

Lion's Roar 5-13-20

Musings from Mrs. Stout

Last month I spent a lot of time planting. As most of you know, my father died around Thanksgiving last year. That resulted in the need to disperse of my parents' belongings and prepare to sell the home I grew up in. That home held so many heartwarming memories. I took some of my favorite plants from my parents' yard to transplant in mine. Finding just the right place in my yard for all the plants I brought home was no small job. I located just the right place for a beautiful dahlia that grew in my parents' front yard. As I put my shovel against the landscape fabric, I was surprised to find something growing underneath. Two years ago, we covered the flower beds with landscape fabric and bark. The first picture shows what had been growing for two years in the dark – calla lily bulbs. They look rather pathetic, don't they? But think of their determination to grow that this represents. For two years they had survived in the dark cramped space under bark and landscape fabric!



The picture makes me think of us. We are urged to stay home. Parents now have the responsibility of teaching and helping their children with schoolwork. What a mammoth task! One that runs the gamut of emotions. The task at times feels dark and cramped. Yet the day students began learning from home is like the day I found the bulbs growing in the dark. You too were waiting in the darkness with all that potential for life, growth, and beauty. You may not have known that part of you was there ready to grow just like I had not known the bulbs were there yearning to grow.

What lessons do these scraggly plants hold for us? I have thought of a couple, but I am sure you can come up with more. First, growth needs light. It needs time. It needs determination.

God has a plan. If we focus on our inadequacies, we will most certainly be discouraged. But if we reflect on the potential energy in the bulbs, the opportunity for growth is

phenomenal. Let us focus on that potential. God has stored up energy for each of us to access. In addition to light, plants also need water, and warmth to thrive. God's light shines bright all around us. We have the water of His Word. And we have the warmth of His love. God grows us according to His time. Just as we may not notice how much our children have grown until we measure them, you are growing through this challenging time. Just as plants are determined to grow, let us join in their determination. This is hard. At times, it is dark and cramped, but God has a purpose in it for us. Let us determine to trust His plan. It is way better than any plan we could design.

Here is a picture of those scraggly plants less than a month after being set free from the chains and constraints of the landscape fabric. Look what God has done with these lowly plants in less than 30 days! (Matthew 6:28) These plants still have a way to grow. We all do. Yet, "He surrounds us with love and tender mercies." (Psalm 103: 4b) Alleluia! With God we can thrive!



God has a plan for you. He has grace in abundance for you. Do not let yourself be discouraged by your inadequacies. Instead, focus on what God is teaching you in the days to come. What new life does he want to give you? Look around you. Everything is growing, and so are you!

Financial Assistance

Just a reminder that if you are applying for financial assistance please plan to have your application completed by this Friday, May 15. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office.

Materials Fees Due

In your oldest student's homework packet this week you will find a notice of your materials fee balance due. If paying your balance before June 1st is a hardship, you may make payments on your balance due until August 15.

Memorial Day Weekend

Originally our school schedule was for us to be closed on Friday May 22nd as a staff day, however we will now be open as a normal Friday for pick-up and drop-off of schoolwork packets. However, we will still be closed on Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day.

Yearbooks

We have a limited number of extra yearbooks in the office available to purchase for \$25.00.

Gift Cards

Shop'n Kart has generously donated a gift card to every student and staff member at CCS. Look for your gift cards in your packets going home on Friday! Thank you so much Shop'n Kart for your over the top generosity!!

Technology Policies

We are so glad we can access technology during this time of distance learning. Thank you CCS technology committee! The use of CCS technology by our students is a privilege which requires students to agree to use it responsibly. This may be a good time to review these responsibilities with your children. Here is a condensed list from our Code of Ethics in Technology:

As a result of my participation and acceptance of responsibility to CCS and fellow users of technology, I will:

- *To the best of my ability, protect the privacy and confidentiality of others by adhering to all rules for use posted in classrooms and stated in the Acceptable Use Policy.*
- *Support and abide by all laws (state and federal) to the best of my abilities, dealing with copyright, plagiarism, and "intellectual property" as defined.*
- *Acknowledge that all hardware and software is the property of CCS; use of its network, computers, hardware and software are with the express permission of CCS.*
- *Not engage in any Internet searches deemed inappropriate for school use, not quote the work of another as my own, and not pass on confidential information entrusted to me by another, without their express permission.*
- *Not withhold information about any abuses of the technology owned by CCS. I will communicate such to appropriate authorities immediately.*

- *Not use any technology owned by CCS to engage in activities for personal profit. This includes accessing of websites that are outside the scope of the curricular activities of CCS.*
- *Use all communications that follow the established rules for netiquette and I will not participate in conversations, correspondences, or activities via CCS technology that violates them.*

Community Events

Free Meals

“Our Nation’s Ministries” have food boxes available every Saturday and individual deliveries are an option as well. Contact the ministry office at 360-807-4337 for more information.