

# SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS . . . *SMALL CLOUD CHRONICLES*

"With God all things are possible." Mark 10:27

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## SURPRISE!

**Y**es, indeed! It came as a complete surprise when Margie Seely communicated to Sandy Nelson—her teaching partner at SCCS for fifteen years—that Margie felt God's calling to go to Georgia and teach for ten months at our church school there. The entire Seely family would be leaving Small Cloud and moving to Georgia, removing four students from the school and leaving only three Petrovich children and Stephen.

Panic seized Sandy as she contemplated the change. Not only would she be teaching full time again, but also she alone would be responsible for teaching *all* subjects, including science and history, which Margie had always taught. Sandy would also have her almost two-year-old twins (pictured at left) following her wherever she went.



Jeremiah and Jonathan

For those who do not know, Margie and Sandy have been lifelong friends. As Margie is a couple of years older than Sandy, Margie likes to remind Sandy that Margie held Sandy when she was just a baby! The thought of separation from her best friend seemed more than Sandy could bear. But God's ways are not always our ways, and through much struggle Sandy trusted God to see her through no matter what the future would hold. Margie, too, struggled as she anticipated her new job and the move involved.

Margie began the school year alone, while Sandy prepared for the change. A week in October was taken off for Margie to move out and Sandy to move in.

The first few weeks were very challenging, but once again God provided help. A friend named Josefina, who wanted to see a Christian school in action, came to Small Cloud. Josefina's desire is to start a school of some sort in Mexico, and she gave Sandy much-needed support while dusting the bookshelves, giving the kitchen a thorough cleaning, watching the twins, and helping wherever there was a need. And although Josefina stayed only a couple of weeks, she provided the jumpstart Sandy needed.

Now things have settled into a fairly smooth routine. In the morning Sandy prepares breakfast; then the twins watch videos in the primary classroom while Mommy Sandy teaches. Evelyn Holmstroem (Margie Seely's mom) comes a couple of days a

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## A PRACTICAL SCIENCE LESSON

by Sandy Nelson

**I**t seemed to be an ordinary day at Small Cloud. Minute by minute the students learned their lessons. Hour by hour the subjects flew by. Soon it was time for science.

Stephen loves science and each day is eager to see what he will be learning. This day was no exception. But I had two other students to also get started with their lessons. How could I best make this work?

I pulled out the object lesson for Stephen's lesson—magnets. "Here," I said, "take these and go around the school. See what your magnet sticks to." Stephen was very happy to oblige.



I then turned my full attention to David, handing him his quiz, and then to Megan, who was to read her lesson on beetles to me.

All of a sudden we were interrupted by Stephen's excited voice. "Look! Look! Mommy," he cried, "a rainbow!" I looked up—straight to the computer monitor. "Oh, no! Oh, my! No! No! No!"

As fast as I could, I said, "Stephen, no, no, no! Take the magnet off! You'll wreck the computer. I'm not mad at you, but don't ever put magnets near computers!"

A lesson was learned by both of us. Stephen learned not to put magnets near computers, and I learned to warn students about a magnet's effect on electronic items before I set magnet-wielding students free in the classroom.

Just another day at Small Cloud. ■



Stephen at the computer

P.S. The monitor continued to have a rainbow circle in its right-hand corner for several days as a reminder to all of us.

## ERUPTION!

One of my science projects for November was making a volcano. I constructed my volcano out of PlayDough. When I finished making my volcano, I added an island, a stream, and a lake. My brother Mikey made a boat that had a little person in it.

I combined vinegar and baking soda to make it look like the volcano erupted. But my book didn't tell me how much vinegar or baking soda to put in. So I practiced a few times to see which eruption looked the best.



When I brought my experiment into the primary classroom, everyone started to get excited. I put the baking soda into my volcano. Then I added the vinegar and food coloring. Quickly the mixture bubbled out of the volcano. Everyone liked watching the volcano erupt. ■



by David Petrovich, age 11

## WARRIOR NIGHT

On October 31 our school (Small Cloud Christian School) celebrates Warrior Night. We do many activities. Usually we don't do fireworks, but this year we did. Mr. Christian [Nelson] was in charge of the fireworks. He let us throw some poppers at the ground. He also gave some of us four sparklers to wave in the dark.

After the sparklers Mr. Christian did some bigger fireworks. Some of them had lots of colors. Several would scream. Others would shoot up



into the air and sparkle. The last one lasted the longest. It lasted about three or four minutes. Warrior Night is something I look forward to having again. ■

## BOTANY STUDIES

by Mikey Petrovich, age 14

This year I have been studying botany. Botany is the study of plants. During this time I have learned a lot about plants.

In my studies I have been using a microscope to look at different specimens under low and high magnification. The first specimen I experimented with was a piece of Elodea leaf. This plant grows underwater and is very thin and fragile. Under the microscope I could see the individual cells of the leaf.



