

Growing Spiritually at CCS

“Here am I and the children God has given me.” - Jesus



Dear CCS Families,

August 2011

One of my favorite artists, Vincent Van Gogh, said, *“The more I think about it, the more I realize there is nothing more artistic than to love others.”* This quotation, in light of the gospel of Christ, sums up our highest calling—it’s what we hope to teach children in Chapel at CCS with this year’s theme: Discovering God through ART.

But, first things first. Before we can love others well, we need to personally know the amazing love of God! When this marvelous love permeates our lives, we find ourselves in a position to embrace & live out the truth that we are beloved. God, the ultimate artist, created us out of love to live a life of love!

For centuries theologians have reflected, prayed, written, and taught about such things. The Bible itself tells us that God calls human teachers to explain & apply his word and every year I feel it anew: the complete honor to be in a position to teach your kids about God—it fills me with awe & joy!

Chico is awash in green—I write this as we enter summer with land that has been drenched by hearty spring rains. Things being verdant & healthy because they’ve been nurtured by something good like rain is an image I want to take with me into the next paragraph...

Let’s paint a picture: the children, like saplings, are ever-growing! They lean toward that which makes for growth (sunlight) and soak up that which causes them to be healthy (water, nutrients). Chapel at CCS is a time when children are in an environment conducive toward growth in Christ. Jesus said, *“If you see me, you will see the Father.”* It is our goal that the children experience God in creative ways at CCS so they will grow to be upright and glorious, a *“planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor”* (Is. 61). They are, after all, His Poem, His work of Art (Eph. 2:10). Our Creator God made them for relationship and it is our desire to pour all the water & nutrients we can on them so that they’ll grow toward SONlight!

Mexican artist, Diego Rivera, painted a woman who assists a man bent under the weight of a huge basket of flowers...this reminds us that we all carry burdens, and that God wants us to help one another. How do we do this?

In a painting titled “Blind Girl” by Millais, a child sits next to someone who cannot see the huge rainbow that literally fills the sky. The application is this: some people have spiritual eyes & see God but others cannot. Not yet. Might we be able to help them to SEE?

When we LOOK at William Holman Hunt’s “Jesus at the Door” we’ll need to ask ourselves: have we opened the door to the Christ? Schumann said, *“To send light into the darkness of men’s hearts—such is the duty of the artist.”* As we LOOK at art we will absorb the spiritual truth behind paintings, sculpture, cathedrals, photography and more. We will focus on our identity as children of God...learn better how to care for the poor...consider if & how our lives reflect God...and much more...and if you’d like to join us, please do! Weekly there are often more than 30 parents & grandparents among us.

Chapel always begins with Mrs. Bultema welcoming Jesus and us with song. Working alongside Nancy to give your children the gift of chapel is one of the best things about my job at CCS! We meet on Wed. mornings from 8:45—9:15 in the big gold dome.

As I said, I’m writing this in June...already, Mrs. Landers and I are praying heartily toward this next promising school year. We are grateful for your investment in CCS and believe your child’s life will be impacted by what they are exposed to with us. Loving your children is our highest calling at CCS—and we have a God who agrees with that. Jesus himself said, *“Here am I and the children God has given me.”* Our God is among us as we love & teach your kids—what a beautiful & awesome privilege, what a JOY!

With much love,
Lauren Mesa