

# EMCS Weekly Newsletter (page 1 of 3)

May 16, 2008

See attached sport's page

## An inspiration project from our 7th and 8th graders

This is a continuation of our student's great thoughts on some difficult questions.

Topic: How can you, as a middle school student in a Christian school, as a member of a family, a friend, and a citizen of this country, use your gifts and your learning? Do you think God requires us to use our gifts and learning, or is it optional?

April Wubben: As a middle school student in a Christian school I can use my gift of being good with kids to witness to them and teach them about God. As member of my family I can help my little siblings with learning new stuff like reading new words. I can use my gift of a team player to help my friends win basketball games or at least have fun playing. And finally as a citizen of this country, the United States of America, I can use my knowledge to get into a good college because many wise people have said that education is very important to the growth of the United States. I don't think that God requires that we use our gifts and talents that God has given us, but he definitely encourages us to.

Scott Timmerman: We can use our gifts and learning in many ways. As a member of my community I can help elderly people with yard work like mowing lawns, raking leaves, picking up sticks, or planting flowers for them. My brothers and I plant flowers in a member of our churches yard because he is in a power chair and can't do it himself. As a family member we should respect our parent's authority and not degrade or pick on our siblings. As a friend we should let them know that we are there for them and tell them if they are doing wrong like picking on someone or leaving someone out. As a student we should respect others and volunteer our time. In choir we sang at a Griffin's hockey game and had an opportunity to witness to others. I think God requires us to use our gifts and learning, otherwise we wouldn't have been given them.

Topic: What is the chief distinguishing mark of a Christian to a non-Christian? What about to a Christian (you?)?

Molly Myers: The chief distinguishing mark of a Christian to a non-Christian is that Christian show unconditional love to every one, including non-Christians. We Christians can show this by doing ministry projects, going on mission trips, and just telling people about God and how He has changed your life. Our actions will reflect on who we are, and if our actions are Christ-like, others will know that we belong to the family of God. In John 3:34-35, God says, "A new commandment I give you: Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another." The chief distinguishing mark of a Christian to another Christian is that we encourage and pray for each other to keep on sharing God's work and to never give up on it. Also, to remind each other that He will never let us down even through the hardest times in life.

Topic: How should we respond to sinfulness in family and friends? Is it our place to judge others? To react to their choices? To guide them? How can you, at your age, show an understanding of Biblical standards?

Carly VandenBerg: I am a child of God, so I have the responsibility of showing my Christian faith. When people choose to sin, we can react in many different ways. Two examples are: if your friends or family members were sinning and you decided you did not want to sin, you could shut them out of your life, or you could talk to them about God and tell them you are there for them. We could also be good listeners because a good part of talking includes listening. I know when my family and friends are sinning, because I know the Bible. I have read the Ten Commandments and try to follow them; however, if I don't follow, my conscience gets to me, and I then ask for forgiveness.

## Hot Lunch

Wed, May 21

Hotdog/corndog and cupcake

Fri, May 23

Lasagna and brownie

Yearbooks have been ordered. The cost is \$14.00 (checks made payable to Kathy Westendorp).

## Upcoming events

May 20

Track Meet

May 23

Volunteer Day (NO AFTER SCHOOL BUS SERVICE)

May 26

Memorial Day — NO SCHOOL

May 27

Boosters Pop Can Drive

May 27 — June 4

NO BUS SERVICE

May 29 — June 3

Middle School Exams

May 30

Sunshine Bag Day

June 2

8th Grade Graduation 7:00 p.m.

June 4

Last 1/2 day of school — dismissal will be at 11:55 p.m.

June 21

Golf Outing

# EMCS Weekly Newsletter (page 2 of 3)

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## Update on the last fundraiser we had in May

Spring Drive	almost \$18,000
Spring Fair	\$2,500
Bake sale	almost \$500
Flower sale	\$1,200

Thank you to all who participated. We really appreciate all the help to keep this school going strong.

## Library News:

1. All 5th-8th graders — please return your library cards — we will keep them safe for the summer!
2. Library is finished for the year! Please encourage your children to return their books in their classroom crates. All lost books are a \$5 fine — to be paid before receiving their report card. If the book is found over the summer, we will return your money.

## Attention 7th grade parents

Please reserve the evening of Monday, June 2nd to help serve the cake and refreshments for the 8th grade graduating class. The graduating class of 2008 thanks you!

## Cash for trash items and toner cartages need to be turned in by Friday, May 23rd

## How does an extra day for hot lunch sound?

The hot lunch committee is looking into add Monday into the hot lunch schedule. Before they do this, they need to know how many people can sign up for hot lunch next year. Please call Denise Leep at 269-672-9860 and let her know if you are interested.

## Estate Planning Checklist

**Your Will or Trust should be reviewed annually.**

- Does it reflect what's important to you and your family?
  - Is it up-to-date with current tax laws?
  - Does it appropriately provide for your children?
  - Are Executor/Trustees named still valid?
  - Does it include your favorite charities?
- Are unnecessary taxes eliminated?

A professional estate planner from Barnabas Foundation will be pleased to answer your questions. Barnabas Foundation is committed to provide excellent service and technical expertise within an atmosphere of confidentiality and objectivity. They will never **ASK** you for a donation, never **SELL** you any financial products, never **CHARGE** you for their planning services and never **SHARE** your financial or personal information.

For more information about Barnabas Foundation or to arrange an appointment and possibly benefit East Martin Christian School at the same time, please contact them at 1-888-448-3040 or [www.barnabasfoundation.com](http://www.barnabasfoundation.com).

## Sunshine Bags

Sunshine Bag Day is Friday, May 30th. Sunshine Bags were sent home this week with your child/ren. Included in this bag is a short poem along with some penny holders. Share the poem with your child/ren — a sunshine bag is given out to each student — and returned with the blessings of each sunny day that God has given us here at EMCS. Sunshine Bags have gone home with students for many years. Some moms and dads remember this tradition! On May 30st, hot lunch will be hamburger or hotdog and ice cream. The students will have an extended recess and proceeds do go to playground funds.

## Calling all artist

It's that time of year!! We need a design for our Martin FunFest Walk/Run t-shirt. If you would like to submit a design for this year's t-shirt, please turn it in by May 23rd to the office or Jen Veltman. Any questions, please call Jen Veltman at 616-437-7033.

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## Requested Announcements

### The Cadets and the GEMS will be marching in the Memorial Day Parade

The kids participating in the parade need to be at Martin High School at 9:45 on Monday, May 26th.

### Get ready to Blast Off to Cosmic City!

The Martin Reformed Church will have Vacation Bible School June 16-19 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. All children age 4 years old through leaving 5th grade are invited to attend. All junior high students are encouraged to help. Contact Diane DeVries at 672-9721 for more information.

### Pop tabs collection

We are collecting pop tabs for a little boy who has a form of cancer. Please drop off your pop tabs at the school office.

### SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST AND PRAISES

Our teachers and this wonderful school God has given us to teach our children more about Him and this great world He has blessed us.

Our country and our leaders — pray for God's guidance and power.