Through Our School Door

East Palmyra Christian School
2023 East Palmyra-Port Gibson Road, Palmyra, NY 14522
Phone: 315-597-4400 Fax: 315-597-9717
Email: office@eastpalmyrachristianschool.com
Website: www.eastpalmyrachristianschool.com

EPCS School Theme 2009-2010:
"And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

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.

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

And Walk Humbly With Your God (taken from the Convocation Address by Mr V—Wednesday, September 8, 2010)

I really enjoy the 139th Psalm, the one we read in parts this morning. I really like how it speaks of God being there for us, that God is before us, behind us, below us, in us. That God knows us through and through.

There was a song that I sang when I was in choir many years ago. It is a prayer that dates back to the 16th century (Sarum Primer, 1538) and it goes something like this:

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing...

Another prayer from the same century goes like this:

Today I put on God's strength to steer me, God's power to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye for my vision, God's ear for my hearing, God's word for my speech, God's hand to protect me, God's pathway before me, God's shield for my shelter, God's angels to guard me.

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left, Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I rise, Christ in the hearts of all who think of me, Christ in the mouths of all who speak to me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.—a 16th Century Prayer

God all around, hemming me in, watching over me. I think this idea of God being all around can be both a bit disconcerting, and yet, a relief. God, all around me. God, with me always.

And now this God, this amazing God, this God who knows you and me so intimately, knows everything about us, even how many hairs we have on our head, this God wants *us* to know God too. This all-knowing God wants us to live for him. And God tells us how to do that. God lays it open for us. God gives us God's directions: What does the Lord require of you? To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Justice, mercy, and humility. No cheating or gossiping or lying or taking advantage of someone or of pulling the wool over their eyes, no backing out on commitments, no slacking off, no "whatever!" Instead, stick up for the underdog, tell the truth, be honest, study hard for a test, do your best, give it all you've got, be stewardly, make

your classes work well, be accountable. No short cuts. That's living justly. And no put downs, no lying to your friends, no hanging out with whoever works best for you, no selfishness, no me-first. Instead, care for those who are in need, be kind to everyone, be an encourager, cry with those who are hurting and lift them up, put others before yourself, live at peace with everyone, be careful to do right, be happy with those that are happy, share your lunch, be joyful, have hope, serve the Lord and serve your buddies. That's loving mercy. And being the tough guy isn't as cool as it is cracked up to be, the class clown isn't always that funny, don't be proud, don't be conceited, don't associate with the wrong people, don't bad-mouth your way out of situations, don't put others down to make yourself look cool. Being cool isn't what it's cracked up to be either. Instead, love others more than yourself, do unto others what you would like them to do to you, live like a Christian if that is what you say you are, do your best but don't get a swelled head, be humble, confess your sins, love your God, and live everyday in God's joy and peace, be Christ-like. That's walking humbly with your God

That's a tall order, to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. And yet, that's our theme for this coming school year: Lets help each other do that. Let's pray for each other, encourage each other, keep each other accountable, talk about our verse with each other.

But, you see, after having said all of this, I want you to know that simply doing everything I have said is not good enough. God isn't simply giving us a prescription for how to live. Oh, that too. But there's more going on here. You see, I think God is out for your heart. God wants your heart. God wants you to give your heart to him. And if you give your heart to God, then doing justice, and loving mercy, and walking humbly are not things you do, but they become who you are, they become a part of you. God is a part of you, maybe a little like God inside of us,
God in our heads, and in our understanding;
God in our eyes, and in our looking;
God in our mouths, and in our speaking;
God in our hearts, and in our thinking;
God at our ends, and at our departing...
God in our hearts, and in our doing justice,
God in our hearts, and in our loving mercy,
God in our hearts, and in our humble walk.
You see, being a Christian, having God inside and outside of us, means *doing* justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. It's who we become. And even more, the God with whom we walk humbly is our Father, and this Father has made us God's children.

I wish you God's richest blessings as you and all of us do justly this school year, as we love mercy, and as together, we walk humbly with our God. May God bless each of you!! kv

EPCS Soccer
Soccer practice will begin tomorrow, Thursday, September 9, at 3 pm and go to 4:30 pm. Please be sure to pick up your soccer player on time! We look forward to a great season. Please see the School Door for schedule. Come on out to the games to support our EPCS Eagles!

EPCS Calendar

Wednesday, September 8, 2010 Day A
Convocation Assembly at 8:30 am

Thursday, September 9, 2010 Day B
Soccer practice 3 pm – 4;30 pm

Friday, September 10, 2010 Day C

Monday, September 13, 2010 Day D
Soccer Practice 3 pm – 4:30 pm

And Beyond:
Friday, October 1 Grandparents Day 9 am–12 noon
Saturday, Oct 16 EPCS Auction—all day!!! ☺

School Door Distribution
The School Door gets sent home with the youngest student in your family each Monday. However, if you would like to receive the School Door via e-mail, please let us know by e-mailing us your correct e-mail address (be it home or work) at

Office@eastpalmyrachristianschool.com Also let us know if you wish to receive it in html or .doc form.

School Cleaning

Please call the office to set up your cleaning days - those families who have opted to clean 5 days during the school year. Spots are filling up quickly, and if you want a certain date, you need to call soon.

Should you need keys to clean after school hours, please let the office know, so that we can send them home with your student. Please remember to turn them back in the next morning. Thank you!

Yearbook

We are looking for a person/family to take over putting together the yearbook. Jane Ballesty has a program to use, and is willing to train you. Please let the office know if you are interested working on the yearbook in any capacity.

