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# RAGGANT STANDARD

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## NAVAL STATION FIELD TRIP: FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH

We will be meeting at the school at the normal time, with a departure for the Naval base immediately after Matins. At this point, only chaperones who have completed paperwork and been cleared may travel on base with the students. Once there, we will have an opportunity to tour the base and a destroyer. Students will return to the school for pick-up at 3pm. The cost for this is free, and a hearty “thank you” to Jubal and Suzanne Marlatt for being our liaisons and for all their work!



NAVSTA Everett is home to two Guided-Missile Destroyers, a Coast Guard Keeper-class cutter USCGC Henry Blake, and a USCG Marine Protector Class Patrol Boat, USCGC Blue Shark. There are about 6,000 Sailors and Civil Service persons assigned to commands located at Naval Station Everett. The Naval Station itself has about 350 Sailors and Civilians assigned.

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### Logistics:

- Please wear Dress Uniform, and if you have an option, choose comfortable shoes to walk in.
- Bring a sack (literally) lunch, as we will not be carting lunch bags around the base.
- Photography is allowed, so chaperones are welcome to bring cameras. Chaperones, also please remember your Driver’s License and Auto Registration.
- Students should leave electronic devices at home this day.



## INFORMATION NIGHT: JANUARY 30TH

Our Information Night will be Monday, January 30th at 7pm at Reclamation Church. Please plan on attending and having your student(s) arrive at 6:45pm in Event Uniform, as both choirs will be performing - you are the very best advertising we have! If you would like to bring cookies or other refreshments, please contact Jolie Hall.



### BIRTHDAYS

Abigail Sarr: 1/12

Veronica Yerina: 1/18

Kaitlyn Hall: 1/23

Abigail vanderBeken: 1/30

Anne Callender: 2/10

**“Fairy tales do not tell children the dragons exist. Children already know that dragons exist. Fairy tales tell children the dragons can be killed.”**

— G.K. Chesterton

We will have normal school at home on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Mid-Winter break will be Friday, February 10th through Monday, February 13th. The homework load will be much lighter over this weekend to provide a little breath of air in the dreariest month of the year, at least in Narnia.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1/27: End of Quarter 2/Semester 1
- 1/28: Rhetoric Field Trip
- 2/3: Dress Uniform and Assembly at 2:15pm - family welcome!
- 2/4: DeMiero Jazz Festival
- 2/10 - 2/13: Mid-Winter Break
- 2/24: ECS Raggant Speech Tournament



## Platonic Hammers

By Mrs. Bowers (subbing in for the U.H.)

I grew up watching *This Old House* with my Dad. I actually couldn't care less (then and now) about nuances of carpentry or dovetailed joints, but I loved spending time with my Dad, and the information proved invaluable when working at Home Depot and smugly telling a pretentious lumber associate that OSB stood for Oriented Strand Board.

The other valuable thing I learned while watching carpentry shows with my Father was the need for the right tools - and the many uses for those tools. I learned about the basics like socket wrenches. I was amazed at the power of a radial arm saw, or the beautiful application of a lathe.

Recently during a Sunday morning sermon, Mr. Higgins asked parents, "What do you want your children to *be*?" In light of your child's education, as you round the final proverbial lap with your eighteen-year-old shaking Mr. Sarr's hand and clutching an ECS diploma, what type of soul do you want to see?

As parents and educators for both young women and men alike, we need to establish - perhaps simply daily remind ourselves - of the foundational goal of classical education. It is not to get a good job, get good grades, make good money, or even change the world. It is not geared to boys more than girls; the intellectually gifted nor the intellectually different. The end construction project all these tools are aiming at - what we want our students to be - are worshippers who glorify God. We desire to aid young people in their love, devotion, adoration, service, and delight in the triune, magnificent Almighty. Every algebra equation should be a small peg upon which to hang their wonder of fractals and bodily chemical equations and reactions - every diagrammed sentence a tiny glimpse of the Word that spins spider webs every day and the intricacy of language and relationships - every music class a mini-study of Three-in-One, diversity in unity, the necessity for major and minor chords in all things. The main point of classical education for parents, educators, and administrators is the carpenter him or herself: a full-bodied, fully-equipped, fully individualized sub-creator.

But this formative process is hard, and really, you have to believe that Latin actually does influence you as a worshipper of God - otherwise, why are you here? Why are you panting along the marathon? The 5K is just around the corner, and it's free. As your son or daughter stands with their metaphorical tool bag before you, see the future carpenter first. See how education shapes and strengthens the hands, heart, mind, and soul. See that education is about virtue and character.

Then, look to the tools themselves. At ECS, we are trying to give your student a huge variety of tools; each young man or woman will use those tools differently. You have to trust that reading Plato equips a student for engineering and for mothering equally. The application will vary wildly, but as your student reads hard books from Kindergarten to 12th grade, educators are placing a powerful tool in the child's bag. Let's say it's a hammer. Basic. Essential. Wildly useful. Your 12th grade son graduates and goes on to an Ivy League



university where he seeks to become a biologist. He encounters Evolution in his survey class, and all of a sudden he pulls out the hammer and uses it for an application he hasn't before: when the professor states Darwin introduced Evolutionary Theory, the student asks about the influence of Socrates on Darwin. Bang.

Your daughter graduates from a great school, gets a job, and then marries at twenty. Though she and her husband weren't planning to have children right away, just nine months later, at the age of twenty-one, they are blessed with a glorious little soul. This soul begins growing, and one day in the wake of the child's uncle dying, late at bedtime (when children become profound philosophers), he asks about heaven. He is scared of death, and Heaven is just some nebulous cloud in the sky. The young mother, rocking her child, begins to tell him of a Real World, where everything is solid, where there are un-fallen Forms of strawberries and grass so real it would hurt your feet now to step on it. She asks, "Will you help me pick real Strawberries and make Real pie in Heaven? All this, dear son, is but Shadows - Heaven is the Reality." Bang.

So thank you for trusting us to help teach your child the difference between a phillips-head and a slotted screwdriver; thank you for helping bind up paper cuts and nurse weary muscles; thank you for dealing with the sawdust of intellectual fallout and the splinters of irritating math equations. Thank you for seeing that the carpenter and the carpentry is worth it, because we are part of the far bigger Building of an infinitely good Builder.

