

FAMILY-PERSPECTIVE FILM REVIEWS



Hilary Swank plays a teacher who tries to connect with underperforming high school students in "Freedom Writers."

'Freedom Writers'

Rated: PG-13
Suitable for: High school students and older

What you should know: Hilary Swank plays a teacher who uses unusual techniques to reach underperforming students.

Language: Harsh, with some obscenity

Sexual situations and nudity: Nothing notable

Violence/scary situations: A murder, plus a teen being beaten up.

Drug or alcohol use: Adults drink wine, and there are discussions about student drug and alcohol use.

'Code Name: The Cleaner'

Rated: PG-13
Suitable for: Tweens and up
What you should know: Cedric the Entertainer plays an amnesiac who thinks he's a CIA agent.

Language: A fairly steady stream of mild three- or four-letter words

Sexual situations and nudity: Suggestive dancing in skimpy underwear; a couple of jokes are made about Cedric's reaction to that and his unconsummated relationship.

Violence/scary situations: Gunfire, martial-arts kicks and punches are exchanged, although the violence is fairly mild.

Drug or alcohol use: A shot of sodium pentathol

Students use new skills to find treasure

By SARAH LIPPS
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They didn't wear eye patches, talk to parrots or walk with peg legs.

But the fifth-graders from Sharon Kaiser's class were ready to hunt for treasure nonetheless as they temporarily pirated the Clark-Pleasant school board meeting Tuesday.

The Clark-Pleasant Intermediate School students even took on a few captives — some school board members and a couple of administrators — to help them find clues about the treasure's hiding place that were scattered around the room.

The exercise was used to illustrate the skills they had learned during recent lessons on maps and directions.

Students have worked in teams and learned problem-solving skills. Throughout the semester, they engaged in a series of scavenger hunts inside and outside the school and at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis. The activities were of varying degrees of difficulty and involved using compasses and other directional devices.

On Tuesday, students and school board members found clues that spelled out a hidden word: navigation. All soon found their way back to their seats for the rest of the meeting.

TAKE NOTES

Dance clinic open to Greenwood elementary-school students

The Greenwood Community High School dance team will host a dance clinic from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday in the high school gym.

Girls in kindergarten through Grade 5 who attend Greenwood schools can register.

The cost is \$20 and includes a T-shirt and an opportunity to dance with the high school dancers at a basketball game that evening.

Information: Lisa Bricker, 559-4070



College scholarships available for southside students

Mike Watkins Real Estate group will offer 11 scholarships to area high school seniors for post-secondary education.

Students from Greenwood, Franklin, Center Grove, Roncalli, Whiteland, Lutheran, Franklin Central, Perry Meridian, Southport and Beech Grove high schools and from Greenwood Christian Academy are eligible for the \$1,000 scholarship.

Students should see their school guidance department, visit www.mikesoldme.com or call 882-MIKE for more information.

Applications are due by 4 p.m. March 23. They can be mailed or hand-delivered to Mike Watkins Real Estate Group, 1298 W. Main St., Greenwood.

Students of the month named for January at career center

Central Nine Career Center's students of the month for January are:

Chris Hendrix, Pedro Zaragoza, Tony James, David Foley, Kim Haymaker, Vito Greco, Kayla Christian, Samantha Gordon, Nicky Hyde, Kristina Stephens, Donovan Earp, Brandon Romack, Felicia Vidito, Paul Cloyd, Kayli Montana, Ashley Haywood, Chris Norman, Dan Miller, Drew Stamm,

Tiffany Saunders, Eric Williams and Andrew Rhea.

Find out if your child's car seat is installed correctly

Parents can get a free car seat safety check from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 29 at St. Rose of Lima School, 114 Lancelot Drive, Franklin.

Parents can make an appointment by calling the school at 738-3451.

To submit school photos or information about school news and events, send the details by e-mail to schoolnews@thejournalnet.com. Be sure to include a daytime phone number.

Good research makes happy campers



A camper at Long Lake Camp for the Arts in New York paints a self-portrait. Parents already are booking camp reservations for their children.

