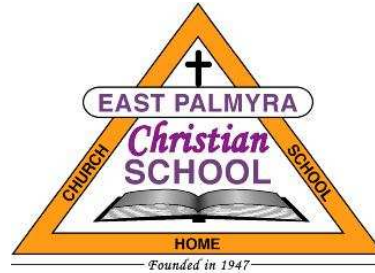


Through Our School Door

East Palmyra Christian School
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EPCS School Theme 2008-2009:
"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

Psalm 24:1a

EPCS Mission statement: *To offer a Christian educational alternative that integrates faith and learning through a Biblical worldview. We strive to equip our students to develop their gifts, to become discerning disciples, and to joyfully serve God in their life's calling in their community and world.*

September 8, 2008

Just Go

There are three things we may not say in my classroom—just, I thought, and WalMart. In some future edition I will hold forth on the latter of the three. But for now, let me explain "just" and "I thought." You see, the word "just" so often means mediocrity, as in "But instead of showing our work in math, can't we **just** write the answer?" Or, "Let's **just** do it the same way as we did last year..." **Just!** Not allowed in my classroom!

And then there's "I thought," as in "But **I thought** you said..." Or, "**I thought** I was supposed to..." Or the dreaded double-whammy, But **I just thought** that..." Big trouble!! A major no-no.

However, I want to excuse myself from the "just" rule in this writing. (I'm sure my students will just count all the "just" words in this article and will just let me know about them!!)

You see, at church yesterday, the lectionary text included the great commission, "Go into all the world..." (paraphrased)—just go! The pastor spoke about Abraham going to the land of ***** at God's request. Abraham packed up and went, not knowing what he would find. Just go, God said. Be faithful. And Abraham went. The pastor spoke about Moses at the burning bush being asked by God to insist to Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free. After many excuses, Moses did so, not knowing what to expect. Just go, God said. Be faithful. And Moses went. He spoke about Gideon and his pared-down army of 300 soldiers. Gideon went and won the battle over the thousands of enemy soldiers. Just go, God said. Be faithful. And Gideon went. There are so many instances of God's people just going, being faithful, when God tells each one to do so. I thought about instances in my life, past and present, in which I was seemingly told, just go! I'm not going to share those now. But I also thought about EPCS and times when God has said, just go! Be faithful! God has said, just go numerous times—in starting this school back in 1947, in hiring me fourteen years ago even when the money wasn't there, in developing a pre-school program, in hiring a music teacher, in building a gym. And I truly think beginning a high school is one of those times as well! God said, just go! Be faithful!

You may not believe this, but for the longest time, I did not buy into the reality that there would be a ninth grade at EPCS in the 2008-2009 school year. Even as late as a day or two before opening our doors for a new year, I had my doubts. I was taking the Moses approach, one filled with buts and what ifs—but can we give our students the education they need at this level, what if we can't find persons to teach, but will we have sufficient finances, what if it all falls apart in the end? Buts and what ifs. And God said, just go! Be faithful! Numerous times people would ask me, "Are you excited about the new high school?" My response was always a cautious unemotional one, ready to comment on the work that needs to be done, or the few students we had, or... I took the Moses approach.

But as we are into this, the second week of the school year, my mind has been changed. Ask me again if I'm excited and you'll hear an absolute "Yes!" I think God was saying, just go! Do your homework, do your planning, do your advertising, do your hiring, do your recruiting, and just go! Go! Be faithful! Hey, hindsight is twenty-twenty!

We have three precious ninth grade students at East Palmyra Christian School. Yes, I said ninth grade students, high schoolers! God said, just go! And we went. Not without a lot of Moses-type kicking and screaming (from me, too), not

without a lot of anxiousness, not without a lot of questions, and not without a lot of “well, we’ll see how this turns out.” But we went. We were faithful. And here we are: three ninth graders. Our first ninth grade class!

And, hey, they are having the time of their lives! We are have the time of our lives! Student-teacher ratio in core subjects like English, Science, History, and Spanish is three to one. In other subjects like Bible, Music, PE, and Art the ninth graders are with the seventh and eighth graders. There is talk of a trip to Washington, DC in the spring, a monthly school newspaper, a Mission Trip, as well as in-school aiding in lower grade classes. This is an exciting time for our ninth graders!

