

SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS . . .

SMALL CLOUD CHRONICLES

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

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MUSIC CAMP



Leoni Meadows, a Seventh-day Adventist camp in the foothills near Placerville, California, was the location of a one-week music camp that our students were privileged to attend. Many home-schooled children came together to learn about good, wholesome, godly music. And there was something for everyone to learn.

The primary children learned about notes—their names and their timing. Children were given specific notes that they were instructed to place in their proper places on a large board containing a music staff. Then, using popsicle sticks to portray the beat, the children created a phrase of music. They

also learned to sing hymns together in parts—soprano and alto. A highlight of the day was when they played hymns in chimes.

Some of the older students learned to play bells; others



Primary students practicing

played recorders. Those who played other instruments such as violins, flutes, etc., formed an orchestra and played beautiful hymns.

Leoni Meadows rents out cabins with kitchenettes for its



campers, so our students joined Mr. and Mrs. Nelson in one of the cabins, which had a number of bunkbeds. Mr. Nelson woke the students with a vocal rendition of *Rise and Shine*. Mrs. Nelson prepared breakfast, lunch, and dinner and, of course, took care of Jonathan and Jeremiah (the twins). Later Mrs. Schendel came to replace Mr. Nelson, as he had to return to work.

The camp was quite intense, and the students

were very tired by the end of each day. The weather was mostly pleasant; however, one night we had a light

snow, and one day it rained quite heavily.

Thursday evening

was the climax of the camp experience, when the students shared what they had learned by presenting a musical program.

Another highlight this spring was the Open House program presented by the students on May 31. Parents and friends gathered to see Mikey demonstrate how to make a vegan key

lime pie, watch Davey perform a solar energy experiment, see Megan mixing primary and secondary colors, and enjoy a skit performed by Stephen (with the help of the other students) about the first Thanksgiving. ■



Jeremiah? Jonathan? and Stephen



Megan on her bunkbed



Playing the bells:
David (2nd from left) and Mikey (right)



Lunchtime in the cabin



Primaries learning to sing.
Inset: Stephen and Megan

FIGHTING? AT A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL?

by Mikey Petrovich, age 14



This year I was determined to stay dry. I'd have to be quick to not get hit by the flying water balloons. I would also have to be aware of who was on my side and who was not.

At Small Cloud Christian School, at the end of every school year, all of the students have a water balloon fight. Anticipation rises as both teams begin to fill up their water balloons. When the teams are ready, they throw the balloons at one another. When their "ammunition" runs out, students use buckets of water.

As the battle began, the sky was filled with balloons launched by enemy and friendly "fire." During the first half of the clash, our ranks held; but when our ammo ran out, we were forced to use low-distance firing buckets. This required much strength and speed. We not only had to carry the buckets filled with water, but we also had to be able to throw their cargo at the enemy.

Until then, I was still dry. The fight began to become more of an every-man-for-himself kind of battle. But I was able to get two or three of my comrades together for one more siege against the enemy. Since most of their forces had gone out to fight and they were all spread apart, a siege against their on-field soldiers would be a waste of energy. It would be impossible to carry the buck-

ets of water fast enough to catch up with the enemy. We needed a stationary target.

Then it hit me. Why not attack the bucket refillers? They would be easy targets because the only people who went to refill their buckets had no more water. Our enemies were all crammed around the hose trying to refill. I told my teammates of my plans: "Return to our reloading hose, reload, and meet me at the center of the field." Within a few minutes, we were assembled and ready for the siege.

As we charged towards the enemy's base camp, I was sure that, since my comrades surrounded me, I would not have to watch my back. But then something went wrong! From my right flank, my brother Andrew—who until now had remained loyal—came charging at me with his cargo held high in the air. He soaked me just as I realized what he was doing. It was all over; I had been drenched by one of my comrades!

But still, after Andrew's treachery, the rest of us had a mission to accomplish. We launched heavy fire upon the enemy's base camp. Other than my soaking, there were no losses to our infantry. Despite my disappointment about getting hit, I had fun. I look forward to next year's water balloon fight. But this time, I'm watching my back! ■



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THE PARENTING CORNER

The first and constant care of parents should be to see that their children have firm constitutions, that they may be sound men and women. It is impossible to attain this object without physical exercise.

For their own physical health and moral good, children should be taught to work, even if there is no necessity so far as want is concerned. If they would



have pure and virtuous characters, they must have the discipline of well-regulated labor, which will bring into exercise all the muscles. The satisfaction that children will have in being useful, and in denying themselves to help others, will be the most healthful pleasure they every enjoyed." - Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance* (Review and Herald Publishing Association), p. 342.

