

# Through Our School Door

## East Palmyra Christian School

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EPCS School Theme 2009-2010:

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14

*EPCS Mission statement: To offer a Christian educational alternative that integrates faith and learning through a Biblical worldview. We strive to equip our students to develop their gifts, to become discerning disciples, and to joyfully serve God in their calling in their community and world.*

## Tuesday, January 19, 2010

### God Seeps

Some of you may wonder from time to time, what it is, exactly, that we EPCS faculty members do on a "Professional Development (PD)" day. Well, let me tell you some of what went on this past Friday, when your kids had the day off of school.

We began the faculty meeting with prayer and devotions. In the past I have used sermons, yes whole sermons, from pastors that I have heard at various churches I have attended. I have used sermons from the late Rev. Jim Van Tholen, a preacher from Rochester Christian Reformed Church. I have a book of sermons which he authored, sermons which he shared with the RCRC congregation, sermons I have gratefully used at several of our past faculty meetings/PD days, ones by which we have been blessed.

I have also used sermons from Rev. Mark Ralls, pastor at Asbury United Methodist Church. In fact, if you remember a School Door article I wrote several years ago entitled "Just Go," most of that material came from one of Rev. Ralls' sermons.

I have also used material from Rev. Dave Davis, pastor at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, NJ. A few years ago we decided on the school theme "That God may have first place in everything," a theme that came directly from one of Rev. Davis' sermons.

I used one of his sermons again this past Friday at our staff meeting, one entitled "GPS Magi." It spoke of Matthew's account in Matthew 1 and part of 2 of the trip the Magi took in their quest to find a "King." Matthew mentions that ALL of Jerusalem got involved, as did ALL Herod's scripture-studying wise men, the star, Herod himself, and a lot of intuition and desire on behalf of the Magi. But when the Magi reach the house of their destination, they find only Jesus, and his mother Mary. No angels, no Hosannas, no shepherds, no glorious hosts, no singing, just Jesus, and his mother Mary. They find Jesus, and Mary, his mother. And they give gifts and pay homage. Then they leave for home by another route. That's it, they came, they worshiped, they left.

And, Rev. Davis says, there is no mention of God anywhere in the passage—Magi, a star, all the people of Jerusalem, all the theologians, Herod, but no God. Not a word. "Of course, that's the rub isn't it?" Davis asks. "It's all about God. God's plan of salvation. God's promise fulfilled in that Child. God's faithfulness steadfast in the face of worldly might. The light of God's mercy revealed to all, even those from afar. It's all about God. In an understated dream. A council of religious wisdom. A star that shone so bright. A bit of fear, a whole lot of

inquisitive wonder, and a persistent yearning deep within, and the homage offered to the child there with Mary his mother. The characters may be larger than life, but the unnamed God seeps into the most ordinary parts: nature aglow, scriptures studied, intuition sparked, hunches followed, passions honored, worship offered. God's Spirit at work. God's grace abounds."

And isn't it that way with us as well? God seeps into our lives, totally, entirely. Dutch theologian, Abraham Kuyper says in one of his books, (and I paraphrase) that there is not one square inch of our lives and of this world of which God does not say, "Mine." It's all about God. It's all about God.

And now you have received, or will receive, a letter, one that speaks of the financial situation at EPCS. It asks you to pray for the school, to get involved more in school activities, and, it asks you to give financially. The board, through this letter, is laying before you the financial straits in which the school finds itself, not through mismanagement of funds, nor through an over outlay for the high school. Just a financial need.

Traditionally, this has always been a difficult time of the year. Major fundraisers happen at the beginning and end of the year—Auction and Lap-a-thon—and in this "mid-season" funds are a bit more scarce. That, along with an over-stretching of multi-student family discounts, and a decreased participation in several fundraisers, and the finance committee estimates a monthly shortfall of several thousand dollars. The board is counting on a huge Lap-a-thon drive to get us over the hump...

And now you received, or will receive a letter, one that speaks of the financial situation at EPCS. Our faculty devotions remind us that "it's all about God," that God "seeps" into the lives of the students of this school, that God says that every square inch of this place is God's! I know how hard it is, to give more. I'm in the same boat! But this is God's school. God seeps into it, and there are traces of that seepage all over the place, especially in the lives of our students. Please give as you are able so that we can allow our faithful God to continue seeping into the life of this school, into the lives of our students, into the life of this EPCS community.

