

Dr. Keller's Blog  
Thursday, June 18, 2009

Before I tell you about today, let me remind you that the students heard from Jeanna Westmoreland last night. She prompted them to discuss creativity and how and whether it can be measured. See if your children remember the concepts of fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration. They were given the task of telling a story by drawing pictures in 10 diamonds within three minutes. Dr. Westmoreland helped them evaluate their creativity by talking about the criteria used to grade this test (called the Torrance test for creative thinking). Afterward, about half of the students attempted to build a tower with some flexible straws, Play-Doh, scissors, and toothpicks. Once the tower was built, it had to support a bowl. Nails were placed in the bowl until the tower collapsed; the student groups received points based on how many nails their tower could support. Oh, they only had six minutes to complete the task. One tower listed quite a bit but held a bunch of nails, and another tower was perfectly straight and held 24 nails. No two towers were constructed the same way.

Students went to their morning classes today. Yesterday, I saw the Geography class using GPS units to find objects around campus, an activity known as "geo-dashing" (as opposed to geocaching). This afternoon the students will go to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Many of the Birmingham area students have probably already been, but this is a must-see for all Alabama students (actually for all Alabama residents). I was remembering when I hosted the National Conference of Governor's School meeting in 2003 and took the participants to the BCRI for a tour and dinner. One of the subjects of a display happened to be a docent that evening (which I happily took credit for!). We passed through the Odessa Woolfolk art gallery on the way to dinner. The speaker at the dinner was Odessa Woolfolk. Even at the last NCoGS meeting, participants from 2003 commented about how meaningful that evening was to them.

One other piece of news: the carillonneur will play a program on the library bells dedicated to the Alabama Governor's School. This has never happened before, and I am deeply touched that he would recognize our group. The program is below.

We are also going to Birmingham Barons game tonight. Though I know not everyone is a baseball fan, the game gives students a chance to visit, to eat outside of the cafeteria (we're having barbecued pork and chicken at the game), and to be honored on the scoreboard. We will eat on a special deck and then can either stay on the deck or sit in reserved seats nearby. The Barons are playing the Huntsville Stars tonight, so some students may have divided loyalties.

Ringling of the Rushton Memorial Carillon  
on the campus of Samford University  
Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 7:00 pm  
Steve Knight, carillonneur

**Alabama Governor's School**

Preludio VIII in A Minor

Matthias van den Gheyn  
(1721-1785)

Ave Maria

Jeff Denyn  
(1862-1941)

La Campanella for Carillon in F Major

Géo Clément  
(1899-1963)

Three Hymns

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)  
arr. Steve Knight  
(b. 1944)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN  
*Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665  
harm. W. Sterndale Bennett  
(1816-1875)  
arr. Knight

Three Folk Songs

Skip to my Lou  
Shenandoah  
Away to Rio

The Rushton Memorial Carillon was first installed on campus in Reid Chapel in 1968. The carillon was donated by William J. Rushton in honor of his parents, two sisters, and brother. When the carillon was first erected, 49 bells were included. It was the first four-octave chromatic carillon in the United States. Each bell was cast with a meaningful inscription, making the bell system not only unique to the United States but to the world. No other bell system at that time included inscriptions on each bell. In 1979, the bells were moved to the Harwell Goodwin Davis Library. Eleven more bells were added at that time.