

CHALKMARKS

A Weekly Newsletter for DCS Family & Friends

Vol. 13, Dec. 7 – 13, 2005

THANKS FOR GIVING US A SHOT IN THE ARM!

We have had two responses to our need for a person to check immunization records! After a number of years of faithful service by Nancy Vestigo in this capacity, she has had to let it go due to other responsibilities. Two DCS Moms have stepped in to make sure our immunization records are accurate and up-to-date. Thanks!!



**Remember the
DCS Book Fare
and Pancake
Breakfast!!
Saturday,
December 10th, 8-
11 AM. \$3.95 for
a great breakfast,
then browse the
books for your
Christmas
shopping!**

An Example Of How Our Worldview Affects Daily Life

The following article is from a recent *Breakpoint* commentary by Chuck Colson. It graphically shows the fruit of years of humanistic education and thinking – the shaping of attitudes and resulting actions. Read on...

"Anyone who has reservations about the ways in which society uses science and technology is often accused of being "afraid of science." That's unfair; having ethical concerns about science is not the same as being afraid of it.

But there is one group that has good reason to be literally afraid of science. That's the group who are in danger of being wiped out by it: the disabled.

Look at the stories about the new prenatal Down syndrome test. According to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, this test can now detect Down syndrome much earlier in a pregnancy, and is more reliable. Lead researcher Fergal Malone told reporters, "In light of this study, we should offer screening to all women in their first trimester."

But why would we do that? The *Miami Herald* states, "Screening women before the second trimester allows those who might opt to terminate a pregnancy to make that decision when an abortion is safer and less traumatic"—"less traumatic," I suppose, for the mother. The paper goes on to say that the test can also help parents prepare for their child's needs should they decide to keep him or her. But let's get real. As I've reported before, about 90 percent of parents who discover that their unborn child has a chromosomal disorder abort that child. Does anyone honestly think earlier testing will cause those numbers to go *down*?

People with Down syndrome know better. Mia Peterson of the National Down Syndrome Society is one such person. Interviewed by the *New York Times* about the new test, Peterson said, "I don't want to think like we're being judged against [society]. Not meeting their expectations."

Michael Bérubé, co-director of a disabilities studies program and father of a son with Down syndrome, also understands how dangerous it is not to meet society's expectations. He told the *Times*, "The more people who think the condition is grounds for termination of a pregnancy, the more likely it will be that you'll wind up with a society that doesn't welcome those people once they're here. It turns into a vicious cycle." Absolutely right.

The *New York Times* is hardly known as a pro-life paper, but give it credit for explaining just what this could mean: greater loneliness for those few remaining disabled people, fewer research dollars allotted to study their conditions, to say nothing of their possible eradication through abortion.

Talk about the remedy being worse than the disease. Through a socially acceptable form of killing, we would take the opportunity to eliminate an entire group of people in order to spare ourselves from having to deal with their differences—because that's what it really comes down to. Anyone who listens to Mia Peterson and others like her knows that lofty talk about making the best decision for the child's sake, to keep that child from suffering, is hogwash. People with Down syndrome and other disabled people are not asking us why we did not kill them. They are asking us why we won't accept them just as they are.

... Continued

Visit our website at dcs.damascuscc.org or email us at DCS@damascuscc.org

Auction Action

Art. Music. Theater. What do these have in common? Several things – they are an important part of our children's education. They broaden our children's minds and creativity. They are offered by our outstanding Fine Arts program at Damascus Christian School. *And...* they are the focus of our 2006 DCS Auction!!

As you may know, the annual DCS auction has greatly benefited the school over the past few years. It has allowed us to upgrade our computer lab, provide a library for our students and families, church, and the community, install a campus-wide intercom system, enhance the comfort and safety of our sports fans with new bleachers, and build our student scholarship fund. God has richly blessed our school through the generosity of our DCS families and friends. Thank you for your past support, helping to make our auctions so successful!

We are asking for your help again this year. If you have attended or help at previous auctions, you know they are a ton of work. It requires the participation of everyone who can volunteer. We realize that not everyone is able to be on-site or participate in a more up-front manner. But there are numerous behind-the-scenes jobs that need to be done. Perhaps one of those will fit your time and interest. For example, solicit businesses and services for donations. Perhaps you have a car, boat, pick-up, etc., new or used with a value over \$5,000 that you would be willing to donate. Perhaps you would be interested in sponsoring the auction catalog – \$300-\$500 for a half page; over \$500 for a full page. Vacation home? In the past we've had homes donated for 2-7 days in areas as far away as Hawaii, Palm Springs, Colorado, Alaska, to as close as the Oregon coast, Joseph, La Pine, and even Eagle Creek. Services? Electricians, painters, automotive/mechanical, plumbing, landscaping, etc. Art and Crafts – quilts, paintings, carved wood items, handmade clocks, tables, cabinets, etc. Baskets- These are a great addition to our auction! Pack a basket full of goodies with a price range between \$20-\$100. Different themes have included garden, sports, picnics, household, family fun, etc. How about these ideas – an outdoor movie night, home cooked meals, desserts for a year, fishing trips, plane and boat rides. The list is limited only to the imagination.

Do you have a donation in mind, but you are not sure if it is what we are looking for? Give auction chairman Dorian Forrar a call (503) 658-4100.

Again, thank you for your tremendous support in the past years. We are looking forward to this year's auction to help provide additional resources for our fine arts department – drama, choirs, band, and art. Tickets will go on sale in January. Begin to make a list of those you can invite to share your table.

The Coffee's Almost Gone!!

Don't worry; it's just the coffee fundraiser that's almost gone. This Thursday, Dec. 8th, the Boys Basketball team will be celebrating at Aloha coffee from 3:00-6:00 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 10th, at the DCS home games against Dayton, we will be selling coffee cards for the last time. So – we'll see you on Thursday, and remember to come and cheer loud for our Eagles Saturday.

Continued ... Worldview affects Daily Life

Afraid of science? No. What we're afraid of is the prejudice and selfishness of those who would use science to spare themselves pain or inconvenience. That's something that not just pro-lifers understand, but anybody who is different. In this case, the people disabled understand it all too well."

Does thinking biblically make a difference? We are convinced that it does. We know of others who would agree... That is why we seek to help our students evaluate life situations through a grid work of Scripture.

Fruit Here Thursday

If you ordered apples and/or pears through our Discovery Department, the fruit will be here and available to pick up Thursday, December 8th, between 2 and 5 PM, in the Friendship Center. Thank you for your interest and support in this worthy project.

Put A Lid On It!

If you are looking for another way to show your support for DCS, we would suggest a hat! That's right – for \$15, you can have an embroidered maroon ball cap with Damascus Christian School and an eagle. For a little extra, you can have it personalized with names and numbers! For more information, contact DCS at (503) 658-4100.

TREE SALE

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE YET? A group of students from Damascus Christian School and Damascus Community Church are going to Mexico again! These students are selling Christmas trees to as a fundraiser for their trip. These trees are selling for \$20. (Douglas firs from 6-8 feet). Interested? Talk the office!