

IN THIS ISSUE

- Charter Schools
FAQs
- News and Notes
- Dr Kahn's
Featured Article

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- This weekend–
November 6th
-playground
construction-
help needed !!
- November 9
Parent
Meeting–
Internet
Safety and
CyberBullying
7 PM Cologne

**Late Start
10:30 AM
Wed. Nov.
10th**

Academy

- November 11
Lifetouch
Retakes
- November 18
Board Meeting
7PM
- November 19
Family Fun
Night @
Cologne
Academy



Director's Notes

by
Lynn Gluck Peterson

NOVEMBER 3, 2010

What are Charter Schools?

- I. Charter schools foster a partnership between parents, teachers, and students.
- II. They create an environment in which parents can be more involved, and teachers are given the freedom to innovate.
- III. Charter schools are designed around the needs of students.

Charter Schools are Public Schools

- I. They charge no tuition.
- II. They have open enrollment.
- III. They are held to high standards and are accountable to the state, their authorizers, and the families who choose them.
- IV. Teachers are not tenured. All employees are at-will.
- V. Minnesota is home of the charter school movement.

Charter School Success Formula

Flexibility + expectations + accountability + (attitude) =

ACHIEVEMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 5,200 students are on wait lists to get into charter schools across Minnesota, according to a recent survey by a charter advocacy group. The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools surveyed charters this fall about the length of their wait lists. Nearly 100 charter schools responded. The effort was an attempt to gauge the demand for charters, which are tuition-free, independent public schools often seen as competition for traditional public schools.

Minnesota has roughly 150 charter schools enrolling 35,000 students, according to the association. The largest wait list in the survey was 1,674 students, at PACT charter school in Ramsey. Wait lists vary by grade, and the longest are for kindergarten, the survey found.

Pioneer Press 10/22/10

Our Vision

To create an environment for K-8 children where rich character development and effective learning create self confident students who are able to achieve their personal best academically. Using advanced curriculum that is based on goal oriented results, parents will work with teachers to produce the highest possible level of academic achievement for each individual student.

Our Mission

To provide students in Cologne and surrounding rural areas with a content-rich education based on a strong foundation of knowledge through the use of the Core Knowledge Sequence and classical curriculum. We are committed to providing a community school with small class sizes where students, parents and teachers work together to achieve accelerated academic achievement and strong character development.

Uniform Policy Update:

You now have two vendor options for Cologne Academy's Plaid. Donald's Plaid #57 and Land's End Classic Navy Plaid. A portion of your purchase from Land's End comes back to the school.

Playground Help:

Please join the Facilities Task Force this coming Saturday at 8 AM to help with the construction of the new playground. Many hands make light work! Lunch will be served. Please consider this volunteer opportunity to help your child's school.

6th Grade Highlights:

The 6th grade had their Lion's Club Peace Poster presentation on October 26th and Cologne Academy had an awesome turn out and beautiful posters. Cologne Academy's posters were so amazing that the Lion's Club not only picked out two honorable mentions but four honorable mentions. Our winners were Travis B, Majia K, Jolene M, Melia M and our 1st place winner going to the regional competition is Corinne B.



Deputy Bramwell's Visit:

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 9th @ 7PM. Carver County Deputy Bramwell will speak to families regarding Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying. Deputy Bramwell will be in the classrooms on November 3rd & 4th discussing safe internet surfing and other topics relevant to the different grade levels.



Be Prepared for RECESS!

**S
C
A
R
F**

BOOTS

HAT

SNOW PANTS

JACKET

GLOVES

Gazing at the Stars by Dr. Kahn

Imagine looking at the sky through a straw and trying to make sense of what you were seeing. You might see empty space and think the sky was all open space. Or perhaps your straw would provide you with a glimpse of the sun, a star, or a few clouds. Whatever you happened upon would be all that you knew of the sky.

You might be surprised at how often this image is used in meetings with parents, especially (but not only) when we are talking about their oldest child.

Our ability to understand what we are seeing is limited by what else we have seen. It is because we have gazed at the sky many times, with eyes wide-open, that no matter what we might happen upon through a straw, we know it is only one small part of the enormous sky.

I think parents have a hard time seeing the “big picture” of what is going on with a child because they are often gazing at the child through their own too-narrow lens. Trying to respond to a child’s friendship problem, a temper tantrum, a forgotten chore or a poor grade will be challenging in any case, but it will be impossibly difficult if your field of vision is too narrow. And when I see parents responding in the heat of the moment, using a harsh tone or using



punishments they later regret, it is typically because they were not able to see the full picture of how this momentary mistake or disappointment might fit into their child’s whole life.

Parents of college-aged children have a different perspective on the meaning of getting cut from a 9th grade team than parents of 9th graders. Parents of high school children see a disappointment like not getting invited to a 4th grade birthday party differently than parents of the 4th grader. The difference is that parents of older children remember when their children had such experiences and are also now able to see how their children benefitted from the lessons learned at times of disappointment. Same for children’s mistakes. With the perspective that can only come from time, parents of older children often look back on having trouble getting out the door in the mornings with their preschoolers, or the obnoxious, self-absorbed behavior of the Middle School years with a light-hearted nostalgia that they did not have at the time.

Next time the world lets one of your children down or when your child’s behavior leaves much to be desired, ask yourself if you are looking at this event through a straw.

When parents put the straw down and look at the times of mistakes and disappointments with eyes wide-open they can almost always see how the moment, though unwanted, provides a teaching opportunity that is probably needed and might even be right on time. Handled well, it is the moments of mistakes and disappointments that permit us our most important teaching opportunities.

Children need to learn that they will not get every single thing they wish for and there is no better time to teach this lesson than when the world lets them down. And our children need to feel how great our love is for them and there is no greater time to teach this than when they let us down.

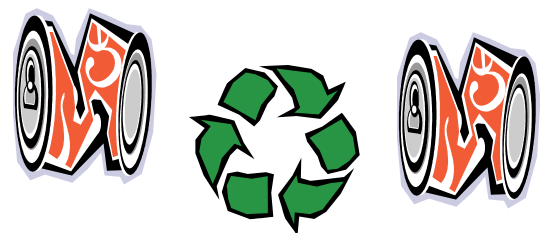
I rarely meet parents whose love for their children is not unconditional. They love their children at all times, no matter how challenging the day's behavior problem might be. However, and this is the saddest thing of all, I often meet parents whose children *do not know, believe or feel that unconditional love*. To many children their parents seem to love them more when their grades are good and their behavior is correct. To reconcile these two seemingly opposite statements focus on the fact that children cannot see into their parents' hearts and see the unconditional love. They primarily sense the presence or absence of the love by the look on the parent's face, the tone of the parent's voice and by whether the discipline is done in a serious, angry way or a light-hearted, forgiving and reassuring way.

If you find yourself gazing at the sky through

a straw, try putting it down. And if you find yourself looking at a moment with your child through a too-narrow focus, try broadening it. What you have in front of you may be a perfect opportunity to teach that children do not always get everything they want, or to show your child your unconditional love.

There are four years of (free) articles about parenting at www.drstevekahn.com and they are available for downloading or forwarding to other parents. Dr. Steve Kahn is the author of *Insightful Parenting: Making Moments Count*.

Please recycle your cans in the can trailer in the school's parking lot.



Money raised will help offset the 5th grade's environmental trip in May.