

August 2018

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# The Meaning of Life by Stacey Gresell



When my daughter was just a tiny thing, barely walking, we were out in the yard exploring... at least that's the way it is remembered in my perfect parent mind. Truth is I was weeding and glancing every so often to make sure she didn't eat a bug. That's when a perfectly innocent toad hopped by.

I'll never forget her expression.

She laughed and laughed as if it was the funniest thing a human being had ever laid witness to; one of those baby belly guffaws that makes your own eyes water. She waddled behind that poor frog forever just busting a gut every time he hopped. Still makes me smile because of her pure joy, her discovery and wonder.

We probably all have stories like that, but if your kids are entering high school those stories are getting dusty. If your children are small still, then dustier folk like me are telling you to cherish those moments. You say "Of course!" but you won't really understand until they happen to you again.

Those moments of wonder and discovery happened to us again last fall in a fairly unique way. We got a new daughter. We picked ours up from the airport with signs and fanfare. I still remember her polite smiles in the backseat as she got bombarded with ridiculous questions- "You're from Italy? Did you live in the heel or the toe? Do you eat pasta every day? Do you have a car?"

You may wonder as I did once, why would anyone do this? Why would anyone add to the chaos of their life by adopting a foreign exchange student for a year?

There are a lot of lofty answers like...you can learn another language. We didn't. You will gain an expanded view on international perspectives. Nope. You will have a greater focus on life and academics.

I had three kids. I was drowning in life and academics already. So why? My answer might surprise you. I wanted to be a good mom again.



We always put on the very best sides of ourselves for... others. Not our family. We are the kindest, most patient, most gracious and giving for friends and acquaintances and save the tale of our bad day, our cruddy mood and exhaustion for the people who supposedly mean the most to us. In front of our own mother we are super mom but the minute she leaves we are begging a dirty child to take a bath and bribing them with candy if they'll do it without crying—you know you've done it.

Every parent worries about their kids and about being a good parent but it's hard. It's even harder when you both work. It's even harder when you have no family nearby. It's even harder when... I could continue but I'm sure you know as well as I do that the excuse train could ride the rails for a while.

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- Auto Theft	281-550-0458
- Homicide/Assault	713-967-5810
- Child Abuse	
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence	
- Runaway Unit	
Poison Control	800-764-7661
Traffic Light Issues	713-881-3210
SCHOOLS	
Cypress Fairbanks ISD Administration	281-897-4000
Cypress Fairbanks ISD Transportation	
Cypress Fairbanks Senior High	
Cy-Woods High School	
Goodson Middle School	
OTHER NUMBERS	
Animal Control	281 000 3101
Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center	
Harris County Health Department	
Post Office Box Assignment – Cypress	
Street Lights - CenterPoint Energy	
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Waste Management	713-686-6666
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(Continued from Cover Page)

I needed to resurrect the patient, funny and sweet mom who was always willing to hold your toad while you went potty. I wanted some version of that mom to come back.

Chiara brought her back. Chiara made me snuggly on the couch again. Chiara made me review English papers again. Chiara made me laugh and roll my eyes with a smile on my face. She made me think about my rules and the rationale for them; and reminded me of the importance of explaining them. Chiara was the kind of kid who would come downstairs, see me making dinner and just slide in gently beside me and start chopping garlic. She'd tell me about her day and ask about mine with genuine interest. It was only then that I realized I hadn't been doing these kinds of things with my own kids very often, not really.

I had gotten tired and allowed myself to check out way too often. But with unfamiliar eyes on me, I dug a little deeper to the better mom that was always still there but had become complacent.

Having a foreign exchange student living in your home will certainly mean a lot of those lofty things. You will learn more about incredible places, taste wonderful food, and witness discovery and wonder again through a child's eyes. But you might also find that dusty side of yourself, try it back on and live it again.

I have four kids: three that I made and 1 who remade me.



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## LAKES OF ROSEHILL

# CFISD BACK-TO-SCHOOL EXPO

In the sixth edition, the annual CFISD Back-to-School Expo provides helpful resources to incoming Cy-Fair ISD students, parents and prospective employees. It will help allow for a smooth transition into the district. The expo will be Saturday, Aug. 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Berry Center (8877 Barker Cypress Road). Last year's expo saw more than 4,300 patrons and guests.

New students will be able to register for the 2018-2019 school year with proper documentation, with registration forms available in English and Spanish. Immunizations, vision screenings and athletic physicals will be administered. Registration information will also be available for before/after school care. School supplies will be available, while a fresh fruit market will also on hand while supplies last.

