

SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS ... CANDLE LIGHTS

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

September - November 2005

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P.O. Box 650, Wilton, CA 95693-0650

INTRODUCTION

The first quarter of the 2005-2006 school year was full of changes in our student body. We began with eight full-time students. Then, during the first quarter, four homeschooled children began attending on a part-time basis. One of them, Trinidad, has since returned to homeschooling exclusively. We miss her a lot. However, we are happy that Kellie (a former student) has joined us again, and a new student, Brittany, has been enrolled.

In October the whole class, joined by a few other homeschooled children, visited the Willow Fog Pumpkin Patch, located just five minutes from the school. There docents gave information about the various animals on the farm.

We saw some very strange-looking sheep and long-haired cows. Then the students were permitted to enter an enclosure and pet a miniature horse. They also had the opportunity to pet goats and rabbits.

After each student chose a pumpkin to take home, all climbed aboard a tractor-drawn, straw-filled wagon for a ride. At the comple-

tion of the ride, each student planted a pumpkin seed in a little styrofoam cup to take home.



From left to right: Paea Inikuha'angana, Mrs. Nelson, Shabad Jammu, Ariana Green, Andie Seely, Trinidad Avila, Sarah Kidane, Mrs. Seely, Ian Broom, and Stephanie Knezovich

We all had brought a good appetite and a sack lunch, which tasted delicious eaten at picnic tables under large oak trees. Although this field trip was geared mostly for younger students, the Pumpkin Patch outing was enjoyed by all. You can see the students and teachers in the picture above.

The students enjoyed another unique field trip in October—picking olives. Mrs. Nelson's uncle, Jim Demarest, who lives near the school, kindly offered to allow the students to pick olives from his trees. He then put the olives through a lye bath, after which they were brought to the school for the final rinsing process. Unfortunately, the instructions were not quite understood correctly, so our first attempt at curing olives was not as successful as we would have liked. But we will definitely do better the next time we have the opportunity.

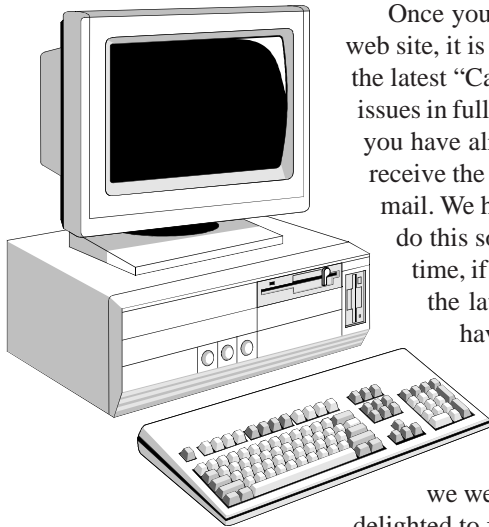
Due to our increased enrollment, we use our bus again. Mr. Nelson drives it in the morning, leaving the house at 5:30 a.m. in order to get all the students to school by 7:30 a.m. When he returns, he immediately leaves for work. We are very happy that Mr. Nelson recently passed his test to become a journeyman electrician. Although we greatly miss his help at the school, we are grateful that God has made it possible for him to work in his profession. ■

YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER MUCH LONGER!
(See page 2, "Time Is Running Out!" for details.)

SCCS ON THE WEB WWW.SMALLCLOUD.ORG

Have you visited our web site yet? If not, you may wish to do so. There you can find almost anything you might wish to know about Small Cloud. Topics include:

- * About the School (how it began)
- * School information (directions for getting here)
- * Requirements for graduation
- * Staff
- * Mission statement
- * Handbook
- * Calendar of events
- * Graduated students
- * Where are they now? (former students)
- * Photo gallery
- * Newsletters
- * Donations
- * Contact us



Once you have gone to the web site, it is very easy to find the latest “Candle Lights” issues in full color. Several of you have already asked to receive the newsletters via e-mail. We hope to be able to do this soon. In the meantime, if you wish to read the latest issues, they have been posted in PDF format. So check the site out soon.

Recently we were surprised and delighted to find that one of our former students had contacted the site.

