



# The Messenger

Washington Christian Academy  
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## TEACHERS AND STAFF

**From the Headmaster's desk.** In his sermon entitled *Sermon on the Duty of Sending Children to School*, Martin Luther made the following statement concerning teachers:

"If I had to give up preaching and my other duties, there is no office I would rather have than that of a school-teacher. For I know that next to the ministry it is the most useful, greatest and best; and I am not sure which of the two is to be preferred. For it is hard to make old dogs docile and old rogues pious, yet that is what the ministry works at, and must work at, in great part, in vain; but young trees are more easily bent and trained. Therefore let it be considered one of the highest virtues on earth faithfully to train the children of others."

Martin Luther was more than just a Reformer of theology and church thought. He was significant in reforming education at the elementary, secondary and university level. If you wish to read more about Luther the educational reformer, I recommend the book, *The History of Christian School Education*, by Paul A. Kienel, from which this passage was taken.

Luther's comment about teachers is right on the mark. Our teachers are bending and training young "saplings" which will one day be the "oaks" of our community and our culture. It is not beyond reason to suppose that under the nurture of our teachers sits a future Supreme Court Justice, a President of the United States, or the next Billy Graham. For educators, that is a sobering thought. Our interaction with this generation of children is shaping the priorities and values of the next generation.

As parents, we, like Luther, should revere the position and person of our teachers. We should be quick to undergird these teachers with our prayer and with our public confidence. In addition to telling our teachers from time to time how much we appreciate them, let us make sure we provide a salary or standard of living which reflects our admiration and attitude about teachers. Speaking as

both a parent and an administrator, I offer my public thanks to our entire faculty and staff. You selflessly serve our covenant children and model for them a "walking, talking Jesus Christ" right here on earth. Thank you.

James Koan, II  
 Headmaster

Another book by Kienel, et al., *The Philosophy of Christian School Education*, is available in our WCA Heritage Library. You may want to check it out.

**Wildcat Wreaders.** Last year we introduced the WCA Wildcat Wreader Summer Reading Program for students entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Though not required, participation was strongly encouraged. Students were asked to read books from 3 areas, write a book report for each book, and submit the book reports to their teacher on the first day of school. The categories were biography, historical fiction and humorous or fantasy fiction. A "starter list" was provided to help find titles in the student's reading level. This year, we plan to expand the program by adding more categories, which we will announce in a few weeks.

Books for the Summer Reading Program can be obtained many places, including a public library, a church library, or your own personal collection. We will also be hosting a God's World Book Fair this year, in the first week of May. The selection will include plenty of books in the categories of our Summer Reading Program, should you wish to purchase them. You may even want to check out some books for yourself.

As we add more categories to the WCA Wildcat Wreaders we also want to challenge the entire school community to expand your horizons and read books in categories you might not normally select.

Nancy Keegan  
 Librarian

**Our Teachers Set an Example.** WCA is proud of the accomplishments of our teachers and staff, and pleased to announce that many of them have completed training courses, classes and

workshops this year to further their professional growth and development. We congratulate them on a job well done, and for the excellent example they set for our students.

**Margaret Arnoult**

-Benefits/Payroll Tax Reporting, Fraud, Not-for-Profit Taxes and other issues (40 hours)

-The Reformed Heritage Seminar, with Pastor Bratt

**Rosalie Blackwell**

-MACSA conference in Lancaster (10 hours)

-The Reformed Heritage Seminar with Pastor Bratt

**Dr. Eme Burt**

-Trinity graduate course, Educating Hearts and Minds

-Flinn Scientific, High School Lab Safety

-Taft AP Chemistry Teaching Methods (80 hours)

**Kate Dullnig**

-Trinity graduate course, Educating Hearts and Minds

-Taft-Teaching AP Art History

-Univ. of Hartford, Teaching AP Geography

**Robin Gropp**

-Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities, Advancement During Presidential Transitions

**Becky Groves**

-Moody Bible Institute, study of *Genesis, James, Exodus, Psalms, Judges/Ruth*

-The Reformed Heritage Seminar, with Pastor Bratt

-MACSA, Colossians

-R.C. Sproul video series, *Pleasing God, Cross of Christ*

**Sandra Huntzinger**

-College Board Conference, Teaching AP French

**Dr. D. Kramer**

-MACSA, Colossians

**Winnie Langelaar**

-Calvin College, Symposium on Worship

-National Public Safety Training Institute, Working Towards Safer Schools

-MACSA, Reading Course

-Workshop, Becoming a Contagious Christian

**Carol Parent**

-National Institute for Learning Disabilities (2-day conference)

-MCAEYC training, Teaching Young Child Under Six

-The Reformed Heritage Seminar, with Pastor Bratt

-Trinity College, Educator's Guide to the Internet

-Montgomery County Title I program, Enhancing Skillful Teaching

-Chesapeake Seminars, Brain Gym and Play Therapy

**Brian VanderHaak**

-Computer hardware repair class

**Pat Wybenga**

-Moody Bible Institute, Study of *Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges/Ruth*

-Reformed Heritage Seminar, with Pastor Bratt

-MACSA, *Colossians*

-R.C. Sproul video series, *Pleasing God, Cross of Christ, Willing to Believe, Developing a Christian Mind, Born Again*, and *Ecclesiastes*

-Workshop, Becoming a Contagious Christian

Carol Parent  
Director of Teacher/ Student Development

**PARENTS: Represent WCA in Your Church.**

Many of you have offered to represent WCA at your church (on your You Make It Work form). Right now—enrollment season—is when we need it most! Here's what you can do:

- Talk about WCA to everyone with children! Invite them to Welcome Wednesdays, every first and third Wednesday at 9:00 (except during Easter break).

