



# The Lake Fern Montessorian

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March 2010

## Roxanne's Reflections

### News for all LFMA families!

◆ Can you believe it? We are down to the last three months of the school year. There is still a lot of work to do, so don't get complacent yet. During this month upper level and VPK students will receive report cards. We do not schedule conferences for this reporting period, however if you would like to talk with a teacher about your child's progress feel free to call and schedule an appointment.

This month also marks the opening of registration for the 2010-2011 school year. Registration is open in-house from March 8<sup>th</sup> through March 26<sup>th</sup> and will open to the public on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual Spring Fling will be held on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. We will have games, special snacks and crafts planned. A volunteer sheet will be posted closer to that date.

Spring Break will be the week of March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup>. As usual, school will be closed to be cleaned from top to bottom, allow the teachers to change materials and maybe have a day off!

*All I need to make a comedy is a park, a policeman and a pretty girl.*

Charlie Chaplain 1889-1977

*continued on back*

## Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ March begins the last semester of the year and I can't believe the school year is almost over. Report cards for the second semester will be in your files during the first week of this month. Conferences are not required unless noted on the report card.

This month, we will begin studying the continent of Africa. Students will have the opportunity to make maps, color flags, and learn about the people, plants, and animals that live there. We will also begin our unit study on the animal kingdom which will take us through the remainder of the year. Many of our students have been asking if they can "share" their pets, so we have decided that we will have a "pet parade." Because this is a special privilege for them, the students will be working to earn it. We will have a jar and as the students demonstrate our class life-skills, they will earn marbles to put in it. When the jar is full, we will have our parade. More details will be available as soon as an exact date is decided upon.

Thanks to everyone who attended our field trip to Green Meadows Farm. I had never been there, but I had a wonderful time and think everyone else did as well! Our next field trip will be on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets have already been purchased for "Charlotte's Web" at the Maxwell King Center and will be handed out closer to time.

On Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have our class pictures. Please make sure

## **Mrs. Manley's Class News**

◆ Hello to all! I cannot believe we are already two-thirds of the way complete with the school year. February was a fantastic month and a fast one at that. We started Bunnacula this month in our literature class. The kids really enjoyed reading it and now I am constantly getting asked by the kids if we can get "Bunnacula" for a class pet. Bunnacula is a story about a rabbit that the Monroes found at a movie theater. The Monroes' current pets are skeptical of this new animal and their house gets a little out of control for a while because of this new addition to the family.

We are busy working with division in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade class while 5<sup>th</sup> grade is busy doing fractions. Most of the kids seem to be understanding the math very well. Please be working with your child on their multiplication and long division daily. As you know multiplication and division is a part of math the kids will always use for the rest of their lives, this will help them greatly in this crucial area.

In Science this month, the kids worked on Classification of plants and animals. They found it very interesting. We took a field trip around our school and all the kids picked out examples of vascular and nonvascular plants. We had a good time and it was nice to have a lesson outdoors.

This month was filled with fun activities as well. We took a field trip to the Sear's Town Mall and we got to visit a safari. We had the chance to see snakes, Tigers, a Jaguar, llamas, sheep, and many other different types of animals. It was fun to feed them and experience an up and close encounter with such beautiful creatures.

Our field trip to Green Meadows Farm was fantastic. Everyone had a great time learning about all the different animals and getting to interact with them. It was yet another experience where all of my kids were picking out class pets. Needless to say, there will not be a zorse joining our room anytime soon.

## **Mrs. Price's Class News (cont.)**

students are on time, so we can get started right away. Students should wear forest green shirts (preferably the LFMA logo if they have them) and uniform colored bottoms.

On Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Spring Fling. Students will hunt Easter eggs and do other activities throughout the day. Parents are invited to attend our party at 1:00. Sign up sheets will be in the foyer if you would like to bring a special snack to share.

Registration for the 2010/2011 school year will open for "in-house" students on March 8<sup>th</sup>. We will open it to the public on April 5<sup>th</sup> when we return from spring break. I have already received several calls and have begun doing tours for next year. Please do not delay in registering your child for class, as I already have a waiting list and don't want anyone to lose their spot.

School will be closed from Mon. Mar.29-Fri. Apr. 2, 2010 for Spring Break. I hope everyone has a wonderful vacation time with their families. Happy Easter!

## **Pre-Primary Class News**

### **Miss Jessica and Miss Jennifer**

◆ We are glad to welcome Spring this month! It will be nice to enjoy eating lunch outside again. In Science, we are still discussing the ocean and all its amazing creatures. For the week of March 1st, the letter of the week will be Nn. March 8th will begin the letter Jj. For the week of March 15th, the letter of the week will be Oo. And last, for the weeks of March 22nd through March 29th is the letter Pp. Lately we have been testing the children to see what they know, and the kids have been doing great! Most are where they should be at this point in the year. Just keep working on recognizing letter names and their sounds. Also, just a reminder, the VPK report cards will be in the parent files on Monday, March 8th.

## Mrs. Manley's Class News (cont.)

March is going to be a busy month! March 18<sup>th</sup> we have group pictures. The spring fling will be March 26<sup>th</sup>. Spring break starts March 29<sup>th</sup>. I hope everyone has a safe and merry March.

