

FIRST EVANGELICAL
FREE CHURCH

2008-2009
MOPS
STEERING
TEAM

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REMINDERS:

Please turn your cell phone ringer off or on vibrate. If you have to answer a call please exit

Babies 3 months and younger are welcome during the meeting. Older children should be in

The food drop off doors will be open again. Look for the door marked "D".

Services at First Free:
Saturday: "Alternative"
Borderlands @ 5pm
Sundays: Traditional
@8:30am and Contemporary
@10:15am

Dear God,
Motivate my child to the potential you've placed within her, move her to discover not just what is good, but what is best.

Enjoy The Ride!

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23, 2008

Train Up A Child

I can remember the first day of school for my oldest child Paige very well. I remember crying after the teacher had read a poem and had us touch a cotton ball that was glued to the paper with the same poem she read on it for us to take home. The poem was to remind us of our child and how soft their skin is and how we will miss them while in school. Paige has been going to Public School now for five years and this year is her sixth year. Noah is in Kindergarten as you know and he has been in public preschool for a year and a half prior to this year. We would love to be able to send them to a Private school; it is just a little out of our budget right now. I have to say that I have been really pleased with the teachers that they have had so far though. I always make sure that I pray regarding the teachers that my kids may get; as well as the friends they will make. It is a hard thing to let go of our children when they start preschool and when they go to "big kids" school, kindergarten. We are totally putting our faith in the person that is teaching them on a daily basis. The most important thing that my husband and I try to instill in Paige and Noah's mind and hearts is that which we know to be true because of our faith. We have talked

Moppets Information

If you have a child 0-18 months we ask you to bring a box or refill of wipes for their classroom. If your child is 18months—5 years please bring a bulk snack item (ie. a big box of goldfish or bag of animal crackers). Please NO individual packages for snacks. All nametags will continue to be kept outside your child's room until the new system is put in place. We all know we are in the midst of flu season. To keep all of our children healthy, I cannot stress how important how

to them about what they may hear in school or see, and that it may not be entirely true. Since so much of what is taught in public school is mainly one sided specifically when it comes to evolution; creation is never taught in public school typically. I remember when Paige had come home from school one day and said that she had read something on the playground equipment at school that was not appropriate for a child to read, and at first I was really hurt that she had to read that at a place where she was



supposed to be learning good things, not profanity. I told her that we live in an imperfect world, and that sometimes people do things that are not all together good and that we shouldn't hate them but pray for them and love them. I think I also threw in there the importance of not using curse words. The Bible is a great resource for kids to understand things when they see injustices whether at school, or on TV, or in a relationship. like this verse that says,

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). We all may decide different ways to educate our kids, and each child is different in the way they learn as well. I strongly believe that kids are influenced mainly by their parents and what they see in the home. The relationship that they see modeled at home by their parents plays a huge role in whom they become as adults. Our kids spend the majority of the time with us and they are very observant and aware of their surroundings. My prayer is that we can provide a home environment that teaches our kids respect for others and for God. Ultimately our kids look to us for guidance and direction. I was so happy when my daughter took a stand for what was right and came home from a friends house because she didn't want to watch a particular show that she knew we wouldn't approve of. It is times like those that make me realize she does care and respect what we value in our home and for her life as well. *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6).*

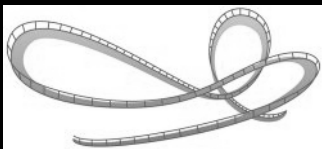
important this is, we ask you to please wash your child's hands with soap and water before entering their room. All children and staff are asked to refrain from attending when ill. Children should not be admitted into class with any of the following symptoms and/or illness; fever or vomiting in the last 24 hours, impetigo, runny nose (unclear), rashes, skin infection-boils, ringworm, measles, mumps, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, coughing/croup, head lice ,including

the presence of eggs or nits. Remember to label all diapers, bags and sippy cups or bottles. If you ever have any questions or concerns., please see one of your steering team members or Teresa Hubbard. FYI - we have a pager system. If you'd like to use it is located in the baby room. Just leave your keys. If you are needed the childcare workers will page you!



Visit our Website
@www.firstfree-women.org

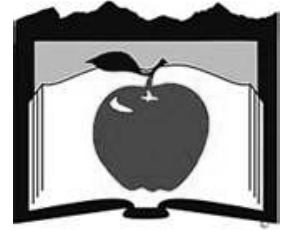
**“...how wide
and long and
high and
deep is the
love of
Christ...”
Eph. 3:18**



OUR PANELISTS

Today we are pleased to have four mothers with us to help inform us about different educational choices we have for our children. Betsy Anderson is a Home School Mom to her three kids, Samuel (13), Mitchell (11), and Elise (9). Brenda Buzzard is also with us today and she has five children; Jordan (14½), Tyler (13), Lauren (9), Christian (6), and Jackson (2). All of Brenda's children attend Rockford Christian School except for Jackson as of now.

Michelle Fay is also a panelist today, and she has a seventh grader, John Michael and second grader, Paul, both of which attend a public school in Roscoe. Michelle is also a MOPS alumni, she was a Discussion Group Leader, DG Coordinator, Co Coordinator and Coordinator, as well as Area Coordinator. Beth Fontana is a mother of three; Paige, is 18 and is a freshman in college, Dane is 11 and in the fifth grade and Tess is 12 and in the 7th grade. Paige attended a



private school all of her academic life, and Tess and Dane attend public school in Rockford. Thanks to all of you for being here this morning!

Teach Your Children Well (By Evelyn Loeb & Virginia Unser)



- Treat a child gently and you will teach compassion.
- When you speak softly you are more apt to be heard.
- Eat together and your children will learn not only manners but also the meaning of family.
- Think before you speak; it is easier to forget what was never said.
- Praise gets more attention

- than blame.
- Play together. The sound of laughter is never forgotten.
- When you share the fruits of your labor, your children will know the meaning of charity.
- It is easier to forgive than to hold a grudge.
- Set a good example by forgiving those who have wronged you.

- Accept imperfections; even the sky is sometimes filled with clouds.
- Allow your children to see you make a mistake. They need to know that you are human, too.
- Be lavish with hugs and kisses. There is no such thing as too much affection.
- Be generous with encouragement and sparing with criticism.

Better Moms Make A Better World.

I believe that who we are as moms really does shape our world in such a huge way. What we instill in our children will continue to be instilled in our children's children. We have a opportunity to leave a legacy with our children. I think about my mom and the values and morals she instilled within me and now I can in turn give that to my children as well. It is so rewarding and fulfilling to see our children begin to possess those values and characteristics that are pleasing to us and most of all God. When we

truly realize who we are as women and mothers we can make a better world. I love that MOPS International exists to encourage, equip, and develop every mother of preschoolers to realize her potential as a woman, mother, and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. I remember when I first came to MOPS and I was very hesitant to come because I only knew one person. I enjoyed the speakers and the friendly people that were here. I have met a lot of people over the years here at

MOPS. I think that God has used MOPS in my life to help me to realize my potential, and also to increase my confidence as a woman and mother and a leader. MOPS helps us to realize that we were not alone in this Adventure Of Mothering. We are all on the same ride so to speak and we need to hold on and not let go of our faith that keeps us moving. Andrew Murray said, "The secret of home rule: first being ourselves what we want our children to be."