Elodea

I enjoyed using the microscope to study plants. I have also studied up close bits of cotton and wood. They looked like the plastic strands of a weedeater. I am looking forward to all the other experiments I will be doing during this year. ■



## MAKING AN IMAGINARY BUG

Yesterday I made an imaginary bug. First I got out all the materials. Then I made the head and the body out of tissue paper and stuffing. Davey made the wings out of tissue paper. Cut and bent silver pipe cleaners made good legs. Pins poked into the head became eyes. I had lots of fun making an imaginary bug. ■



by Megan Petrovich, age 8

## A FIELD TRIP TO FOG WILLOW

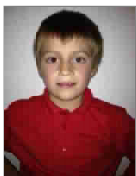
On the last day of October we got to go to Fog Willow. When we first came in, we saw a huge hay pile. My friends and I played in the hay on a hayride. We saw dogs, sheep, goats, and baby bunnies. The playground had swings, tunnels, and slides.

I liked the big dogs. There were three big dogs. They were black, brown, and white; and they looked like bears to me.

I had lots of fun! I like going to Fog Willow. ■

## SUN, STARS & MOON

by Stephen Nelson, age 6



I like science. I like doing the projects. I'm learning about the sun, the stars, and the moon. ■



(Surprise! con't from page 1)

week to help wherever needed. She has been a wonderful help in organizing things, as well as being a tutor to help the students with their work. Gretchen Schendel (Sandy Nelson's mom) comes around 11:00 am every day and puts Jonathan and Jeremiah down for their naps. While they are asleep, she prepares lunch and does the cleanup. When the boys wake up from their naps, she gives them their lunch. On the days when Evelyn does not come, Jeannette Schendel (Sandy's sister-in-law) comes over for an hour or so until school is finished. Praise God for His guidance and strength. Most days we can say that everything runs smoothly! (Of course, there are exceptions.)

In addition to their academic work, the students spend time outside with Mrs. Nelson every day (weather permitting), keeping the orchard in order,



Time for a story: (L to R) Evelyn, Stephen, Megan, David, and Mikey

tending the gardens they have planted, feeding the animals, and attending to other practical duties. Probably the favorite time of the day is lunch time. Not only are stomachs filled, but also inspiring thoughts are implanted in impression-

able minds. For those of you who don't know it, reading is one of Evelyn's passions. She is an avid reader, and she shares her love of books with the students. After concluding a book about the adventures of a boy in India, she has gone on to read about a white boy who was kidnapped by Comanches, followed by a story about an African lioness who was a total vegetarian and could be trusted not to harm anyone.

If you were to enter the primary classroom, you would hear soft little chirping sounds made by the finches in a new aviary purchased for the school. The Seelys' parakeet shares the aviary with the finches.



Evelyn and Jeremiah

One day Mrs. Schendel opened the cage door just a bit, attempting to take a picture of the birds. With a whirl of wings, one finch escaped into the classroom; but with everybody's help, the bird was coaxed back into its cage. A couple of weeks later two more finches escaped, leading the four Petrovich children and Stephen on a merry little chase. Into the kitchen, back out into the classroom, back and forth flew the little birds until Andrew Petrovich finally captured the tired little escapees.



Our new aviary

Small Cloud Christian School is a nonprofit organization dedicated to leading children of every race, color, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and creed to the knowledge of the living God.

Rocky, a guinea pig, is another addition to our Small Cloud animal family. A neighbor gave the animal to the school, along with his cage, toys, etc. When hungry, the little guinea pig makes delightful little squealing noises. This picture gives you some idea of how much the children enjoy him! ■



Stephen & Megan with Rocky

## REMEMBERING BETSY

Speaking about animals, here is the latest news about Daisy/Betsy the cow, who refused to stay here at the school. The children had begged Mrs. Nelson to save the cow from eventually ending up at the slaughterhouse. But Betsy was lonely and, instead of staying in her pen, she would jump the fence and go



down to visit other cows at the end of the road. She was finally farmed out to a friend of ours, who kept her with his cows. She was bred and gave birth to a calf. Eventually Art Schendel fenced off the field behind his house, complete with a strong electric fence to keep Betsy in. When she and her bull calf arrived at the Schendel home, she was pregnant again and later gave birth to a female calf. Not wanting to keep a bull, Mr. Schendel traded the bull for a young female, who, we later found out, was also pregnant. She gave birth to a bull calf, too. The Schendels discovered that having four cows was getting just a bit too expensive for them, so the other cow and her bull calf were taken to the auction, leaving only Betsy and her calf.

Shortly after the other cows were taken away, Betsy stopped eating. Was she grieving for them? No one knows, but one day it was discovered that she had died during the night. Although we are sad, we are also happy that at least she didn't end up at the slaughterhouse! ■

## THE PARENTING CORNER

Let the children find home the most attractive place on Earth. Throw about them such influences that they will not seek for street companions, nor think of the haunts of vice except with horror. If the home life is what it should be, the habits formed there will be a strong defense against the assaults of temptation when the young shall leave the shelter of home for the world." - Ellen G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education* (Review and Herald Publishing Association), p. 155. ■

