

SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS ... CANDLE LIGHTS

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

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IMPROVEMENTS AT SMALL CLOUD

The first quarter of the 2003-2004 school year is already behind us. On Thursday, August 28, fourteen students reported to class. Then, on Tuesday, September 2, four additional students arrived from El Salvador. Since then, we have been "adding and subtracting" students.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner—although not as well attended as usual—was, nevertheless, a success. The students enjoyed taking orders from the guests and serving them their meals. At school a couple of days later the students ate the leftovers for lunch—"gluten roast," mashed potatoes and gravy, yams, corn, cranberry sauce cornbread, and wheat rolls.

This quarter the Wilton Fire Department drove up to Small Cloud with their big, red, shiny fire engine to educate the students about fires. You can see Andie Seely pictured on page 4 wearing a fireman's jacket. Be sure to read what she thought of this experience.

Devin Divoky and the other students enjoyed the school field trip to California Caverns in Amador County. Don't forget to read Devin's report entitled "Down in the Cave" on page 4.

Warrior Night was held, as usual, as a replacement for pagan Halloween celebrations. The children made cookies, placed white carnations in water mixed with food coloring to change their color, played games, listened to a story, and made fruit dolls to eat along with dinner. In addition, each child received a "goodie bag" of candy and treats.

Thanks in part to the generosity of a

very kind friend, the driveway leading to the school has now become a u-shaped drive, making it much easier to enter and exit at Small Cloud. By allowing us to use his heavy equipment (shown below left) this friend has also enabled us to enlarge the playground area (shown below right).

Landscaping has also been started around the Nelson residence and the school, as agreed upon at our use permit meeting

(see page 3, "Can You Feel Our Joy?"). On Sunday, November 16, trenching for the installation of a sprinkler system was begun. The addition of grass, trees, and shrubs will greatly improve the ap-

pearance of Small Cloud as well as provide a buffer zone between the school and our neighbors. Since the rainy season has now begun, however, the planting phase of the project will have to wait until spring.

As for other changes at Small Cloud, the students now have some new entertainment and responsibilities. Two pygmy goats—Sammy and Calvin—have joined the SCCS family. (You will see one of them pictured with Shaylei Divoky on page 2). They were donated by some very kind, generous people, and the children have a lot of fun playing with the goats. Mr. Nelson and others helped to build the shed that shelters Calvin and Sammy from the elements. Mr.

Nelson also built a small raised hut for the goats to climb on—something they really enjoy.

Have you ever seen a Silkie chicken? It has very soft feathers. Some Silkie hen chicks were recently purchased for the school. They grew fast, and during the summer Mr. and Mrs. Nelson decided it would be nice to have some new little chicks for the students to enjoy when they returned to school. Thanks to the procreation services of a Mr. Silkie Rooster (borrowed from a friend), the mother hens hatched out a little brood of Silkie chicks. The students have enjoyed catching and holding the chickens.

The primary classroom has an addition—a king snake found by Mr. Nelson. Sometimes you will see Mr. Nelson circulating among the students with the snake wrapped around his fingers. And what does the snake eat for dinner? Baby mice! Yuck!

As you are probably aware, our students are quite scattered, and we must drive over a hundred miles each day to pick them

up and return them to their homes or bus stops. Therefore, you can imagine our joy when on Wednesday, November 12, Christian Nelson passed his driving test with the California Highway Patrol. He is

now helping to drive the school bus, which is a great help to his wife, Sandy, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Schendel (the other two bus drivers).

We hope you will enjoy this issue of "Candle Lights" as you read more about what has been going on at Small Cloud. ■



A PEEK AT WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON AT SCCS



Shaylei Divoky (age 6) and Jazzmin Pluto (age 14)



David Pacheco (age 12) loves to ride!



Devin Divoky (age 9) challenges Sharia Brooks (age 11) to a game of tetherball.



Shaylei Divoky (age 7) is nuzzled by Calvin (or is it Sammy?), one of our two look-alike pygmy goats.



Buckles, our little grey and white tiger striped kitten, shown here with Ariana Green (age 9), is very popular with the kids.



Pictured from left to right are Jazzmin Pluto (age 14), Stephanie Knezovich (age 15) holding Orca (a black and white kitten obtained from the SPCA), and Kellie Hunter (age 12), with Jack (our black lab) at her side. (Jack was also obtained from the SPCA.)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

by Kirrisa Ellington, age 14
(assisted by David Pacheco, age 13)

We like PE because it is good for our bodies. PE helps us in a lot of ways. For example, it:

- ◆ Makes us stronger.
- ◆ Makes us smarter.
- ◆ Builds our muscles.
- ◆ Helps us to be healthier.

PE is our favorite subject.

BIBLE CLASS

by Tiffany Ellington, age 15

I love Bible class—it's my favorite subject. In Bible we get to participate a lot.

The teacher asks us questions and we answer them. We also take turns reading verses. If we have questions concerning the Bible—prayer, patience, sin, and others things—she gives us answers.

We have memorized some Bible verses, too. We have learned about Psalm 121, Genesis, Galations, the fruits of the Spirit, and the love chapter in 1 Corinthians.

We have learned so much in the Bible. I enjoy it—actually, I love it! It's so interesting.



MUSIC

by Jazzmin Pluto, age 14

Small Cloud Christian School has almost every subject you can think of, but what about music? Oh, you didn't think of that, did you? Well, you're in for a surprise!

We are learning how to master a new instrument. It's called a recorder. It's kind of similar to a flute, but you put your mouth on it like you're blowing on a whistle. To improve on this skill, we do a lot of practicing.

