

Do not let the children pass a day without distinct efforts: intellectual, moral, volitional.

Charlotte Mason

**Special  
Persons' Day**

**February 4  
10:30-12:30 am**

**Please invite one or two special friends to join your child in the classroom and participate in their learning experience. Special friends may stay and eat lunch with the children before classes are dismissed at 12:30.**

## Avoiding a Morning Wasted 3rd in a Series on Educating Our Children

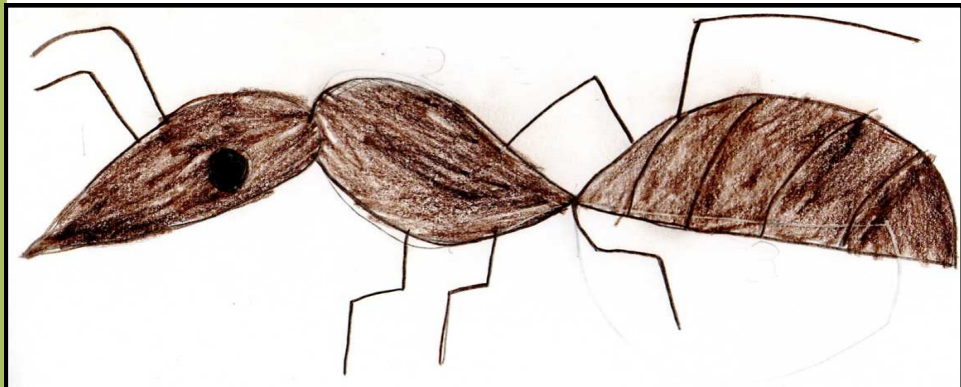
*A morning void of ideas is a morning wasted.* These words, spoken by Charlotte Mason, appeared in the last issue of *The Gateway*. How do we avoid a wasted morning? It begins with a few seemingly obvious, but important, considerations. Does the lesson present the children with facts only, or does it give them something to reflect upon, to wonder about? Does the teacher do most of the talking, and the thinking for the children, leading them to right answers, or does she allow for the children to do the work of attending and thinking?

Perhaps a look at an actual lesson can further help to answer the question. Recently, during a study of ants in the k/1st grade class, the students were listening to an account of life in a colony of harvester ants, written by an entomologist. We were struck by the many and varied roles of each ant, including the "nurses" whose main responsibility it is to lick the larvae to keep them from drying out; that is, until she may be needed to help the "guards" fight off an enemy attack. Discussion turned to noticing how ants each have their area of responsibility, but quickly drop everything to help another bear a burden—just like we are to do. The children then began to wonder if different ant types have similar roles, which led us to further investigations, marveling at the design of the Creator with each new discovery.

As some of students sculpted the four stages of the lifecycle of the ant from beeswax, others dictated all they knew about life in the colony. In doing so they were able to, in their own words, compose an oral paragraph or more, rich in descriptive language and new vocabulary. Not only does this help serve the child's language development, but, compared with a fill-in-the-blank worksheet, it gives the teacher a much more complete record of what the child actually knows.

Not surprisingly, later in the day, as the children prepared the room for lunch, a young self-proclaimed "Queen" supervised the "gatherers" as they collected lunch boxes and the "workers" as they rearranged desks and chairs to form our lunch table.

Rebekah Brown



*Harvester Ant, Science  
Colored Pencil  
Naomi Steele, 1st*

## SCCS Open House

An Open House for prospective parents is scheduled for Tuesday, 2/26 from 7-8 pm at the school. There will be a short presentation, time for questions and answers, and refreshments will be served. From 10-11 am the following day (Wed., 2/27) visitors may join the children in their classrooms to see how we spend our mornings.

Please think of families you know who may be interested. More information as well as an invitation for SCCS families to distribute will follow.

## “I’M GOING TO TURN THIS WORLD UPSIDE DOWN”

*My brother Martin* tells the story of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the words of his sister Christine. The portrayal of the King children growing up in segregated Atlanta as they first experience the realities and indignities of injustice, depicts Martin declaring to his mother that he will one day “turn this world upside down.” Our young students struggled as they sought to picture Martin’s life as he lived it. They too were disturbed by the inequalities and just as baffled by adult explanations. Filled with admiration for King, and struck with the almost incomprehensible picture of how our very classroom would look under a code of segregation, the words began to fly as they voiced dreams about turning their own world upside down.

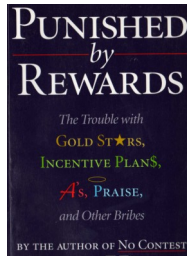
I have a dream. . .

