



SPRINGHURST QUARTERLY

The Whole Child School

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The Climb To The Top

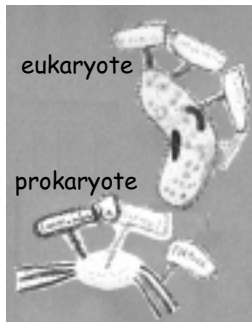
The weeks are really going by quickly here at school. I guess that we have all been very busy. Lately in the classroom we have been studying the five kingdoms of life. Can you name them? They are Animalia, Plantae, Fungi, Protocista (Protista), and Monera (bacteria). Up to this point we have mostly been learning about the microcosmos. That is, the three kingdoms with the most minute members. Below is an illustration of a prokaryote and a eukaryote drawn by Yoonhwi. A prokaryote is a unicellular creature without a nucleus. A eukaryote is a cell *with* a nucleus. In March we will begin our GalapagosQuest unit and our attention will include the animal and plant kingdoms. You will read more about GalapagosQuest in the spring issue.



Students rock climbing

The students have been learning about their own life form in our physical education classes down the street at the Boys and Girls club. The children are really enjoying their rock climbing class and are making great progress. Climbing is a great sport because it develops strength, skill, balance, and concentration. Each week they can find challenge and success. We also have been practicing soccer, volleyball, and basketball at the Boys and Girls Club.

Minds and bodies are growing at Springhurst. We have current openings as well as openings for 1999-2000. If you have a highly capable child 4-12 years old, we encourage you to apply. ■



Scholarships & Deadlines

One of the greatest challenges facing a private school is to avail itself to low-income families. This is particularly difficult for a small school that does not have a large scholarship fund. Nevertheless, Springhurst will be offering scholarships valued up to \$1,000 to students in low-income families.

Another wonderful opportunity is available but interested families must act quickly. The Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF) awards up to 75% of a child's private or parochial school's tuition. The Fund was created by Ted Forstmann and John Walton to give disadvantaged families more choice in their child's education. The founders have written CSF with \$100 million and have raised matching funds around the country toward the scholarships. According to the Seattle Times, families in King County will receive 250



scholarships totalling \$1 million dollars. That's an average of \$1,000 per family per year. Families can apply by calling 1-800-805-KIDS or by visiting CSF on the web at <http://www.scholarshipfund.org> before March 31, 1999. On April 22, 1999, using a computer drawing, CSF will award at least 40,000 four-

year scholarships for children entering grades K-8 nationwide.

Springhurst will use the same income criteria as CSF in determining eligibility for 1999-2000 scholarships. Students entering grades 4-6 may also enter an essay competition for a \$250 scholarship to Springhurst. For more information, call our director or visit <http://www.springhurst.org/scholarships.htm>. ■



Look At What's Taking Off At Springhurst.

Summer 1999

SPRINGHURST OFFERS
EXCITING PROGRAMS
FOR CHILDREN AGES 4-13

JUNE 28 - AUGUST 13, 1999

We have four weeks of great activities planned for the summer. Join us for any or all of our special Summer Programs: Rocket Launch!, Cinemagic, Growing Crazy, and Pulp Art.

Class sizes are limited so sign up right away!

Register by March 31 & **Save \$10!**
Register for more than one class and get a **free t-shirt!**

www.springhurst.org/summer.htm

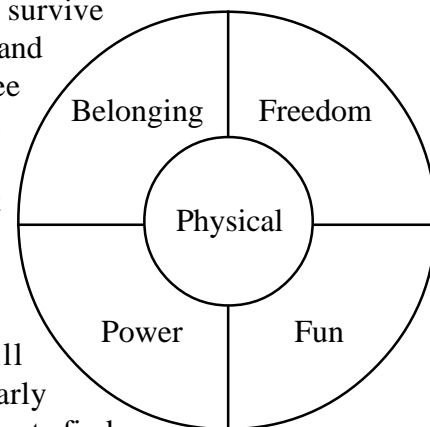
Making A Good Choice In The Classroom

A recent article in Gifted Child Today shed some light on 'perceptions of reality', a sometimes elusive concept that explains why people do what they do. The article is about helping students balance their psychological needs and it led me to a book entitled Choice Theory in the Classroom (Harper Perennial; ISBN 0060952873) by psychiatrist Dr. William Glasser. - ed.

by providing the opportunity for students to meet their psychological needs in the classroom, Dr. William Glasser believes that they will be happy, well-balanced learners. Glasser has proposed "choice theory" (which he called control theory until recently) which states that people are not motivated by outside stimuli but by internal, psychological needs. He asserts that students work in school not because the teacher has asked them to but for purely internal reasons. According to choice theory, the student is actually working to fulfill one or more of four psychological needs: belonging, power, freedom, or fun. Many of these needs are often overlooked in our nation's schools.

