



ABBY KELLEY FOSTER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

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October 25, 2004

Dear Parents,

According to a survey of charter school teachers that was conducted by the Pioneer Institute, these are the top five reasons teachers chose charter schools: philosophy of mission, opportunity to control curriculum, quality of the academic program, collaborative working environment and high standards for student achievement. After last week's trip to *Nature's Classroom* in Freedom, NH, AKF teachers might add: "The chance to take sixty thirteen-year-olds into the woods for three nights and four days."

Seventh grade students and teachers had the opportunity to attend *Nature's Classroom*, an overnight program designed to expose students to nature in a collaborative educational setting. A great time was had by all, as evidenced from the following student comments:

Marble: It was fantastic. It was great. It was awesome. It's something that you'll remember for the rest of your life because it was very creative in the way they were teaching.

Patrick B.: Last week was one of the best times of my life. I couldn't believe how much fun I had at Nature's Classroom. We did "All Inked Out," "Run for Your Life," and "The Underground Railroad." The fun just kept going on.

Maya: My favorite activity at Nature's Classroom was a simulation of one of the hardest times in American history – the Underground Railroad, and it scared me. We were taken to safe spots, we encountered bounty hunters, and we were hidden under a table. When we made it to the North, I knew it was a simulation I would never forget.

Mike D.: Nature's Classroom was a lot of fun. We played games that taught us a lot about cooperation, nature, and how things work. We explored the woods with our field group leader, found out interesting facts, had fires, and explored the beach.

Samantha: We roasted marshmallows, had contests, and mainly learned to work together as a group. Afterwards, we would just have fun and hang out in our cabins with friends.

Russell: One of the best classes I took was 'Dissecting Halloween'. In that class we cut open snakes and Lamprey eels.

Simplice: It was fun. The staff was really funny, and they were fun. The activities were fun. The Underground Railroad taught me a lot about slavery back then.

Casie: The food was awesome. I want to go back! The field group teachers were really nice. All the simulations were awesome!

Jin Soon: We did many things at Nature's Classroom, a lot of which I will always remember and look back on and be able to say how lucky I am to have wonderful friends.

Alyssa: It was fun. Everything was fun. The field groups, the dining hall, chosen classes, were all fun.

Amanda G: Every day we split into our field groups and did lots of fun activities like plays and outdoor games. I did slingshots with Son, and we shot a tennis ball 199 feet!

Amanda V: Thursday Night Live was funny and fun. The UGRR was scary, but it was fun. Field group and the classes were fun. I didn't want to leave; I almost cried!

Since my office is at the end of the 7th grade wing, on parent/teacher conference evening I overheard parents talking about the trip as well. One mother said, "I wish the kids could do something like this every year. It was definitely worth the cost."

Mrs. Lee's 5th grade advisor group would like to thank students, their families and friends for participating in the successful fundraiser at D'Angelo to benefit the Children's Room at UMass Memorial Hospital. We raised money for toys, books, games and DVDs. Mrs. Lee would like to acknowledge the students' hard work and commitment to this worthy cause. AKF student Justin Prashad and D'Angelo's manager Jessica LaBaire deserve special thanks for initiating and coordinating this wonderful evening.

Please do not forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, October 31 when daylight savings time ends. Elementary students begin their day at 7:50 a.m.; students in the middle and high schools begin at 7:40 a.m. and will be considered tardy if they arrive after 7:45 a.m.

The next "Donuts with Doris" will be held on Thursday, October 28, from 7:45–8:30 a.m. at the middle/high school either in my office or the second floor conference room. This is a time for informal conversation on a wide range of topics. Please RSVP to June Chapin at x2606 if you plan to attend so we have enough treats on hand. All parents are welcome.

Sincerely,

Doris Schroeder

Doris Schroeder
Head of School

If you require translation, please contact the school at 508-854-8400 x3681
Si usted requiere la traducción, avisa por favor la escuela en 508-854-8400 x3681
Jezeli wy wymagacie tłumaczenia, sprawiac prosze kontakt szkola przy (508) 854-8400 x3681
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