

Chalkmarks

A Weekly Newsletter for DCS Family & Friends

Vol. 26, March 22 - April 4, 2006

How I Demonstrate My Freedom Essay - Conclusion

Several weeks ago, we mentioned that two of our high school students won the Veterans of Foreign Wars essay contest, "How I Demonstrate My Freedom." Due to other issues and events, we were not able to complete those essays. With this issue, we will present the conclusion of Erin Huggin's presentation. Our first week back from Spring Break we will complete Amy Young's entry.

By way of review, Erin wrote about how she shows her freedom through appreciation for our flag, her participation in regular and open worship, keeping informed about issues facing our nation, and by pursuing an education that will enable her to become a productive citizen. She continues..."The technologically-advanced United States of America also offers one a variety of media choices that keep me alerted to the current issues and events of our nation. By watching the news and reading the newspaper, I retain an involvement and understanding of my present circumstances that allows me to enjoy my freedom to its fullest extent. For most people voting proves the most critical means of displaying one's freedom, but for those like me who are not yet old enough to employ this crucial power, staying in tune with national events helps one to become involved with federal government affairs, rather than merely existing within the comfort of local administration. I am free to understand and critically evaluate my government, and in doing so, I become a beneficial part of

the nation rather than an oblivious denizen.

However, basic understanding is not the only tool I need to completely employ my freedom. Pursuing the best education possible right now proves my main means of becoming a responsible future citizen. I possess the same educational rights as any other person in the country, and furthermore, am free to independently select my choice of not only college but also my future field of study. By examining my skills and thoroughly evaluating potential careers, I am making intelligent choices today that will affect America in generations to come. Since I am free to make these decisions, I am also responsible for accepting their consequences. Thoughtful actions will result in my becoming an independent part of the conglomerate working-class America, an individual adequately equipped to effectively pursue my own livelihood and prosperity.

Therefore, my freedom is displayed through regular participation in worship, intelligent involvement in and understanding of government issues, and active pursuit of education. In worship, I remain free to praise and proclaim the God I love. Through the modern media, I possess the ability to stay informed about current issues. My decisions today about my education tomorrow will

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For High Schoolers...

Attention all DCS high school students – Spring Fling 2006 – is coming! This fun event sponsored and promoted by our DCS Student Council is simply an opportunity for all Damascus Christian 9th-12th graders to gather for an evening of fun, food, and games around a Hawaiian theme. Date, time and destination is Saturday, April 8th, 7:30-9:30 PM, at Hillview Community Church, 23225 SE Borges Road.

For further information, please contact a DCS Student Council member or advisor Mrs. Tillstrom.

Visit our website at

www.damascuschristianschool.org

or email us at

DCS@damascuscc.org

Odds & Ends

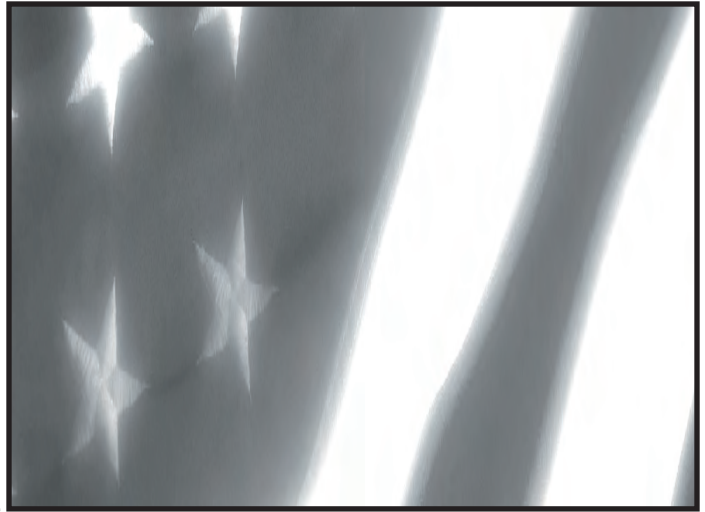
Congratulations to Kim Stephens, last week's Scrip winner. She will be enjoying treats from Starbucks! Modesty and Neatness Guidelines – please check your child's attire. They have grown since beginning school last fall. What may have been appropriate then may not be now...

Friday Feast Coordinator still needed for next year. To find out more about this delightful position, please contact DCS @ 503.658.4100 Thanks!!

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ultimately influence the type of future citizen I become. So as the flag once again resumes its wind-instigated reverie, remember what it stands for as the emblem of freedom. Whether you wear it or wave it, do so proudly, but additionally consider the other ways to display liberty. Honor the veterans who have preserved our independence and celebrate their accomplishments. Use your abilities to help others, but whichever method you choose, attack it wholeheartedly. Living in the "land of the free" presents no shortage of opportunity to demonstrate one's freedoms, and the only true misfortune results from those apathetic individuals who decide not to employ the freedoms bestowed upon them by their country."

Well said, Erin!



Pastries With The Principal Recap

Last Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning witnessed small gatherings of school parents with Mr. Oakley to discuss ideas on strengthening the DCS ministry. Suggestions were constructive and varied. Ideas and questions covered parent involvement, new-parent integration into the DCS culture, RenWeb, after-school clubs and activities, the student scholarship fund, surveying parents on targeted topics, our Modesty-Neatness Guidelines, updated sports' schedules posted on our website, and the possibility of renaming "Pastries With The Principal" to something more engaging.

Over the next several weeks, we would like to enlarge on each topic for additional input from our school families and friends. In this issue, we will focus on RenWeb and the benefit it will be to parents as a communication tool.

Is there a good time to schedule these informational meetings? Are evenings better than mornings? Would afternoons work as well? We want to provide face-to-face opportunities for parents to share commendations as well as recommendations in an informal setting. Please let us know with either an email (timoakley@damascuscc.org) or stop by the office to share your thoughts.

A special thanks goes out to those parents who took the time to participate in the Pastries With The Principal gatherings. Your suggestions and comments are extremely valuable as we look to the future of our school. Thanks too, to Dawn Jeske for providing the "pastries".

RenWeb Review

At the end of January, Damascus Christian School initiated a program to keep parents up-to-date on their children's school work and grades through the Internet. In addition, better communication between teachers and parents and parents and teachers is possible through this same medium. In talking with various parents, some are already enjoying being able to access a secure line to check on their children's weekly progress. Other parents have not yet taken the step to check it out. Those who are using it appreciate knowing exactly how their child is doing in their classes – what assignments are missing, how test, quiz, and daily grades are looking, and reading comments by the teachers on their child's progress.

Still haven't tried it? Here's how to get started...

- Go to Internet Explorer and type in the address www.renweb.com.
- Click on Parent's Web at the top of the circle.
- Log in as follows: District Code is DCS-OR then type in the email address you have provided the school. If you have not given the school office your email address, you must do so in order to access the RenWeb site.
- Click "New Parent Login" if you have not logged in to RenWeb before.
- You will be emailed a new password within 3 minutes (to the email address you typed in, which must be the same email address you provided to the school).
- Go back to the first screen and type in your password to log in.
- Select "Continue".
- To access grades, click "Classrooms". This will bring up all classes that each of your children are enrolled in.
- Click on "Homework Summary" or "Gradebook Summary" at the top of the column for each child.
- You will be able to find other school information available about your child on this site as well as the ability to email the teachers directly.

We think you will appreciate this new service. As we become better acquainted with the capabilities of RenWeb, we will be offering more services through this site. If you have any problems or questions, please contact Pam at the school office (503) 658-4100. Please note that grades will not be entered in every subject everyday.