

# SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS . . .

## SMALL CLOUD CHRONICLES

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

Fall 2006

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### BACK TO SCHOOL

It's back to school again! The 2006-2007 school year began on Tuesday, September 5. Most of our previous year's students returned and were joined by three new students at the beginning of the second quarter.

On Thursday afternoon, September 28, Mrs. Seely and Mr. Nelson left to take some of the young people on a backpacking trip in the mountains, where they were later joined by Mr. Seely. Those who went had a great time, as you can see by the pictures on page five. Those who were unable to make the trip attended school on Friday. Mrs. Nelson taught class, and Mrs. Schendel took care of transportation.

Fall is a lovely time of the year here in California. A short drive into the foothills on October 4 took our students into apple country. Their first destination was the Thomas Kinkade Gallery in Placerville. Many of you, of course, have heard of or seen the



Students learning about the care of apple orchards

beautiful art work produced by this famous artist.

Teachers, students, and accompanying parents then visited Grandpa's Cellar, where they were treated to an informative tour, learning the science behind the care of apple orchards and walking through the kitchens to see firsthand how delicious apple desserts are made. Each person received a cookie and a cup of—yes, you guessed it—fresh apple juice. A picnic lunch followed. The older students then took the Sierra Pacific Sawmill tour.

At the beginning of the school year we again used a seven-passenger van to transport students. But, with the addition of new students at the beginning the second quarter, we found it necessary to use our little school bus again. Diesel is, however, the most expensive form of fuel at this time, so we have greatly shortened our bus route. This also helps to conserve the strength of our bus drivers.

### THANKSGIVING 2006

The donation of three new tables, as requested on our Wish List, was a great help at our annual Vegetarian Thanksgiving

Dinner. These tables are great because they are light and easy to move. When not needed, they can be folded and stored.

Once again, the students worked hard to turn the classrooms into two dining halls, so our guests could enjoy a sit-down dinner. About 85 persons attended this event.



Our waitresses (left to right): Sarah, Kellie, Brittany, Andie, and Skye (in front)

The following day students and teachers spent time discussing the evaluations received from the guests. Each guest had been asked to rate the dinner on a 1-5 basis (excellent to very poor). Ratings were based on service, food, and atmosphere. We appreciate the honest evaluations of our guests, as they better

help us to critique our students and encourage them to do better.

Just three days prior to our dinner, we were very grateful to receive the wood chips we so desperately needed for our playground area. The students had been unable to use the

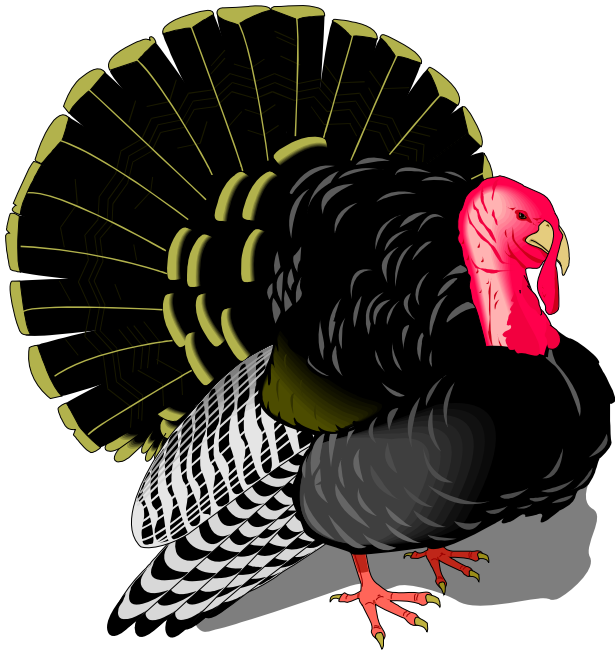


Andie and Kellie loading up wood chips

swings due to the lack of ground protection in case of a fall, so everyone worked hard to get the chips in place immediately. As you can see from the pictures, everyone—from the oldest to the youngest—helped to transfer the wood chips from a huge pile on the asphalt to the playground. Thank you, Hastie's Capitol Sand and Gravel Company, for your most generous donation! ■



Stephen and Skye—"best friends"



# A TURKEY TALE

**N**ot too long ago, turkey babies lived with turkey mommies, ate turkey food, and gobbled all day long at other farmyard animals. But that's all changed. We've become a Fast Food Nation. Turkey babies know only turkey cages now, and crowded ones at that.

One such turkey baby began life in the usual way. All eight toenails were removed. Her beak was half chopped off, and there she was, left to exist as well as she could in a *small* cage.

