

# MCA Newsletter

March 2010



## Important Dates

- Wednesday, Mar. 3 - Student Council at 3:00 pm
- Friday, Mar. 5 - Beef House Order Forms and Payment Due, Early Release Day at 11:45 am, Faculty Meeting
- Tuesday, Mar. 9 - Bring a Friend to School Day, PTO Meeting at 5:30 pm, Board Meeting at 6:30 pm
- March 11-12 - 7th & 8th Grade Field Trip to St. Louis
- Saturday, Mar. 13 - Spiff up the School Day
- Sunday, Mar. 14 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Monday, Mar. 15 - Open School, 8:30-11:30 am
- Tuesday, Mar. 16 - Open School, 8:30-11:30 am, Enrollment at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, Mar. 17 - Students Pick Up Beef House Orders at 3:00 pm at MCA, Student Council at 3:00 pm
- Friday, Mar. 19 - Early Release Day at 11:45 am, Faculty Meeting, Report Cards
- Mar. 22-26 - Spring Break
- Monday, Mar. 29 - Early Release Day at 11:45 am, Parent/Teacher Conferences

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. 1 Chronicles 16:11

## MCA Information

### Parent/Teacher Conferences ~ ~

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, March 29. If you would like to meet

with your child's teacher, please contact the MCA office at 762-3544.

*Spiff Up Day ~ ~*  
Cleaning day is sched-

uled for **Sat., March 13** from 10-Noon at MCA.

Please lend a hand to clean the school!



## Spotlight on Mrs. Spicer's 3rd-4th Grade Class

### I like MCA because...

I like MCA because we are allowed to pray and read the Bible. I also like MCA because we receive grades in reading. I like Literature because we are able to read *Aesop's Fables*. I like MCA because when there was a tragedy in my family, the school sent a card and at the end it said, "From your MCA family."

**Lily Loew**

I like MCA because I like how we can pray and talk about God. I like how my grandma teaches here. I really like my friends and all the teachers. I really want to stay at this school. The best thing I like about MCA is how we sing in the morning and have chapel.

**Taylor Shelmadine**

I like MCA because I can read the holy book, the Bible. I never want to leave MCA. I can pray. I can't even think about not pray-

ing, especially because my dad is a pastor. The teachers are so nice. I love MCA. The school has been here for me. **Naomi Meeks**

I like MCA because it is a fun school. We go on cool field trips and participate in plays. I have a lot of great friends. It's a place where I'm loved and the teachers help me a lot with my work. **Audrey Koziol**

I like MCA because we can read the Bible and Christian books. I also like all the nice people. I worked really hard on my 100 day poster and Mrs. Spicer brought it downstairs to Mr. Hinshaw. He put it on a desk for people to see. I also enjoyed making my valentine card holder.

**Jamie Boone**

Every Monday we have chapel. We read our Bibles everyday in class. Each student has a certain day to play on our class-

room computer. Every teacher is nice to everyone. We put on plays that everyone participates in. We have candy bar sales at lunch and it only costs \$1.00. This school has grades up to 8<sup>th</sup> and I have friends in all the grades. **Ben Clifton**

I like MCA because you can pray whenever you want. We play History games in our classroom. We have reading challenges and if your class wins, your class receives pizza. I want to stay here. It's like my family. **Amber Kottemann**

I like MCA because the teachers are the best and we can pray. I can read the Bible. I have infinity number of friends. I feel happy here. No school can beat this one. If I drop something, my friends would pick it up for me. If I have a pile of stuff to carry, a teacher helps me. **Caden Gray**

## Monticello Christian Academy

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We're on the Web!  
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The Duggar family on TV stuns me. I'm so impressed with the parents and how they seem to be SO CALM. Just dealing with one at home, I find myself asking, "what would Jim Bob do?" He's the dad on the show. At the writing of this letter, I just completed teaching a workshop at a conference in Springfield. The conference was for new teachers who will be entering, or are in their first year of teaching. I traveled last October to Charleston, S.C. to receive this training, and since have shared it with our staff, sixty teachers at Springfield, the Moms' Group in a few days, and I'd like to summarize it for you; effective teaching after all, is based on effective parenting. The real, short version of it follows these five components: self-control, unconditional love, attention to space, teach to's, and refocus.

