

# EXCELSIOR NEWSLETTER

Excelsior Classical Covenantal Community

*Raising the next generation of leaders.*

September 2007

[www.excelsiorclassical.org](http://www.excelsiorclassical.org)

## REMINDER FOR 10th and 11th GRADERS:

The annual **PSAT** test will be taking place on **Wednesday, October 17th.**

You **must** sign-up by the end of September.

**10th** graders can take the test for practice.

**11th** graders can take the test **this year only** to qualify for **National**

**Merit** and compete for **extensive scholarships.**

Contact Ms. Harris at THS at 662-841-8980. There is a \$12 fee to sign-up which must be paid at the high school.

## MATHNASIUM

In case you haven't heard, there is a new math learning center in town. Several of our students are attending and have greatly increased their interest and skills. It is located at: 1715 McCullough Blvd, Suite C. You can reach them at: 823-6416.

## Excelsior Library

Excelsior has a tape and CD library with lectures from some of the best classical educators in the country. If you are interested in listening to any of the lectures, you can contact Nita Fradenburg at 841-8787.

## Mom's Night Out / Prayer

Monday, September 17th, 7:00 p.m.  
at the Moeller's House

We'd like to get together for a time of fellowship and prayer for our upcoming school year.

## OLDER Student Dinner / Discussion Night

Friday, September 21st, 6:00 p.m.  
at the Moeller's House

A fun time to get together and hang-out and have a chance to discuss what you've learned, outside of the classroom.



## Why Study the Pagans? by Cheryl Lowe

A classical education involves two things primarily - the study of the classical languages, Latin and/or Greek, and the study of the classical civilization of Greece and Rome.

In the last few years there have been a number of articles critical of the classical Christian education movement. The objection goes something like this: What can Christians learn from the pagans, since all truth comes from God and the Bible and they had neither? We should read the Bible and books written by Christians and avoid the unsanctified pagan mind and its temptations.

This objection to classical education reveals some confusion about the nature and purpose of Scripture. The Bible is the book about God. Its purpose is to reveal the nature of God to man, a knowledge that man cannot discover for himself.

But most things man can discover for himself - geometry, logic, the principles of history, government, literature, the sciences, etc. These things were first discovered by the Greeks. God did not reveal to man what he could discover for himself

through reason and experience. To do so would have confused human reason with divine revelation.

But even if our Christian objector acknowledges that the Greeks learned some things that are useful and true, is that a good reason to focus on Greek and Roman culture? Why can't we just take what they discovered and use it for our own purposes and not waste too much time on a dead, pagan culture? This is often expressed by the idea of "spoiling the Egyptians." The Children of Israel took some loot from the Egyptians on their journey to the Promise Land, so we Christians can take some things we need from the pagans, too.

But the Greeks did not just discover some useful things that we can lift out of their writings, hopefully without contaminating ourselves in the process. Amazingly the Greeks discovered the foundations for almost all of human knowledge and wisdom. Historians call this explosion of learning the "Greek miracle".

"God did not reveal to man what he could discover for himself through reason and experience."

*"Beware of the atmosphere of the classics. It is pernicious indeed; and you need much of the south wind breathing over the Scripture to counteract it. True, we ought to know them; but only as chemists handle poisons - to discover their qualities, not to infect their blood with them."*

- Robert Murray M'Cheyne  
(1813-1843)

This term expresses the wonder we feel when we come to understand this sudden, extraordinary, and unexplainable outpouring of philosophy, literature, art, and science by this small number of people living in the poor, rocky, land of Greece. It's difficult to overstate the genius of the Greek accomplishment. For me, John Cardinal Newman explained it best in his great book on education, "The Idea of a University".

The world was to have certain intellectual teachers, and no others; Homer and Aristotle, and the poets and philosophers who circle round them, were to be the schoolmasters of all generations, and therefore the Latins (Romans), falling into the law on which the world's education was to be carried on, so

added to the classical library as not to reverse or interfere with what had already been determined.

So classical civilization is more than just a good place to pick up some useful information on our trip to the Holy Land. The Greek and Roman classics are the basic "textbooks" of human wisdom and knowledge. In His providence, God so ordained the world that divine knowledge should come through the Hebrews, and human knowledge through the Greeks. The greater light of revelation orders and commands the lesser light of human wisdom, but it does not obliterate it. And for human wisdom, we begin with the Greeks - the world's first school masters.

### Private Art Lessons

Taught by Mrs. Tracy Nock, with 8 years experience teaching in public schools gifted art program and private lessons. Tracy has taught many students that have received the highest awards at the Gum Tree art contest, including scholarships. Lessons are for 4th - 12th grades, and are in her home in Saltillo. Cost is \$15 per lesson, with a \$20.00 per year fee for supplies. A variety of art forms including drawing, painting, pastel, watercolor, and sculpture are taught. Please call 869-3548 for more information.

### Jill Robbins is selling a bunch of textbooks

in excellent condition. The list of books is on the right. She will also be hosting an open house.

**Open House** - 2460 S Laurelwood Lane, Tupelo  
Saturday, September 15th 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
**662-840-6292**

**Math:** Middle School and High School, including Singapore; Harold Jacobs; Saxon and Chicago

**Science:** Apologia High School; Sciencewise Critical Thinking

**History:** Beautiful Feet Early American History (Intermediate Grades) and US and World History (Senior High), Parts I & II. This includes all of the literature

**Gileskirk:** Antiquity; Christendom; and Early American History

**Literature:** Misc. British Lit; American Lit; Biographies

**Art Curriculum:** Artistic Pursuits; Walter Foster; art supplies

**Latin:** Latin for the Americas, Latina Christiana I

**Composition:** Numerous books

**Grammar:** Numerous books

**Logic**

**Speech & Debate**

**Reference** books / material / tapes

# Preparing for September...

## September Headmasters

- September 7 — Robert Green
- September 14 — Phillip Morris
- September 21 — Denvil Crowe
- September 28 — Don Dye


## September Clean-Up

- September 7 — Green family
- September 14 — Morris family
- September 21 — Crowe family
- September 28 — Dye family



### Lunch:

- September 7 - **Connie's**
- September 14 - **Wendy's**
- September 21 - **Pizza Dr.**
- September 28 - **Danver's**



Please leave your completed order form and money in the box labeled "LUNCH" in the foyer of Bldg A. a week before the lunch you're ordering.