You see, what we so often forget, is what is included in Jesus command that his people “go.” He also says to them, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” When he says, go, he promises that, like with Abraham, and with Moses, and with Gideon, we do not go alone! At EPCS we are never alone in our ventures. As teachers, we are not alone. You parents are not alone! Our ninth grade class is not alone! Our community is not alone! Surely, I am with you, Christ says.

Jesus commands us to go. Just go! kv

<u>EPCS Calendar</u>	
<u>Monday, September 8</u>	
<u>Tuesday, September 9</u> Soccer Practice until 4:45 pm	
<u>Wednesday, September 10</u> Faculty Devotions—7:35 am	
<u>Thursday, September 11</u> Soccer Practice until 4:45 pm New Family Meeting—7 pm EPCS Board Meeting—7:30 pm	
<u>Friday, September 12</u> School Assembly—8:20 am Pizza for lunch Auction meeting 7pm	
<u>Monday, September 15</u> Soccer Practice till 4:45 pm	

Our preschool and Kindergarten classes will join together to donate items toward a theme basket. Any theme ideas would be welcomed. In the past we've had "Preschool Fun", "All things Apples", "Mommy and Me". Book orders may be sent back to school.

~ School Door ~

To cut down on paper costs, you can receive the School Door each week via email. Please call the office and let us know if you would like to get SD electronically, provide us with your email address.

~ Promotion and Enrollment ~

EPCS t-shirts: There are a few extra EPCS t-shirts available for purchase. Please call the office now to reserve one of these great shirts: Sizes available are: 1-Adult XL - Yellow, 1-Adult L - Grey, 1-Adult S- Sky Blue, 1-Youth M - Grey, Adult shirts are \$14, youth shirts are \$12.

Advertising EPCS: The promotion committee is renewing the movie advertisement, which runs before each movie at the West Wayne Theater in Macedon. The cost for the year is \$1000, which is a great value for a year's worth of advertising. Donations toward this promotion would be gratefully accepted. Please let the office know if you can offer a gift, large or small.

~ Run for Reading Results ~

Thank you to all those who came out for the Run for Reading 5K last Saturday! We thank God for holding back the rain and blessing the event with ~50 registered runners and walkers. Results: The overall male finisher was Chad Christler (Newark) with a time of 18:57, and the overall female finisher was Anna Fox (Palmyra) at 21:46. First place finishers in each age group were, beginning with females: (14 and under) Meredith Kellogg, (15-18) Emily Stoep, (19-29) Aleia Mallette, (30-39) Julie Lamar, (40-49) Anna Fox, (50-59) Marty Roberts, (60+) Eileen Barber. 1st Place Males: (14 and under) Ethan Erway, (15-18) Brandon Luckey, (19-29) Chad Christler, (30-39) Jimmy Addona, (40-49) Roger Fox, and (50-59) Jeff Washburn. About \$800 was raised, thanks in part to our generous sponsors: Community Bank NA, Wegmans, Mark's Pizzeria (Newark), Stoep Farm and Gravel, Domino's (Newark), and Emmy's Port Gibson General Store.

~ Auction News ~

~ School Cleaning~

Families who will be cleaning the school will receive a letter this week reminding them of the process to follow this year. Thank you!

This week	Next week
Mon ~ Rose	Mon. ~ Rose
Tue ~ Gardner	Tues. ~ Lockwood
Wed. ~ Clark	Wed. ~ Clark
Thur. ~ Mallette	Thurs. ~ Mallette
Fri. ~ Winslow	Fri. ~ Cramer

Please make arrangements If you need keys to clean after hours. Remember to initial the calendar in the janitor's closet after you finish. Thank you!

~ New family meeting ~

New families are invited to come out on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. for a new family night. New to some of you is the school auction, held Saturday, Oct. 4.

Mark your calendars for October 4, 2008, for the 28th Annual Harvest Festival and Auction. Be thinking now of what items you might have around the house that you could donate to this major fundraiser! You could also help by visiting friends or neighbors who have just had garage sales and asking them if they would donate any remaining items to the school auction. Tax receipts can be furnished.

If you know of any great ideas for businesses that we should contact, please let us know. We also pray that many of you will be "go-getters" and help solicit businesses EPCS contact and pick up items they are willing to give us.

