

CHALKMARKS

A Weekly Newsletter for DCS Family & Friends

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Scrip Has A Winner!

As an incentive to encourage our school family and friends to purchase *Scrip*, we run regular contests. Those who purchase *Scrip* have their names put in a drawing. It is as simple as that. Last month's winner was Paula Wierson; she is now enjoying a \$25 Starbucks gift card, compliments of the DCS *Scrip* program!

Scrip is a terrific way to help DCS while you shop at local grocery stores, restaurants, retail and department stores, automotive and other specialty shops. You simply purchase gift cards for the various vendors, then spend them like cash. The school then receives a percentage of the vendor's profit. That is then split with the purchaser – you get 50% back as a tuition credit!!! Such a deal!

We believe every school family should be buying *Scrip* on a regular basis. It is so easy. Fill in the order form (sent home every week or available on line at our website (www.DamascusChristianSchool.org), send a check for the correct amount, and then get your *Scrip* on Friday mornings when you drop your child off for school.

Dyan Murphy, DCS *Scrip* Coordinator, is looking for help in the form of a person interested in publicity and marketing. We believe we could easily triple what we now are doing, but it takes someone who is creative and enthusiastic to let others know about *Scrip*. Might that person be you? If you are curious or would like more information, please call Dyan at (503) 637-5255. Thanks!!

Re-enrollment Packet Sent Out Friday

We are already beginning to gear up for the 2006-2007 school year. Part of that process is having a good idea of what space we might have for new students. We determine that by finding out which students will be returning. Friday, January 27th, we will be mailing a re-enrollment packet to all current families to let us know of your plans.

This year, we had to turn away a number of families seeking admission because of space limits and an enrollment cap of 250 students. To ensure that your children will have a spot for next year, complete the form and return it along with the re-enrollment fee (deducted from next year's tuition) by February 10th. Thanks!!

Preschool Story Time

Our DCS library is beginning a new program! The first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 to 10:30 AM, we are starting a Preschool Story Time for ages 3-5. The first one will be February 1st. This is designed to help meet the needs of the community as well as our own fellowship. There is no cost, and they may even check out books to enjoy at home. Let's spread the word and invite your Damascus area neighbors!



Friday Feast Needs A Facilitator For Fall

Cary Franklin has faithfully served as our *Friday Feast* Facilitator for a number of years. She is now moving into a different season of life and ministry and wishes to hand off the Friday school meal program to another. The facilitator's responsibilities include oversight of the Friday menu rotation (this year it is Taco Bell, Arby's, Sandwich Depot, and Figaro's Pizza), recruiting and training help, ordering needed supplies and food.

If you are interested in considering this ministry or if you would like more information, please contact Cary at (503) 666-6809. This is a wonderfully rewarding way of serving others while you serve the Lord.

Reluctant Reader In A Book-Loving Home

Are you a parent who finds relaxation and refreshment in reading, with a child who avoids books at all costs during “free time”? Contemporary life is filled with opportunities to invest one’s time from sports and music lessons to television and video games. While each of these activities has value in its appropriate place and proportion, avid readers can’t help but wonder if the infrequent reader is missing something of unique value by avoiding leisure reading. Nothing quite ignites one’s imagination, stirs one’s curiosity, enables one to reach outside of self and surroundings into a larger world, like a good book.

Parents who have been in just such a situation and have sought ways to encourage their child(ren) to read share a number of suggestions that have worked for them.

Making reading a family value by setting apart a regularly scheduled time to read a book together is one appealing option. Care needs to be taken to choose a book that will appeal to all members of the family. There can be a designated reader(s) or each one can take a turn. Appropriate pauses to visualize the action, discuss the information, ask questions or predict outcomes, aids all participants in bringing themselves in a tangible way to the material being read.

Viewing movies based on a book often helps to heighten pleasure in a good story. Try viewing the movie first for a reluctant reader and at another opportunity read the book first. Discuss with you child which order provides the optimum experience and why. Work toward the skill of visualizing the story, making a mental movie, as your child reads.

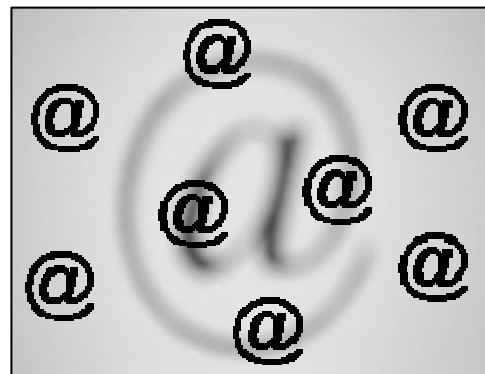
Look for print materials that deal with subjects of greatest interest to your child. Your librarian can be of help here as she can cross reference the collection, finding material in sections in which you may not have thought to look. Purchasing some high level interest books for your child may draw her back to a loved text again and again and provide a familiar “reading companion”.

Expanding reading experiences into other print materials such as newspaper, magazines, comic books, pamphlets and brochures, captures some children’s interest.

When presented with multiple editions of a book, selecting the one with the larger print may make the reading experience less daunting for a reluctant reader. The flip side is that some others may prefer a smaller book that is easier to hold and has fewer pages. The presence of illustrations helps children who have difficulty visualizing or imaging a story.

Be alert to whether your child is struggling unduly with reading skills including sounding out words, adding or dropping words in the text, ignoring punctuation, losing place in the text and struggling to comprehend what is being read. Some children do not like to read because it is too difficult a task for them. Our DCS Discovery Department would be happy to talk with you if you wonder if this could be the case with your child.

While not every child will be an avid reader, employing some of these strategies may help your child to increase his pleasure in reading. What more could a reading parent desire?



RenWeb Is Coming!!

You have probably heard us talking about RenWeb, a school management software program that Damascus Christian is now utilizing. RenWeb is a system that provides a solution to all our data needs. Every person associated with our school benefits – administration, teachers, office staff, guidance counselor, and parents.

It allows the school to accurately track student attendance, centralize all student information, work with scheduling, enter daily grades, create report cards and transcripts, and dozens of other reports. The last two grading periods secondary report cards were generated through RenWeb. All reports cards will be on the system for the third quarter grades.

Another great thing is it allows access by parents to their children’s grades and assignment status simply by logging on with a secure password.

Right now, RenWeb is still entering all of our data and checking to make sure everything is accurate and up-to-date. We will be giving you details instructions on how to access our RenWeb site to check on school and student information. We think you are going to love the new system. We know we will!

