

# SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS . . .

## SMALL CLOUD CHRONICLES

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

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### SCHOOL RESUMES

The 2013-14 school year has begun with five students, plus our four-year-old twin preschoolers. This year Mrs. Nelson decided she needed some help in teaching the students some of their subjects. Help came in the form of "streamlining." David Petrovich and Elizabeth Keifer both receive their science education online by watching a teacher instruct an actual class. Stephen Nelson receives history enrichment by the same method, and the twin preschoolers enjoy learning their phonics lessons. The students are also learning keyboarding, thanks to a software program. Isn't technology just wonderful? Yes, it certainly is—when it works properly.

Most of the technology here at Small Cloud is quite outdated, but this year we decided to update some of it by buying two new computers (a laptop and a desk version) and a wireless printer, which allows Mrs. Nelson to print right from her desk, instead of having to go into the office to print. Needless to say, she is thrilled!

This quarter the school went on a field trip to see an Imax about the monarch butterfly. It was a 3-D Imax, which made you feel like you could reach out and touch the butterflies!



Studies have discovered the migration pattern of these butterflies, the third generation of which ends up in Mexico. Although the movie subtly lauded evolution, we couldn't help marveling at the amazing handiwork of a God who placed within this little creature the ability to find its way over thousands of miles—from Canada all the way to Mexico—where, at a certain time of the year, thousands upon thousands of them land and totally cover a certain type of tree.



Another field trip the school enjoyed was to Fog Willow, a local attraction that features lots of farm animals and pumpkins. We joined a homeschooling group, and the children enjoyed making small hay bales, brushing a sheep, seeing a beehive, and taking a hayride. At the conclusion of the tour, each student received a pumpkin to take home.

We had one other happy, exciting event when Art Schendel came over to install a new window in the kitchen. For some time Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Seely had seen the need to have a small window in the kitchen overlooking the playground so that they could supervise the children while preparing food. Mrs. Nelson looked on Craig's List and was simply delighted when she found just the right-sized window for fifty dollars. That was well below the normal price! We are all now enjoying the sunshine that this little window provides in the kitchen. ■

### DUMPLINGS, ANYONE?

Last time my aunt was here, I made apple dumplings. After a week of planning and gathering ingredients, I was ready to start. I put both my hands on deck and started that recipe. It was hard and complicated. After two-and-a-half hours of backbreaking work, I, at last, was successful. What joy!



Here is a comment about king George III from the recipe. "King George III became sadly puzzled to know how the apple got inside the dumpling. Is it any wonder that he lost the American colonies?" - David Petrovich, age 13

### IT SMELLED DELICIOUS!

My mom quickly shaped the butter dough into a pie pan. Then she slowly and evenly poured the apple filling into the crust. It smelled delicious already, and it wasn't even baked yet! I watched my mom's slow movements put the top crust on the unbaked pie. She professionally cut the extra length off the edge of the crust and slid the pie into the heated oven. Now all that was left to do was to wait patiently for the oven to ding—signaling that the pie was done. - Elizabeth Keifer, age 14



# TEACHING RESPONSIBILITY

Small Cloud has a unique way of training students to be responsible. It is a school monetary system in which students receive or lose “bucks” based on how well each child follows the rules.

Grades are important in obtaining bucks. An “A” is worth 100 bucks; a B receives 50, while a “C” earns 25. Quizzes for these three grades receive 50, 25, and 10 bucks respectively. Returning homework folders also earns bucks, but the value goes down each day after the Monday due date.

“D” and “F” grades actually cost the student bucks—50 and 100 bucks respectively for a test, half that amount for quizzes.

A missing book or workbook will cost the student 50 bucks, and no homework to turn in costs 50 bucks as well.

Other ways in which bucks can be lost include distracting fellow classmates, being late to class, not labeling papers,



**A Small Cloud Auction**  
(Beginning at top left and going counter-clockwise: David Petrovich, Megan Petrovich, Elizabeth Keifer, Seth Keifer, Stephen Nelson, Jeremiah Nelson, Mrs. Nelson, and Jonathan Nelson)

keeping a messy desk, etc. Sometimes students end up in Debtor’s Prison. What is that? you ask. Students who owe bucks may be required to use free time to perform work for which they are paid. Any bucks earned go directly to the teacher to pay off the debts.

Bucks may be spent once a week at the Small Cloud Store. They may also be used to purchase a gift card (1,000 bucks = \$10 in real money).

Students also save up their “bucks” to spend at an auction (usually held twice a year). Prior to the auction, Mrs. Nelson acquires numerous items for the students to “buy.” Most of the items are donated—i.e., purses, picture frames, hair clips, balls, frisbees, kaleidoscopes, toy cars, stuffed animals, notebooks, locks and keys, candles, etc. In the picture you can see a typical auction, where the students bid against one another. The highest bid buys the item.

## MEET OUR NEW STUDENT

Does the name “Keifer” sound familiar? If so, you may remember our new student last year—Seth Keifer. Seth has made great strides and is doing really well. This year Seth’s sister, 14-year-old Elizabeth, joined the Small Cloud family. Both Seth and Elizabeth have been homeschooled, so coming into a school environment has been quite a change for them. Elizabeth is still adjusting to the changes but has found she can do quite well when she applies herself.



Please pray for the family, as the father is currently seeking employment.

## PARENTING CORNER

The Bible is God’s great lesson book, His great educator.... The true higher education is gained by studying and obeying the word of God. But when God’s word is laid aside for books that do not lead to God and the kingdom of heaven, the education acquired is a perversion of the name. - Ellen G. White, *Christ’s Object Lessons* (Review and Herald Publishing Association), p. 107.