### Kid's Funnies

- ◆ A mother was teaching her three year old daughter The Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to solo. The mother listened with pride, as she carefully said each word right up to the end..."And lead us not into temptation", she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail, Amen."
- ◆ A convict escaped from prison by digging a tunnel. It came up outside the prison in a school playground. The convict was so happy when he emerged from the tunnel he exclaimed, "I'm free, I'm free!" "So what," said a little girl. "I'm four."
- ◆ A little boy, at a wedding looks at his mom and says, "Mommy, why does the bride wear white?" His mom replies, "The bride is in white because she's happy and this is the happiest day of her life." The boy thinks about this, and then says, "Well then why is the groom wearing black..."

### Calendar of Events

- **2010-2011 Registration Opens**
- Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>
- **Class Pictures**
- Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Spring Fling!**
- Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>
- **Spring Break – School Closed**
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Mr. Price's Class News

◆ Here we are, the beginning of the third semester! I'm very pleased with the overall progress of the class. I've seen them become more consistent in their study habits and desire to be academically successful.

I'd like to thank all those who attended our field trip to Green Meadows Farm. It was a great success. Our next field trip will be on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets have already been purchased for "Charlotte's Web" at the Maxwell King Center and will be handed out closer to time.

Academically, we are studying periods related to the 1960's through 1980's. In literature we are reading The Wednesday Wars which is set in the late 1960's. In history, we are studying subject areas which include civil rights, the Vietnam War, the progression of communism, etc. Towards the end of this semester, we will shift towards current events, including most recent happenings in the world.

Due to demand, I am extending the science project from March 5<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me.

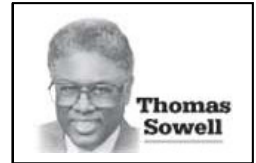
On Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have our class pictures. Please make sure students are on time, so we can get started right away. Students should wear forest green shirts (preferably the LFMA logo if they have them) and uniform colored bottoms.

On Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Spring Fling. We will have a field day during this time, so students are encouraged to bring a change of clothes that can get dirty. Sign up sheets will be in the foyer if you would like to bring a special snack to share.

Registration for the 2010/2011 school year will open for "in-house" students on March 8<sup>th</sup>. We will open it to the public on April 5<sup>th</sup> when we return from spring break.

## Points to Ponder

### Thomas Sowell: Life is unfair, and the state can't fix that



By THOMAS SOWELL

Friday, Feb. 12, 2010

If there is ever a contest to pick which word has done the most damage to people's thinking, and to actions to carry out that thinking, my nomination would be the word "fair." It is a word thrown around by far more people than have ever bothered to even try to define it.

This mushy vagueness may be a big handicap in logic, but it is a big advantage in politics. All sorts of people, with very different notions about what is or is not fair, can be mobilized behind this nice-sounding word, in utter disregard of the fact that they mean very different things when they use that word.

Some years ago, for example, there was a big outcry that various mental tests used for college admissions or employment were biased and "unfair" to many individuals or groups. Fortunately there was one voice of sanity -- David Riesman, I believe -- who said: "The tests are not unfair. Life is unfair and the tests measure the results."

If by "fair" you mean everyone having the same odds for achieving success, then life has never been anywhere close to being fair, anywhere or at any time. If you stop and think about it (however old-fashioned that may seem), it is hard even to conceive of how life could possibly be fair in that sense.

Even within the same family, among children born to the same parents and raised under the same roof, the firstborns on average have higher IQs than their brothers and sisters and usually achieve more in life. Unfairness is often blamed on somebody, even if only on "society." But whose fault is it if you were not the firstborn? Since some groups have more children than others, a higher percentage of the next generation will be firstborns in groups that have smaller families, so such groups have an advantage over other groups.

Despite all the sound and fury generated in controversies over whether different groups have different genetic potential, even if they all have identical genetic potential, the outcomes can still differ if they have different birth rates. Twins have average IQs several points lower than children born singly. Whether that is due to having to share resources in the womb or having to share parents' attention after birth, the fact is what it is -- and it certainly is not fair.

Many people fail to see the fundamental difference between saying that a particular thing -- whether a mental test or an institution -- is conveying a difference that already exists or is creating a difference that would not exist otherwise. Creating a difference that would not exist otherwise is discrimination, and something can be done about that. But in recent times, virtually any disparity in outcomes is almost automatically blamed on discrimination, despite the incredible range of other reasons for disparities between individuals and groups.

Nature's discrimination completely dwarfs man's discrimination. Geography alone makes equal chances virtually impossible. The geographic advantages of Western Europe over Eastern Europe -- in climate and navigable waterways, among other things -- have led to centuries of differences in income levels that were greater than income differences between blacks and whites in America today. Just the fact that the lay of the land is different in different parts of Europe meant that it was easier for the Roman legions to invade Western Europe. This meant that Western Europeans had the advantages of the most advanced civilization in Europe at that time. Moreover, because Roman letters were used in Western Europe, the languages of that region had written versions centuries before the Slavic languages of Eastern Europe did.

The difference between literacy and illiteracy is a huge difference, and it remained huge for centuries. Was it the Slavs' fault that the Romans did not want to climb over so many mountains to get to them? To those living in Western Europe in the days of the Roman Empire, the idea of being conquered, and many slaughtered, by the Romans probably had no great appeal. But their descendants would benefit from their bad luck. And that doesn't seem fair either.

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