



January CCS Connection

Congratulations!

3rd Six Weeks Honor Roll

All A's

Kindergarten

Zoe Beeson
Alyssa Dickey
Kaylee Duck
Emily Head
Cayden Henry
Julia O'Neal
Gabriel Stapp
Ayden Sullivan
Gavin Thomas
Logan Wedrall

1st Grade

Cameron Ashley
Caroline Cannon
Boone Gaston
Nathan Vaughn

2nd Grade

Kelsey Bishop
Ellie Brown
Angel Jones
Rachel Jowers
Addison Wise
Candice Humble
Christian Primm
Allie Vaughan
Addison Wise

3rd Grade

Luke Bell
Rebekah Jowers
Abigail Richardson
Alexandra Steffins
Samantha Womack

5th Grade

Gracie Gill
Micah Menard

7th Grade

Savannah Ogle

8th Grade

Cody Jordan
Brooke McCarty

10th Grade

Katie Rountree

12th Grade

Angel Hamilton
Taylor Pee

A/B Honor Roll

Kindergarten

Beaux Griggs
Maria Hixon
Grayson Noland
Cayden Smalling
Mason Thompson

1st Grade

Maci Brazzell
Ayers Burkhalter
AnnaMarie Eppinette
Reagan Patrick
Molly Solmson-Vaughan
Jonathan D. Tarantino
Alexis Templeton

2nd Grade

Kolton Breaux
Anna Grace Brooks
Cassie Chretien
Catherine Eppinette
Aidan Ham
Colt Hamilton
Macy Whitehead

3rd Grade

Austin Acree
Rayleigh Bennett
Josie Flowers
Anna Head
Britainnie Joseph
Abram Tarantino

4th Grade

Corrie Albritton
Errin Eppinette
Cameron Jordan

Michael David O'Neal
Jessie Simpson
Katheryn Steffins

5th Grade

Katie Emory
Griffith Olinde
Carter Saterfiel
Alyssa Wyatt

6th Grade

Clayton Harris
Brooke Holloway
Dylan McCarty
Colton Wyatt

7th Grade

Ashlyn Brooks
Claire Stapp
Victoria Steffins

8th Grade

Anna-Kate Hampton
Tumininu Kuku

9th Grade

Nicole Carpenter
Olivia Remsberg

10th Grade

Jordan Baugh
Macon Bell
Joey Godwin
Hannah King
Andy Templeton

11th Grade

Jerrica Bennett
William Fulton
Hunter Vaughan
Kristen Worley

12th Grade

Forrest Spillers
Tyler Woodburn
Kristian Worster

BOOKS WITH MRS. BROOKS

Ken Hamm, president and founder of Answers in Genesis, and Britt Beemer, president of America's Research Group, teamed up to study why young adults between the ages of twenty and thirty seem to be making a mass exodus from the church. They studied the views of 1,000 twenty-somethings across the nation who had been solidly raised in the church, but are currently not attending. Hamm and Beemer published their findings in the book *Already Gone: Why Your Kids Will Quit Church and What You Can Do to Stop It*. Here are some of the troubling items that their data revealed:



- 95% of the 1,000 young adults attended regularly during their elementary and middle school years. Only 55% of these continued to attend regularly during high school, and by their early college years, attendance had dwindled down to 11%.
- There seemed to be two different kinds of extreme groups emerging from those who left church: “those who believe the Bible and those who harbor serious doubts about the Scriptures.”

Those who believe the accuracy and authority of the Bible seem to have left primarily due to the hypocrisy, legalism, and self-righteousness they saw in the church. Many of them report that they will likely come back to church when they have children. The other group “points to significant questions and scientific objections”, so they are unlikely to return unless something changes on this level.

The authors leave parents, pastors, and Christian educators with the following two action steps to prevent the continuing exodus of young people from the church:

Action Step #1: Live the Word - Hamm and Beemer remind us that our “first priority as parents is to live the Word of God in a natural, sincere way,” and that “if we try to preach to our kids without living it, we will only add to the hypocrisy that has turned so many away.”

They challenge parents to examine their own hearts and ask the following questions:

- Do I love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength?
- Do I take the words of God and treasure them in my heart and teach them to my kids by talking to them about God's Word as if it's a normal part of my life? Is it my life?