A SHORTCUT THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA

by Mikey Petrovich

During the 16th century, the Spanish realized the advantages of having a canal through the Central American isthmus. If they accomplished their goal, they could cut



hundreds of miles off their ships' journeys when trading with the South Americas.

The first attempt to build the canal was in 1881, by a privately owned company called Compagnie Universelle du Canal Interocéanique (Universal Inter-oceanic Canal Company). The project, led by Ferdinand de Lesseps, was funded with French capital. De Lesseps was a talented builder and had had practice building the Suez Canal in Egypt. But disaster struck when the company fell apart and went bankrupt.

New hope sprang up when the United States Congress passed the Spooner Act of 1902. This allowed the U.S. to buy assets from the French company and build a canal through Panama (then part of Colombia), provided that the U.S. make a treaty with Colombia first. When negotiating with Colombia became impossible, the U.S. backed Panama and helped it declare independence in

1903. The U.S. then made a treaty with newly independent Panama to build the canal. The treaty was announced in February 1904.

During the next decade, the Panama Canal evolved from an idea to a real-life structure. Two very important men should be recognized for building the canal—William Nelson Cromwell and Phillipe-Jean Bunau-Varilla. President Theodore Roosevelt and Senator Mark Hanna Roosevelt



supplied political help and funding. Finally, it was time to build the canal.

In the summer of 1904, work began. But one more problem slowed them down—disease. Many visiting sailors and canal workers fell sick and died from diseases such as malaria and yellow fever. Yet the men persevered. On August 15, 1914, the canal was opened to traffic. Finally, with the labor of thousands of workers and 38 million dollars invested in it, the dream of a canal through Panama was realized. ■

Profile of the Panama Canal System



SOURCE: Panama Canal Commission

THE GREAT EXPLORER OF ASIA

by David Petrovich, age 12



Brave men like Ibn Battuta, Christopher Columbus, Hernan Cortez, Francisco Pizarro, and Ernest Shackleton explored different parts of the world, but Marco Polo is my favorite explorer. He was the first European to travel through and write about the land, the riches, and the people of Asia.

Marco Polo was born in 1254 in Venice, when his father, Nicolo, and an uncle, Maffeo, who were merchants, were exploring Cathay, now called China. Cathay is a land where spices grow. Back then spices were very expensive, and only people with lots of money could buy them.

The Kublai Khan was the ruler of Cathay. Nicolo and Maffeo were friends with the khan. When Nicolo and Maffeo left Cathay to return to Venice, the khan asked them to bring some holy oil to him from Jerusalem.

Marco was fifteen years old when his father and uncle finally returned to Venice. When Nicolo and Maffeo returned to Cathay with the holy oil, they took Marco with them. Strong, healthy, seventeen-year-old Marco was delighted to go.

They first traveled by boat. On the way, they would often trade with other merchants. They would also stop at islands. On the way Marco wrote about his journey and the interesting things he saw: men with tails (mon-

keys), rocks that burn (coal), nuts with milk inside (coconuts), and sheep with 30-pound tails!

When the three merchants reached Cathay, after a three-and-a-half year trip, the Khan welcomed them with joy. They gave him the holy oil from Jerusalem and worked for him for seventeen years.

Marco was forty-one in 1295, when the Polos returned from Cathay. A year later, Marco was taken prisoner by the Genoans, who were at war with the Venicians. With nothing else to do, he sent for his travel notes and journals. Then Marco dictated the story of his adventures, and a fellow prisoner, Rustichello, wrote it. The book, *The Description of the World*, was finished in 1298; a year later, Marco was released from prison. Later he married Donata; they had three children. He died at the age of seventy in 1323. Before his death, friends urged him to remove the "lies" from his book. "No," said Marco. "I haven't told *HALF* [of] what I saw!"

I admire Marco Polo's bravery, spirit of adventure, and willingness to take notes and then write a book about his travels. ■

(Based on *Marco Polo: a Story of the Middle Ages*, by Edna Mitchell Preston, Crowell-Collier Press, c. 1968. 115 pages)



SACAJAWEA

by Megan Petrovich, age 9

Sacajawea helped Lewis and Clark discover the West. She was born around 1790 in Idaho. When she was about twelve, she was kidnapped with other Shoshone girls. A year later she married Charbonneau after he won her as a prize in a gambling game. She had a baby boy, Jean Batiste, on the expedition. He was called Pomp, meaning "First Born."

One time, when Sacajawea, her husband and baby, and Cruzat were in a boat with many important items, it tipped over. With her baby on her back, Sacajawea fished out most of them and saved the expedition.

She died April 9, 1884, of a fever when she was twenty-five, soon after having a baby girl, Lizzette.

I like Sacajawea. She is my hero because she helped others instead of just taking care of her own business. ■