



Head...lines

A periodic newsletter from your Administrator - Frank C. Rydwansky



"...making a difference now and eternally" Vol. 4, Issue 5, October 24, 2008

From the Administrator...

Last year at this time the **Red Sox** were in the World Series. Sorry, poor pitch and no hits...our hopes are now in the **Patriots** and **Celtics**. Hope is a good thing...an attitude that we need to practice, especially with the uncertainties of change facing us all. Dayspring was founded on Christian beliefs and values, one of which is that our "hope is in the Lord."

As we attempt to improve the quality of life at Dayspring, we continue to encounter new, unique challenges. One that continues is the issue of COMMUNICATIONS. We trust that you appreciate the open communication opportunities between parents and faculty/administration and our effort for rapid "fixes" to most problems.

Last year we talked of safety and security measures being implemented on your behalf. This year we now have inner security doors, a CCTV system, monitoring entrances and areas within the school, and higher traffic volume with over 260 families. We will be asking for greater cooperation from you as we tighten access and restrict flow at various times during the school day...for your child's safety. Please do not enter or wander the school building after hours. We are looking to fence off part of the playground for easier drop-off and dismissal, and efforts to improve aftercare pick-up. We know that you agree with us that "working together" will make DCA a truly great school. A reminder of your commitment in sending your child to Dayspring:

- We, the parents, believe that parents are the primary educators, and thus will regularly be involved in oversight of homework and academic work. (Missing homework will severely impact term grades!)
- We understand that any differences we may have with the administration or teachers must be handled in a Biblical manner, following Matthew 18:15-17. Our attitude should be one of edification and redemption.
- We commit ourselves to support the efforts the Academy makes to meet its financial goals, understanding that tuition and fees account for only 80-85% of the total cost to educate a student at Dayspring. (Fees must be paid on receipt of bills, and failure to pay will result in denied attendance.)
- We will read the Parent-Student Handbook (sent home with students) to familiarize ourselves of the "rules-of-the-road" at Dayspring. There are very specific rules concerning all aspects of school life that you are expected to know and will be enforced by our faculty and staff. Please return acknowledgements.

Key Information and Needs...

- **Christmas Musical Request:** Mrs. Shillan is requesting costumes for: Joseph, Shepherds (3), and Wise Men (2). Also a smoke machine, a room divider (folding), and volunteers to help with props and supervision during rehearsals. Please contact her at x1128 at DCA, or by email, cryso7@hotmail.com.

News & Views...

- **NO SCHOOL REMINDERS:** Nov 6th & 7th for the ACSI teacher convention and Tuesday, Nov 11th, Veteran's Day. We have added Monday, Nov 10th to give all families a long bonus weekend. PLEASE NOTE. DCA is closely monitoring energy and transportation costs...occasional bonus days will help!

- **Parent/Teacher Conference Dates:** All conferences will be held on **Tuesday, Nov 18th from 3:00 to 7:00 PM** and **Wednesday, Nov 19th from 3:00 to 5:00 PM**. Notices will be sent home with sign-up information. Please be prompt in responding to be sure that desired times can be met.
- **Chapel Invitation:** Thanksgiving chapel is also Grandparent Day this year. Families are invited to come to a special combined chapel @12:30 pm, Tuesday, Nov 25th, followed by classroom visits, and dismissal, making it a longer, three day Thanksgiving break.
- **Warm Clothing:** Fall is here and your children need to come with coats and sweaters...PLEASE! We will continue outdoor arrival and dismissal and recess, until cold weather prevents us. Shorts end on Oct 31st.
- **Girls Dress:** Leggings and short skirts are not for fashion or in our dress code. Please stop before we do!
- **Sickness:** Our nurse has requested of all parents to please keep your child at home when sick. Please respect others by not bringing the illness in. Our handbook gives guidelines but the following is key:
 - **Call the school nurse @ x1105 to notify your child's absence.**
 - **Fever or vomiting - stay home for 24 hours after the symptoms have stopped.**
 - **If uncontrolled pooping or other such symptoms occur...please keep home until over.**
 - **Be sure to see a doctor if any symptoms continue for 5 days.**
 - **If out of school more than 3 days or have visited a doctor...a note from the Dr. is required.**
 - **NO MEDICATION can be brought to school by a child...parents must bring meds to the nurse with instructions for administering.**
- **Playground Safety:** Please remind your children to be careful on the apparatus and not run in the mulched area. The playground is intended to be an area of exercise and fun for all. We have added additional playground space and apparatus behind the house across the street for PreK and K classes.
- **Facilities Growth:** Investigation continues on DCA expansion at either, or both, ends of our current PreK3 to Grade 8 offerings. Key is the additional space requirement. Time, permits, money and the economy, continue to be the issues. Please pray with us regarding growth and expansion.
- **PAC (Parents Advisory Committee):** A number of growing meetings have yielded some great ideas for both school community and support. Dayspring is the largest PreK to G8 private Christian school in Eastern MA and RI. However, DCA ranks in the bottom 1/3rd in total per student cost. Tuition does not cover all the cost of educating your children...especially in the areas of extracurricular activities. We look for your help and support for PAC activities.
- **Fundraising Opportunities:**
Here's a summary:
 - **SCRIP (Gift Certificates) help reduce tuition costs**
 - **Boxtops for Education (General Mills) - current classroom contest**
 - **Shaw's Receipts**
 - **Target Credit Card Purchases**
 - **UNO's Dining Nights**
 - **Polar Express Christmas Shopping**
 - **Holiday Shopping "bazaar"**
 - **Special Events (possible International week)**

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