Action Step #2 – Defend the Word - Their data indicates that many students began asking some crucial questions about the Bible by early middle school. For some, these unanswered questions grew into serious doubts about Scripture. This tells us that we must help our kids dig for and find answers to the real questions that the world presents. Such questions include, “How do you know the Bible is real?”, “Hasn't science disproved the Bible?”, “How do dinosaurs fit into the Bible?”, “What evidence exists for the global flood?”, “How is Christianity different from other religions?”, “Isn't the world millions of years old?”, “How can you believe in a loving God when there is so much suffering in the world?”

Ken Hamm goes on to explain that we should “teach Bible history, not Bible stories”, with the goal of helping students “make a link between their faith and fact.” We should use diagrams, charts, artifacts, and maps to show our children what really happened, being careful not to give the impression that we are telling them fairy tale type stories.

If you are interested in learning more about how to help your child find biblical answers to his/her scientific questions, check out the various resources available at www.answersingenesis.org.

- Amy Brooks

HIGHER-ORDER THINKING

with Kim Geddie

On December 11 while CCS students enjoyed a free day off of school, our teachers and a few educators from Cedar Creek and Grace Episcopal attended an in-service on our campus. The in-service on higher-order thinking was led by Kim Geddie of SDE, Staff Development for Educators, one of our nation's leading professional development providers for K – 12 schools. Kim not only gave us up-to-date research on how the brain works, she also gave us practical strategies to use in order to deepen our students' ability to think critically and to maximize the effectiveness of our classroom instruction.

Here are a few tidbits of research on sleep from Kim's workshop that you might find useful as parents:

- Sleep deprivation and sleep habits do correlate with academic grades. One study showed that students who received low grades went to bed an average of forty minutes later on school nights than students with high grades.
- Adolescents who slept less than seven hours at night reported increased daytime sleepiness, depressed mood, and behavior problems.
- What we do right before we go to bed can help us or hurt us. We should avoid visual stimuli, such as television or video games, for the ninety minutes prior to bedtime. The time immediately prior to going to bed is a great time to learn something new, however. Apparently, the beginning of sleep sets up the brain for later cementing the learning into memory.

All of our teachers agreed that the time spent in this in-service was very beneficial, and we look forward to having Kim Geddie and other representatives from SDE back on our campus in the near future!



Middle School Servolution

SERVOLUTION (surv-uh-loo'-shuhn)-

a complete and radical change of a person's life caused by simple acts of kindness for the glory of God; God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in heaven

Since Jesus came to serve, we believe we should too. (Matthew 20:28) That's why there's been a Servolution taking place in our middle school. Several times throughout the year, our students are going to serve together in different capacities on our campus AND in our community. Since kicking off our Servolution this year, 5th-8th graders have coordinated and participated in two Serve Days already.

Our first serve day was Wednesday, November 18, when all of our students and teachers devoted the entire day to sprucing up and serving our campus. Although our janitorial and maintenance staff do a great job keeping our campus in shape, there are many tasks that they can never seem to get to because of time and man-power constraints. In just 5 ½ hours, our 62 middle school students and teachers: removed a trailer load full of old, broken gutters from the Nolan Gym, raked and bagged many garbage bags full of pine-needles, deep cleaned every classroom on campus, power-washed the Nolan Gym and courtyard areas, tore-down and loaded-up landscape timbers to expand & make room in the playground area for our new equipment, cleaned offices and windows in the RDFC, poured concrete to secure the softball bleachers, served food and cleaned-up, and broke down the gym-full of tables and chairs that had been used for church and school Thanksgiving Feasts.

Our next Serve Day was our last school day before the Christmas break. After final exams, students got ready to welcome some very special guests. We had been preparing all week for their visit. Classrooms in our hall were filled with lights and Christmas trees and piles of wrapped presents. Each class was sponsoring a child whose family was unable to provide gifts for them this year. Our students had a blast watching these children open their gifts. Preston Cory even presented his Bible to the little boy his 5th grade class was sponsoring. It was filled with letters of encouragement from his classmates. After our coaches helped parents load up their presents, we shared goodies

and played games with the children in the Nolan Gym. "The coolest thing was watching the kids open the presents and seeing their faces. It felt great to give to those who don't have much," said 7th grader, Claire Stapp.

We look forward to continuing our Servolution in the spring semester!

The objectives of Servolution are:

- to model Jesus-style servant hood as a way of life for growing Christians
- to develop servant-leaders who will make a Kingdom difference with their lives
- to bless others by being the hands and feet of Christ

-Nicki Olinde



BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Is the Earth Millions of Years Old?

