

** East Richland Christian Schools **

Elem. #740-695-2005 * Middle School #740-695-2281 * HS #740-695-2279

Devotional (excerpt from *The Season of Winter* by G. Anderson)

The winter may seem unpleasant to many, but frost and snow...are an indispensable part of life. Winter may seem a time of death, but in reality it's a time of rest. When harvest is over, trees aren't ready to bear new fruit immediately. They need a rest, and winter gives them time to do that; at the same time, winter is preparation for new flowers and new fruit. It's only on the surface that winter looks like death. Under the surface life is active and stirring! Roots are filling up with nourishment, and buds are bracing themselves for spring.

There are seasons in our lives too. And we often have difficulty in understanding why they are there. Why do we have to pass through winters with barren branches and frozen ground, times without flowers and fruit, without singing and joy? In His grace, God allows a winter season in our lives to give us rest. He doesn't expect us to bear fruit when it's winter, and we would do well if we could learn not to expect fruit when we should be having a rest. "Winter" only means that for a time you are resting, and preparing for a new season, a season of flowers and growth. God takes you aside to prepare you for what is to come, and without that thorough preparation, you won't be ready for a new season!

So, if you're in a winter season in your life right now, it's not the end! After winter, comes spring. All part of God's plans for His children. Be prepared, one day you'll suddenly become aware of an irresistible pull in your spirit that tells you winter is past, and the time for singing is upon you again!

Annual School Christmas Program

For the safety of our students and families, we have decided that our annual Christmas program will be a virtual event this year. A video production is currently being worked on and will be sent out to families closer to Christmas. While we know this won't be the same as the program we are accustomed to, we are extremely thankful for the "in-person" blessings we do have; as always, we are hopeful that our school families remain healthy and safe going into the Christmas season.

Staff Christmas Gifts

In order to provide you with a safe and easy way to bless our staff this Christmas, we are collecting funds until December 16th for those wishing to give a monetary donation. While we certainly understand and respect that each family has its own approach to giving, this hopefully offers you another option that you can consider instead of buying individual gifts. Should your heart be led to give in this way, we ask that you send your donation to school in an envelope labeled "Staff Christmas Gifts." On Friday, Dec. 18th, all money received will be equally divided among all staff and presented accordingly. You may, of course, still present your child's teacher with a small, personal gift if that is what your heart is telling you to do; you may want to do both. Please know it is your decision. We truly want you to follow your heart and honor how the Lord leads you this Christmas season.

Annual Scholarship Drive

For the month of December, our school will be conducting our annual scholarship drive. Each year, East Richland Christian Schools provides scholarships to families who, without the help of generous donors, would not be able to attend East Richland Christian Schools and receive a Christian education. Should you or someone you know feel led to donate in this benevolent way, monetary gifts may be given at one of the school offices. Additionally, online donations may be made through the school's website (www.eastrichland.org); simply click on the **Donate**/Paypal button and select *Scholarship* as the fund of choice.



Important Dates:

- Dec. 17-18 – HS Exams
- Dec. 18 – Jr. High/HS End of Term
- Dec. 21-Jan 1 – Christmas Break
- Dec. 22 – Jr. High/HS Report Cards
- Jan. 4 – Classes Resume
- Jan. 8 – K-6th End of Term
- Jan. 12 – K-6th Report Cards

~ Acts 20:35 ~

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'



Funny Pictures on www.LeFunny.net