The first request is easy, and I hope you all pray for this school, her faculty, her students, her activities, regularly and that you pray hard. The second request is a bit more difficult. We all feel ourselves awfully busy, and to spend time here, to get more involved, well, that's just hard. But this school needs you! You don't know how this school needs you! But the last request, one that asks you to contribute more financially, that may be the hardest. Please do what you can!

Oh, and that faculty meeting on Friday? Our teachers spent time making presentations to each other on things learned and experienced at the OCSTA Conference in October, and they discussed calendar items, planned events, played games together, etc. We feasted on a delicious dinner, prepared by members of the EPCS Circle, and we bowled in the kindergarten room using the donated Wii system. God seeped into our day on Friday, got into every bit of it, every square inch! "Nothing separates us from God's love." And we thank God for it!

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### **EPCS Boys Basketball**

The Boys Basketball Eagles are off to a good start this season, registering two wins this past week. The first official home game will be on Thursday of this week at 4 pm with the St. Paul Lutheran school team. Please come on out and support our team!

Come on to the game for another reason as well. Ms. Fernaays has repainted basketball lines in our gym. The lines add a whole new dimension to our gym floor. Come on over on Thursday afternoon and see for yourself! Thanks, Ms. Fernaays for all the work you invested into this project!!!

### **World Vision/Haiti Offering**

The World Vision offering for our World Vision child, Gerald, will be held in each homeroom on Wednesday mornings at devotions time (tomorrow morning). Please remind your student that this offering will be taken at that time. Thanks. The 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> graders will use Wednesday's offering for a Haiti help fund. The 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders have also offered to donate \$200 of their fund and the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> graders will donate \$50 from their fund. Thank you, students, for your willingness to help in this worthwhile cause!

### **Spaghetti Dinner**

Please reserve the date of Friday evening, February 12, for the annual 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spaghetti Dinner. This looks to be another wonderful evening of delicious food, with proceeds going towards the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade fund. Please plan to be there! ☺

### Annual Faculty/Staff Luncheon

Thank you to all of you who prepared food, set up, and served at the Annual Faculty/Staff Luncheon. The staff enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship. It was a great part of the PD day!!!!

### Progressive Dinner

The date for the Progressive Dinner is this Saturday, January 23rd. Appetizers at the Morgan's, Soup and Salad at the VanCamp's, Main Entree' at the school hosted by the Butterfield's and Julie O'Dell and Dessert at the Priem's. Please call Julie O'Dell (1-315-548-2483) to make reservations--\$15 each/\$25 couple. Thanks!

### EPCS Calendar

#### Monday, January 18, 2010

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day—No School

#### Tuesday, January 19, 2010 Day C

Boys BB Practice till 4:45 pm

#### Wednesday, January 20, 2010 Day D

Assembly – 8:30am

Collection for World Vision Child—Godfrey/Haiti  
Hot Lunch--Noon

#### Thursday, January 21, 2010 Day E

Student Council Bake Sale for Haiti - Noon  
Boys BB vs. St. Paul **HOME**—4 pm start

#### Friday, January 22, 2010 Day F

Friday Pizza Sale

#### Saturday, January 23, 2010

Progressive Dinner—5 pm start

#### Monday, January 25, 2010 Day A

BB Game—**postponed**—Practice instead til 4:45

#### Tuesday, January 26, 2010, Day B

Boys BB practice until 4:45 pm

#### And Beyond:

Friday, Feb. 12 7th/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pasta Dinner  
Thursday Feb. 25 EPCS Open House 7-8:30pm  
Mon-Fri, March 8-12 Young Artists' Festival

#### Boy's BB Game Schedule (revised)

All games begin at 4pm unless otherwise noted.  
Mon. Jan 25 @. Rochester Homeschool (P/poned)  
Thur. Jan 28 @ Rochester School for the Deaf  
Mon. Feb 1 Home vs. Pavilion  
Tues. Feb 9 Home vs. Rochester Sch. for the Deaf  
Thur. Feb 11 @ St. Paul

#### Bake Sale for Haiti

The Student Council would like to hold a bake sale on Thursday to raise money for the people of Haiti. Those who are willing are asked to please bring in a baked goods item on Thursday. The baked goods will be sold at lunch time and at the basketball game later that day. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thanks for your participation.