CFISD human resources representatives will be onsite regarding employment opportunities.



Carol Kelly, CFISD police sergeant, meets with a young visitor and his family at the fifth annual CFISD Back-to-School Expo on Aug. 12, 2017 at the Berry Center. More than 4,300 guests attended the event.

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# USA FIT CYPRESS Marathon and Half Marathon Training Program

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Are you a runner? Are you a fitness walker? Do you want to be? USA Fit Cypress is a friendly, no pressure training group for a variety of marathons and half marathons throughout the year. Even if you've never run a step before, training with our group will help you conquer mental and physical barriers you never thought possible.

Beginner, walker or seasoned runner? No matter your conditioning or pace, we have a place for you. Over the training season, our coaches will help you achieve your personal best in a non-intimidating, fun, and safe environment.

We provide a weekly training schedule and opportunities for group training throughout the week with our distance runs on Saturday morning at Pope Elementary on N. Bridgeland Lake Parkway in Bridgeland.

Registration for our Winter Season is now open through the end of August. Please visit us at http://www.usafitcypress.com for addition information.



### Back 2 School Physical Memorial Hermann Cypress

As parents are preparing their children to go back to school, there are numerous items to check off the list – and if your child is an athlete – obtaining an annual physical is mandatory. Most school districts require the exams for student athletes, as well as the use of a specific pre-participation medical history form in order to identify family history that might suggest a risk for sudden cardiac death.

Physicians will perform a head-to-toe physical of your child. Parents can expect the physician to listen to the heart, check the lungs, monitor blood pressure, test cholesterol, check for anemia, screen vision and update vaccines, among other things. Parents can also use this annual visit to discuss nutrition and exercise options, and to address any general wellness questions they might have.

Some student athletes may receive a referral for additional screening, or due to family history, some might need a cardiac screening. If necessary, these screenings are available at the follow Memorial Hermann Medical Group Clinics:

Memorial Hermann Medical Group Copperfield 8480 Highway 6 North Houston, TX 77095 (281) 550-9005 tel

Memorial Hermann Medical Group Cypress 13114 FM 1960 Road West, Suite 119 Houston, TX 77065 (281) 890-6446 tel

Memorial Hermann Medical Group Fairfield 27700 Northwest Freeway, Suite 100 Cypress, TX 77433 (346) 231-6850 tel

"An annual back-to-school physical should be part of every parent's checklist as the summer winds down," said Dr. Adan Alvarez, family medicine doctor at Memorial Hermann Medical Group Copperfield Clinic and family medicine doctor affiliated with Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital. "These physicals can provide parents with a piece of mind and start students off on the right foot for the new school year."



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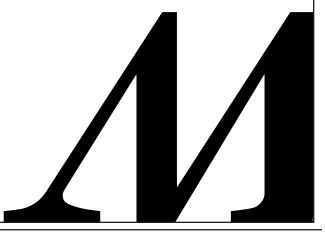
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### **Cy-Fair Republican Women**

Cy-Fair Republican Women August Social is an evening event on Friday, Aug. 3rd, 7:00 PM. Our Guest Speaker is Nick Adams with Foundation for Liberty & American Greatness.

See the website for details and RSVP to www.cfrw. net by July 27th. CFRW typically meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM. @ Hearthstone Country Club, 7615 Ameswood, Houston, TX 77095

Meeting is \$3 – Meeting with Lunch at Noon is \$23.



# **Kids' Running Team Registration Starts Sept 4th**

The Northwest Flyers Track Club Youth Cross Country Team kicks off the fall season with a mandatory orientation meeting for parents and athletes on Tuesday, September 4, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the D. Bradley McWilliams YMCA at Cypress Creek outdoor pavilion, 19915 TX-249, Houston, TX. Registration starts online September 1 at www.northwestflyers.org. Practices are held at the YMCA and at Spring Creek Park in Tomball.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a member program of USA Track and Field (USATF), the national governing body for track and cross country. The club is celebrating its 31st year in the northwest Houston area. Ages 6 - 18 may participate in the team, and both beginners and experienced runners are welcome. Middle school and high school cross country athletes can also register, but should compete after their school cross country season is over.

For more information contact Coach Genia English at (818) 223-1618 or genia.english@gmail.com. Visit www. northwestflyers.org to get updates and learn more about the team.

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