But turkey babies grow. That's the whole idea. As fast as possible, they are fattened, squeezed onto trucks with other turkeys, and rushed off to the slaughter house. Our young turkey sped on her way, but the truck she was in had a hole in the back. One turkey after another fell onto the highway.

One alert and concerned woman, Cindy Castle, knew she could not save all those frightened, bruised and bloody turkeys, but she picked up our young turkey, put it into her car, and took it home. Water, turkey food, TLC, and space made such a difference in that little creature's life.

Not really having room for a turkey in the backyard and not wanting the bird, now named Highway, to be someone's Thanksgiving dinner, Cindy Castle asked her friend Cindy Davis what to do. "No problem," she said. "Our neighbors, the Seelys, are vegetarians. They would not eat that turkey."

So Highway came to live at the Seelys and moved into the chicken coop with three happy chickens. The first night Highway stayed inside

the cage she'd been brought in. After that she remained outside every night when her friends went to roost in their house. Each day Highway strutted, ate and drank, made turkey noises, and enjoyed her new friends, though they were less than half her size.

The chicken coop, however, had not been built with a turkey in mind. Highway deserved more room. So into the cage she went one more time, and off she went to Small Cloud Christian School. There she met Peewee the pig and other animals. "Pop-purr. Pop-purr!" she said. A real farmyard at last! And a whole field to roam in! What more could a turkey want?

There's only one thing wrong with a real farmyard. Real predators come to call. Highway had one week to roam at the farm. Then one night something—probably a coyote—took Highway's freedom away. She fought as hard as a de-nailed and de-beaked turkey can.

Highway is buried behind the school. Yes, she was just an animal, a gobbling bird, only one of the billions of turkeys made by God. But Highway brought joy to those who fed and watered and talked to her.

Someday, God has promised, "the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid . . . and the lion shall eat straw like the ox" (Isaiah 11: 6,7). And turkeys and coyotes, friends at last, will roam on the New Earth—forever free. — Evelyn Holmstroem (mother of Mrs. Seely)

# PLANT TISSUES

by Kellie Hunter, age 15

In biology we just finished studying about plant tissue. There are three types of plant tissue. They are structural tissue, vascular tissue, and meristematic tissue.

The first type of tissue, structural tissue, forms the plant's body. This means that most of the plant is made of structural tissue. There are four types of structural tissue. They include the following: the epidermal, which protects the plant; cork, which "waterproofs" the plant's stem; the parenchyma, which stores food for the plant; and, finally, the tissue that supports and strengthens the leaves, stems, and roots. The structural tissue is very important to a plant.



The second type of tissue, vascular tissue, is made up of two types of tissue. These two tissues are xylem, which transports water upwards through the plant, and phloem, which transports sap downwards through the plant.

The last type of plant tissue is meristematic tissue. Meristematic tissue creates new tissue and repairs old tissue. Meristematic tissue contains two types of tissue: the vascular cambium, which makes xylem and phloem, and the cork cambium, which makes new cork tissue.

All of these tissues are very important to a plant. It is so amazing the way God created plants and how they function!

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

by Sarah Kidane, age 12

This year at Small Cloud, we are using a new foreign language program. It is by Rosetta Stone and offers many different languages to choose from. We all chose to learn Spanish. Part of the reason I chose Spanish is because I know a lot of people who speak Spanish. I want to be able to speak it, too. I am going to explain to you how this program works.

We use Rosetta Stone on the internet in the house (next door to the school). One of the first things the program does is to say a word. We have to use the mouse to click on a matching picture for that word. It can be pretty tricky! As you progress through the program, you have to repeat sentences or words into a microphone

attached to the computer. The program shows you how accurately you pronounce the words by using a graphic on the screen.

In conclusion, I would like to mention why learning a foreign language can be a blessing. Knowing a foreign language can help spread the Gospel all over the world. During Bible times, the apostle Peter preached to large crowds. He didn't know their language, but he was able to preach to them anyway because God gave him the ability to speak their language.



# ROBBERS OF THE SEAS

by Stephanie Knezovich, age 18

Would you like to be a pirate? They were mischievous and sneaky. We will see if you still want to be a pirate after considering the lives of three of them.

Francis Drake was a hired pirate. Queen Elizabeth I of England hired him. She hired him because England was in a war with Spain. She wanted him to loot Spanish ships and the settlements in the Americas. Sir Francis Drake was nicknamed "the Dragon" by the Spanish. He became a very wealthy man, and Queen Elizabeth I made him a knight.



