To keep them swimming and new fish added, we are seeking monthly fish tank sponsors. The cost is \$90 and it covers all food and tank cleaning for the month. All monthly sponsors are featured with a photo near the tank. If you are interested in sponsoring our "fish friends" please contact Laurie Warner at 247-9194 or warner01@comcast.net.

SCHOOL STORE OPEN EVERY THURSDAY MORNING: Our sixth grade students will have the School Store open every Thursday morning with cases full of fun and favorite things to purchase. Come and visit the School Store from 7.45-8.00am every Thursday in either Stormes or McCormick Hall.

BES FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES YEAR - ROUND: Target offers a Take Charge of Education program which allows you to use your Target Visa or Target Guest Card to raise money for BES. Target donates an amount equal to 1% of your card purchases made at Target and Target.com, and 1/2 % of Target Visa purchases made elsewhere.

Box Tops for Education runs year round and allows you to support BES by clipping Box Tops and turning them into the school school. Keep clipping and save your Box Tops for the next Box Top drive!

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES: There are plenty of opportunities for volunteer in at our school. We are also looking for people to volunteer for Board Positions on the PSO for the 2010/2011 school year. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Julie Komaroksi at 249-4360 or komarosj@bellsouth.com.

SOCIAL NEWS!

We hope you have saved the date for Friday, March 5th! Our Annual Parent Social and Silent Auction will be held at the TPC, Home of the Players. We are certain this will be the most memorable event to date. There will be lots of items to bid on (Carpool Priority, Head of School for the Day, Classroom Art) and more door prizes this year than ever! Our committee has been working hard to secure a tasty meal, fantastic favors, and entertainment to die for! Your initiation with response card should be arriving soon and space is limited, so please return your card as soon as possible!

Social Volunteer Opportunities:

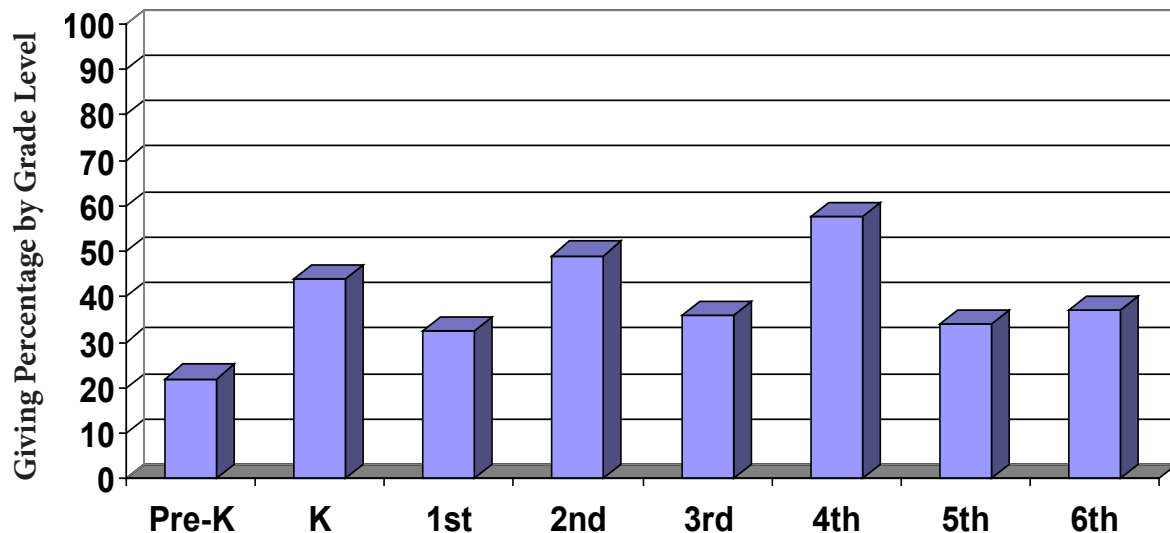
Our committee is in need of volunteers for securing donation items, setting up the morning of the event and some to stay after the event to help break down. If you are interested in helping, please contact Silke Schuler at 220-6003 or Jane Rollinson at 280-0469.

Call for Donation Items:

We are looking for donation items! If you know of a business that would be interested in donating, please contact Leigh Palmer in the Development Office at 246-2466. We are looking for a wide variety of items such as jewelry, fine art, unique experiences, event tickets, vacations homes, etc.

Our Annual Giving Campaign is Still Going Strong!

We are halfway through the year and halfway to our goal of \$135,000. The faculty, staff and Board of Trustees would like to thank those who have already contributed! Please help us reach our goal of 100% parent participation by donating today. Get your donations in today as our Annual Phone-A-Thon calls begin soon!



Parent Participation by Grade Level

Pre-k – 22%, K – 44%, 1st – 32.5%, 2nd – 49%, 3rd – 36%, 4th – 57.5%, 5th – 34%, 6th – 37%

Grandma Says

“Grandma Says” is a feature of Growing Child Magazine

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING ALOUD

TYou have likely noticed that every month or so I frame my comments about parenting around the current “Book of the Month.” I do this for several reasons. One is to make sure you are familiar with some of the fine children’s books to enjoy with your children, including some that are old favorites, as well as newer ones that speak to the joys and challenges of childhood in today’s world.

Another reason is that children’s books present, captured in beautiful language and heartfelt illustration, often in just thirty-two pages, universal truths and values. In fact, when I am working with adults, I often read aloud a children’s book, to present an important point.

But perhaps the greatest reason I to acquaint you with these books is to entice you to regularly read aloud to your children. There are so many reasons to read aloud to your children of all ages.

Obviously, it is fun, and a way of building intimacy with your children. Literacy specialists tell us that reading aloud helps with developing language and all its nuances, with building comprehension, building critical thinking skills, and discovering classic text structures.

Beyond that, there are still more advantages to be gained. Good children’s books offer a strong sense of values and responsibilities. Helping your child learn about things such as friendship, kindness, patience, and bravery in the context of a story is one way to develop shared values.

Stories have power. We share joys and sorrows through stories. Books allow you and your children

to visit many worlds together, and hear many voices. Through books, children begin to feel the power of many different stories, and learn that their stories matter too.

Books read aloud bring comfort to children. The world outside can be hard, confusing, and scary, as children navigate through social interactions. A child’s inner world can contain fears, worries, and other strong emotions, and books provide ways to talk about all of this.



Reading aloud to little children gives us all of this. But reading aloud should not stop with children when they learn to read independently, lest we lose some of these valuable things.

I remember a book that our family read aloud when my boys were school-aged children, a true story about

a boy who had been lost on a mountain in Maine. We marveled at his bravery and self-reliance as he struggled to find his way off the mountain, and rejoiced in his lucky rescue.

It was a wonderful shared experience, and even now, decades later, they often suggest it as reading material to visitors in Maine, saying, “You really should read this, it’s a great story.” I think some of their memories of the shared experience are linked with that recommendation. My husband has been reading through a set of children’s illustrated classics with our granddaughters Lila and Rose for several years now, and carrying on lively conversations about their likes and dislikes, and the next one they will select to read. Reading aloud creates a kind of energy, becoming a new adventure that bonds adults and children.

Find a good book, and read it aloud.