**Self-control.** When we lose it with our kids we lose more than our temper, we lose dignity. In a heated moment we don't honor our children, our selves, or our Lord. If you want to see this in practice watch the Duggar's with the 18, sorry, I mean, 19, what's that, you're kidding right, 20 kids! The Duggar's amaze me because I never see them lose control. Their calm is contagious in their family. They're not heavy-handed with their children, their certainly not passive, they show respect, and maintain a calm sense of self-control.

**Unconditional love.** Our children

(217) 762-3544

Beef House order forms and payment are due on Friday, March 5 to the MCA office. Students will pick up their orders on Wednesday, March 17 at 3 p.m. at MCA.



The next PTO meeting is scheduled for Tues., March 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the MCA Library. Planning will begin for **PRAISE in the PARK!** (Scheduled for Sat., June 5 at Forest Preserve Park!) Please plan to attend-we need help!

## Note from the Principal's Office ~ "WWJBD"

should know that we will always love them, and their behaviors, no matter how bad they become, will not affect our relationship with them. Some research was conducted in schools. The researchers noted that upwards of 90% of the comments made to students were based on what the child was doing or not doing, only 10% of the comments were relating to the child as a person. This is something to take stock of. The more we are connecting with our children simply as a person who we love; we are building in them the belief that we really love them unconditionally.

**Space.** As the square footage of homes has nearly tripled since the 1950's, we have more room in our homes to "stretch out." In some ways this may be good, but we tend to spend less time actually with each other. When we add to that multiple television sets in the home, computers, cell phones, personal electronic games, and personal music devices, it's easy to see that we can live in the same home with people we barely know. Consider arranging your living spaces in a way that creates more opportunities to just "be together."

**Teach to.** Kids have lots of rules, and lots of rulers. It's easy to forget how many different rulers children have over them, and we expect them to remember all of that ruler's specific rules. If a child is going to get in trou-

ble for something, we should make sure that we have "taught to" that something. To teach it means telling it, showing them exactly the correct way, showing them all of the unacceptable ways, allowing them to practice only the correct way (practice makes permanent), giving them several chances to practice it after the initial teaching, THEN we can consequent the behavior. Now, the consequence should place the burden to change on them. With God's help, only they can really change the behavior.

**Refocus.** This is a spin on time out, only it's a time in. When a child is not cooperating with something you have "taught to," then they go to Refocus. Simply designate a Refocus place, and there they will answer these questions: what did I do, what did I want, what will I do next time, am I ready to try again? You may want to include, have you prayed about this? You are asking the child, in a way that is not punishment, to think about their behavior and try better next time.

We're trying these strategies at school (and at home 😊) with great success. With these strategies in place, we can get put away our drill instructor boots and whistle, and get back to being the parent God has called us to be! Thank you Jim Bob for being a great example for us! Please call me or email, if you'd like more information on these highly effective strategies. Have a great March!

Mr. H

## ~~ MCA Wish List ~~ Thank you for your donations! ~~

### Mrs. Patrick - K4

Littlest Pet Shop-at least 8 pets, Oriental Trading-Michaels-Family Christian-Hobby Lobby Gift Cards

### Mrs. Weber - Kindergarten

Gift cards from: Borders/Barnes & Noble or Oriental Trading

### Mrs. Cox - 1st and 2nd

Clorox clean-up with bleach, pencils and eraser tops

### Mrs. Spicer - 3rd and 4th

Napkins, snack, dry erase markers

### Mrs. Anderson - 5th and 6th

Printer for the Computer Lab, clothes rack for MCA costumes

### Mrs. Sievers - 7th and 8th

Tall stool

### Mrs. Marshall - Recess

Board games for indoor recess

### Mrs. Lee - Music

Wall clock, sleigh bells, tambourine, finger cymbals

### Mrs. Thomas - PE

Hula hoops, hockey sticks

### Kitchen/Office

Copy paper, paper plates/towels, plastic forks/spoons, disinfecting wipes, spray cleaner, napkins