



# THE TORCH



News and Notes from the ECS Administration  
"Education with Eternal Purpose"  
Bill Hansen: Dean of Administrative Affairs  
Allan Edgar: Dean of Academic Affairs

Join us on facebook. ECS has a great facebook page that is updated daily with news, quotes, updates and highlights of the day at school. Announcements and reminders are also posted daily. Facebook is a great to keep in touch with all the exciting things happening at ECS - facebook " Emmanuel Christian School"

**Enroll  
NOW**  
for the 2011-12  
school year



### High School Graduation

Friday, June 3rd was a high-water day for 17 ECS seniors -- graduation day! We said good bye to our newest alumni and greeted our newest senior class last Friday night in our 26th commencement ceremony. Mr. Ken Delage, a 1995 ECS graduate, challenged the seniors to allow the gospel mes-

sage to be the standard of their life. The message is that what Christ did on the cross should be what keeps them going in the right direction in life. Christ is to be central in all they do.

We had nine graduates receive the Distinguished Diploma. We also were informed of the high SAT scores received (about 300 points higher than the average) by our graduates. Among the colleges our graduates will be attending are UVA, Virginia Tech, University of Washington, Anderson University, Wingate University, and VMI.

Pray for our graduates as they go forth from our school. We pray they make a mark for the Lord wherever they go.

This made 589 graduates from ECS. Next year we will be graduating our 600th student. God has richly blessed us and our prayer is that He will continue to bless us until He comes again.

We also want to thank Mrs. George and the workers who decorated the gym, prepared the food, served the food, and cleaned up afterward. Everything was beautiful and the food was great.

Mrs. Linda George  
Mrs. Debbie King  
Bryan King  
Sarah King  
Mrs. Patti Holloway  
Mrs. Debbie Harding  
Mr and Mrs. Hains  
Mrs. Ruth Ann Barton  
Jenn Pope  
Robin Sizemore  
Mrs. Collis Williams

**June 6, 2011**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

August 15  
Varsity Volleyball starts

August 22-26  
Teacher Orientation

August 22  
Varsity soccer and JH/  
JV volleyball starts

August 27  
School Orientation

August 29  
School Begins

September 5  
No School: Labor Day

September 12-14  
MS/HS Retreat



### Coaches Needed for Next Year

**Varsity Volleyball:** practice begins August 15. Stipend of \$1000.

**JV Volleyball:** practice begins August 22. Stipend of \$750.

**Middle School Volleyball:** practice begins August 22. Stipend of \$750.

## NEEDED

**NEW TEACHER IS IN NEED  
OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSE  
OR APARTMENT TO RENT.**

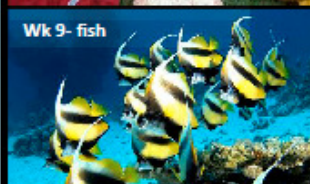
**IF YOU COULD HELP CALL  
703-369-3950**



11 weeks of amazing fun and activities  
June 6 - Aug 16

Summer Theme  
*"The World God Made"*

\$30/day  
\$135/wk\* 5 days



Aquarium-Aviary-Farm-  
Water Park-Planetarium-Zoo-  
Parks-Crafts-Art-Bible Time-  
Hot Lunch- Boat Ride- Hiking-  
Bowling- Roller Skating- Fun!!

# June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6	7 Water Day at ECS	8 House of Bounce	9 Bowling	10 Putt-Putt 1st-6th
13 Movie in the gym	14 Water Day at ECS -- slip and slide	15 Smithsonian Air & Space 1st-6th	16 Hylton Planetarium 1st - 6th	17 Overnight campout to look at stars 1st-6th
20 Movie Day: The Tale of Desperaux	21 Water Day: Signal Hill	22 Richmond Zoo: 1-6 Reston Zoo: K3-K5	23 Leesburg Animal Park	24 CIT outing: movie
27 Movie Day: How to Train Your Dragon	28 Water Day: Waterworks Water- park	29 Bug Box: Fredericksburg	30 Smithsonian Museum of Natural History In- sect Exhibit 1st-6th	July 1 CIT outing: bowling

# Special Awards

High School Valedictorian  
Nancy Costa

High School Salutatorian  
Da Jin Kim

Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award: High School  
Nancy Costa

Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award: Elementary  
Brooke Dunn

## Prayer Requests Prayer Requests

- Tina Sololowski (K5 teacher) recovery from cancer
- Meredith Lehmer: (1st grade) husband Bill and recovery from serious fall
- ECS: enrollment / decisions for 2011-12 pray for 225 students
- School board : strategic planning for ECS
- Staff needs for 2011-12
- ECS graduates as they leave us
- ECS summer camp
- Summer travel: safety for our teachers and families as they travel this summer
- Health issues for several of our teachers' parents

**I Chronicles 16:11 "Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually"**

# Hey Mom and Dad!

**“The only thing that parents can take to heaven is their children”**

## **Stay Sharp with Summer Activities that Promote Skills Maintenance!**

For many children and families, summer is a nice break from the routines and demands of the regular school year. However, there is evidence that most students experience some loss of skills during this extended vacation, and that some students with disabilities show significant skills regression in the absence of structured, daily instruction. So while summer is a time for children to relax and play, it can also provide many unique and rich opportunities for learning, skill-building and skills-maintenance.

