

February 10, 2009

Dear Parents,

January had some great moments. A group of Jr and Sr Highers went Ice Skating, and they had a great time overall. Thanks so much to Tiffany McCabe, Jeri and Ernie Henricksen and the Laine family for all your help with that day. In spite of a dislocated knee, the students had a great time. (This is why parent permission forms and parent involvement is so important.) © You can find out more from the students' perspective in the Student Newsletter that will come out in the next week.

More than 20 students attended this year's College and Young Adult winter retreat. The students had a great time, even though this year's snowfall was low. The speaker was excellent, and I had a great opportunity to have a great discussion with one student who made some pretty incredible steps in his life that weekend.

January's Dinner/Student Auction wasn't as well attended as we had hoped, but the students and those who attended did have a good time, and students did raise money. We will be holding another one in the spring. If you are interested in helping out with that, please contact me.

This month (February) we'll be progressing through our studies and getting a little proactive. (For specifics on lesson plans, you can get the details on CEFCYouth.com). Tuesday, February 17th, we will be holding "**Mission Possible**," an opportunity to love on people in the community who have been forgotten or hurting. That night we do need at least one more driver, and parent permission slips **are** required. Release forms can be downloaded on the CEFCYouth.com website. If you know of a person or a family that needs a loving touch, contact Jennifer Uruburu 310-0164, and fill her in on the specifics. We will be leaving the church at 6 pm. (Remember that doors open at 5:30 pm). This event is open for Jr –Sr Highers. Wednesday, February 18th, we'll be hosting another "Dating Panel." If you have any questions or suggestions on that, please let me know.

Last Call for Sr High Winter Retreat! (Friday, Feb 20th – Sunday, Feb 22nd) We have been greatly blessed with several musicians and two recording artists for this year's music and a speaker with vast experience with both semi professional snowboarding and skateboarding. (Tim had an accident which kept him from the pro circuit.) Since registration had started in December, and there have been several opportunities for both discounts, fundraisers and specials, time is just about out. There are still some opportunities for scholarships; there is a discount for additional friends and family members. For every ten students after 30, we can offer an additional price break. In order to plan well and to have enough food and sweatshirts (again, sweatshirts ARE included in the cost), registration and money needs to be coming in to the church office no later than 4 pm Tuesday, February 17th, 2009. I will be with my wife for her eye surgery that day, so you can leave registration forms and money with the church secretary. I will take phone reservations Monday, February 16th as the office is officially closed. Please remember that we offer so many discounts for early bird registration because we are seeking to encourage more forethought and planning on the students and increased communication between you and your child. Finances should never be an option because we have many donors for students who are willing to work. In a hurting economy, where jobs are short, the workers with the best and hardest work ethics will keep their jobs. Our hope for your children is that they continue to grow in excellence in ALL they do.

Have you ever felt like you were hitting a wall when you talk to your children about spiritual truths?

Are you struggling yourself with getting the Bible to become real and alive in your own life?

Are you wanting to lead a Bible study, small group or class, but feel you don't have enough training?

If you answered "Yes" to any of the previous questions, **YS One Day** might be for you. Youth Specialties, a ministry that has been working with students for many years and has a crack team of teachers and programmers, have put together years of research and much current material on the subject of rediscovering the Bible and making it come to life. You can find a video clip promotional online at CEFCYouth.com. If you register by February 19th, you can save \$10 off the registration price. Registration also includes lunch. The training seminars we will be attending will be in Reno, so please meet at the church by 6:30 am **Saturday, February 28th, 2009**. We will be returning to Susanville at approximately 5 pm. You can call me or go online for additional specifics.

Here are some things next month (March) to be aware of:

The 40 Day Revolution

Our society says a lot of things. Some of these things you will agree with, some you won't. There is much pressure on our students to be certain things, to do certain things, sometimes to even go certain places. A revolution indicates change, one that also affects others as well as oneself. In a couple of weeks you'll receive some additional information on that 40 day program. There will be some great opportunities for your students and, if you are available, for you as well.

College Game and Movie Night

Friday, March 13th, several of our college students will be meeting at Black Bear Diner for dinner and then meeting for a movie and games. For specifics, please contact Nancy Cardenas at 249-2729.

March 13-15 Jr High Winter Retreat

This year we are again partnering with Youth for Christ and several other churches. We are looking forward to another special speaker and band. The cost for this year's retreat is \$110 per student. There is a \$10 discount for additional family members. There are **two** Early Bird registration options. Early Bird Rate # 1, Register and pay by February 25th and you get \$20 off! If you register between February 26th and March 4th you get \$10 off! Any other registrations or payments made March 5th or after will be the full \$110. Again, there are some additional options to reduce the cost. Please contact me if you have questions. You can check and download info at CEFCYouth.com

20-21 Guy's Extreme Backpacking and Camping Trip

Yes! The guys finally have their own event again! Thank you to Dan Moreno for helping me to make this happen! We are still looking for a couple of other men to either drive and/or to help chaperone. We will be roughing it. Flyers and Permission Forms will be available at church and online Sunday, February 15th.

March 21 Mother Daughter Tea

Mothers, please reserve that mid morning/early afternoon time for some time with your daughters. Due to some family constraints, girls can feel free to double up with others. Additional information will be available at church and online Sunday, February 15th. If you have specific questions, ladies, please contact Michelle at 260-5752

In order to save money in the youth and the church budget, not every parent letter will go out in the mail. For now, every other month a letter will be in the mail. The other months a postcard will go out, and the parent letter will be made available online. If you have missed a previous letter or you are new to the area or to the group and you would like to know more about us, you can go online and view some of the old letters.

Please be on the look out for additional resources for you as a parent in April. We are seeking some new and up to date resources for you and are trying to find out how to keep the costs as low as possible. We will also be hosting a girls' conference April 4th.

Joshua Fest and Spirit West Coast!

These are two great trips and opportunities. If you love music, camping and time with your family, these are two options to consider. Details for both will be available in the next two weeks.

Some things to remember:

- Students DON'T have to do everything.
- There are always opportunities to raise money so that the money DOESN'T have to come out of your own pocket.
- In order for money to be raised, students and sometimes parents need to put forth some effort.
- Donations help keep the costs down!

Starting next month, in an attempt to keep the length of these letters short, I'll start putting more detailed information online. If you have any thoughts/concerns or are willing to volunteer time please do not hesitate to contact me. Partnering with YOU helps this to be better for all of us.

Ever seeking to serve you better,

Jackson

Jackson Fong

Student Ministries Pastor

Community Church of Susanville

P.S. If E-mail is a better way to get a hold of you OR you would like to be on the Student Ministries Prayer List, please sign up at CEFCYouth.com