#### EPCS Website

Especially middle and high school students/families, feel free to check out the EPCS website, and click on "Teachers"!

#### School Cleaning

**Tues. – Paid**

**Wed. – Boss Family**

**Thurs. – Brennan Family**

**Fri. – VanCamp Family**

**Mon 1/25 – East Family**

If you need keys to clean after hours, please let the office know so that we can make arrangements for you to get keys. Thank you!

#### Change for Education

Change for Education drive will be held during the month of February. Please save your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars for this event. The format will be the same as last year, with each classroom raising money for their own classroom.

#### Warm Clothing Drive

If you received a new warm clothing item for Christmas or have outgrown your warm clothes (coats, sweaters, hats, mittens, snowpants, etc) please consider donating them. It's hard to imagine that there are local students, and students in the Rochester area who do not have warm clothes to wear. Please bring you donation to the EPCS Office and it will be given to a local needy family or sent to the Open Door Mission. Thank you for the clothes that have come in over the past few weeks.

#### Finance News

Tax receipts for 2009 donations will be sent out soon.

#### Adopt a Bill

Winter is synonymous with large bills, which causes everyone's budget to get tighter. Our school is no different. Please look at the list of bills and prayerfully consider if you may be able to help in any way.

Q's Lawn and Landscape (plowing)- **\$ 900.00**

Screen Vision Direct - **\$156.00**

Toshiba Copier - **\$165.75**

**Casella - \$111.00 ----- PAID - THANK YOU!!!**

Time Warner - **\$133.04**

Town of Palmyra – water - **\$2,098.22**

Donations of 8 ½ x 11 copy paper are always appreciated (20lb weight, 92 or 96 brightness).

Please specify adopt a bill with your donation and remember that all gifts are tax deductible.

If you have any questions, please call the office.

### **EPCS Soccer Players**

Some soccer uniforms are still not turned in. Please check at home and please turn them in ASAP. Thank you.

### **Kindergarten & Preschool**

**Math** – We finish up our unit on measurement by covering measuring by weight and temperature.

**ELA** – This week we add Y and Z to what we have learned about phonemic awareness. Challenge your child to teach you the alphabet using Zoo-Phonics (sounds, rather than letter names). We have only covered short vowel sounds.

**Bible** – Moses & the Plagues, Crossing the Sea

**Social Studies** – How do you spend money?

**Health** – We finish up our safety train cars that cover all the lessons we have learned on safety.

**Please continue to review your phone number and address with your child at home.**

### **First & Second Grade**

**Bible:** We are learning about the Sermon on the Mount and what Jesus says about how we should act toward one another. Our memory verse this week is Matthew 5: 43-44.

**Spelling:** Only the orange group or the second grade spellers will have a test this week. The rest of the spelling groups will have review units in school.

**Math:** The second graders are finishing their unit. They will be learning about checking their work and reviewing for the test on Friday. The first graders are learning more about subtraction and learning about reading subtraction words problems.

**Science:** We are going to learn about sickness and keeping our bodies healthy.

**Assembly:** We have assembly this week. We will be teaching the school about the old rules and Jesus' new rules. Please join us if you can. Assembly is on Wednesday at 8:25 in the morning.

**Offering for World Vision:** We are collecting our offering for our world vision child on

Wednesdays now. Please don't forget to send something in so that we can support our child.

### **Third & Fourth Grade**

**Spelling:** Lesson 15 lists will be sent home today.

**Bible:** We will begin dioramas this week.

**Social Studies:** We will be discussing different celebrations.

**Field Trip:** I will be sending home information either today or tomorrow.

**Math: Grade 3:** We will work with graphing this week.

**Grade 4:** This week look at solving equations with variables and will take a practice test over multiplication and division facts and related concepts on Thursday.

### **Fifth and Sixth Grade**

**Math Grade 5:** We are learning about prime and composite numbers, and will look at interpreting remainders, order of operations, and ordered pairs.

**Grade 6:** Our topics this week are improper fractions and mixed numbers, benchmark fractions, and relating fractions to decimals.

**Bible:** We are learning about Messianic Psalms.

**Reading:** We will have a vocabulary test on Thursday. Students should bring home a study sheet tonight. They should also have the written part of their book report mostly finished by Friday.

