

THE FARM SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday March 14th, 2008

Important Farm School Dates

Fri. Mar. 14: 3rd Quarter Grades due

Sat. Mar. 15: Steps to Peace, 12 pm -3 pm in Nashville (see article below)

Thurs. Mar. 20: PTSA Meeting, 3 pm

Fri. Mar 21: Farm School Movie Night at the Community Center, 7 pm – potluck snacks

Fri. Mar 28: Discovery Center, meet at 9 am

Fri. Apr. 4: No classes, Teacher In Service Day

Thurs. May 15 – Sun. May 18: 30th Annual NCACS Conference at Lamborn Vision School in Paonia, Colorado – Potential Farm School Trip

Steps to Peace in Nashville – 3/15

From the [United for Peace and Justice](#) website:

Date: Saturday, March 15th at 12 noon.

Location: Amphitheater at the Bicentennial Mall
600 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville 37243

Action: To mark the 5th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq and in support of the Winter Soldier hearings, we will honor the sacrifices of our armed forces, their families and the people of Iraq during the past 5 years. Speakers - mostly veterans & their family members & Music – will all call for peace. At 3PM a large canvas with the names of the 93 Tennesseans killed in Iraq will be carried up the hill to the War Memorial Plaza. Hope will be expressed that these will be the last casualties of this conflict.

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Sponsored By: Nashville Peace Coalition
<http://www.nashvillepeacejustice.org>

Discovery Center Field Trip – 3/28

On Friday, March 28, Farm School grades K-8 will leave our home campus at 7:30 am to meet up with our Farm School at Home counterparts at the Discovery Center in Murfreesboro at 9:00 am. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students. We will be taken on an environmentally educational “guided wetland tour” and then we will have time to explore the museum. Make sure your student brings food (or money) for breakfast and lunch as well as money for fuel.

PTSA Meeting – Thursday 3/20

Join us at 3 pm to discuss “Farm School Vision.”

Human Sexuality Classes

The faculty of The Farm School will be teaching several classes on human sexuality. These classes will be grouped by age (9-13 and 14-18) and by gender. We began sending home permission slips as of yesterday, March 13th. Please sign and return as soon as possible. Thanks!

School Meeting Notes – Wed. 3/12

Agenda: Chore redistribution, microwave issues (danger and Noah’s faux corndogs), Sugar Gliders, potential new T-Shirt vendor.

Discussion: After some discussion our need to add cleaning the microwave, sweeping the floor and recycling added to the overall list was resolved by Christina volunteering to clean the microwave and sweep the kitchen floor and by returning responsibility for recycling to Alicia. We had an intense discussion about the dangers of microwaves and how un-Farm School microwave ovens are. Most of us agreed that we’d like to do without a microwave oven at school but are not sure we’re ready to give up the convenience. Regarding Noah’s corndogs, Noah quickly acquiesced to Molly’s requests that he put a plate under his corndogs before he microwaves them. Karuna asked for our collective thoughts on her keeping sugar gliders (a marsupial reminiscent of a flying squirrel) at school. The group asked her a series of questions that she agreed to have answers for next week. Time ran out before we got to the topic of a new T-Shirt vendor.

Resolutions: Our new chore sheet reflects the resolutions discussed above. Noah agreed to keep a plate between his corndogs and the microwave oven platter.

Next Week Topics and To Do Items: Items for next week’s agenda include: getting a rug for the secondary classroom, getting rid of our microwave oven, Karuna’s report on sugar gliders and a possible new T-Shirt vendor.

Quote of the week: "You create your opportunities by asking for them." ~ Shakti Gawain



Friday March 14th, 2008

Discipline

What should I do when my kids don't listen when I ask them to do something? For example, they won't come when I call them and wander off when I ask them not to.

I was brought up to believe that good children "do what they are told" and that good parents are those that can get their children to do as they are told. Now I believe that good people freely become themselves while respecting the equally important freedoms of those becoming themselves around them.

So... What do I do when my kids wander off when I ask them not to?

My first question: is it reasonable to want our children, busy at freely becoming themselves, to stay in a particular location? My answer: sometimes. My children are becoming wiser about safety and, at this time, part of our relationship involves me making safety decisions for them. One of those decisions is about when I want to keep my children within viewing range.

So... How do I get my children to stay in a specified area?

On my good days, I have a conversation with them about where they would like to be and my need to keep them within sight. We agree to a location. We keep our agreement.

My experience is that when I make reasonable agreements with my children they are likely to keep those agreements.

So... What should I do when my kids wander off after we had a conversation about where they would like to be and my need to keep them within sight and agreed to a location?

Repeat the process. Making an agreement is often not a onetime thing. We all need occasional reminders about respecting our agreements. When my daughter wanders off without telling me, I remind her of our agreement to check in before

Discipline (continued)

wandering. When I raise my voice, she reminds me of our agreement to talk in calm tones.

But don't I need to set specific consequences for their actions when they disobey me?

Only if I want them to do as they are told out of fear. If what I want is for them to learn how to be self-actualizing beings that are respectful of those around them and capable of negotiating and keeping agreements, then I need to model this behavior for them, engage in this behavior with them and help them as negotiating and keeping agreements becomes natural for them.

But what about my 18-month or 3 year-old?

Same story, different look. I don't expect an 18 month-old to understand a safety agreement or to stay in one place because I say so. I expect to continually remind them, often by putting myself between them and dangerous objects or locations.

Working with young children reminds me that it's not so much about what I do as it is about why I do it. I try not to have as my goal getting children to do as they are told. Instead I try to hold onto the goal of keeping them safe and reminding them to be respectful of others. ~ by Peter Kindfield

Please Keep Up the Goodsearch!

The Farm School can get a penny every time you use www.Goodsearch.com instead of other search engines! Just type "The Farm School" in the space that says "Who do you Goodsearch for?" ~ Thanks!

Weekly Drumming Class Continues

Drumming with Biko is back! Class happens every Tuesday after school at 3:30. "I will be teaching traditional African, Middle Eastern and homegrown rhythms. After we get some basic rhythms together I will start to teach traditional songs. I have some drums but if you have a drum bring it. Tuition is a sliding scale of 5 to 10 dollars per class. Let's Rock out together!" ~ Love Biko