According to Probe Ministries, three main categories of thought exist among Christians today regarding the age of the earth. The first view is often referred to as “scientific creationism, creation science, or young earth creationism.” Probe states that “young earth creationists believe that the earth and the universe are only tens of thousands of years old and that Genesis gives us a straightforward account of God’s creative activity.”

A second position is what is known as progressive creationism. This view holds that God created the universe out of nothing throughout billions of years of history.

A third position is known as theistic evolution. Probe defines theistic evolutionists as “those who believe that the earth and the universe are not only billions of years old, but that there was little, if any, intervention by God during this time. They believe that the universe and the earth have evolved by God-ordained processes in nature.”

While many Christians have seemingly accepted the idea that the earth is millions of years old, there are a number of reasons we should question this as Christians. Here are a few reasons that Dr. Terry Mortenson of Answers in Genesis presents for questioning old earth positions:

1. **The evidence in Genesis 1 shows that the days of creation were literal.** The Hebrew word for day used here is *yom*. According to Mortenson, “*yom* is used with ‘evening’ and ‘morning.’ Everywhere these two words are used in the Old Testament, either together or separately and with or without *yom* in the context, they always mean a literal evening or morning of a literal day.” Another point Mortenson makes is that “*yom* is modified with a number in Genesis 1: one day, second day, etc., which everywhere else in the Old Testament indicates literal days.”
2. **Exodus 20:11 refutes the idea that the earth is millions of years old.** “God gives the commandment to the Israelites to work six days and rest on the seventh because He created in 6 days and rested on the seventh. We can’t have any creation before the six days and God uses the same word for day (*yom*) in both parts of the commandment, showing that God created the world in six literal days.”
3. **Noah’s flood explains the geological record seen today, and therefore refutes the claim that the earth is millions of years old.** Mortenson explains that “the millions of years supposedly came from the geological record; however, it actually came as a result of geologists in the early 19th century rejecting the biblical account of the flood and then using anti-biblical assumptions to interpret the rocks and the fossils. Noah’s flood is described in Genesis as a global catastrophe, so it would have produced exactly the kind of geographic record we see today of thousands of feet of sedimentary rock and fossils buried in them.”

1. **Jesus' own words pointed to a literal interpretation of Creation.** "Jesus teaches that Adam and Eve were made at the 'beginning of creation,' not billions of years after the beginning, as would be the case if the universe were really billions of years old." (See Mark 10:6)
2. **The Bible's teaching about death refutes the millions of years' theory.** The Bible says in Genesis 1 that all that God created was very good. There was no suffering or death. People and animals ate plants, they did not eat animals. When Adam and Eve sinned, death entered into and affected all aspects of creation. Paul says in Romans 8 that all of creation is now in bondage to corruption, waiting for the final redemption of all things to a state similar to the pre-Fall world, when there will be no more carnivorous behavior and no disease, suffering, or death because there will be no more Curse. To accept millions of years of animal death before the creation and Fall of man contradicts and destroys the Bible's teaching on death and the full redemptive work of Christ."
3. **Science has not proven millions of years.** "The millions of years theory does not come from the rocks and the fossils; it comes from the interpretation of those things. Those interpretations are based on anti-biblical assumptions that dominate the scientific community today. The rocks don't say millions of years; it is the interpretation."
4. **Radiometric dating methods are not full proof methods for giving us the age of rocks.** "Those methods are based on anti-biblical assumptions. There are good reasons to believe scientifically that those assumptions are false."