- Stop in at my office (across from the stage) and pick up materials to display at your church. We have a number of options, depending on what your church will accommodate.

Robin Gropp  
Director of Advancement

**Goodbye to Our Cheery Sue.**

Sue Ewell's upbeat greetings, whether by telephone or in person, have cheered us on the gloomiest of days. We will miss her positive outlook, friendly manner, and enormous helpfulness to all as the Ewells move to Asheville, North Carolina. Don will be working in church planting for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Ewells have been a part of the WCA family since 1996 and will be much missed.

In God's good providence, the Ewells are following the trail of another notable WCA family, the Georges. Bill George, principal of our school from 1987-92, is headmaster of Asheville Christian Academy, where Kendra and Christopher will be enrolling.

James Koan, II

**Career Bank.** Upper school students attending our Working Lunches are catching a vision for their futures. We hope they will catch quite a few visions - career paths do seem to involve metamorphosis for most of us.

**Joseph McMillan**, Special Agent for the U.S. Government (DoD), gave interested students a fresh idea of what defense criminal investigation looks like from the top. Mr. McMillan is in charge of white collar crime investigations for Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Europe.

**Derek Linden**, a lawyer for NASD and a graduate of Harvard Law School, inspired students with the wide range of interesting work available to those with law degrees and the value of such work for society in general. Mr. Linden's broad experience also covers technology management and government regulation.

Robin Gropp

**OUR STUDENTS**

**Bear-time in Kindergarten.** We are learning about real and fictional bears, and our BIG stuffed bear, Joanna goes home for a couple of days with

every child, who then writes and draws an entry into Joanna's journal.

**Hatching Chicks.** Mrs. Wybenga's class has 12 chicken eggs in an incubator. God willing, they will hatch in 21 days, in the first half of April. Then you may want to stop by and admire these cute creations of God.

**German Field Trip.** On Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, the WCA German students went on a field trip to a German language festival at Towson University. Many of the students participated in competitions. Danny Keegan, Joel Powers, Ambika Sathya, and Avi deSilva, all in German II, created a photo essay and won second place for their level. German II students Jon Bratt and Ched Nunez participated in a floor scrabble competition, and German I student B.J. Henley entered a poetry recitation competition. Also in German I, Joshua Gazo participated in a workshop in which he performed comical skits, and the rest of German I enjoyed a "Memory Tour of Berlin." The trip was enjoyed by all and allowed the students to strengthen their German skills, as well as expand their knowledge about German culture.

Alex Bender  
8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Tosca and Swan Lake.** On March 17<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, the WCA high school went to see a matinee performance of Tosca, and a technical rehearsal of Swan Lake, respectively, at the Kennedy Center. Both were excellent productions, and we enjoyed them very much, although unfortunately we were only able to stay for the first two acts of Swan Lake. We thank God for the wonderful cultural opportunities in the DC area, and the Kennedy Center for allowing the school to attend these special performances.

Arpad Korossy  
12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Alumna.** Jana Holiday ('98) will graduate from Cedarville College next year, a year early, because many of her WCA high school classes transferred as college credit. She majored in nursing in her freshman year, then changed direction, as she discovered her real passion is for philosophy. She credits her love of thinking and wanting to understand the answers to perplexing questions partly to the discipline of thought at WCA. What will she *do* with a philosophy major? There are many possibilities. Almost every discipline needs careful thinkers. Counseling, and teaching are two obvious choices. She would love to eventually teach

college level philosophy; however, before she starts to work on her Master's degree, she hopes to serve the Lord in Europe, working in a Missions school. She is joyfully open to follow God's leading.

**Third Annual Sport Banquet.** On March 18<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual sport banquet to celebrate God's blessings on our Wildcats. The program was officiated by our very enthusiastic Athletic Director, Jay Van Dyken. Five years ago we had no teams, and now we could joyfully recognize our teams in Volleyball, Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, and also our Cheerleader squads. God has richly blessed us, indeed!

Everybody received a recognition, "Varsity letters" with pins, special certificates, or acknowledgment of participation. Jon Bratt, Susanna Brockman, Josh Dzime-Assison, B.J. Henley, Michael Hollis, II, Caitlin McGovern, Stacy Robinson, Megan Rosetta, Erin Watley, and Jessica Wybenga were the athletic "**Christian Character**" recipients, and Kelly Aguilar, Vincent Carter, Emily Gaskins, Erica Gropp, Santayus Ivey, Tinisha McMillan, Stacy Robinson, Matt Sinkiat, Brianne Tallman, and Lamara Toro received "**Most Improved**" awards. Congratulations!

