

January 8, 2009

Friends,

Welcome back from the holidays. Like many of you, we travelled to spend time with family over the break. While we had a great time, including a pilgrimage to Rupp Arena (for the uninformed that is where the University of Kentucky plays basketball) and to my favorite pizza parlor, it was great to return to the sunshine of Florida. I know that by the end of the week, there will be many exhausted teachers, students, and parents as we dive back into our routines.

In the face of a worsening economy, many of you displayed your generosity and commitment to our school by making December contributions. In fact, donations were higher in December this year than last and to date, we have received almost \$240,000 (which is also ahead of last year at this time). We only need \$60,000 to meet our budget need for the school year. One of these days I will stop having such weak faith – God does provide.

As you might have heard, we have restarted our search for a football coach. We had secured an agreement with a prospective coach before Thanksgiving that did not materialize as planned. We remain committed to bringing football to SRCS for the 2009-2010 and are currently interviewing candidates.

It is always a treat to see how students progress and to see them interact in our world. Here is a report on one of our 4th graders, Maloni Lewis, from Katrice McRae-Holly, Director of CAFCC:

On Thursday evening, 12/04/08, Maloni Lewis and I, spoke with the US Nuclear Regulatory Committee regarding the Levy County Progress Energy project - to add jobs and lower energy costs. She actually had a prepared speech and presented it to the crowd (full of county commissioners and officials, reporters, executives from Progress Energy, a professor from the University of Florida, business men and women, and a slate of executives from the federal government). Maloni is now on federal record with her comments to the commission. This was all on her own initiative.

“I also so enjoyed the young lady that spoke at the hearing...she was so poised and eloquent and as I sat behind her during the hearing I observed her very polite and attentive behavior!” (Martha Barnwell, VP Progress Energy and a recent Leadership Lecture Series Speaker)

Yesterday I was outside Shennen Bowman’s office looking at the list of colleges that have accepted our students for next fall – New York University, Auburn, and various Florida schools. Mrs. Bowman works on behalf of our students to place them in colleges and universities. She provides hands on, individual attention for each student and regular interaction with parents. If you have questions regarding college, give her a call or drop an email-sbowman@sevenrivers.org.

Blessings

Joel