

3rd BDE BTT

3rd BDE BTT Family Readiness Newsletter

Winning and losing. It's a fact of life that we will all experience both. Of course, it's always better to win than to lose, right? Or is it *really* about how we play the game? We're taught from toddler-hood, it's about how we play the game, but as we get older (but not much older, I've noticed) it's all about winning. We only use the phrase 'it's how you play the game' when we have, or someone we love, has lost. Have you ever won something and said to yourself or your team, "Yeah, we won big, but we could've played so much better"? I doubt it. We revel in the victory and leave the trite sayings to the losers. "How we play the game" has become more of an explanation for losing than a goal to strive for.

Our son, Nicholas, is a Bear Scout. For the third year in a row he has eagerly participated in all his scouting events, to include the annual Pinewood Derby. For those of you not familiar with this sadistic event, about two months before the race, each boy is given a block of balsa wood, four nails and four wheels and told to make a car out of it that weighs no more and no less than 5 oz. Workshops are set up with parents standing over their scouts and a band saw as the scout cuts, sands, paints and creates a masterpiece that will run, literally, a four-second race against another buddy in his den. The stress is unbelievable, even for the veteran racers (and I'm not talking about the kids, here). Information is available all over the internet to make the fastest, sleekest car. The drive (pun intended) is to win! But what about playing the game?

Admittedly, I'm an overachiever in most things, so I've managed to keep our lives fairly "normal" while Jim's been deployed. However, scouts was one thing I just didn't have the time to invest in. That was always Jim's department. And making a car out of a tiny piece of wood? I don't think so. So, Poppy Pagano came to the rescue. After helping my Eagle Scout-brother through his Pinewood Derbies 25+ years ago, he was the man for the job. He flew to Kansas from New York in early January to help Nicholas build the car. One weekend and a 72-hour turn-around and Nicholas had a car. In the following weeks Nicholas sanded and painted it and made it ready for race day. Poppy returned Friday before the race to help install and balance the wheels, meticulously add and remove tiny weights, then spray the wheels with graphite so there would be no friction. The car was measured and weighed, deemed "good to go" and was "impounded" for racing the next day. The races began and within 10 minutes (I'm not kidding) it was over. The top three winners were given trophies, the top two would go on to race other scouts

in other dens and the other 5 boys received a certificate, a patch and a spark plug hanging from a string. You probably know where I'm going with this. Nicholas was not one of the top three - and he was heartbroken. And, this wasn't the first year that happened. He's definitely learning the harder lesson of "how you play the game".

No matter how much we told him that his car was, by far, the best looking one in his den, it wasn't good enough. Understandably, Nicholas wanted to win. It was a quiet, tearful drive home. Just as we walked in the door, Jim called to see how the race went. He knew it could be bad, having been there before. Between the two of us, we impressed upon Nicholas that it *really was* about how you play the game. Having his Poppy here to help him, that bonding time together when his daddy couldn't be with him, that's more important than winning any race. It might be hard to digest that as a 9-year-old, but, as Jim's mom said in an email to Nicholas, "I know you and Poppy must have had a great time working on that car. I can just hear you two chattering away about the colors and where you are going to put them on the car. I can see your eyes sparkling and your smiling faces. It was a labor of love on both your parts. So you both came out winners because you got to spend all that super time together. As you get older you will look back on those times and realize how precious they were."

Our team is also in an unbelievably difficult race. Winning is everything in the game they're playing. "Losing is not an option" as they say. But what about how they've played the game? They've made strides with the Iraqi's in their sector that the previous team never hoped to achieve. When they turn their sector over to their replacements next month they can do so with an extreme sense of pride in what they've accomplished. They've built a strong foundation that subsequent teams can build and improve upon. They may not have won *yet*, but they will keep trying, as Nicholas will in Pinewood Derbies yet to come. Eventually, both will be victorious because the main goal was how they played the game.

**"We will either find a way or make one."
-Hanibal**

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today.

It's already tomorrow in Australia "

-Charles Schultz

3rd Brigade BTT Families Out & About



Sunny with some very artistic kids at Paradise Park in Kansas City (Emma, Brody, Liam & Colby).



Louise has taken up a new hobby in Korea - snowboarding!



According to mom, Candace, Nicholas would rather eat the snow than play in it! Just like a man!



Happy Birthday!

- Gladys Caicedo- February 3
- Carlos Caicedo - February 20
- Jeff Bouillon - February 20



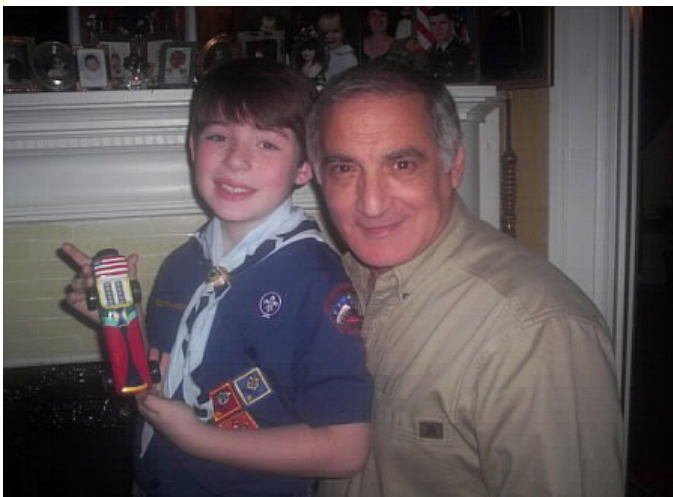
"Lady Yolanda" being escorted by her two handsome men, "Duke Henry" & "Duke George" at the Krewe of Selene Ball. Mardi Gras is February 20th!