If you have any questions or would like to join this committee, please contact us.

In Christ - Don and Cheri Winslow 986-4240

reroteacher@verizon.net

~ Preschool~

What a joy it was to start the new preschool year with your child! This week we begin our alphabet Show & Tell. On Thursday the students should bring Show and Tell items that begin with Aa. We are concentrating on learning both the capital and lowercase letters, recognizing and beginning to write them. We'll be doing apple prints and the children will see the "star" God put in every apple! Our Bible memory verse this week is "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

~ Kindergarten~

What a blessing and joy to begin the new year with a time of worship and dedication of the 2008 - 2009 school year to our faithful God!

Kindergarten welcomes Phillip, Caleb, Mason, Blair, Leah & Brooke. This week we will getting to know the routines of Kindergarten, becoming familiar with rules and polite interactions, growing in listening skills, and opening our eyes to things we can discover in God's world. Before we begin the alphabet (next week), we'll take this short week to focus on numbers and how to write them. Our phone numbers will be good practice for us. Please help your child sing the last 7 digits of the phone number to "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star".

If you have anything from God's world to share...please send them to school! Wow! What a Creator God!! Our alphabet Show and Tell begins next Thursday.

Monday & Wednesdays we'll have PE with our new teacher, Mrs. Fernaays. Students will need good running shoes for PE, which can also be their indoor or outdoor shoes). Music class with Mrs. Cornwell will also be held on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Please bring a healthy snack each day (nothing with peanuts or peanut butter, due to allergies in our class). We'll have morning recess at 9:30, followed by our snack.

Happy summer birthday to Mason, who celebrated August 21. Our next birthday is Leah, Sept. 19.

~ First and Second Grade~

Bible: We are learning about creation this week. Our memory verses are Psalm 119:11 and Genesis 1:1. Please

look these up with your children and have them memorize them.

Math: We are starting our math units this week. First graders will be learning about number combinations and second graders will be reviewing addition and subtraction.

Health: We are learning about how we are all created differently.

Reading: Reading groups are starting this week. Please read with your child every night for 15 minutes.

Note: I will be sending home an information letter some time this week.

~ Third and Fourth Grade~

Social Studies: This year in social studies we will be studying New York history. We will start off by looking at the geography on New York.

Spelling: There will be no spelling list this week.

Book orders are coming home today. They are due on September 20th. Please look for a 3rd and 4th grade information sheet coming home this week. ☺

Math: Both grades are learning about place value and writing large numbers. Your student should have math homework most nights except for Fridays.

~ Fifth and Sixth Grade ~

Auction Basket: If you are willing to coordinate the basket for our class, please let me know.

Math: Both grades are reviewing and learning new information about number theory. Sixth graders are also working with exponents.

Reading: Our first unit contains stories from different countries. We will be looking at what part our heritage plays in our lives. You might discuss your family's particular heritage with your student. Your student has chosen a book to read for September's book report. It would be a good idea to have your student plan to finish reading it in the next two weeks so it isn't necessary for him/her to rush through the actual report. A form will come home sometime next week, and will be due Oct. 3.

Social Studies: We are doing a review of map skills this week.

Bible: Our first unit looks at the life of Christ. This week, we will focus on the writers of and differences between the Gospels. Our memory work is Matthew 5: 1-7.

Spelling: Practice test on Wednesday, final test on Friday.

~ Seventh and Eighth ~

Grade American History: We will be working on research and presentations on either a Native American tribe or an explorer depending on

which one your child chose. Their projects should be completed by Friday and presentations will begin on Monday. Most of the work can be done in school, but they may work on their project at home.

Bible: Please make sure that your student has his/her Bible for class each day. He/she will also be required to do Christian service this year as a part of his/her grade. New students and seventh graders may need your help in finding ways that he/she can serve at your Church, at home, and in your community.

Our first unit looks at how the Bible fits together as one story.

~ 9th grade~

Global Studies: We will be discussing the beginnings of human civilization this week. ☺

~ Education Committee~

Do you have an interest in helping set the academic path for our students? Then please consider joining the Education Committee. Our duties include recruiting and interviewing possible new faculty members and overseeing the curriculum of EPCS. No education background is necessary as several teachers also work with this committee. We normally meet once a month but may meet more often when it becomes necessary to add new faculty. Please call or email Judy Rachow or the office if you are interested. This opportunity is open to any interested members of the school community, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and families of alumni.