- ◇ that there would not be any war and that soldiers would not kill people.  
Michelle
- ◇ that everyone would be friendly, even if they don’t know someone.  
Paxie
- ◇ that no one would drop trash on the road anymore.  
Max
- ◇ that spiders would only make their webs outside where it’s pretty; not in my house.  
Sanaa
- ◇ that no robbers would break into any more buildings.  
Sawyer
- ◇ that all the laws would be fair.  
Calvin
- ◇ that people would never be mean again.  
Marah
- ◇ that no one would get sick anymore, especially when they drink out of the pool.  
Paxie
- ◇ that anyone with black skin or white skin can always be together—to play and to work.  
Max



*Begonia*, Nature Study  
Drybrush Watercolor  
Max Nelson, K

## BOOK REVIEW



### Punished by Rewards

Alfie Kohn

In *Punished by Rewards*, Alfie Kohn clearly and concisely argues the profound wrongness of behaviorism, which in a nutshell is: “Do this and

you will get that.”

We are swimming upstream in our culture if we reject behaviorism’s hidden foundations and unquestioned methods. Behaviorism is the basis for the average parent’s interactions with children. School reforms are generally stuck in terms of what incentives for teachers and students will produce results.

Kohn shows behaviorism’s practices and assumptions about the nature of the human being to be both objectionable and counterproductive. Behaviorism, as Kohn states, proceeds from a boundless faith in science. Humans are to be analyzed the way we analyze a plant or a chemical compound. Behaviorism’s conditioning methods are based on animal research, which is then directly applied to children, who are viewed as the passive, neutral products of their environment and genetics. While Charlotte Mason advocates a view of the child as a person, behaviorism views the child as a laboratory rat.

Kohn shows that manipulating children’s behavior teaches them to be satisfied with doing the right thing for the wrong reasons. The worst time to use rewards with children, study after study shows, is for behaviors we would like them to want to do, such as reading, learning, or being generous.

One of Kohn’s many illustrations is the story of an old man who was being tormented regularly by some kids. One day, he offered them each a dollar to come back and mock him the next day. Then he offered them a quarter, and finally only a penny. They stopped coming.

Bribes quickly kill off a child’s interest in the very things we are ultimately bribing them to do. Do you think that offering a child a Twinkie to eat a salad increases his appreciation of the salad? What happens when you are no longer offering the Twinkie, or when the child decides that a Twinkie is no longer worth the effort?

Clear, convincing, and substantiated, this book will open your eyes to the truth about these cultural assumptions.

Anna Migeon

# Community Offerings

at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

## Raptor Watch

Saturday and Sunday, January 19, 20  
9:00 am — 3:00 pm

Scopes will be set up on the Confluence Viewing Platform to allow for an awe-inspiring look at the third largest watershed in the world. Look for eagles and other raptors as they soar over Columbia Bottom and the Missouri River. (Bring your own binoculars too.)

at the Missouri Botanical Garden

## Backyard Bird Festival

Saturday, February 2, 7:30 am-2 pm

Bird walks, live birds, hands-on programs for kids and bird related exhibits for children ages 3-12.

Download a registration form on [www.mobot.org/education](http://www.mobot.org/education) or call 314.577.9506.

## Celebrate the Gospel

The 19th Annual Celebrate the Gospel features the Mardra Thomas and the Glad Tidings Quintet in a tribute to Mahalia Jackson.

Sunday, February 10, 3 pm in the Shoenberg Theater.



Gerber Daisy, Nature Study  
Drybrush Watercolor  
Michelle Krahlung, K

**Report Cards will be sent home  
with your child on  
Wednesday, January 23rd.  
Please bring the signed report card  
with you to your scheduled  
Parent/Teacher Conference on  
Friday, January 25th.**

*A warm  
welcome  
to the  
Fulton  
family!*

John and Marykay's son,  
Isaac is the newest  
member of our  
kindergarten class.

We welcome your  
submissions, responses,  
or questions.  
Send to:  
Rebekah Brown at  
rab1210@gmail.com

## Chapel Schedule

Please join us for Chapel each  
Wednesday at 8:15 am in the Me-  
morial Chapel, 4th floor. Each  
week a guest from the community  
will share with us. Families are wel-  
come to attend.

### February 13

Macklann Basse, Pastoral Intern,  
New City Fellowship South

### February 20

Steve St. Pierre, Director of Advancement  
Restore St. Louis

### February 27

Jacqueline Lacy, Youth Minister  
Chesterfield Presbyterian Church

### March 5

No Chapel  
Enrichment Excursion to the Symphony

### March 12

Ron Lutjens, Pastor  
Old Orchard Church

### March 19

Trevor Brown  
Proclaim Ministries

It is the mission of South City  
Community School to cooperate  
with families in providing a Christ-  
centered education that challenges  
the whole child to discover God's  
truth, to love learning, and to re-  
late knowledge with action. Our  
purpose is to inspire children to  
embrace and flourish in their God-  
given calling as His image bearers  
and to go forth as agents for truth  
and reconciliation in their  
community. We have an inten-  
tional mission to underprivileged  
children and families of St. Louis  
City.



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