

# Stories, Rhymes, and Good Times!

## Volume 18, 2008-2009

### DaySpring Writing in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**By: Mrs. Letourneau**

We had such a wonderful time this year on our field trip that the students wanted to write about some of their personal experiences. Both classes also created and designed a quilt that is currently displayed in our upstairs hallway!

#### DaySpring

**By: Autumn Adams-Jack**

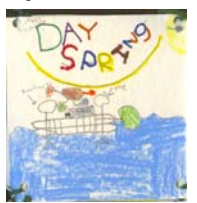


DaySpring is the best class trip I have been to since I got to St. Michaels. I think the best part was when we got to do Underground Railroad.

Underground Railroad is a reenactment of slaves escaping to the Underground Railroad to be free from slavery. It was really fun because we had to trick the teachers, or Pathfinder people to believe our pretend story about why we were running around at night. Only two people told the story and the rest of the slaves had to freeze and pretend to be trees. One time when I was freezing as a tree and I started laughing. One of the Pathfinders pretended to cut me down to the ground, so I had to fall down on the ground pretending he actually cut me down. Then he picked me up in the air, and pretended he was carrying me to make firewood. It was a very fun trip.

#### DaySpring

**By: Michael Randolph Backstrand**



I had a lot of fun at DaySpring and many wonderful memories. My favorite things about DaySpring were the Underground Railroad, Cast Away, Challenge

Courses, break, and Oregon Trail. Canoeing was really fun too! Barney, Shari, and Jeremy were the best Pathfinders! One of the funniest moments was when I was with Henry Lewis and Kelly Baker, and I was trying to get moss out of a tree. I jumped, then hit a stump, and did a face plant! One

of the best things was "Underground Railroad". We were caught by Mrs. Letourneau about three or four times and she is like the best guard ever! She rocks! She has a good southern accent too. That's the rest of my story!

#### DaySpring

**By: Kelly Baker**

My experience at DaySpring was absolutely fantabulous!



Everything there was unbelievably awesome, and was like nothing I had ever experienced before. You do everything you can imagine and everything is so fun. Nothing there will make you regret going. When you are there, you will do challenge courses, canoeing, hootenannies, round auction, estuary, free time, and lots of other fun activities that I don't want to ruin by describing them to you. Out of all of these my favorite thing was the challenge courses. In challenge courses you do different games that are challenging for your group. My two favorite courses were "T.P. Shuffle" which was when you had to stand on a log (old telephone pole) and arrange ourselves in alphabetical order by our first name without falling off the log. Unlike all of the other challenges we couldn't get this one very quickly. My other favorite game was "Tarzan Baseball" which was where there were

four platforms and you and all of your teammates had to get to all four platforms then get back to where you started. You had to swing on a rope and get on the platforms without falling off. To top it all off the pathfinder instructors were so nice and understanding. My three favorite Pathfinder people were Barney, Shari, and Jeremy.

**DaySpring Logo**

**By: Preston Barney**

**DaySpring!!!!**



**By: Hunter R. Belcher III**

When I, Hunter Belcher, was in DaySpring I experienced the most unimaginable thing in the galaxy counting Pluto. I had the most FUN In my life!!!! It was



the best! We went canoeing, had challenge courses, and did everything fun that's unimaginable. But my favorite thing was Underground Railroad!!! Mrs. L is the best guard in the galaxy counting Pluto. Whenever she stops you, you should just head back because you're not going to get past her without having a plan that is better than Barney the purple dinosaur's plan to take over Mars and Saturn. Just make up names that make her laugh or you're done for. And that's it for my story!!!!!!

**DaySpring**

**By: Zoë Campbell**

DaySpring was one of the best experiences I have ever had! It was so much fun! DaySpring had tons of counselors that were specially trained to keep us busy and have as much fun as possible from Pathfinder Co. My favorite experience was either the Florida Country or the



Underground Railroad. In the Underground Railroad you had to live as if you were a slave trying to runaway from your master and you had to sell your excuse to the people you had to get past. It was so funny! We had the BEST excuses! It worked like a charm. Meanwhile, Florida Country was all about surviving back in the pioneer day. We did really well with that. Had so much fun overall, I hope that others will have a chance to have an experience like I did.

**DaySpring**

**By: Connor Caviness**

I learned many things at DaySpring such as food waste and caring for my fellow classmates. One fun activity was canoeing. It was challenging but fun.



