

# Quisqueya Eagles Newsletter

<http://www.quisqueya.org>



Wednesday, November 25, 2009 A.D.

Under Construction

American Thanksgiving, the fourth Thursday of every November, has, since childhood, long been my favorite holiday -- a day spent with family and friends, a day of rejoicing and giving thanks. And, of course, a day of feasting! Healthy Christian communities know how to mourn together and know how to celebrate. And we, as children of God, have great reason to celebrate. But often our ideas of how best to celebrate get skewed: Thanksgiving is equated with food and football instead of gratitude and praise; Christmas degenerates into shopping, materialism, and greed.



It's tough teaching gratitude, and, more than ever, children are not thankful nor appreciative for the many blessings they have. Instead, too many children echo loudly the chorus, "It's not fair!!" or "I want a new (fill in the blank) now!" There is a sense of entitlement and selfishness that robs children of joy, wonder, imagination and gratitude. Our children are shown more stuff than they can possibly use and too often act like they deserve everything they see, the newest and best model! And too often, the parents cave in. (And toy boxes are overflowing -- and no child "needs" at iPhone!)

Here are some ideas from to try out this season as you teach your children to be thankful -- and some of these ideas came from

[http://youthdevelopment.suite101.com/article.cfm/teaching\\_tens\\_to\\_be\\_thankful](http://youthdevelopment.suite101.com/article.cfm/teaching_tens_to_be_thankful).

1. Don't buy stuff "on the spot." Teach them delayed gratification and that every wish will not be fulfilled!
2. Limit the stuff your children have. Don't give your children everything they beg for. Kids often want things because of advertising or "coolness" factor. Teach them to critically evaluate what they need and help them find their self-worth and value apart from the things they own.
3. Help children learn perspective. It really is more blessed to give than receive, and holidays are not about accumulating more stuff. Be involved in service projects and look to meet the needs of others.
4. Creative alternatives. Gifts don't have to be material! Spend extra time doing a favorite activity with a child. Take him or her out to eat and just listen to your child's needs. I once received a beautiful gift from my daughter -- she played a piece on the piano that she knew I enjoyed. And the poems recited at Christmas time are present enough for me.
5. Show thanks. Teach children to say thank you for every gift, for every act of kindness, for every service rendered. I'm genuinely grateful for the ladies who serve lunch every day, so I thank them every day -- your children can do the same.

Give Thanks!

## Thank You Lord

Although I do not have a voice that others would enjoy to hear, singing songs of praise is a basic ingredient of my life. I am reminded constantly of the joy of the Lord of many a Biblical character who broke out into a song of praise such as the song of Moses, or of David in the Psalms. In preparation of this newsletter this song I learned many years ago came to my mind as I approach the thanksgiving holiday. It is sung to the tune of *Edelweiss*.

Thank you Lord, on this day  
For our many good blessings  
Thank you Lord, on this day  
For our many great friendships.  
Glory to God, may you hear our prayer  
Guide us on forever  
Thank you Lord, on this day  
For our blessings and friendships.

The list of the many blessing we receive each day is long and all too often I say *Thank You Lord*. Thank You for my daily bread but I do not list my blessings one by one. Sometimes I need to become like a small child and say

*Thank You, Lord,  
For each new day to serve You.  
Thank You Lord for my daily bread which not only  
includes three meals a day and snacks,  
But also all my provisions  
I need each and every day . . .  
Clothes, and water,  
books and work,  
Cars and the ability to walk, talk, and see  
The people You place in my path,  
For the sky that's blue  
And . . .*

Grant us Lord, on this day  
Deeper insights and challenge  
That each day, we may grow  
In faith, and knowledge, and wisdom.  
Glory to God may you hear our prayer,  
Guide us on forever,  
Grant us Lord on this day  
Deeper insights and challenge.

I'm under construction, living thanks each and every day.



Come and join us!

Plan to attend the 2009 Christmas  
Bazaar

Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

good food, good fun, good fellowship.

The various classes will once again have booths at the bazaar and offer the following services:

- ✓ Picture with Santa
- ✓ Jumping castle
- ✓ Game room
- ✓ Karaoke and Wii room
- ✓ Silent auction and gift wrapping
- ✓ Dunking booth
- ✓ Duck pond

### Praise/Prayer Corner

\* My sister Wendy and brother-in-law, Troy continue to make small steps forward. Troy is now at home and is able to visit a hospital for therapy a few times a week. This past week my sister was moved to a hospital in Cleveland, Ohio where she gets very extensive physical therapy. She was able to talk on Monday for the first time since the accident. She is using her arms and will learn how to do many things for herself in the weeks ahead. I am very grateful for your questions of concern and the many of you who remind me that you are praying. Wendy has said we have a great and mighty God! I am so thankful for her faith in the Lord and that she is praising Him in this tough situation. (Mr. McMahon)

\* Thank the Lord that Olivier graduated from a wheel chair to crutches. That's progress.

\* Thank You, Lord for health, life in Christ, daily work, daily bread, friends, political freedoms, schools, opportunities to serve, students, . . .

## School Calendar

Wed/Nov 25<sup>th</sup> - last progress report

Thurs/Fri/Nov 26/27 - Days of Thanksgiving – no school

Tues/Dec 1<sup>st</sup> - gr 9 – serve at orphanage

Thur/Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> - gr 11 – serve at orphanage

Sat/Dec 5<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Bazaar

Tues/Dec 8<sup>th</sup> - gr 12 – serve at orphanage

Thurs/Dec 10<sup>th</sup> - gr 10 – serve at orphanage

Mon – Wed

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> - High School Exams – noon dismissal

Wed/Dec 16<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter ends/end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester

- noon dismissal – non-uniform day ☺

**Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – Jan 4<sup>th</sup> inclusive = Christmas Break**

Tues/Jan 5<sup>th</sup> - start of third quarter

## A Cheerful Heart is Good Medicine

A boy came home from school with his exam results.

"What did you get?" asked his father.

"My marks are under water," said the boy.

"What do you mean 'under water'?"

"They are all below 'C' level."

## Educational Tip of the Week

**"Teach Your Child to Highlight Key Math Words and Symbols"**

Buy your child a set of highlighter markers. Teach him to highlight key direction words on papers and tests (but not in textbooks without permission). Key words might include *sum*, *difference*, *all together*, *estimate*, *factor*, *volume*, *area*, *graph*.

This technique is particularly helpful for children who have difficulty following written directions or for those that cannot focus their attention on text. If your child gets confused when addition, subtraction, and multiplication problems are mixed together on the same math page, here's the solution to his problem. Teach him to highlight the operation signs in different colors (e.g., yellow for +, blue for -, pink for x). Then, instruct him to complete the problems while paying close attention to the highlighted operation signs.

## Ways to Raise a Nonreader

1. Have the television on at all times. Make sure you put a television set and a computer in every room. Don't forget the kitchen!
2. Keep the place neat – no books or literary magazines in sight.
3. Never read stories aloud to your children.
4. Never talk about ideas while eating meals.
5. Schedule your children for every activity you can think of so they won't be bored.
6. Never play any table games together.