



Around the Ranch

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Summer 2024

Volume 52, Issue 2

Easy Ways to Help Alpha's Kids:

- Save Best Choice UPC Symbols for Alpha to redeem for 3¢ each.
- Link your Dillons Plus Shopper Card to Alpha's Charity number—XU454.
- Save General Mills Box Tops—Scan Receipts with the Box Tops App! **SCHOOL ID: 217400** Each Box Top credits 10¢ to Alpha Christian School via the App. This helps purchase school curriculum.

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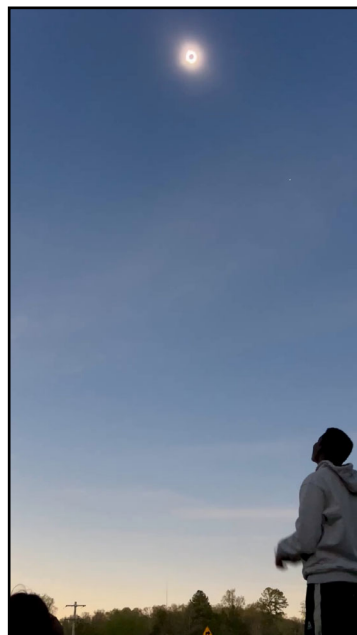
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Creating Wonderful, Childhood Memories



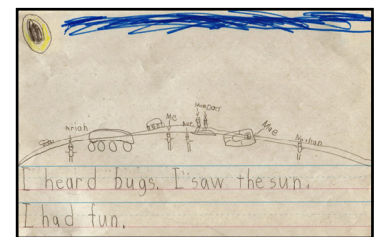
We took the kids on a loong field trip to a state park near Poplar Bluff, Missouri, on April 8th, targeting the path of totality of this year's total Solar Eclipse since it will be another 20 years before this will happen again in our area. The weather was perfect for viewing the eclipse there with clear skies and lovely temperatures! The kids relished their outdoor time, running and chasing each other around the park, and playing tag after a delicious fried chicken picnic, while we waited for eclipse time to arrive.

They were amazed as they began viewing the progress of the moon passing in front of the sun through their special solar viewing glasses. They were truly awestruck when the moment of totality hit, the earth darkened in the moon's shadow, the air around them chilled, and a shimmering ring appeared, outlining the moon. You can see Elvis' joy and awe in the photo to the left even though you can't see his face.

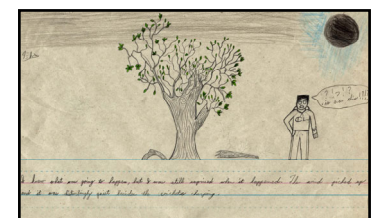
What a great opportunity to share a uniquely beautiful moment together and witness the magnificence of God's creation wonderful childhood memory-making right there! You can find a "reel" video of this moment posted on our Facebook page if you're interested in hearing the excited exclamations erupting from the kids when the shimmering, total eclipse ring appeared!

Our learning center's summer trimester has just begun, and Mrs. Sims, our teacher, posted these student field trip reports in the foyer for our visitors to enjoy. We've posted them to our Facebook page as well

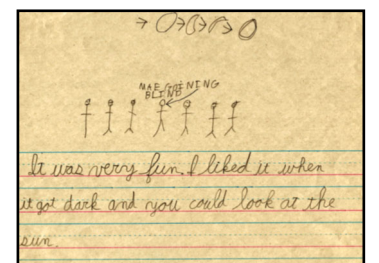
so that you can see them larger and in more detail if desired. Enjoy!



"I heard bugs. I saw the sun. I had fun." ~ Emmie, age 7



"I knew what was going to happen, but I was still surprised when it happened. The wind picked up, and it was disturbingly quiet besides the crickets chirping." ~ Elvis, age 16





Summer weather brings lots of outdoor activity opportunities for the children. They recently went for a family bike ride together one warm, sunny afternoon!



Ava and Mae work on their Rosetta Stone high school Spanish courses online in the learning center.



We love it when our graduated alumni stop by for a visit! Julian was back from College of the Ozarks for a week to visit with his



Nathan was had this time for Nathan's day!

Birthday celebrations are always a great opportunity to create special family memories and reinforce to each child that they are uniquely special, valued, and loved. Bowling alley fun



The kids have been working on their numerous 4-H projects, preparing them for the



brother, Elvis, before he had to return to work at the Keeter Center. Ksusha stopped by to

county fair at the end of July. Aria recently gave a "project talk" at our local club's monthly meeting about her woodworking project of building a bat house. It was such an interesting demonstration, and there were a lot of questions from her member peers that she enjoyed answering. If you are ever visiting out here, ask her about this project! She'd love to tell you all about it.

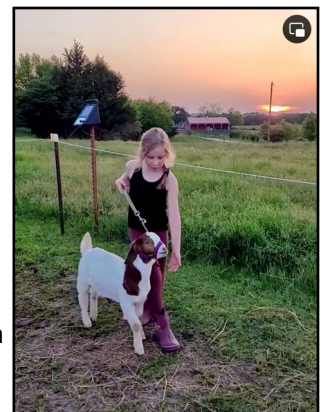


visit at that time as well! They all kindly helped Mrs. Kincaid unload new outdoor furniture for the Alpha House residence deck. Ksusha will be a senior at Wichita State U this fall, and Julian continues his Biochemistry major at the College of the Ozarks.

Ariah and Nathan posed with their excellent archery shots at their 4-H archery practice field!



Emmie is proving to be a great little goat wrangler! She is training two meat goats, and she has trained both to walk with her all by herself!