Before a student's summer vacation begins, parents and educators should work together to identify areas of potential regression and skills-loss, and to plan activities and interventions that address the student's individual needs:

- For students who are likely to lose important, fundamental math and language arts skills over the summer, plan a weekly, or even daily, routine of academic exercises to address those skills. These exercises should be relatively short and target both basic and higher-order skills. For example, a student might reinforce a wide range of math competencies by practicing computation for 10 – 20 minutes and then using those same operations to solve a few related word problems.
- Help students identify high-interest reading materials for the summer, and set goals to encourage regular reading practice.
- Give students opportunities to reinforce their writing and composition skills. Journal writing and weekly reflections are excellent ways to build regular writing practice into a student's summer routine. Students can also develop their writing skills by corresponding with friends and family in letters, postcards, and even by email.
- Students who are likely to experience significant regression may be eligible for Extended School Year (ESY) services. Check your state's eligibility criteria and explore ESY options for students who may require more structured support to maintain academic and/or functional skills.

Summer is also a great time to explore a variety of alternative learning and enrichment opportunities:

- Not all summer camps are the same! Some camps are specifically designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities, or have supports in place to help those students participate with their non-disabled peers. Also, some camps and summer programs have a specific focus or theme (sports, computers, writing, theatre, etc.). Explore the range of options available for the student and consider his/her needs and interests in selecting an appropriate program.
- Many public institutions, such as libraries, parks and museums, offer various summer programs for children. Look to these institutions within your community for unique, high-interest enrichment opportunities.
  - The internet can be a great resource for supporting children in skill-building and independent learning during the summer and throughout the school year. Some free educational websites offer games and activities for children to use online, and also provide information and ideas to support parents and educators in planning learning activities for children:
- **PBS Kids** - <http://pbskids.org>
- **Thinkfinity** - <http://thinkfinity.org>

In addition, many commercial educational websites host some free sample-versions of activities and games, or provide limited access to their resources with free trial subscriptions. Try some quick online search using keywords like “educational”, “learning”, “lessons”, “resources”, “activities”, and “games” to find other useful websites.

# Christian Education

**"Every decision you make – every decision - is not a decision about what to do. It is a decision about Who You Are. When you see this, when you understand it, everything changes. You begin to see life in a new way. All events, occurrences, and situations turn into opportunities to do what you came here to do."**

## Creating A New "Public" School System

### A Challenge for the Body of Christ

By Edward E. Gamble

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

What do these numbers represent: ½; ...88; ...52; ...70; ...30? The SBC growth rate is around ½%. Youth leave our churches at the rate of 88% within a few years of high school graduation. Fifty-two percent of teens believe Jesus was a sinner. Seventy percent of America's youngest adults, ages 18-29, believe that homosexuals should be allowed to marry. Most tragic of all, only 30% of today's born-again parents mentioned leading their child to Christ as a critical result of their parenting. Just as vital signs tell a doctor about your body's health, so these numbers tell us about the health of the Body of Christ. Sadly, these signs are anything but vital, indicating a critically ill body, one that is not performing the role Jesus commanded, "Go and make disciples".

Why is the influence of the Body of Christ declining in our culture when Jesus promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against us? Why is Christianity constantly on the defense in so many of today's cultural battles? Why do successive generations seem more and more removed from truth, viewing church as increasingly irrelevant?

A growing number of pastors, lay leaders and parents believe these statistics are the inevitable result of giving our children a secular education (e.g. Judges 2:7-15). God's Word clearly teaches that the education of children is a sacred task, not a secular one (Deut 6:4-8, Ps 78:1-7, Prov 22:6). Jesus himself strongly emphasized this principle when He said, "Let the children come to me and don't forbid them" (Matt 14:19), and "Can the blind lead the blind...when a student is fully trained he will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:39-40). The Apostle Paul voiced his concern about the dangers of secular, humanistic teaching. "Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition and not based on Christ" (Col 2:8).

What kind of education do Southern Baptist children receive today? Nearly 90% of America's children attend schools, which by law must be completely secular. There they spend 16,000 hours over 13 years; about the same amount of time Jesus took to train his disciples. Making matters worse, pastors report very little discipleship going on in Christian homes, estimating that perhaps 5% of their members are involved in discipling their own children. These same children spend around 1,500 hours in church during their 13 years of school, only about a tenth of the time Jesus required to train his twelve disciples.

We have allowed Satan to run his strategy... "own the schools, and I will own the culture." Our children have been actively disciplined by the people who spend the most time teaching them, so it is no wonder then that Christian students are involved in binge drinking, drug use, sexual experimentation and dishonesty with nearly the same frequency as unchurched youth. Despite unparalleled moral and spiritual decay in our culture and schools over the last 40 years, our strategy for reaching and discipling children in most Southern Baptist churches remains essentially unchanged from the 1960s. If we like what we see looking back over the last forty years, we should keep doing what we are doing now. If not, we must evaluate our educational strategy and make some radical changes.

Passing the baton of faith to the next generation requires taking ownership of the education of our children. We must bring those 16,000 hours back under the authority of the Body (the Christian home and church), providing a unity of message between the home, church and school, instead of the schism that now exists. The fallacious notion that our children will be effective missionaries in schools that are increasingly hostile to Christian adults does not pass the reality test. That has been our strategy for the last half century, and the depressing results are evident. The horse is dead. It is time to dismount. We should quadruple our efforts to train and send adults into this mission field, but the children should be trained by Christian parents and teachers under the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Scripture demands that they be trained to know and reverence God.

What is needed is a new "public" school system, one that is open to the public but owned and operated by the Body of Christ. What if America's largest Protestant denomination, the SBC, opened our largely empty buildings to the children in our communities, starting thousands of schools and offering 16,000 hours of Christ-centered teaching to millions of children? Funding is not the problem, faith is. Would God honor such a grand vision for making disciples by providing every needed resource? He will! Ask God to give us America's children. When Jesus owns the schools, He will own the culture and the hearts of the children!

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