Okay, I admit I'm not the best player; but making music is fun when your classmates play along too. When we all get the tune, I think God looks down at us and smiles on how well we are doing.



"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

PARENTS' CORNER . . .

"Parents, in the training of your children, study the lessons that God has given in nature. If you would train a pink, or rose, or lily, how would you do it? Ask the gardener by what process he makes every branch and leaf to flourish so beautifully, and to develop in symmetry and loveliness. He will tell you that it was by no rude touch, no violent effort; for this would only break the delicate stems. It was by little attentions, often repeated. He moistened the soil and protected the growing plants from the fierce blasts and from the scorching sun, and God caused them to flourish and to blossom into loveliness. In dealing with your children,

follow the method of the gardener. By gentle touches, by loving ministrations, seek to fashion their characters after the pattern of the character of Christ." - Child Guidance, p. 36 (by E. G. White)



CAN YOU FEEL OUR JOY?



God has greatly blessed Small Cloud Christian School and we want to thank each of you for your prayers. You may remember that five years ago we applied for a use permit to allow the school to operate in its present location. Since we were granted only a five-year permit, it became necessary to reapply this year. This involved paying fees of about \$2,500.00 and notifying all the neighbors within a 500' radius of the property. Our meeting before the Cosumnes Community Planning Advisory Council (CCPAC) was set for July 23, 2003.

At the meeting we discovered that several neighbors were not happy about having a school in their neighborhood. Thankfully, CCPAC voted that a Board member should arrange a meeting between the neighbors and the school, with the goal of coming to a workable compromise. This meeting took place at Small Cloud on July 31st. Mike Alford, our school treasurer, explained that the school has no objections to periodic reviews. The problem with having only a five-year use permit was a monetary one.

The two attending Board members said they would write up their recommendations and present them at the next CCPAC meeting, which took place on August 27th. At the

meeting, two possible use permit options were suggested:

- 1) A ten-year permit with three-year reviews by CCPAC.
- 2) A five-year permit with a three-year review by CCPAC and an automatic extension to maintain a five-year permit period absent significant valid concerns.

An attending Sacramento County representative was asked if such a permit would be possible. He responded that Sacramento County does not normally issue such limited permits. The neighbors still had the power, he explained, to bring about a cancellation of the use permit, if necessary, by bringing any unresolvable issues to another CCPAC meeting.

We were very touched when one of our neighbors then arose and testified that she and the other neighbors wished the school to receive a use permit which would have the least financial impact on the school! Thereafter, CCPAC voted unanimously to recommend the school for an open-ended use permit, provided certain conditions would be met!

On October 16th, Sacramento County granted us our permanent use permit! Praise be to the Lord! ☺

THE FIRE FIGHTERS

by Andie Seely, age 8



The firemen are here—five of them! They showed us a video about what they do. (They put out fires and they rescue people and animals.)

Then they showed us what supplies they have. I put on a jacket that the firemen use. It was big and heavy. At the end, they showed us how the fire truck sounds. It was LOUD!



Since Jack is a black lab, he usually doesn't show up very well on pictures. So we decided to try a close-up view of our wonderful one-eyed canine in the hopes that you will be able to get a better look at him. He is very popular at school and gets along just fine with the cats, the goats, etc.

MARTIN LUTHER

by Kellie Hunter, age 12

Martin Luther decided to become a monk when he was almost struck by lightning during a storm. He promised God he would become a monk if God would spare his life.

Martin Luther was always looking for peace in his life. He would struggle with the way the Roman Catholic Church sold indulgences to the people. Martin Luther decided to write ninety-five theses about things the Roman Catholic Church did that were against the Bible.



On October 31, 1517, he nailed the theses to the church door at Wittenburg [Germany]. The church demanded he recant, but Martin Luther

refused, saying in a clear and bold voice: "Unless I am shown by Scripture and reason that I am wrong, I shall not, and I will not, recant. Here I stand; I can do nothing else. God help me. Amen."

On Luther's trip back to his home he was kidnapped by friends, who wanted to protect him from being killed as a heretic. He was kept in a castle for awhile. During that time he translated the Bible from Latin and Greek to German so the common people could read it. Thus the Reformation began.

WHAT MAKES SEASONS?

by Stephanie Knezovich, age 15

The seasons are caused by the slant of the earth, which is tilted at $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. Because of the earth's tilt and rotation, the sun's rays hit the earth's surface in different places during different times of the year.

When the northern hemisphere is tilted toward the sun, it is summer in the northern hemisphere and winter in the southern hemisphere. When the southern hemisphere is tilted toward the sun, it is winter in the northern hemisphere and summer in the southern hemisphere.



If you live near the equator, it is summer all year round because the sun's rays hit the equator directly. If you live near the poles, it is always cold because the direct rays of the sun never get there.

I like living in a place where there is more than one season. It would be boring if there were only one season all year long.

WORSHIP TIME

by Eugene Brooks, age 11



In worship we sing songs and pray. The teacher reads a story to us. Sometimes on Fridays Mrs. Nelson teaches us how to read music and we practice singing. We also practice playing the recorder. I like worship.

DOWN IN THE CAVE

by Devin Divoky, age 9



Dear School and everyone on the newsletter list:

This is Devin speaking. I learned a lot from the cave. The cave was cool.

We found the head of a skeleton. He was named Willy, after a former miner. [This was not a real skeleton.]

We learned a lot and when we got out, we put our helmets away and went to eat lunch.

And I have another comment to make: Thank you for taking us on the trip, but I almost got sick because of all the curves on the road.