Another was the challenge courses. Why? Because it was fun and you challenge yourself. The food was amazing. You never would go around with an empty stomach. It was an incredible experience and you should definitely go.

**DaySpring**

**By: Ben Cook**

At DaySpring, I had so much fun! But, overall I had the best time on Castaway. It's so fun and you have such a great experience. You also build up a lot of trust and faith in one another. The key thing is to take your time and lay it out before putting it together. All the pathfinders are so much fun, especially Barney! That's all I can tell you, Bye!



**DaySpring**

**By: Savannah DeCarufel**

My trip to DaySpring was so fun. While I was there I got to experience things that I have never experienced before. When you are at DaySpring, you get to do so many new things and things that you don't normally do. My favorite thing at DaySpring was the "Challenge



Courses.” The best one was called “TP Shuffle.” The “TP” stands for Telephone Pole. The pole that you do the challenge on is a telephone pole. On this challenge course you had to sit down on the log, and then the counselor told us that we had to put ourselves into alphabetical order. It was almost time to go eat lunch, so we were there for about thirty minutes. That was not enough time for this challenge. The next day, we went to the same challenge first thing in the morning. We had to make so many “raccoon circles.” About an hour and a half into it the second day, we finished it! We were all so happy to have finished that challenge.

**DaySpring**

**By: Amanda DiBiase**

At DaySpring my favorite part was when we played Tarzan baseball. There were four bases and a rope. Each person in the group had to swing on the rope to get to each one of the bases. I had seven people in our group. When someone would get close to the base, Isaac would take the rope and pull you in. Every time that I tried to swing on the rope I would get to the base and fall off right before I got on it. I was really dirty and bruised but it was worth it. It was the most fun class trip so far.



**DaySpring**

**By: Sophie Duclos**

For our class trip this year, we went to DaySpring. We did a ton of things. We went canoeing, swimming, hiking, and explored the estuary. But my favorite was the challenge courses! I learned to trust my group, but I trusted them more than I thought I would. We had to do something called “the spider web”. The spider web is two poles across from each other and green wires winding all around it. Some places were really high! The object



was to go from one side to the other without touching the wires. The grownups chose which spaces we had to go through. We could only go through a square once; after we went through it we couldn't use it again. If we touched the wire everyone had to go back to the other side and start all over again. I was the smallest in my group so they had no choice but to pick me up, as high as they could, and carry me around the wires. So several times I was lifted up, put through the wires, and the other half of my group would have to catch me. I was so scared! We finished the course in less than ten minutes! The grownups told us that we did the best they had ever seen. I had fun at DaySpring!

**DaySpring**

**By: Justin Ecelbarger**

This year our class went to DaySpring. My favorite part of DaySpring was canoeing. We went canoeing our first day. When we went into the river, it was so windy we were blown backwards. Then, we got to a sandbar with a mangrove forest and our boat got stuck in it. When we flipped our canoe, we found out the bottom was sludge and it was super sticky. All in all I had a great time!



**DaySpring**

**By: Gabby Greene**

Something that I learned at DaySpring was how to communicate better. I think the lesson of DaySpring is about how to know people better and how to communicate better with them. When it actually got to me was when we were doing this activity called the Beast. To be able to do this project, you have to talk and listen carefully to get it right. We tried this activity two times. The first time we did this we really didn't get how to do it because we had never done it before. But the second time we actually got it exactly right. We owe that to communication! Then we went from learning to having fun. My favorite part about DaySpring was going canoeing in the Manatee River. It was actually a cove you went in.



There were three people to a canoe and in my group; Sophie Duclos, Leah Knight, and me! It took us about 25 minutes to get how to move the canoe forward and how to turn it around. But once we got there it was so much fun until we played this game called Cranes and Crows. At the end of the game Leah was racing to the other side toward the mangroves and got her leg cut on an oyster. It was bleeding everywhere! Not really! But anyway we got back to the launching dock and had the best canoeing trip ever!

### DaySpring

**By: Troy Hasty**

My trip to Dayspring was awesome. Everything there was really fun, especially the challenge courses. My favorite course there was Tarzan baseball. What you do is swing from a rope to get to the bases. Another thing at DaySpring that I like was the food. The food there was amazing! Especially the bread rolls. They were the best I ever had. They also had really good lemonade. It was also the best I have ever had. Canoeing was my favorite thing there. It was awesome! I was the first one to the island. My trip at DaySpring was awesome.