Auction News

CHICKEN BARBEQUE TICKETS and information will be sent home with your child this Friday. Please sell as many as you can and return money to office by Sept. 24th. If you need more tickets, please let Debbie Terry (te24rrys@netzero.com) know. If you will not be selling tickets, please return them to the school promptly.

GO-GETTER(S) NEEDED: We urgently need a go-getter(s) to cover several NEWARK area businesses. Many of these businesses faithfully make a donation every year, but they need to be contacted. If you are a go-getter who can take on a few more businesses, please call Linda Kellogg (331-6424). Or, if you are not currently a go-getter, but would like information about it, please call Linda. Thank you!

(See full page article in this SD)

Soccer:

Practice Thursday, 9/9, and Monday, 9/13 from 3:00-4:30 pm. Please pick up your child on time.

First game is away at St. John Bosco on **Tuesday,** Sept. 14th at 5:15pm. Watch for a sign-up sheet to help carpool our players to games; please send these back in ASAP or call/email (khooge@eastpalmyrachristianschool.com) your availability. A schedule will be handed out at practice on Thursday.

Next Game: Thursday, Sept 16, away game vs. Destiny at 4:00pm.

Kindergarten & Preschool

Welcome to kindergarten and preschool! We're going to have a great year together!

Watch for some important information coming home this week; check your orange take-home folders for any communication and student work. Gym this year will be on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, so be sure to have gym shoes!

First & Second Grade

Welcome to the first week of school -- YAHOO!! I am so excited to see everyone, and I can not wait to get started with all we have planned for this special year. All of you are returning students, but I am new EPCS. This week will get to know each other a bit and start working on some basic reading and math exercises. There will be quite a few things that will go home, so keep that ***YELLOW*** folder handy! I pray that we have a wonderful year together!

Third & Fourth Grade

I can't believe it is the first day of school already! Welcome to the party! I am looking forward to a great year. I have a lot of exciting things planned for the school year, which I will be sharing with you in the coming days. Please look for the parent information packet coming home this week.

Field Trip: We will be going to Ganondagan on Wednesday, September 14th. The cost will be $4.00 per student and $5.00 per adult. More info will be coming home this week.

Have a great week! ☺

Spanish: Welcome back! Let's have a great year this year! We will start out by reviewing the present, preterit and imperfect tenses.

Fifth and Sixth Grade

Welcome back! I hope you had a great, restful summer. Mine was wonderful with super weather, trips to see family, and projects at home. It was good, but I'm really looking forward to a great year. I hope you are, too.

If you aren't sure that I have your current email address, please send me a note at jrachow@eastpalmyrachristianschool.com. I find it much easier to keep in touch via email than with paper notes (which get lost or I might not have time during the day to answer) or phone calls (which

might lead to phone-tag), although of course, please feel free to use either. During the day, I check email if I have time, but if something needs to be done that day, please call the office. Also, please do send a paper note after an absence.

Please plan to join us for Grandparents' Day on Oct. 1. We always have a lot of fun, and parents are always welcome.

If you are willing to help with our auction basket, please let me know. The auction will be here before long.

Again, if you have any questions or if there is any way that I can be of help, please let me know. Mrs. Rachow

Spanish: Welcome back! We will begin meeting next week. First we will go over the vowel sounds and then we will map out what we will study this year.

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Spanish 1A (7th): Welcome back! I'm looking forward to a great year this year. We will start out with assigning books and going over rules and procedures for classroom behavior and homework.

Spanish 1B (8th): Welcome back! I'm looking forward to a great year this year. We will start with assigning books and reviewing procedures for classroom behavior and homework.

Ninth and Tenth Grade

Spanish 2: Welcome back! I'm looking forward to a great year this year. We will start by assigning books and diving right into the first lesson.

Band & Chorus

These are the EPCS students I have on the band schedule as of today: Liam K., Connor, Alex C., Josiah, Kayla P., Michelle W., Claire, Katie, Jaelyn, Hannah S., Karen, Genesis, Noah B., Caitlin, Garrett, Kaitlyn, Ian, Hannah T. If there are any additions or subtractions from this list, please let me know right away. Lessons begin on Friday of this week.

Lessons this week

Friday: 8:45 Noah B. 9:15 Garrett 10:00 Caitlin 10:30 Karen 11:00 Josiah

Next Mon. (9/13) 8:45 Claire, 9:15 Jaelyn, 10:00 Katie

Band rehearsals will be each Mon. and Wed., with Jazz Band on Wednesdays only. If you played in 4/5 band or concert band last year, you are in Concert band now. Please get back in the habit of remembering your instrument on those days, as well as your lesson day. We have fun music to prepare for Grandparents' Day!

If you use a school-owned instrument, you will receive a sign-out sheet for use of that instrument. There is a $20 fee for the year. Please return the sheet and the money by the end of next week. Thank you!

Circle News

For those of you new to our school, a hot lunch is offered to the children on Wednesdays. It is made and served by volunteers. The menu for the week will be in the School Door each Monday so your child can decide if they want to buy lunch. It does not need to be ordered ahead of time. The hot lunch program will begin NEXT Weds. 9/ 15.

The cost for hot lunch will be $2 per lunch. We would appreciate it if you could pay in blocks ($16 for 8 lunches, $32 for 16, etc.) as it easier for our volunteers. Money will only be taken from your 'account' on the days your child chooses to buy. Money may be sent in now, please mark as "hot lunch for_____".

If you are interested in participating in this program or if you have questions please call Cheri Winslow (986-4240). We are looking for some people to volunteer to make desserts for these lunches and people who are willing to fill in if a volunteer becomes unavailable.

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!