**History:** We continue a unit about the Ancient Greeks.

**Spelling:** Test on Thursday.

**Spanish 5/6:** We meet Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a quiz on the current group of nouns that students have studied. Students should bring their folders and a writing instrument to class.

### **Seventh and Eighth Grade**

**Pasta Dinner:** Parents please mark your calendars for Friday, February 12 for our annual pasta dinner. An e-mail AND a flyer will be coming to you this week.

**Bible:** Christian service reports are due on Thursday. Our current unit is about Job.

**Spanish 1A (7<sup>th</sup>)** Students will learn six more –ar verbs and how to say s/he travels, swims, doesn't visit, doesn't dance, etc.

**Spanish 1B (8<sup>th</sup>)** Students have started learning a different set of stem-changing verbs. There will be a quiz on the formation of the verbs this week.

**History:** The students will do a Progressive Era magazine project that will be due on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. I will be discussing it with the

students in class, giving them the information they need, and putting the information on the web site.

### **Ninth and Tenth Grade**

**Bible:** We will look at the stories of Jacob and Esau. Christian service reports are due on Friday.

**Spanish 2:** Students have begun study of Unit 2 Lesson 3. This includes vocabulary words of common accessories (bracelet, earrings, ring, etc.) and using direct and indirect object pronouns together.

**Spanish 3:** Sarah is working on two writing assignments that utilize the preterit tense.

**Global:** We will be starting Chapter 18 The French Revolution and Napoleon.

### **Band Lessons**

**Tues:** 8:30 Garrett 9:00 Emilee 9:30 Jessica 10:00 Noah

**Wed.** 8:00 Josiah, 8:30 Jaelyn. 9:00 Hannah Sn. 9:30 Jonah 10:00 Hannah St. 10:20 Claire, 10:40 Kaitlyn, 12:40 4/5 BAND, 1:20 5<sup>th</sup> grade All county practice, 2:00 Karen

**Thurs.** 8:30 Devin, 9:00 Kayla 9:30 Amelia 10:00 Genesis 10:20 Michelle 10:40 Katie

**Fri.** 8:30 Brianna, 9:00 Brian, 9:30 Will 10:00 Hunter, 10:30 Caitlin, Carolyn, 11:00 Ben 11:30 Amber, Alyssa, 2:00 Amanda, Cathryn

**Next Mon. 1/25** 8:30 Drew 9:00 Garrett 9:30 Emilee, 10:00 Jessica

**Music donations:** Earlier in the fall, the 7/8 music class surveyed their parents and grandparents, and themselves, about their favorite pieces of music. When the results were compiled, we were able to see many repeats on the list of favorites. I have chosen band music for the next concert based on these top favorites. If you would like to donate a piece of music in honor or memory of a loved one, please let the office know. Thank you!

### **Concert band**

King of Rock and Roll...	\$50
<b><u>4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> grade band</u></b>	
Beethoven for Band	\$45
What a Wonderful World	\$45
Hallelujah Chorus	\$40
Eye of the Tiger	\$45

The **7/8 guitar class** is need of 4 more guitars for short-term loan. Please let Mrs. Cornwell know if you can help fill this need!

### **Circle News**

**Hot Lunch** this week will be pancakes, sausage, fruit and dessert provided by Julie O'Dell. Workers will be Maggie Cosh, Julie O'Dell and Cathy Peelen

**Candy Bar sale** is still ongoing. Please continue to sell your candy bars and return your money to the office as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **Catering Request – we need your help!**

The circle has been asked to cater an event on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at the EPCRC Church. We are looking for donations of the following salads: Potato, Macaroni, Pasta, Lettuce, Fruit and Jell-O. We also need helpers to serve. Workers will need to work 4pm – 9pm that evening. If you can help in any way, please call Maggie Cosh at 1-585-396-2093 as soon as possible. Thank you!

### **EPCS Logo Items**

EPCS Logo items that were available at the auction are still available. T-shirts, hats, mouse pads, window stickers, car door magnets, tote bags, etc. Ask about them in the office.

### **Donations Wanted**

Do you have scrap metal, old auto, motorcycle or lawnmower batteries or old appliances lying around just looking for a place to call home? EPCS will take them off of your hands, as we can recycle these items for cash. This cash will go towards the school. Please call Edison O'Brien at 331-4622 if you can help out. Thank you!