### DaySpring

**By: Lauren Homolka**

DaySpring was really fun! We soaked in the sun. We did lots of cool activities. But they unfortunately had many bees! DaySpring's dorms were cozy. The good thing was that no one was nosy! Canoeing was the best! It definitely puts your muscles to the test! The estuary was chilly. I caught a shrimp and named it Billy! Pig Posse was hilarious! Some of the costumes were barbarous! The food there was da bomb! The chef's name had to be Tom! Castaway was funny! My raft ended up lumpy! I was sad when we had to leave. Although, the dust was one of my pet peeves, it's all about the journey, not the destination!



### DaySpring

**By: Leah Knight**



While I was at DaySpring I went canoeing and I had a lot of fun, but my favorite part was what came afterwards. On April 1, 2009 my group went canoeing around the bay. We were out in the water, and I was playing around with all of my friends. We were having a great time, and then my leader said to get in a straight line. We did, and then she said I am picking teams for a game we will be playing. After that she told us that we were playing a game called Crows and Cranes. The object of this game is to tag the other team members before they get to the canoe. So I was "swimming/running" (in knee deep water which for the record is hard) after the other team, as I was told. When I was chasing one of my friends and she accidentally kicked my leg out from underneath me, I fell. When I fell I landed on an oyster and it cut my knee. I had to go back to camp, and when I got back to camp I went to the first aid station. When I got there, they thought that I would need stitches. I went to lunch before I went to get stitches, and when I was walking up everyone was praying not just for the lunch food, but also for me. They were praying that I would get through the stitches without pain and that I would be okay for the rest of the trip. So I left camp and went to a walk-in clinic, and they gave my four stitches in my knee. I came back and had a ton of fun, but my favorite thing about DaySpring was that it teaches everybody to care for one another, and I should know.

### DaySpring

**By: Nicholas Lambros**



At DaySpring I learned a lot of things, most of it is how to work as a team. I learned that you can't always do everything by yourself. So far, it was the best class trip I've had. I had a lot of fun and the food was incredible. My favorite activity was canoeing. It was fun and hard but I liked it the best. I had a lot of other favorite activities like Tarzan Baseball also.

## DaySpring

**By: Garrett S. Lewis**



DaySpring was probably the best class trip so far. The thing I want to remember the most is the Underground Railroad. It is when you run around as slaves and two

people in your group make up a story to the property owners and save the slaves and bring them to the Underground Railroad. That's all I can tell you about DaySpring.

## DaySpring

**By: Henry Lewis.**

I loved DaySpring so much! I don't know where to start. I was really sad because I was sick for the first day so I missed a lot,



but I still had the best time. On the second day my group did this thing where we had to stand on a log in random order and find our way into alphabetical order! It took us two days to do it, but we finally did it on the third day. Another hard activity was when we had to walk along a wire, which was attached to two trees. We had to trust the other person to keep us from falling. It was really hard. I had the best time ever at DaySpring and I hope the 6<sup>th</sup> graders next year will have as much fun as we did!

## DaySpring

**By: Abigail Mandy Mast**



I had a lot of fun at DaySpring and many wonderful memories. One that I will remember for a long time is when it was my first time canoeing and I was in the back. When

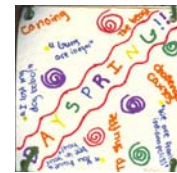
you are in the back, you have to steer. It was very windy and coming right against us. At the end of the day, they do awards and I got an award since it was my first time canoeing. I was very happy about that. Another great memory is when our team had to do this hard challenge course. It took our team 2 hours and 30 minutes. The greatest part was when we finished, knowing that we worked as a team and were very proud of each other. But the challenge course was very hard!! Lastly, I really enjoyed hanging

out with friends and getting to know my friends a little bit better. I had so much fun at DaySpring and I really wish I could go again!

## DaySpring

**By: Keelin McKenna**

While we were at Dayspring, we were able to experience what was like to be a slave.



We played a game that was called Underground Railroad. For that game, we had to make our way to different safe houses. On our way, some people would stop us and ask us why we were out so late at night. We had two conductors that would go up to the person and make up an excuse; the others would have to freeze. If we froze, then the people could not see us. One of our teachers stopped us three times! Finally, we made it to "Canada". "Canada" was the place where we originally started. DaySpring has such great food and very fun activities! My favorite instructors were Barney, Shari, and Jeremy. DaySpring was the most fun trip yet!