Captain Kidd was a privateer for England before he moved to New York City. When he moved back to England, King William ordered Captain Kidd to command a ship and hunt pirates, even though he didn't want the job. When they couldn't catch any, Kidd and his crew decided to

become pirates themselves. Finally, he went back to America to try to start a new life. But he was captured, returned to England, and hanged by an angry King William.

Henry Morgan commanded a group of pirates called "the Brethren of the Coast." He was a fair leader to his crew but very cruel to his captives. In fact, he was one of the cruelest pirates who ever lived. When Morgan went back to England in 1674, King Charles II forgave Morgan, then made him a knight and sent him to be governor of Jamaica.

Wow! All these men were very different from each other. They all became wealthy, but they didn't all have happy endings. I don't think I would want to be a pirate because they lived such dangerous lives. Do you still want to be one?

# THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MRS. NELSON AND MRS. SEELY

by Brittany Newell, age 14

Are Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Seely as alike as you think? Although they may seem a lot alike, they aren't. They have many similarities and differences. (By the way, before I get into this whole essay, I would like to say one thing. One major way Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Seely are different is that one is definitely much stricter than the other. But for the sake of my grade, I will not say which one it is.)

Back to my essay. Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Seely are alike in many ways. For example, they both are married, teach at Small Cloud, love their students, have a son, and live normal lifestyles.

But, while they may seem the same, they do have many differences. They have extremely different personalities, and they have different ethnicities. Mrs. Seely is Estonian and Swedish, but Mrs. Nelson is one hundred percent, full-blooded German—don't worry, she's not a German Shepherd!

Just because they both graduated from college doesn't mean they graduated from the same one. Mrs. Nelson graduated from Sacramento State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies. Mrs. Seely graduated from UC Davis with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development.

There are even more differences. Mrs. Nelson has a son named Stephen, but Mrs. Seely has a son named Quinn and a daughter named Andie. The teachers also have different hobbies. Mrs. Nelson, for example, enjoys sewing, knitting, and playing with animals. Mrs. Seely, on the other hand, enjoys reading, farming, and developing her small web business, *Nuts and Twigs*.

So, next time you see Mrs. Nelson or Mrs. Seely around, don't think—just because they're friends, have husbands and children, and teach at Small Cloud—that they are the same.

## GEOGRAPHY

also by Brittany

In geography I am studying about the earth. The earth has three different parts—the atmosphere, the lithosphere, and the hydrosphere.



You may think the atmosphere is just air surrounding the earth. It is that and much more. The atmosphere distributes heat across the globe and pulls ocean water back up to the mountaintops. Now, you may be thinking, "So what if the atmosphere does all that! Why is that important?" Well, if the atmosphere stopped doing its job, "all the continents would become dry dust, the equator would

become a boiling inferno, and the . . . oceans would become ice cubes." *Geography*, pg. 37.

The lithosphere is the solid part of the earth. The word "lithosphere" means "rock ball." Most people think the earth is rough; but to astronauts seeing the earth from above, it seems to be as smooth as an apple. The earth's lithosphere has four layers: the crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core. The crust is the thinnest of the four layers. It is approximately 3-37 miles thick. Under the crust is the mantle, which is 1,800 miles deep. Following that is the outer core, which is 1,356 miles deep. And the very last, the middle of the earth, is the inner core, which is only 800 miles across.

The hydrosphere is the water on the earth's surface. As some of you may know, 71% of the earth's surface is covered by water. There are over three hundred million cubic miles of water on the earth. Most of the water is divided into just four oceans. The oceans are not separated; instead they flow into each other.

That is a brief essay of what I have learned about in geography at Small Cloud Christian School.

## LEARNING TO SING

by Andie Seely, age 12

My class has started choir. My pastor comes once or twice a week. He teaches us how to breathe with our diaphragms. He told us that we will live longer if we'd learn to breathe with our diaphragms.



This is how to check to see if you are breathing with your diaphragm. Place your hands, palms up, parallel to the ground. Bring them in so they

are touching your tummy right under your ribs. Take a deep breath. Do you feel your stomach move in and out?

You should not see

your chest moving in and out too much when you're breathing from your diaphragm.

My pastor's name is Brother Larry. He is kind to us. He can be funny at times, too!



