



# Grapevine

## Principal's Corner *Are We There Yet?*

Our son, Micah, was a poor traveler at four years old. Though he liked the idea of going somewhere, when the reality of the journey hit him square in the face, he voiced his frustration quite effectively.

A few years ago we made a family trip to the Monterey Bay area. We had been talking up the trip for quite a while. Micah was excited about going, so much so that he began to be impatient about the whole packing process. In typical kid fashion we found him in his car seat a good 30 minutes before we could leave. Knowing what would be coming later we tried to get him out of the car, but with both of us working on the packing it didn't take him long to get back in his car seat.

Finally, our little road trip began. We were on the road for maybe 15 minutes when we heard the familiar refrain, "Are we there yet?" Our answers never seemed to satisfy him. I wondered if he believed us dense because he kept asking the same questions in about a half dozen forms. "When are we going to get there?" "How far away are we?" "How long is it going to take to get there?"

We kept trying, with little or no success, to answer his questions. He had a limited understanding of time and distance. We even tried to put our answers in terms he could understand. "We'll get there in about as much time as it takes to watch four Veggie Tales." Or "It'll take us about as long as it took us to drive to Grandma Judi's house." He just couldn't wrap his mind around why the trip was taking so long.

Inevitably his patience began to wear thin and the whine would creep into his voice. "This is going to take forever!" This was usually quickly followed with, "We're never going to get there!"

All these questions and pronouncements came in bundles, one was never enough. He pleaded for understanding. He begged for release from his car seat bondage. He was sure that his plight was tragic beyond measure. The tears began to flow in frustration at our seeming indifference to his suffering and the whole car suffered with him.

Typically, after he had calmed down a bit and about a half hour before our arrival, he decided that enough was enough. He'd had it! "I want to go back home!"

We tried not to laugh.

When we finally got there all was forgotten. This was both good and bad. He was happy at the moment, but we wondered how many times we all would have to go through this again before our boy learned to be a little more patient with the journey.

I don't believe it's too much of a stretch to say that we are all a bit like that. We have trouble keeping our life's journey in perspective. We struggle keeping our children's life journey in perspective as well. We lose patience. We become frustrated and question why it's taking so much time to reach a particular milestone or destination. We keep asking the same questions. "When are we going to get there?" "How long is it going to take?" We even whine at God, "This is going to take forever!" We may even be tempted to give up and say mid-journey, "I want to go back!"

Covid-19 has made me feel this way more than once.

When we give God the keys and put Him in the driver's seat we need to expect that it's going to be a long journey, sometimes even an unpleasant one, but the company makes all the difference. It may seem like it's going to take forever, like we'll never get there, but God knows the destination. He'll get us there. Don't be tempted to go back. We'll never get there that way.

"Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

John 14:5-6

Ukiah Junior Academy reopens for in-person instruction for grades K-6 this Wednesday, September 2! Grades 7-10 will begin distance learning Wednesday as well. The teachers are in their classrooms working hard and getting ready for a great new year. They are excited about getting back to teaching and can't wait to see their students. They have missed them all! For those in grades K-6 who are choosing our homeschool option, or those in distance learning for grades 7-10, materials will be available for pick-up tomorrow, September 1. Teachers will contact you to arrange the materials pick-up.

Here is a list of reminders for those coming for in-person instruction on Wednesday:

- **Uniforms**, make sure you have them ready. We have some at the office to purchase.
- **Water bottles**, bring a reusable one filled with water from home for students to bring back and forth so that it can be washed. We will have filtered water available for refills during the day.
- **Masks**, have a supply for the students to have one for every day so they can be washed after use.
- **Registration**, make sure you have completed the process. Please call Allison in the office (462-6350) if you need help walking through this.
- **Morning Drop Off**, remember that parents will not be able to escort their children to the classroom. You may pull up to the steps on the side of the gym as early as 7:30 and we will all be there directing students to their waiting spots outside. At 7:50 teachers will escort the students to the classroom where there will be temperature checks and hand washing/sanitizing as they enter the classroom.
- **Afternoon Pick Up**, I will be in the parking lot with my walkie talkie and at 3:00 (12:15 on Fridays) I will begin announcing who's rides are waiting and the students will exit the classroom and go directly to their cars.

Please feel free to call, email or text me if you have any questions.

God Bless,

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