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SEIZE ETERNITY

ChalkMarks

Home of the Eagles



Damascus Christian School

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR
DCS FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Parent-Teacher Conference Preparation

In less than a month, Parent-Teacher Conferences will be upon us. Now is the time to prepare in order to maximize that time for the benefit of your child, yourself, and the teacher(s). The purpose of conferences is to provide the face-to-face link between school and home. It gives both sides the opportunity to dialogue together and agree on a course of action that will give your child more learning skills.

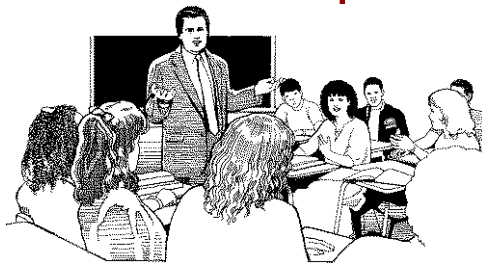
Here are eleven tips that will make the Parent-Teacher Conference effective and profitable:

1. Pray. Pray for your child's teacher and yourself, that the time will be used wisely and beneficially for the sake of all parties.
2. Prepare. Write down topics you would like to discuss and specific questions you would like to have answered. Number the questions based on their importance and ask your most important ques-

tions first, just in case time runs out before you have a chance to discuss them all.

3. Ask your child if there are topics he or she would like to have discussed. If so, remember that the "facts" about the situation relayed to you by your child are coming through a child's perspective.
4. Be on time and respect time limits. Teachers have tight schedules; arrive five minutes early so you can collect your thoughts and begin the conference on time. Avoid wasting time with subjects that have nothing to do with your child.
5. Don't bring the student or other children to the conference unless this is a special request made by the teacher.
6. Be honest with teachers and make your concerns fully known. Relax and remain calm.
7. Try to be open-minded to comments or suggestions that the teacher makes. Listen first, reflect, and then act.
8. Keep your emotions under control. It's okay to feel

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Outdoor School ~ A Testimony To God's Faithfulness

Each fall, our sixth graders pack up and head to the great out-of-doors to examine, first-hand, God's wonderful creation. Much groundwork goes into the planning and preparation of this exciting adventure. Curriculum has to be updated and revised. Accommodations must be secured and confirmed. Cooks must be recruited. A bus and driver need to be secured. Counselors must be interviewed and trained. The sixth graders need to be briefed and prepared. Most importantly, prayer must precede and continue through all aspects of this event.

Mr. Hayley, DCS Outdoor School resource teacher, chronicled the amazing answers to prayer upon completion of the October 10th-12th outing. 1. A bus was provided (and it ran great!).

2. A driver was provided and was willing to do the necessary *extra* work to get school bus certified by the ODE (not to mention getting the in running condition for us).
3. The weather was beyond belief beautiful – calm, clear and even warm! The students, counselors and staff played on the beach during free time in *balmy* weather!
4. There were several remarks made to different leaders, unsolicited, at several stops about the positive way in which our group diligently worked and really participated in the learning experience. One of the ladies at the



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defensive on behalf of your child, but act as an advocate, not an excuse-maker.

9. Ask for specific suggestions. Take notes so that you can share this information with your child.
10. Remember that you and the teacher are on the same side.
11. Express appreciation for the teacher's time and energy. Saying "Thank you" can go a long way. Show your appreciation by asking what you can do to help continue the learning process at home.

These tips will help make the Parent-Teacher Conference a valuable tool to enhance the learning of your child. Education is a partnership between home and school. The closer we work together, the more effective will be our efforts.

Manners Matter At DCS

Congratulations to the following DCS Eagles for practicing good manners during the month of September: 1st grade - **Addi B.** and **Ashtin G.**; 2nd grade - **Micah G.** and **Jackson H.**; 3rd grade - **Jacob A.** and **Gabriel C.**; 4th grade - **Luke S.** and **Madi W.**; 5th grade - **Rachel G.** and **Kenna M.** 6th grade begins their selection after Outdoor School. Congratulations!!



***This
and
That***

(Continued from page 1) Outdoor School

Tillamook Museum made the effort to follow our group to their bus and tell them, "This is the best group of students we have ever had. You are welcome back any time!" Similar comments were made at other stops including the Oregon Aquarium. We rejoice that our counselors and campers were such a good testimony – a direct answer to many of your prayers! 5. The counselors we selected turned out to be some of the best we have ever had. We were so thankful for their positive attitudes, willing spirits, and perseverance under the demands of this intensive three-day ministry. 6. Our accommodations were perfect, even though there was an unforeseen last minute change that, at first, was rather disquieting. 7. **Mrs. Chesney** (*Golden Eagle*) had full recovery from an extremely painful migraine headache the weekend immediately preceding outdoor school. 8. The divine provision for a problem with the bus – a loose belt that had just been replaced on the power steering was very noisy and made it very hard to steer the bus. When we pulled in to the Pioneer Museum in Tillamook, we knew we had to find a way to repair it. Just as we unloaded the campers to have lunch, **Dave Wakefield**, our bus driver, saw his brother who *just happened* to live in Tillamook and *just happened* to spot Dave, and *just happened* to have the right tools along to fix it - with the help of **Ed Chesney**, who *just happened* to be with our group that day! 9. To literally "top it off", when our group pulled in to the gas station, Mr. Hayley used his gas card which had a limit of \$100. The bus was totally topped off at exactly \$100! Thank you Lord, for the wonderful ways You demonstrated Your care for us at this year's DCS Outdoor School!

Thanks too, to our volunteer cooks **Diane Osborn** and **Shelly Wade** for serving up scrumptious meals with a smile, our best-ever counselors – **Kristina R.**, **Rebekah S.**, **Emily S.**, **Michael D.**, **Andrew J.** and **Seth R.**. And thank you, our faithful parents, for your prayers on behalf of this wonderful program.



**School Picture Retakes, Tuesday,
November 6th, 8:30 AM**

**McTeacher's Night Monday, October
22nd, 5-8 PM at the Damascus
McDonalds. Bring the family and let
us serve you!**



Park and Pray, Wednesday
mornings, 8:30 - 9:30, in the Prayer
Room (between kindergarten and third grade).



Wreaths and Poinsettias Sale

DCS freshmen, sophomores and juniors are all selling wreaths and poinsettias to help raise funds for their Washington, DC trips. Decorate your home and help our students at the same time. The sale begins Monday, October 15th and ends November 2nd. Delivery is November 27th. Questions? - please contact **DCS—503.658.4100.**