At the time of his message, Demetri Gregorakis was in Greece and his edited message is as follows:

“How is everyone? I can’t believe I found you guys! I was doing a random search for people on Google and my name came up under your website.... I was really surprised.... Anyway, I am doing good, I have been here in Greece (on the small island [of] Alonissos, where my father was born) since May with, as of yet, no plans on going back to California. I have worked in a restaurant most of the summer as the lead waiter.... I will start tutoring English in November to students. I really hope you all are doing well and everyone is happy! Talk to you later, Demetri”

Editor’s note to all of our other former students out there: We would love to hear from you. Please keep in touch!

... AN SCCS FAVORITE

GARBANZO-RICE CASSEROLE

(Simply delicious!)

- 2 cans (15 oz.) canned garbanzos, drained (reserve 2-1/2 tbsp. of liquid)
- 2 cups cooked brown rice
- 2 tbsp. nutritional yeast
- 2 tsp. McKay’s vegetarian chicken-style seasoning
- 2 tbsp. dried parsley
- 2-1/2 tbsp. oil
- 2-1/2 tbsp. garbanzo juice
- 1 medium onion, chopped

Combine all ingredients well. Bake, covered, for one hour at 350° F. in a casserole dish.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

We have received notification from 28 of you regarding your desire to continue receiving “Candle Lights” (soon to be changed to “Small Cloud Chronicles”) or to be removed from our mailing list. Most of the responders chose to continue receiving our newsletter, but we have not heard from the majority of you. A few have asked to receive the newsletter by e-mail. This is a great idea, and we are looking into the matter. As soon as we are able to do so, those people will receive their issues via e-mail.

For those of you from whom we have not heard, please be aware that your newsletter issues may be terminated soon. If you wish to continue to be on our mailing list, you **MUST** return one of the cards sent out with the last two newsletter issues. If you have lost the card, you may e-mail us at www.smallcloud@juno.com and tell us that you would still enjoy receiving the newsletter. Or you may call us at (916) 687-8329. But you must act **NOW!**

THE PARENTING CORNER

“Smile, parents; smile, teachers. If your heart is sad, let not your face reveal the fact. Let the sunshine from a loving, grateful heart light up the countenance. Unbend from your iron dignity, adapt yourselves to the children’s needs, and make them love you. You must win their affection, if you would impress religious truth upon their heart.” — *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 68.



A DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH

by Andie Seely, age 10



I am at school. The cars are zooming by. Birds are singing cheerfully. The picnic bench is very



smooth. The grass smells good. I hear crickets chirping. The goats are bucking each other. I see chickens pecking and scratching. I feel great!



MEET TRINIDAD

by Trinidad Avila, age 9



I am in the 4th grade and am almost 10 years old. I go to Small Cloud Christian School. I like this school

because I get to be around kids my age. What I don't like about this school is P.E., and my least favorite subject is math. My favorite subject is grammar.

Editor's note: Trinidad is no longer a student at Small Cloud. She is being homeschooled again. We miss her a lot!

MEET SARAH

by Sarah Kidane, age 11



I am 11 years old and am in the sixth grade. Going to school is a new experience for me. This is actually the first time I have

been enrolled in a school. I was homeschooled from 1st through 5th grades. We moved to Galt on September 1, 2005, so I could go to Small Cloud Christian School. I think SCCS is a good school, even though I prefer being homeschooled.

SMALL CLOUD'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

January 22 (Small Cloud's tenth anniversary) is rapidly approaching. This is your special invitation, all former Small Cloud students. We really want to see you again and find out what you are doing now. Bring your old pictures and be prepared to share "remember when?" stories.

Remember when a coat was dried in the oven? Remember the fort? Remember the soccer games? Remember when there was only one classroom, and the other half of the building was a cow barn? Remember when the cows got out of the pasture, and we had to chase them back in? Remember when we made toast for breakfast on the wood-burning stove in the classroom? Remember when the addition was under con-

struction? What a joy it was when the second classroom was added! How good it felt to have new carpeting on the classroom floors, as well as central heat and air conditioning! How convenient it was to have bathrooms in the school instead of having to use the bathroom in the house next door!