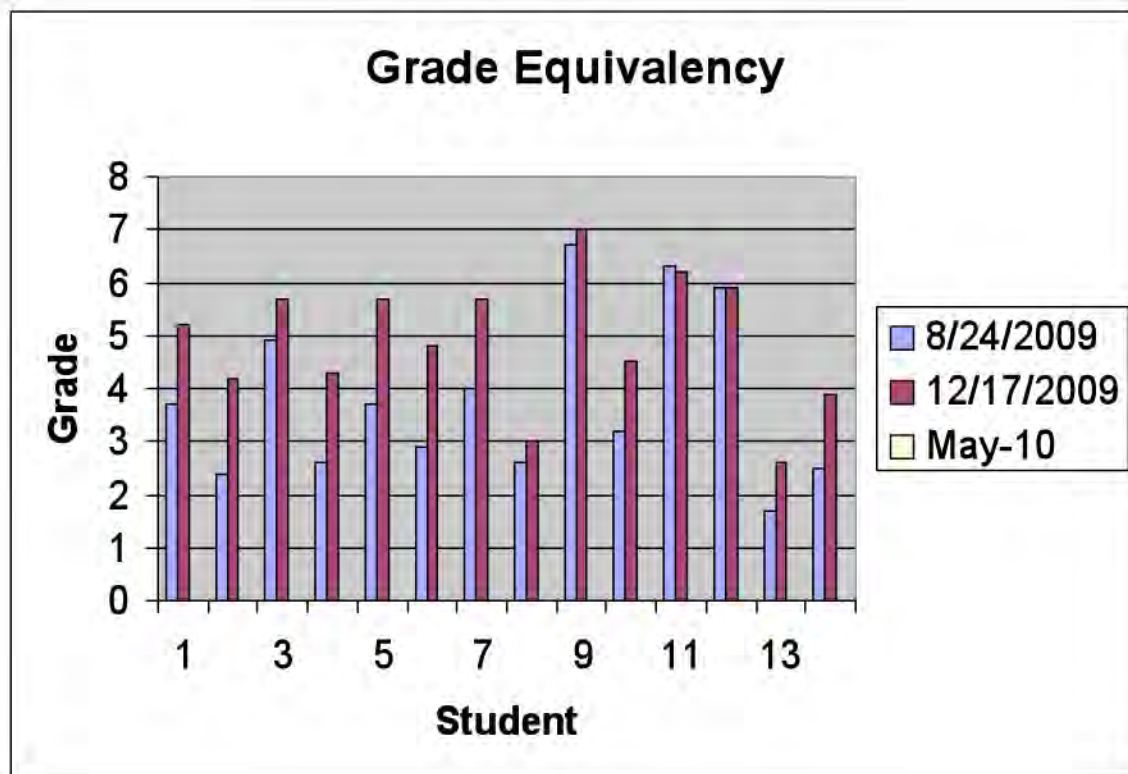
In the New Answers DVD 1 from Answers in Genesis, Dr. Mortenson explains that "ultimately the real battle isn't between science and religion. It is a battle over authority. Will we believe the Word of God, who was there at the beginning, who knows everything, who always tells the truth, who never lies, and who gave us an inspired account so that we would have the truth about where this world came from and why it is the way it is and where it is going? Or, will we believe the fallible opinions of sinful men called scientists who don't know everything, who make mistakes, and who are trying to explain the world without God so that they do not have to be morally accountable to Him? It is an issue of authority, and we need to believe God's Word."

Our position at CCS on the age of the earth and other issues is that any theory that goes against God's Word is in error. When our classes run across references to an earth that is millions of years old, our teachers will point out the reasons listed above and others that should make us question as Christians whether or not this is really true. In middle and high school classes, more in-depth questioning will take place to help our students begin to evaluate the claims of the major positions. If you would like to dig deeper into this issue for yourself, visit www.probe.org and www.answersingenesis.org for a variety of articles and resources from some of today's leading Christian scientists/apologists.

4th Grade Dynamic Readers

Students LOVE summer vacation. It is a time to sleep in, play, and rest after a taxing year of school. Unfortunately, during summer break few students continue reading. This break leads to a decline in reading skills by August. The fourth grade has worked really hard this year to bring up their reading scores and in effect their grade equivalencies. We are reading short stories, novels, stories in our reader, and we work extremely hard to earn our Accelerated Reader points. As you can see by the chart below, the fourth graders have made HUGE gains in the ability to read and comprehend. On average in four months, students made more than a grade level worth of improvement. We are excited about the progress and look forward to continual gains throughout the year!

-Kristie Mitchell



January 2010

1/2 - Grades due

1/3 - Happy Birthday, Brandon Toney!

1/4 - Happy Birthday, Carter Saterfiel!
Back to school

1/5 - Happy Birthday, William Fulton!
CCS at Forest 5:00 p.m.

1/6 - Parent/teacher conferences, dismiss at 12:00 p.m.

1/11- Happy Birthday, Abigail King!

1/12 - TOTS performing at CCS game

1/13- Happy Birthday, Erik Risdal and Peyton Smith!

1/14 - Happy Birthday, Abram Tarantino!
Geography Bee 9:00

1/11-15 – Homecoming Week

1/15 – Homecoming Day: Pep Rally, Game, Bonfire

1/17- Happy Birthday, Nora Gill!

1/18 – Happy Birthday, Cassie Chrestien!
No School: MLK Day

1/19 – Baseball Coke Sale thru the 1/29

1/22 - Happy Birthday, Christi Conti!

1/29 – Happy Birthday, Abigail Richardson!
Softball Garage Sale