~ Band ~

Band rehearsal for the 5-9 band is this Wed. at 8:25am. Please have your instruments that day. We are preparing three pieces for Grandparents' Day, which is being held on Oct. 10 at 10:00 at 10:00!

Please check the new school calendar (coming out with the new directory after school begins) for concert performances, and add them to your family's calendar right now. All students are expected to attend the Christmas and Spring concerts. Thank You.

~ Lessons~

Tues. 8:25 Sarah 9:30 Paul 10:30 Brian 12:40 Hunter

Wed. 12:40 Ben

Thurs. 9:05 Ciara/Mara 10:00 Kaitlyn 10:30 Andrew 12:40 Jessica

Fri. 9:05 Molly 10:00 Drew 10:30 Noah B. 11:00 Garrett 11:30 Emily 12:40 Noah C., Nick 1:10 Caitlin 1:40 Meredith 2:10 Carolyn

~ Spanish~

New Schedule for Spanish classes: I am so excited about this year because Spanish classes are scheduled five days a week! Also, the time of the classes is different. Most days, I will be in the

building from 10:20 a.m. to 1:35 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, I will be staying till the end of the school day, so those would be good days to arrange to get extra help, or to make up work. Other opportunities to get extra help, or make up work, would be during lunch/recess, except on Tuesdays.

Textbooks: Textbooks were distributed on Friday and must be covered!

Assignment sheet: All 7/8/9 students have an assignment sheet that covers all of September. This sheet also indicates when quizzes and tests will be given. Students are responsible for making any changes needed on the assignment sheet.

Materials needed: All students need at least a 2 inch, 3-ring notebook, and loose leaf paper. It is also suggested that page protectors be used for the handouts that have been distributed. The page protectors will keep the pages clean, and eliminate accidental tearing out of essential pages.

Spanish Dictionary and Study Guides: There will be an order form going home sometime this week. If you want your child to have a Spanish dictionary, or the laminated Spanish Conversation, Vocabulary, and Grammar study guides, please indicate your choices on the order form. No money need be sent in at this time. When I submit the order, I will let everyone know how much tax and shipping is to be added to the \$4.95 or \$5.95 price of the study guides. Your child does not have to have these study aides, but I do recommend them. We will not be using them in class.

5/6 Spanish will start up this week. We will be meeting on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:30. We will review and continue studying command forms.

So many exciting changes! May the Lord grant us all a spectacular year!

~ Circle News ~

Hot Lunch News: Taco's, veggies, dip and dessert. Helpers this week are Maggie Cosh, Kathy Hayes and Kit DePerna.

Workers are needed to help with hot lunch. On 2 and 3rd Wed. of each month. If you can help out at all, please call Maggie Cosh at 1-585-396-2093. Work times are 10am – 1:30pm. We need at **least 3** workers to help each week.

The cost for hot lunch is \$1.50 per week. Please send in a check for \$12.00 per student (families can send in 1 check for 2 or more students). This gives your student 8 weeks of hot lunch. You will receive a notice when your hot lunch account needs refilling. You can also bring in \$1.50 per week if that's easier for you.

DESSERTS are needed for hot lunch each week. Desserts should be made to accommodate 54 students, plus faculty and staff. If you can provide a dessert, please call Maggie Cosh (above #) to schedule a week. Thank you!!!!

Breen's and Tops Cards are available in the office if you'd like to purchase them. They are like having a prepaid gift card. The school gets 5% back on these sales.

Box tops and Labels are still being saved throughout the year. Please save the Campbell Soup (entire label – especially the UPC code) labels and the Box Tops for Education labels from selected products. Thanks!

Items for Sale: Book Sox, Water Bottles, Cookbooks, Napkins, Cards, Rada Cutlery. Check [][with one of the secretaries and they can show you the selections we have available.

Old Cell Phones, Empty Ink Cartridges and Rinsed Pop Cans are still being collected. This is an easy way to raise \$\$ for the school.

Buy-A-Brick If you've been thinking about purchasing a brick to honor, or in memory of a loved one, please contact Sue Priem at 597-5420 for information.