Certainly many students are indeed motivated to work in school and this is because they already believe that learning will satisfy their needs. In Chapter 3, Glasser explains the difference between these four psychological needs and our physical (survival) needs:

Humans not only need (1) to survive and reproduce, but also (2) to belong and love, (3) to gain power, (4) to be free and (5) to have fun. All five needs are built into our genetic structure as instructions for how we must attempt to live our lives...When we attempt to satisfy the nonsurvival, essentially psychological needs,...we run into more difficulty because what will satisfy these needs is much less clearly defined. For example, it is much harder to find a friend than to come in from the cold.



If you choose to read his book, be forewarned; Glasser makes many generalizations and claims with which I simply cannot agree. He believes in 'choice' to the complete exclusion of stimulus-response. He claims, "our behavior always arises from within ourselves, never from an outside stimulus." An example he gives is that we do not answer a telephone because it rings. Unlike an answering machine, we get to choose whether we answer the phone or not. That is an important distinction. However, he has left out the fact that if the phone had not rung (a stimulus) we would not have had to make the choice (a response).

Nevertheless, students and teachers who are aware of choice theory and allow it to change how they operate in the classroom can reap its benefits. It has already had a favorable effect on our school. Actively seeking to share power, have fun, be free, and belong to a group will help our students grow as learners and citizens. "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," is not a new idea and perhaps classrooms should start living up to it. ■

Technology At School

One of our goals at Springhurst is to make sure that we are using available technology to serve students in any way we can. Our sophisticated computer lab is now equipped to help them with their immediate learning goals as well as helping them develop skills to use technology in the future. During this school year we have put nearly all of our computers on a local network. This network is served not only by the local computers but also a state-of-the-art DSL connection to the Internet. Our library card catalog is available to all users on the network as is our Accelerated Reader testing program. Using the computers every day, students are able to work with educational software, do research, send and receive e-mail, and compose projects.

Most of the students have their own web pages and we will be expanding those this semester. Recently we created a web site called **Kids Only** for our students as well as visitors. Here our students will be able to post projects that they have done so that others may see them. They will also develop games and activities for their guests. We have already set up a PetCam so visitors can "visit" our newest classroom pets. See the box below this article for the appropriate URL's. Of course there are some projects that we don't want to share with just anybody and for these we have a password-protected portion of our web site that is for Springhurst families only. ■



Kids Only and a view of the PetCam

Summer Programs Now Enrolling

This summer Springhurst is offering four week-long programs and each is an exploration of a new topic. Our popular rocketry class makes its third appearance this summer. Students in **Rocket Launch!** will learn about rocketry and build model rockets. **Growing Crazy** is a new program for young gardeners. Artists will enjoy the **Pulp Art** week during which we will make our own paper and paper art. The final week is **Cinemagic**, a fun and educational project for aspiring filmmakers.

Each summer class is limited to the first 12 students who enroll, so you won't want to wait. To receive a brochure you may call us at 425-827-7617 or e-mail summer@springhurst.org. You may also get information from our web site at <http://www.springhurst.org/summer.htm>. Online enrollment is available there as well. Each program runs for five days, from 9 AM to 3 PM. Child care is available. All programs are open to children ages 7-13 except Growing Crazy which is for children ages 4-8. Register by March 31 and save \$10. All students who register for more than one session will receive a free Springhurst Summer '99 t-shirt! ■

Independent Projects In All Sizes

The students at Springhurst spend part of each day working on their independent projects. In the autumn issue of **SPRINGHURST QUARTERLY** you read an excerpt from Trey's book. On February 12, we had a Valentine's Day party at school that was arranged by Amber as an independent project. Amber planned games, craft activities, and refreshments for the party. Victoria and Laurel are putting the finishing touches on a karate calendar they have designed. The calendar features photos of the girls demonstrating karate moves, recipes for healthy snacks, and martial arts trivia. Among the projects scheduled for this semester are book reviews and "commercials" for students' favorite books. Each student will also develop a project into a series of web pages for **Kids Only**. ■



Find It On The Web



Here are some web sites relating to our articles:

Children's Scholarship Fund:
<http://www.scholarshipfund.org>

Springhurst Scholarships:
<http://www.springhurst.org/scholarships.htm>

The William Glasser Institute:
<http://www.wglasserinst.com>

Kids Only:
<http://www.springhurst.org/kidsonly>

Springhurst PetCam:
<http://www.springhurst.org/petcam.htm>