Left to right: Sarah, Elder Larry Watts, and Paea

# BACKPACKING TRIP 2006

## EQUIPMENT



*Figure it out for yourself, my lad,  
You've all that the greatest of men have had,  
Two arms, two hands, two legs, two eyes  
And a brain to use if you would be wise.  
With this equipment they all began,  
So start for the top and say, "I can."  
Look them over, the wise and great  
They take their food from a common plate,  
And similar knives and forks they use,  
With similar laces they tie their shoes.  
The world considers them brave and smart,  
But you've all they had when they made their start.  
You can triumph and come to skill,  
You can be great if you only will.  
You're well equipped for what fight you choose,  
You have legs and arms and a brain to use,  
And the man who has risen great deeds to do  
Began his life with no more than you.  
You are the handicap you must face,  
You are the one who must choose your place,  
You must say where you want to go,  
How much you will study the truth to know.  
God has equipped you for life, but He  
Lets you decide what you want to be.  
Courage must come from the soul within,  
The man must furnish the will to win.  
So figure it out for yourself, my lad.  
You were born with all that the great have had,  
With your equipment they all began,  
Get hold of yourself and say: "I can."*

—Edgar A. Guest



And they're  
off . . .



Sarah wear-  
ing her  
back-  
pack

⇐  
Sarah  
and  
Andie  
wash-  
ing the  
dishes  
⇒



⇒  
Brittany on  
the move



⇐  
Sarah packed up  
and ready to go

⇒  
Andie, Mikey,  
and Sarah  
relaxing and  
munching



# THE PARENTING CORNER

“While the Bible should hold the first place in the education of children and youth, the book of nature is next in importance. God’s created works testify to His love and power. He has called the world into being, with all that it contains. God is a lover of the beautiful; and in the world which He has fitted up for us He has not only given us everything necessary for our comfort, but He has filled the heavens and the earth with beauty. We see His love and care in the rich fields of autumn, and His smile in the glad sunshine. His hand has made the castle-like rocks and the towering mountains. The lofty trees grow at His command; He has spread earth’s green velvet carpet and dotted it with shrubs and flowers. . . .

“The same creative energy that brought the world into existence is still exerted in upholding the universe and continuing the operations of nature. The hand of God guides the planets in their orderly march through the heavens. It is not

because of inherent power that year by year the earth continues her motion round the sun and produces her bounties. . . . It is through His power that vegetation flourishes, that the leaves appear and the flowers bloom.

“The whole natural world is designed to be an interpreter of the things of God. . . . Nature is now marred and defiled by sin. But God’s object lessons are not obliterated; even now, rightly studied and interpreted, she speaks of her Creator. . . .

“There is a simplicity and purity in these lessons direct from nature that makes them of the highest value . . . . The children and youth, all classes of students, need the lessons to be derived from this source. In itself the beauty of nature leads the soul away from sin and worldly attractions, and toward purity, peace, and God.

“For this reason the cultivation of the soil is good work for children and youth. It brings them into direct contact with nature and nature’s God.” - Ellen G.

White, *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students* (Review and Herald Publishing Association), 185-186.



***Small Cloud received a very generous surprise: A five-gallon jug full of coins! Was it ever heavy! Can you guess how much money it contained? Watch for details in the next issue.***

## THE MAUI VEGETARIAN

### Cooking with Aloha

Our recipe this time is taken from a new cookbook published by Skye’s parents, Brian and Crystal. Brian is currently finishing up his job as a chef in Hawaii. It is his desire to open a vegan restaurant here in the Sacramento/Elk Grove area sometime in the future.

*The Maui Vegetarian* has many delicious recipes in it. From appetizers to soups, entrees, vegetables, sauces, and healthful desserts, it is filled with easy-to-follow instructions for how to create scrumptious vegetarian dishes.

Colorful pictures of Hawaii fill the book, as well as pictures of many of the completed dishes. You will find that the pictures alone will whet your appetite and make you want to try the recipes.

“Use this book as a jumping board into a world of healthful living, and don’t stop there,” Brian suggests. He goes on to remind his readers of the words found in 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20: “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Brian will probably be doing a book signing at one of the Borders bookstores here in town in the near future. But if you would like a copy of his book now, you may order it through the school. The price is \$18.95, plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. Order yours today!

. . . AN SCCS FAVORITE

## CORN TAMALE

- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1/2 cup instant masa
- 1 - 15 oz. can creamed corn
- 1 - 12 oz. can corn, drained
- 1 - 14.5 oz. can stewed or diced tomatoes
- 1/2 tsp. onion powder
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 - 6 oz. can pitted olives, drained and sliced

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Place in a glass casserole dish. Cover and bake at 350° F. for 45 minutes. Remove cover and finish baking until center is set (10-15 minutes). Serve with salsa.