## DaySpring!!!

**By: Montana McWilliams**

I learned so much at DaySpring, and it was so fabulous and amazingly! My favorite counselors were Barney and Jeremy! One of the things we did was play something



called the Underground Railroad. It was the best thing ever! You had to be in your amazing small groups to play. They give you a map with five safe houses along the way. On the way to each safe house, you might get stopped by a person who either says, "Halt! Who goes there?" or "Are you a friend of a friend?" If they catch you, you have to freeze and have two people called conductors go and make up a story. At each safe house you switch conductors. When you get asked the second one, you say yes and keep going. I loved DaySpring so much! ☺ (The food was AMAZING too.☺)

## DaySpring

**By: Stephanie Norris**

Our class trip to DaySpring was so much



fun! There were so many cool things to do. During our first day, we only completed four challenge courses, but then the second time we did our challenge courses we got eight or nine done. We really learned how to work together and communicate. On the way back from canoeing, my canoe and Barney's canoe "hooked" together and we went "sailing" back to shore. The food at DaySpring was so much fun!!! We also learned the chili song. The chili song is so much fun to dance to. The DaySpring people challenged us. Our challenge was to waste as little food as possible. On our first day we only wasted around 1 pound.

**DaySpring**

***By: Eric Poland***



My favorite memory of DaySpring was when we went canoeing. There were three people to a canoe and I was in the middle so I did nothing except relax while

Troy and Garrett paddled four miles. After two miles we stopped at a sandbar and swam and wrestled. It was so much fun! I licked about seven black mangrove leaves. They were salty! Canoeing at DaySpring was so much fun!

**DaySpring**

***By: Cameron Cory Wallace***



When I was at DaSspring I learned a lot of stuff. One thing I learned was how to get night vision. How you get it is you put one hand over your eye and close it, but keep your other eye open. You do this for a while. Then when you open your eyes and the lights are off you can see everything that is near you or around you. The Pathfinder person that taught us this was Barney. The reason he taught us this was because we were about to go on our night hike and if we had night vision we could see better since it was really dark. We also used this for our solo walk the day after, which came in handy because it was really dark then also. This was my favorite thing I learned at DaySpring that I can use whenever I need to see at night time. We also could not use a flashlight on the walk so that was awesome.

**DaySpring**

***By: Madeline Wiles***



This year our class trip was to DaySpring. DaySpring was so much fun I loved it! At DaySpring I learned a lot. One of the things that I learned was trust. They had a challenge called the wild woozy. The wild woozy is two wires connected to three trees (so it looks like a v). You picked a partner and your partner got on one wire and you got on the other wire. Your partner would put their hands up palms flat. The person on the other wire did the same and put their hands, palms flat, against their partners hands. They would then start moving slowing on the wire. The wire got wider and wider which made it more difficult. The whole point of the wild woozy was to trust more than you usually would. My favorite thing at DaySpring was probably our last day there. This was my favorite because it was cool to see how we improved from the first day of challenge courses. On the last day, we worked like a team and we blew by the challenge courses. DaySpring was so much fun and I really wish that I could go back!

**DaySpring**

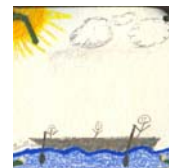
***By: KiKi Wunderlich***

My experience at DaySpring was so awesome! We did really cool challenge courses that were like really fun and challenging games. They helped our team come together and use teamwork. Some of my favorites were canoeing, Underground Railroad, and solo walk. Canoeing was fun because we got to ride with our friends to a sandbar. In Underground Railroad we got to experience what it was like for slaves, and we ran around in our groups to "safe houses". During solo walk we had to conquer our fears by taking a night hike by ourselves. DaySpring was so amazing; and I made so many new friends including the counselors!



**DaySpring**

***By: Garrett Yates***



This year for our class trip we went to DaySpring. At DaySpring we did all

kinds of things. My favorite part was when we went canoeing. When we went out with our group, Barney went with us. Barney was the best leader there. He is a very cool and a funny guy. We went right through the Manatee River. When we got to the sandbar, Barney said that we could tip the canoes. After we tipped them we got to swim. So, all the other guys and I started to tackle each other. When we left I got to go with Barney. Then the wind started blowing hard that day so Barney brought an umbrella and we sailed back into the camp. I had so much fun at DaySpring.