What was your favorite meal at Small Cloud? Dutch Potato Soup maybe? Barbequed Tofu? Macaroni 'N Chee? Baked Potatoes w/ Broccoli and "Cheese"? Perhaps it was Seaweed Soup or Sloppy Joes. Come enjoy some of the dishes you remember. If you especially liked a certain dish, give the school a call and perhaps we can add it to the menu for January 22. The phone number is (916) 687-8329. See you on the 22nd!



SCCS CALENDAR

January - June 2006



January:

- 2 School Resumes
- 16 Holiday (Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- 22** *Anniversary Activities for SCCS (7:00 p.m.)*

February:

- 1 End of Second Quarter
- 2-6 Minimum Days
- 20 Holiday (Presidents' Day)
- 21 Parent Night (7:00 p.m.)

March:

- 20-24 Spring Break
- 28 Parent Night (7:00 p.m.)

April:

- 2 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 13 End of Third Quarter
- 17-18 Minimum Days
(Parent/Teacher Conferences)

May:

- 1-5 National Testing Week
- 25 Open House (7:00 p.m.)
- 29 Holiday (Memorial Day)

June:

- 16 Last Day of School (Minimum Day)
End of Fourth Quarter
- 18 Graduation (7:00 p.m.)



NUTS & TWIGS

It started off as an interest in healthful living. It developed into a hobby that is slowly evolving into a home-business. It is Nuts & Twigs.

Nuts & Twigs is run by the Seely family. It offers quality health foods and products, along with educational materials, to help you maintain good health for your entire family. We work hard to make sure that the majority of our products are completely natural, with no hydrogenated oils, corn syrup, artificial colorings, flavorings, or harmful chemicals.

We believe good health involves the proper care of not only your body but also your mind and spirit. Realizing that health is a gift from God, we believe it is our duty to do everything in our power to protect that gift by following these ten simple health practices:

- ◆ Abstinance from harmful substances
- ◆ Moderation of all good things
- ◆ Regular exercise
- ◆ Good nutrition from a diet containing as many whole foods as possible
- ◆ Plenty of pure water to drink
- ◆ Proper exposure to sunshine
- ◆ Fresh air
- ◆ Sufficient sleep
- ◆ Service for others
- ◆ Simple trust in God

Health products can be expensive, especially if their ingredients do not include a long list of chemicals. Our prices are fair, and a portion of all profits (15%) goes to support Small Cloud Christian School—a nonprofit, Christ-centered organization, whose teachers love kids and work hard to educate them.

A small catalog will be coming out in January. If you would like to receive one, please give us your contact information. We can be reached either by phone (916-835-8215) or by e-mail: nutstwigs03@yahoo.com. We look forward to serving you!

STEPHEN IS GROWING!

Full of smiles, happily interacting with all the students, Stephen is a favorite at Small Cloud.

"May I hold him?"

"He's my buddy. I'm going to invite him to my birthday party."

"May I take him for a walk in his stroller?"

The students are learning how babies grow and develop. We were all excited recently when Stephen raised his hand in a waving motion.

"Look! He's waving!" the students exclaimed.

Stephen is sitting by himself now. Having become more and more vocal, he spends more time in the house these days while class is in session.

He's a very good-natured baby for the most part. However, Mom and Dad are already working to correct his objectionable traits of character with appropriate discipline. It is amazing how much babies already understand at this young age. Their little minds are like sponges.

Someone has likened a young mind to Jello: "You need to put in a lot of good things before it sets."

It is Mr. and Mrs. Nelson's hope and prayer that their little boy will grow up to be a missionary for Jesus!



PROGRAM REPORT

RALEY'S QUALITY OF LIFE SCRIP PROGRAM

Using your Quality of Life cards at your Raley's, Bel Air, and Nob Hill Supermarkets really does pay off for Small Cloud. This year, through the month of November, Small Cloud has received \$584.34 from its faithful supporters who regularly use their cards. Income generated varies from month to month according to the amount of shopping each card holder does. Here are some other facts:

Number of cards used each month 10-14

Revenue generated monthly:

From all card holders:

Lowest \$28.18 August 10 card users

Highest \$71.88 March 14 card users

By individual card holders:

Lowest \$.07

Highest \$32.11

Since we began the program in September, 2003, the use of your cards has brought in a total of \$1,486.21. Thank you so much, and please keep using your cards! If you need a card, please call the school at (916) 687-8329.