We also thank our coaches, sponsors, parents, WCA staff, and the relentlessly supportive WCA Booster Club, for their part in the success of our athletic program. A special thank you to all the parents who helped with the banquet, and Mrs. Natalie Gazo for coordinating it.

Yvonne Hollis  
Parent

**Tennis and Baseball.** The tennis and baseball teams have officially formed. Come and cheer them on (the schedule is posted on the Sports Bulletin Board), or just stop by to watch them practice.

## BOARD AND SCHOOL FAMILY

**Update on the Headmaster Search.** As reported in last's month's update, the Board has engaged the services of D. Bruce Lockerbie of Paideia, Inc., to assist the WCA Leadership Search Committee in finding a new headmaster. Mr. Lockerbie visited WCA on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, meeting with administrators, Board members, teachers, and other members of our community. He plans to meet with the Leadership Search Committee toward the end of March to update us on potential candidates for the position.

In this update, we describe the main qualities in a headmaster that the Leadership Search

Committee is looking for. They are based on discussions with faculty and parents, as well as on input from the Board and intensive conversations among Search Committee members. All of these have been communicated to Mr. Lockerbie and Paideia in full detail. In this article, we can only sketch them out in brief.

On behalf of the WCA community, the Leadership Search Committee is looking for an individual who has a clear commitment to Christ and is at home in the Reformed tradition of the school. The individual must have a clear vision for education from a Reformed Christian perspective and be able to articulate its distinctiveness clearly yet passionately to a wide variety of audiences. He or she will have demonstrated a personal love for learning. An experienced individual, the candidate will have had classroom teaching experience, yet also have demonstrated abilities as the head of a school. Above all, the person must have had experience in the administration of a high school or a system with a high school component. As for leadership style, the individual must be a team builder who sees value in collaboration across the different constituencies of our community. The individual must love children, and embrace a diverse community such as we have at WCA.

Please continue to bathe the search process in prayer. Pray for Mr. Lockerbie and his colleagues at Paideia, and the Search Committee members as they consider the candidates put forth by them. Pray above all that our sovereign God lead us to the person of His own choosing. As WCA has experienced God's faithfulness over and over during its 40-year history, we continue to trust Him to meet our needs again, to the glory of His name.

Dorry M. Kenyon,  
for the Leadership Search Committee

***Promise Tree Grows and Grows.*** WCA's Promise Tree Auction, our greatest fund-raiser for tuition assistance, is growing each year in many ways.

We had more items promised this year than last, and the total amount of money raised was \$23,000, as opposed to \$16,000 last year, which, in turn, was several thousand dollars more than any previous year. Tremendous growth! Not only is the Lord prospering His people here, but He also enables them to have hearts to share with and give to the work of WCA (one item went for \$3,000!).

In addition to parents of current students, participants included teachers, administrators and other staff members, grandparents, alumni, society members, parents of former students, and friends.

There was even a couple who had received an invitation after they visited us on a Welcome Wednesday and expressed an interest in sending their child to school here!

This year, we also grew in amount of space available and in efficiency. In addition to being conveniently located, the cafeteria at Einstein High School proved to be a lovely and spacious setting. Silent auction items were on display along two sides of the nearly square room, with rows of chairs for the live auction in the center. Tables loaded with finger food were in the back of the room. There was still lots of room for walking around to look at items on display, check on your bids, or grab another piece of broccoli or a bar cookie. But best of all, the space made it really easy to chat with friends, both old and new. The fellowshiping with one another is one of the great features of this event.

The check-out process seems to grow quicker and more efficient each year. As the cashiers worked with the bidders, the clean-up team sprang into action, and everything was wrapped up early, so the last cars drove out at 10:45 pm.

This manifold growth and improvement of the Promise Tree was the result of the faithful work of over 30 volunteers, organized by Jean Visy. We wholeheartedly thank all of them, including our beloved auctioneer, Doug Hill.

Nancy Keegan  
Parent

***Moms-in-Touch.*** Continue to pray with us at all times for the many needs of our families, school, and world. Some of the specific needs: Al Minite's mother; Pat Wybenga's mother; Luke Johnston; other students with health problems; college decisions for seniors; re-enrollment; Headmaster search; and marriage preparation for Miss Shoemaker, Miss Bosscher, and Mr. Sanker. We offer special praise for the successful surgery that corrected Laszlo Korossy's heart condition.

***WCA Heritage Library.*** Our special library, containing books, tapes, and magazines on reformed education, will move from the office into the Library, just left of the entrance. Check it out!

## **TO PONDER**

No book is really worth reading at the age of ten which is not equally (and often far more) worth reading at the age of fifty.

CS Lewis, "On Stories"

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**Coram Deo**