

Lion's Roar 5-20-20

Musings from Mrs. Stout

With just a little over two weeks of school left to go, let's reflect on all we've learned this year. It's amazing! Last fall, when the school year started, seems like a lifetime ago. The children came to school with such excitement and eagerness. They taught us all a lot. We hope we taught them a thing or two as well. These last 10 weeks have been a whirlwind of changes, questions, and struggles. In many ways it has been a very long 10 weeks with plenty of concerns. Those are the things that shout at us through these trying times. But let's stop and consider of the unanticipated blessings and insights we have gained. There have been so many for all of us. And if we could each share just one blessing or insight gained, the vast variety would be astounding.

I have two insights to share with you which have resonated in my heart this week. I'm sure there have been great insights and blessings in your life too.

God has blessed me, a city girl born and raised in Seattle, with the opportunity to live on a farm. It's a huge blessing with 500 goats, 100 recalcitrant chickens always seeking to scratch up my garden beds, five Great Pyrenees dogs, two bee hives, a son and daughter-in-law and 8 grandchildren. It is filled with life and growth! As I walked by a lilac bush this week, the fragrance caused me to bask in this quintessential Spring delight. What a gift! Something about scents trigger our emotions. A beautiful smell is a sweet, gentle gift from our heavenly father. I want to use these beautiful smells to trigger thoughts of God and his blessings specifically designed for me. I want fragrances to trigger my focus to Him. Springtime is a time when the air is filled with fragrance. When I encounter these common, yet sometimes surprising smells, may I pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God who blesses us all abundantly.

We might find this kind of learning frustrating. Why can't children just do their work so they can be done? Why does it have to take them so long? How can they be distracted by so many things? It can be frustrating to be sure.

But let's remember God created our children to be inquisitive and curious. He's in no rush and neither are they. As adults can we find a way to see play as a learning process? There is work to be done and our children need to learn accountability. The work ethic is one of my favorite ethics. Yet I hope that during this extended time staying at home to stay healthy you and your children will find lots of opportunities to play – and learn in the process.



My second insight is about how children learn on their own. They are creative and filled with wonder. Every task becomes a game or an exploration. Here is a picture of three of our grandchildren Ellie, almost 8, Liesl, almost 9 and Eva, 11. Last night their mother sent them up to the egg house to bring home a dozen eggs for dinner. Now if I was doing the task, I would walk directly to the egg house, quickly gather a dozen eggs and head directly back to the house. No dawdling. No laughing. Just a task to be accomplished. But this is not the way of children. They see and wonder about so much. A chore like this becomes a vehicle for exploring life. The picture shows the pride they have taken in gathering just the perfect eggs. They point out to me the beautiful blend of colors they have chosen. If you look closely, you will see the egg in the back row on the left is less than perfect. It still has dirt on it. They are especially proud of this egg finding it hilarious that it still has chicken “fertilizer” on it.

What Will Happen Next Year at CCS?

Recently, there has been a lot of talk in the media regarding how schools will reopen in September. Many of you may be wondering what CCS is doing to prepare for school next year. Our intention is to start school as scheduled on September 2 and follow our traditional schedule. We will make allowances for social distancing (if that requirement is mandated) and increase our sanitizing procedures. We are forming a task force to consider various scenarios for beginning the 2020-21 school year. We will keep you apprised of plans as they are developed. For now, we will focus on finishing this school year strong, pressing on and trusting God to lead us each step of the way.

Memorial Day Weekend

Just a reminder the school will be closed on Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day.

Stuffing Party

We will be holding a mailing 'party' on Friday, May 29 at 5:30 p.m. and we could use your help! Please join us to help stuff and stamp envelopes. SALT hours apply and please let us know if you can come.

SALT Hours

Be on the lookout for a SALT hour update email that will be sent to you soon from our SALT hour coordinator, Sharma Cawley. The SALT hour completion date has been extended this year to June 30th. Any hours not served by June 30th will be billed to you at \$10/hour. Keep an eye out in the Lions Roar or contact your student's teacher(s) directly for SALT hour opportunities. Currently we have outside spruce up projects (weeding, pressure washing) but we'll keep you posted on other jobs as they arise.

Yearbooks

Have you seen this years yearbook yet? It is amazing! If you missed out on ordering one, we have a few extra in the office available to purchase for \$25.00.