"Rest assured that, although we are getting excited about going home, we are continuing to take every precaution that we can. We still perform all of the necessary planning steps to ensure that we move and operate as safely as possible."

-LTC Jim Redwine



Proud to be an American! Our American flag is displayed by our team and 1LT Fry, SFC Lopez, PFC Chapman and PFC Todo who are from 1-9 CAV 1SF cell in Mosul.



Nicholas & Poppy Pagano show off the Pinewood Derby car they built together for this year's race.

NOTES FROM THE TEAM LEADER

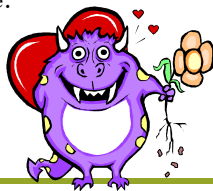
The team is no longer at FOB Nimur near Sinjar. Over New Years, we moved about an hour east to FOB Sykes near Tal Afar. Although we moved, we still work with the same Iraqis in Sinjar. The one hour commute is a little tedious but not nearly so bad as the commute that our battalion teams endure. The up side of being in FOB Sykes is the vastly improved Quality of Life that we enjoy. We now get three hot meals cooked by a food contractor every day. Also, we have hooches that don't leak, showers that have reliably hot water, and we have a large conference room out of which we can all work, together. Back in FOB Nimur, we worked out of separate huts and thus lost considerable synergy.

Recently, the team has been traveling quite a bit. We are getting around our sector as much as possible, prior to the end of our tour. We still have a number of goals and missions that we hope to accomplish with the IBP. We also want to lay a good foundation for our replacements.

With the end of our tour's being not long from now, we are furiously working through the administrative paperwork that we must complete. Evaluations, awards and badges must be sent to Iraq Assistance Group (IAG) for processing.

Rest assured that although we are getting excited about going home, we are continuing to take every precaution that we can. We still perform all of the necessary planning steps to ensure that we move and operate as safely as possible.

-LTC Jim Redwine



Happy Valentine's Day!

Homefront Health - The Countdown Begins
 Homefires Book Club Book of the Month
 Sunny's Movie Review



Sunny's Movie Review

A Night at the Museum

starring Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, and Robin Williams

Liam had been begging me to take him to see this movie, I was also a little hesitant to take him because I was afraid that he would be scared when the museum "came to life", but I took my chances and decided to take him. This film has lots of visuals for children plus some hidden, more adult gags. Ben Stiller does what he does best during the hilarious chaos that ensues when he takes a job at the local museum. It was great to see actors like Mickey Rooney and Dick Van Dyke; these guys have been in cinema for years. Robin Williams was also very funny. The war between the Wild West and Rome were hilarious. There was of course a love interest and life drama going on which was very good and helped make the film that bit more interesting to the grown ups. But, don't set yourself up to see a fantastic, revolutionary film as you will be disappointed. However, if you want a bit of fun, many laughs and interesting conversations with your kids about historical facts...check this film out! I give this film 3 out of 4 M16's.



Homefires Book Club - February Selection

The Friday Night Knitting Club

by Kathleen Jacobs



Georgia Walker's entire life is wrapped up in running her knitting store, Walker and Daughter, and caring for her 12-year-old daughter, Dakota. With the help of Anita, a lively widow in her seventies, Georgia starts the Friday Night Knitting Club, which draws loyal customers and a few oddballs. Darwin Chiu, a feminist grad student, believes knitting is downright old-fashioned, but she's drawn to the club as her young marriage threatens to unravel. Lucie, 42, a television producer, is about to become a mother for the first time--without a man in her life. Brash book editor KC finds her career has stalled unexpectedly, while brilliant Peri works at Walker and Daughter by day and designs handbags at night. Georgia gets her own taste of upheaval when Dakota's father reappears, hoping for a second chance. The yarn picks up steam as it draws to a conclusion, and an unexpected tragedy makes it impossible to put down.

"It is unpleasant business to eject a skunk, but someone has to do it."

Chicago Tribune Editorial Board

Homefront Health

by

Gandace Hollingsworth

We are now counting the days until our men return from their VERY long deployment...wow...we are almost done!! As promised, I have prepared a list that will help you prepare for the long awaited homecoming. Some of the items I got from a deployment website, others I included from personal experience. I hope they will prove useful to you.



1. Survey the house and make a list of all things you would like to accomplish before he returns; i.e. Christmas decorations in the attic, clean crayon off the wall, shampoo carpets. Place them in order of importance or ease of project, whatever you prefer. If you accomplish one thing a day, you'll be done before you know it!
2. While making lists, try to make a list of things you would like your Hero to accomplish once he returns. This list is not meant to be given to him immediately upon his return, but once he has settled in and he needs something to keep him busy. This will also help solidify his place in the home again, letting him know he is still needed to help keep the household functioning.
3. Talk to your children now about the upcoming return. For younger ones it's important to get them used to the idea that Daddy is on his way home early. It might help to make a calendar to help count down the days (once we know actually when they will be returning).
4. Think of some things you would like to do as a family and as a couple once he returns. Family time is essential to establish yourselves once again and time alone as a husband and wife is equally as important.