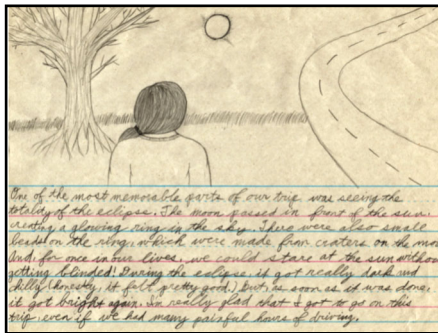


Creating Wonderful, Childhood Memories, Cont'd ...

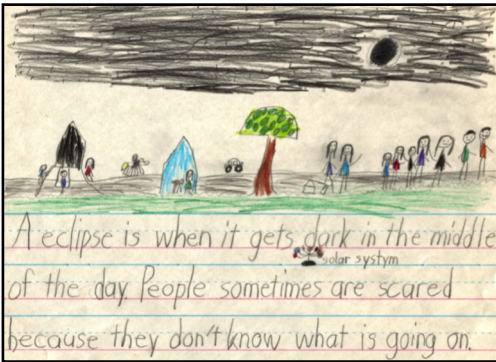
(For Picture at the Bottom of Page 1)

"It was very fun. I liked it when it got dark, and you could look at the sun."

~ Nathan, age 10



One of the most memorable parts of our trip was seeing the totality of the eclipse. The moon passed in front of the sun creating a glowing ring in the sky. There were also small beads on the ring, which were made from craters on the moon. And, for once in our lives, we could stare at the sun without getting blinded! During the eclipse, it got really dark and chilly (honestly, it felt pretty good), but as soon as it was done, it got bright again. I'm really glad that I got to go on this trip, even if we had many painful hours of driving.



A eclipse is when it gets dark in the middle of the day. People sometimes are scared because they don't know what is going on.

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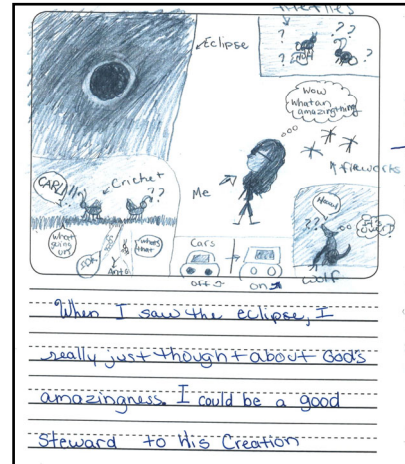
~ Aria, age 9

"One of the most memorable parts of our trip was seeing the totality of the eclipse. The moon passed in front of the sun, creating a glowing

ring in the sky. There were also small beads on the ring, which were made from the craters on the moon. And, for once in our lives, we could stare at the sun without getting blinded! During the eclipse, it got really dark and chilly (honestly, it felt pretty good), but as soon as it was done, it got bright again. I'm really glad that I got to go on this trip, even if we had many painful hours of driving." (Ha!!) ~ Ava, age 15

(For Picture in the Next Column.)

"When I saw the eclipse, I really just thought about God's amazingness. I could be a good steward to His Creation." ~ Mae, age 14



When I saw the eclipse, I really just thought about God's amazingness. I could be a good steward to His Creation.

We want to thank each of you for everything YOU do to make Alpha's beautiful haven in the woods possible for the kids.

Thank you for helping us to make such sweet childhood memories for them with special field trips and activities like this one!!

You truly make a wonderful difference for them!!

Memorial Gifts & Gifts Given In Honor

Given IN MEMORY Of:

Alietha Helga Beckman

By: Barbara Cople
Lawrence, Kansas

James & Michelle Martin
Liberty, Missouri

Kristine Ziegler
Sarah, Sophie, Tara,
Seraphine, Dawn & Krissy
St. Louis, Missouri

Troy Lee Freeman

By: Marjorie Freeman, Travis & Family;
Trent & Family;

Terri Marie Freeman
Tonganoxie, Kansas

Thomas & Andrea Putthoff
Tonganoxie, Kansas

Edward & Carol Slawson
Tonganoxie, Kansas



Wayne & Elinor Hays

By: Marilyn Aikins
Springfield, Missouri

Margery Reed

By: Ace & Donna Fisher
Topeka, Kansas

Marvie Wedel

By: Shirley Wedel
Derby, Kansas

Given IN HONOR Of:

Debbie Puckett

By: Barnard Christian Church
Barnard, Missouri



Where love heals hurting hearts . . .

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Summer 2024



Mission Pantry Needs

- Butter, 2% Milk
- Fresh Fruits & Veggies
- Breakfast Cereals
- Shredded, Block, & Sliced Cheeses, String Cheese Sticks
- Snack Packs, Fruit Cups, Juice Boxes
- Snack Crackers
- Single Serving Packed School Lunch Items
- Canned & Dried Fruits
- Canned Chicken
- Chicken Broth
- Pasta Sauces
- Brown Sugar & Powdered Sugars
- Honey / Peanut Butter
- White Vinegar & Apple Cider Vinegar
- Dishwasher Pods
- Kitchen Size Trash Bags
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- *Lens Cleaning Wipes*
- Native/Dove Deodorant
- Gold Bond Healing Lotion, Cerve Lotion
- Cantu Kids Curl Cream Shampoo & Conditioner
- Argon Oil of Morocco Hair Oil



Special Needs

- Concrete Replacement Project Alpha House—\$2,500
- Deck Repairs & Painting at Alpha House—\$4,500
- Concrete Walkways at Faith House & Grace House—\$3,000
- Exterior Paint For School—\$1,800
- Small Tractor—\$15K

NOTE: If we should have any amount of funding left over from your support for a particular project, we will absolutely use it toward the many other needs of the children.

Like/Follow ALPHA on Facebook for photos, videos, and stories of family and school life around our campus!



Facebook Page