



The Christ Courier

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Character or Success? What Parents Want

by Audrey Russell, Head of School

I am sharing an article from a recent *National Episcopal Schools Association* newsletter. Ann Mellow, Associate Director of NAIS, reported the results of a National Association of Independent Schools' study of what motivates parents when it comes to school choice. The study was conducted in November of 2011. Not surprisingly, differing educational priorities influence the kind of school that parents consider for their children.

Here is what Ms. Mellow reports - NAIS identified five basic types of parents in relation to school choice: Parents Who Push; Success-Driven Parents; Special Kids' Parents; Character-Building Parents; and Public School Proponents. Of the five types, Character-Building Parents are most likely to consider a private school for their child; in fact 79% already have a child or children in a private school. These parents expect strong academics, but a key is "that their children will grow spiritually and have a high moral character." Episcopal schools have always combined strong academics and meaningful attention to moral and spiritual development, meeting these parents' needs.

Success-Driven parents are second most-likely to consider private schools. However, for this group, admission to a selective college is seen as an important outcome. Half of their children are already enrolled in private schools—but half are not. The differing priorities of Character-Building Parents and Success-Driven Parents can contribute to tensions between virtue and achievement, between community service and college placement, between God's time (*kairos*) and earthly time (*chronos*) in many Episcopal schools.

Perhaps we need not accept the dichotomy between "character" and "success" that the survey seems to imply, but instead accept the fact that *moral character and spiritual formation are understood as the foundation of a "successful" adult life infused with meaning and purpose.*

2012-2013 Pre-Kindergarten 3 to Grade 6 Enrollment Information

- Thursday, Feb. 2: **Fast Forward Night, 5:30 pm**- families visit next year's class; current families and prospective families welcome
- Thursday, Feb. 16: Registration Packets sent home with currently enrolled students
- Tuesday, Feb. 21-Friday, Feb. 24: Priority enrollment for currently enrolled families (\$50.00 reduction in enrollment fee)
- Tuesday, Feb. 27: Enrollment opens to community



CES Geography Bee Winners

Winners of the 2012 school-level Geography Bee, from left, are fifth-grader Brad Fults, third place; fifth grader Caroline Deal, first place; and fourth grader Sydney Rankin, second place. Caroline is eligible to compete at the state level if she is among the top 100 scoring students on a written test.

Special Ash Wednesday Chapel Service & Lunch Schedule

On Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, the students' weekly chapel (Kindergarten to grade 5) will take place at 12:00 noon. The brief service will include the imposition of ashes. Students may remain after 12:30, with a parent, for Holy Communion. (If a Grade 2-5 student remains for Holy Communion, he/she may eat at 11:20 am.)

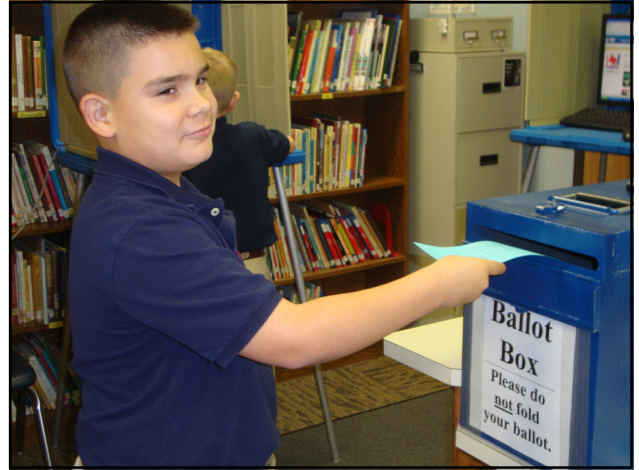
Kindergarten and first grade will eat at 11:20 am.
Grades 2-5 will eat at 12:30 pm. More details coming.

Mission Statement

Christ Episcopal School is a diverse community of learners who participate in an enriched academic program in a nurturing Christian environment which fosters a dedication to service to others and a love of lifetime learning.



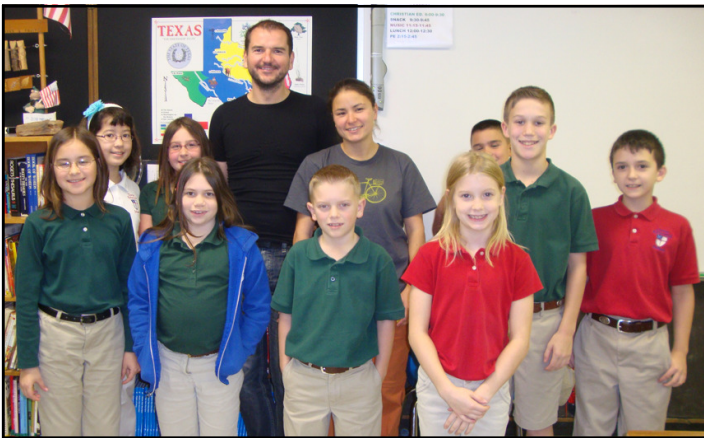
Fifth grade students shared their Native American Indian displays and research with students and guests on January 27th.



Casting A Vote for Bluebonnet Favorite

A fourth grader casts a vote for his favorite Texas Bluebonnet Award contender. The Bluebonnet Award is awarded to the book which is voted the overall favorite of Texas school children.

CES Librarian, Jan Cobb, sponsored the event which included the acquisition of each book considered for this year's award. Students in grades 3-5 recently voted for their favorite choice. The CES winner is The Shadows by Jacqueline West. The statewide winner will be announced after January 31st voting ends.



Guest Speakers Share Travel Experiences with Fourth Graders

Pictured with the fourth grade students are Philippe Reinisch from Vienna, Austria and Susan Jehne from Brisbane Australia. Mr. Reinisch and Ms. Jehne spoke to the students about their travels in Antarctica and South America.

Auction Info. . .

2012 Auction-A Magical Evening-

When: Saturday, March 3rd

6:00 –7:00 pm, Silent Auction

Food and Live Auction to follow

Where: University Mall, former Bealls store
(enter in the rear of the mall)

Raffle Ticket Items: Jewelry from Beards/hunting rifle/gasoline

Important Dates:

Every Friday through Feb. 24: Auction Meeting,
1:30 pm, Science Lab

Wednesday, Feb. 1: Auction Raffle Tickets sent home

Friday, Feb. 17: Solicited Auction items turned in

Tuesday, Feb. 21: Auction Reservations due

Monday, Feb. 27: Auction Raffle tickets due



CES Faculty Engaged in Professional Mimio Training

On January 13th, CES faculty participated in a half-day technology training session with a professional trainer with Mimio Interactive Systems from San Antonio. Teachers received additional training to enhance the interactive capabilities of the school's Mimio equipment. The trainer also provided information about additional instructional and lesson resources to aid in teacher preparation.