

Opinions

the summerville
JOURNAL SCENE®

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Roving Eye

PINEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL CHESS TEAM TAKES THIRD



The Pinewood Middle School Chess Team, under the advisement of staff member Herman McNeill, took third place at the South Carolina Independent School Association Chess Meet. Pinewood Middle School Chess Team (from left): Sean Carter, Stephen Patterson, Harry Kauf, Andrew Dickey, Brice Kunkle, Kendall England, Lucas Owens, Clayton Hickok and Herman McNeill.

Inklings

Learning (all I really need to know?) from the Internet

BY BARBARA LYNCH HILL

It seems author Robert Fulghum might have really started something when he wrote "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." My sister Cynthia, who stays on the lookout for column ideas for yours truly recently passed on an "All I Really Need to Know . . ." treatise about Noah's Ark.



A bit of online research showed there were numerous sites for the above as well as dozens of other "learned from" parody subjects, such as; My Teddy Bear, My Cat, My Dog, My Girlfriends, My Guardian Angel, Drinking Coffee, Star Trek, The X-Files, Computers, and Fishing.

I liked the ones about Noah and fishing the best. They somehow seem to fit together. And besides, I'm married to a fisherman. A bit more investigation told me that Noah was purported to be between 500 and 600 years old at the time of the Ark. That vessel itself had some pretty impressive estimated numbers as well: 450 feet long, 45 feet high, a beam of 75 feet, and three decks. It was basically about half the length of the Queen Mary!

I toured the docked Queen Mary in Long Beach, California several years ago and the comparison seems incredible to me, given that she began sailing the North Atlantic Ocean in 1936 a few millennia or so after the Ark. That ocean liner was elegantly decked out and I'd have loved the opportunity to see what I could learn from traveling on her. But I digress. Back to the Ark and its life lessons.

The main things learned from Noah's Ark include:

- Remember that we are all in the same boat.
 - Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
 - Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
 - Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
 - Build your future on high ground.
 - For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
 - Speed isn't always an advantage: snails were on board with cheetahs.
 - Don't miss the boat.
 - If you can't fight or flee – float!
 - Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs: the Titanic by professionals!
 - No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting
- And for all you anglers (and your spouses) out there, here's what's learned from fishing:
- There is no such thing as too much equipment. (Lord knows that's true!)
 - When in doubt, exaggerate.
 - It's good to be at the top of the food chain.
 - Even the best lines get weak after they've been used a few times.
 - Cast everything in the best light possible.
 - Sometimes you've really got to squirm to get off the hook.
 - You never forget your first bite.
 - Fish always start to grow after they get away.
 - The fishing is always better on the other side of the lake.
 - When the going gets tough, the tough go fishing, and finally,
 - A fishing line has a hook at one end and an optimist at the other.

Come to think of it, there's might just be a thing or two one can learn from the Internet after all.

Letters to the Editor

Spirit of Hope

Dear Editor:
Winston Churchill once said, "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

The five of us, as grandparents/parents of a child with cancer, and as families of Courageous Kidz, united and decided it is time to stand up and speak with the hope that our community can sit down and listen.

Courageous Kidz, a five-year-old old non-profit agency dedicated to serving South Carolina's children suffering with cancer, has begun its toughest mission to date – dealing with a huge drop in monetary donations in this wavering economy. Cancer is a life-altering, and sometimes life-threatening event.

Although medical science has made great strides in extending the lives of children with cancer and in some cases even discovered cures, cancer continues to be the number one killer of children between the ages of 1 to 14 today. Courageous Kidz was created to provide a "Safe Haven for Kids with Cancer." The never-ending medical appointments, endless hospitalizations, surgeries and the dreaded days of feeling crummy often take an overwhelming toll on even the strongest of

families. We know only too well how a child with cancer can go from a simple, carefree life to one where doctors and nurses are the ones they see the most.

We are only a few of the over the 100 families served by Courageous Kidz throughout the State and we can honestly say that Courageous Kidz has helped us in so many ways. We spend endless days, weeks and months in hospitals with our ill children.

Things at home tend to fall apart and siblings often feel left out. Medical bills take priority over everything else and finances are always a struggle. This is where Courageous Kidz steps in. When we are at the hospital and have no money for food, or are simply sick of hospital food, they are there bringing meals or donating restaurant gift cards. When we have no place to stay so we can be with our sick children, they help with hotel rooms or open their own doors; when those of us who live out of town have no funds or resources, one phone call and Courageous Kidz is there to help. It's not just the financial – although that is a very important part of the group, but it's the smile they put on our children's faces, allowing them to feel like normal kids, bringing toys to the hospital and always lending a shoulder to cry on.

They get donations to help with special things that a child/family with cancer may need. Something as small as getting their car fixed to as large as the renovation of a child's room after a bone marrow transplant to create a sterile safe environment. They include siblings of children with cancer so these kids can know they too are cared for and are important. Most of all, they are family. They love our children and our families. Our families share a unique bond and Courageous Kidz is the glue that holds us together in the best and worst of times.

Courageous Kidz is struggling to keep afloat. We are asking you to please help us help Courageous Kidz to keep providing the Magic of Hope to the all too many deserving and struggling families in South Carolina by donating to Courageous Kidz. You can visit their website at www.Courageouskidz.org to donate via Paypal, or mail donations to 230 Old Dominion Drive, North Charleston, SC 29418. Every little bit counts!!! If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of us. We are happy to tell you more of our stories and sing the praises of this amazing organization.

Sincerely,
Cindy Hall
Mother of Kendall,

5 years old
Diagnosed with Pilocytic Spinal Astrocytoma 2007
Goose Creek

Darlene Cox
Grandmother of Tyler,
9 years old
Diagnosed with Avascular Rhabdomyosarcoma 2002
(39 Surgeries to date)
Travelers Rest

Julie Long
Mother of Skyla,
16 years old
Diagnosed with left Thalamic Astrocytoma in 2003
(Numerous life-saving surgeries)
Georgetown

Mary Childress
Mother of Leigha,
16 years old
Leukemia, Relapsed 2007
Bone Marrow Transplant 2008
Conway

Angela Lee
Mother of Kayla,
10 years old
Diagnosed with Leukemia 2001
Relapsed 2005, Bone Marrow Transplant 2006
Now battling Graft vs Host
(Body trying to reject transplant)
Effingham

LETTERS POLICY

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