Samuel Fuller School

Sapientia et Scientia

"…Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
Colossians 2:2b-3

March 26, 2018
Volume 10.26

Upcoming Events

March 28 –
9AM-2PM & 5PM-8PM: Open House

March 29 –
Noon Dismissal: Maundy Thursday

March 30 –
No School: Good Friday

April 13 –
No School: Professional Day

April 16-20 –
No School: Spring Break

Monday Missive

A Fresh Perspective for the Ordinary Grind
The Classical Difference (Spring 2018)

"Brian and Emily were friends. Trueblue, stuck-like-glue friends Emily used to say. And so they were." Growing up, my parents would joke about my favorite childhood book and how I would ask them to read it every night. I don't even know the title of the book, but those words have stuck with me, and my parents, for nearly thirty years.

My son, too, found a favorite book a few years ago— "Amelia Bedelia Goes to School." I recall during one impressive streak we read the book 17 bedtimes in a row. I found one night that I could nearly recite the entirety of the book from memory. Unfortunately, so could my son. No more late-night fast-forwarding.

We parents are familiar with the first stage of the trivium—the grammar stage—which harnesses the amazing ability of young minds to learn by repetition. As we move to the dialectic and rhetoric stages, the process of repetition becomes boring. "I already know that," we say, and move on to the next thing. But I propose that we should never abandon our first educational love. G.K. Chesterton addresses this issue in his insightful work, Orthodoxy:

"Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, 'Do it again'; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again" to the sun; and every evening, "Do it again" to the moon. ... It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned *and grown old, and our Father is younger than we."*

Indeed, we have sinned and grown old, and our sin has been the abandonment of wonder and enjoyment in the beauty of monotony.

This sin goes deeper than educational philosophy, though that is a good place to start in correcting our practice, and most classical schools are making the attempt. They realize that the loss of the beauty of monotony is what causes us to abandon the rich, life-transforming reading of the Gospels because we already "know the story of Jesus." The loss of the beauty of monotony is what causes us to skim through Psalm 146–150, since hearing "Praise the LORD!" fifty times is superfluous when I understand it after the first. The loss of the beauty of monotony is what causes us to leave off reading our Bible because we become bored with the discipline of daily devotion. As John Piper says, when we do this, we "miss the miracle."

The loss of the beauty of monotony is a loss worth reversing. It is a loss worth fighting to regain. It may just be the very thing that keeps us sane in the midst of a culture that is absolutely obsessed with—dare I say worships—the new and different.

Enjoy repeating words to your children that are good, true, and beautiful, whether via your own family Bible reading or that day's homework. Perhaps we should start the practice of picking Scriptures and stories—a "story of the week," a "Scripture of the month," or a "quote of the day"—to intentionally repeat as we drive to school, pray for dinner, or read before bedtime. Perhaps we will find that repetition and rhetoric, like Brian and Emily, are true-blue, stuck-like-glue friends after all.

Announcements and News

OPEN HOUSE

This **Wednesday, March 28th** is our last Open House of the year! Tell your friends, family, acquaintances – even some strangers – about SFS, and share the event on Facebook. Word-of-mouth is the best marketing, and we want as many people as possible to know about SFS! We also ask that students take extra care with their appearance and not wear ragged or holey uniform items but dress sharply.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards were sent home last Monday. If you have not already, please **sign and return** the signed copy of each report card along with the **manila envelope** in which it was delivered.

TERM 3 SUPPLIES

The latest snowstorm might be over, but cold and flu season is not. We need antibacterial wipes, tissues, and paper towels to help keep our building clean and our students healthy, but we have run out! Families with the **last names Q-Z**, please bring in the following items for Term 3:

- 1 roll paper towels
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 2 large tubs of antibacterial wipes

SPRING MUSICALS

We are eagerly anticipating our school musicals in April and May, but the students need costumes and props! Please contact Mrs. Rivers if you have any of the items below.

Props

- Large fake potted trees or plants
- Clip on hoop earrings
- Life preserver or anchor
- Empty bottles with or without corks (3 or 4)

EARLY REGISTRATION

This is the **last week** to register early for the 2018-19 school year. Registrations received after **April 1st** will be charged a **$50**. The registration form can be found on the website under the "Admissions" tab.

FINANCIAL AID

If you wish to apply for financial aid for the 2018-19 school year, the application is now available on the website under the "Admissions" tab. This application must be submitted by **May 1st**.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Do you have friends who like to golf? Do you know a business that would be willing to donate raffle items or be a sponsor? Please tell them about our annual golf tournament coming up in June 2018! Let Mrs. Rivers know if you would like more flyers or sponsor letters to hand out. This event is so key to the financial health of our school.