

Dear Parents of 4D students,

The school year 2021-2022 is quickly coming to an end. I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you that I appreciated having each and every student in my class this year. We had opportunities to learn in different ways as in shark dissection and service projects and a field trip. Students also made gains in sticking with things even when they still felt hard to do. We shared many books this year including: Where the Red Fern Grows, Lindsey, Gentle Ben, Riding Freedom and others. The 10 Book Challenge pushed some students to discover that they really do like reading. I hope that continues as they move on to summer and 5th grade. Fourth graders grew in their ability and confidence to participate in Mass. We shared many books of the Bible together chapter by chapter - The Gospels, Acts, Romans and some Psalms. My prayer for each student is that they love Jesus with all their heart. We are working on memorizing Matthew 22:37 with that message.

As we move into summer, I want to paraphrase an article I read on Facebook to give some food for thought. I can't credit a source as it began....I read somewhere.... The thoughts are still worth considering. "Parenting is hard. Parents have to choose their battles." The following are some battles the author thought worth fighting.

1. The Reading Fight...Make them read as it is tied to cognitive development and learning to focus.
2. The Outside Fight...Make them spend time outside even if it isn't their first choice. The Natural World has so much to teach us and the fresh air and sunshine are helpful as well. Being outside helps us discover wonder, peace and joy.
3. The Work Fight...Don't do everything for your child. Help them learn to help the family. Life principles can be learned through work. Sweat can be a good teacher.
4. Meal Fight... not the old food fight we remember from childhood. This refers to eating as a family as often as possible. Time around the table together gives an actual physical pause to the frantic pace. Time to recover truth and avoid sacrificing life for the addiction to busyness can be gained from time around the table together. I know this can be an uphill battle, but worth it.
5. The Boredom Fight...Don't show a DVD every car ride. Kids need unscheduled time. Being able to manage boredom is a skill. Meander time is crucial for our brains to sort information as well.
6. The Me First Fight... Not every time should a child be first or get the best piece. We can model giving up the remote or doing someone else's chores to help the greater good of the family. Taking turns doing things as a family that are important to someone else and making it fun for them is a healthy investment in your family.
7. The Awkward Conversation Fight...Your child needs to hear your values on tough topics like sex, dating, body image etc. They need your wisdom.
8. The Limitation Fight... "Learning to live within limits, dietary limits, activity limits, schedule limits..." is a healthy thing we all need to know how to do.

As I said above, I don't know who to credit with these thoughts, but they are worth considering. Your family is worth it. Thank you for the honor of time with your student this fourth grade year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Daggett