It's already time to plan kids' summer activities

By FRAN GOLDEN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Summer is nearly six months away, but Steve Jermanok of Newton, Mass., realized it was time to talk overnight camp with his son Jake, 10.

"A lot of his friends went to camp last summer and had a great time," Jermanok said.

So Jermanok started asking around and drove up to Vermont to look at a camp some of Jake's pals had attended.

"We liked it. It was a nice spot nestled on a lake backed by mountains. But it was too quiet for him."

Where to look next? Jermanok and Jake sought more suggestions from friends and went to the Internet, looking up camps and sending away for DVDs.

"We listened to the spiels and they all sounded pretty much the same," Jermanok said.

Narrowing the list down with his son, Jermanok hit the phones, calling a few camps to ask more questions. He hit pay dirt when a director not only answered all his questions but did so in person — the director happened to live in the Boston area too — and also provided dozens of local families as references.

So Jake will head off next summer for 3½ weeks to Camp Schodack, near Albany, N.Y.

Activities will include day trips to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs and more.

"It's not your typical canoeing, hiking backpacking camp. It's catered more to the 21st-century child," Jermanok said.

According to the experts, Jermanok's methods for finding a camp were right on target, and he was also



Campers at Long Lake Camp for the Arts work in the ceramics studio last summer.

right to start looking so early.

"The main crunch is the month of January," Marc Katz said. Katz is executive director of Long Lake Camp for the Arts, located in New York's Adirondack Mountains. "Holy smoke, the phones are off the panel."

But Katz added that parents shouldn't panic.

There's still plenty of time to get your kids into a camp, especially those with multiple sessions (at Long Lake, sessions are three or six weeks).

"My first session fills up first. But I may have space in March or even April for the last session," Katz said.

"Spots can open so never say to yourself, 'It's too late,'" Peg L. Smith, chief executive officer of the American Camp Association, said.

Smith added that the best way to make a decision about camp is to involve the child in the decision-making.

Start the discussion with your child by saying, "We wondered what you might like to do next summer."

ON THE WEB

Find a list of questions parents can ask to determine if their child is ready for camp and a listing of accredited camps at campparents.org.

Students pen poem as group

By JENNIFER LEWIS
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For an English class at Whiteland Community High School, poetry is a group project.

Teacher Kristina Erny assigned her freshman class to write a poem using images conjured up by the students. They worked together as a kind of poet-by-committee.

Erny provided the first line of the poem and gave students an example to model the format after.

"We had to think of poetic-looking things," student Ali Burkman said.

Burkman's idea for the poem's title, "Dark and Lonely Winter," was selected by a class vote.

The in-class assignment provided diversion for the students toward the end of first semester.

"This was something I had them do the week before finals because the kids were so burned out," Erny said.

After she gave the students the first line, Erny had them write in their journals and think of more lines for the poem.

The class then decided collectively on the poem's wording.

"It was different. We never had to work with the class before," student Jessica Doyle said.

Dark and Lonely Winter

In the middle of the frozen field,
the ragged farmhouse stands,
dark and covered in snow,
ice cracks on the grass,
as a lonely bird chirps.

There hasn't been a farmer here for many years,
boarded up and alone,
crumbling slowly,
needing care,
molded from the summer season rain.

On the horizon an arrow of pink light gives birth to the morning,
as another day comes,
the farmhouse still stands.

— Written by students in Kristina Erny's first-period class



"Drawing"

Madison Bailey, 10, daughter of Danielle and Joe Bailey of Franklin, fifth grade, Needham Elementary School



"I can put my lips in my braces."

Katherine Schmaltz, 11, daughter of Mary and Dale Schmaltz of Franklin, fifth grade, Needham Elementary



"Music"

Kevin Stahl, 11, son of Trella and Douglas Stahl of Franklin, fifth grade, Needham Elementary



"Rolling my eyeballs in the back of my head."

Grace Schafstall, 11, daughter of Kim and Robert Schafstall of Franklin, fifth grade, Needham Elementary

