



The Messenger

Washington Christian Academy
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Spring Society Meeting Monday, May 15, at 7:30pm All Purpose Room at WCA

At this meeting there will be an **election** of new Board members, to fill the vacancies of those who will be retiring this summer. Another important topic will be the Board's plans for school leadership for the next academic year. As was reported in the recent letter to the school community, the **Headmaster Search Committee** has determined that it is necessary to continue searching for a permanent replacement for Jim Koan in order to find the candidate who best fulfills the profile that the school community worked together to establish. In the meanwhile, the Board has therefore begun interviewing and making arrangements for an interim Headmaster. At the Society Meeting the Board will present the leadership's plans that are now in place for the next school year.

Please make every effort to **attend** this important meeting on May 15.

Howard Bushouse
 Society Membership Committee Chair

The Best is Best for Everyone, Part 3

The letter in my Monday morning mail read: "I'm sure you have wrestled with the problem of what to do with highly-talented Christian young people ...qualified for admission to Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth--you want them to enjoy the highest level of intellectual challenge...but there's an uneasiness at consigning them to the rampant secularism and anti-Christian bigotry which reigns on America's elite...campuses."

True or False? Should Christian parents, teachers and students be uneasy about the elite colleges and universities? Should we fear that our students will be crushed by "rampant secularism and anti-Christian bigotry"? Should we find safe places for ourselves and our students where we will not have to encounter the vain ideas of the world?

The academic preparation of WCA graduates enables them to confidently excel and benefit from intellectual rigor at the best universities. Our earliest graduates have gone on to graduate work at Yale, medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, and law school, followed by a clerkship with a U.S. District Court Chief Judge. Our most recent graduates report smooth transitions to rigorous college work, attributed to the preparation received at WCA. Most importantly, our college students have persevered in the faith, and actively engaged in worship, Bible study, and the defense of the faith. Our WCA graduates have worked through the application of the Christian world view to academics with WCA teachers who have guided them through challenging literary, mathematical, and scientific ideas. These are the very ideas that they are encountered in a rigorous university! Our graduates have further worked through the application of a Christian world view as they have struggled to understand how the Christian life is uniquely lived out as a young person who must make godly choices. This understanding is developed by dialogue with teachers, administrators and other students, and parents establish important models for how Christianity is lived out within the Christian community and within the world. Most importantly, graduates have learned how to search for truth and apply truth to the facts before them. In short, WCA graduates have been taught to think and to act biblically.

If we believe that God is sovereign and that His Truth will last for eternity, why should we fear sending well-prepared students to the great universities? If we seek to raise a generation to occupy their places worthily in society, church and state, are not the universities the place where our students will learn to participate in the public debate and present the claims of truth? Will not truth "...demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and ...take captive every thought to make it obedient to

Christ" (2Cor 10:5)? At many universities there are thriving Christian study centers which present the claims of truth to unbelievers and provide opportunities for study and encouragement to Christian students and faculty. Even now, the Jonathan Edwards Institute is preparing to open such a center at Princeton University, where Jonathan Edwards once served as President! Graciously, God frequently places a church near a university which directs its ministry to the students and faculty.

Back to the quoted letter, the underlying premise is false! We must boldly and confidently encourage our well-prepared graduates to enter the universities, confident of the claims of God's truth! As Paul reminded Timothy, "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline" (2Tim 1:7).

Janice B. Adams
Associate Headmaster for Academics

College Tour. Shortly before 5 am on Wednesday, April 12, a van carrying seven WCA sophomores pulled away from WCA and headed south. At a few minutes before 10 that morning we pulled up to the undergraduate admissions office at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, for a presentation and campus tour. Seventy-three hours and seven colleges later, we pointed the van toward home. In addition to Duke, we had visited the University of North Carolina and Elon College in NC; Georgia Tech, Clark-Atlanta, and Emory University in Atlanta, and Covenant College on Lookout Mountain in Georgia. Saturday's 11-hour drive home was our longest by far, but the time was put to good use as our driver/chaperone, Bryan Austin, asked the high school students what they had learned and what suggestions they would have for such trips in the future. Without exception, they learned that they needed to work *early* and *diligently* to prepare for college and the college application process. What might they change? Take 8th and 9th graders so they get the message in time! Two delightful side benefits of the trip: a stay in a luxurious skyscraper in Atlanta thanks to www.priceline.com, and an opportunity for 10th graders to get to know Mr. Austin, who is teaching Mrs. Carter's classes for the last weeks of this school year.

Nancy Keegan
Librarian

College Tour – A Student's View. We visited colleges that ranged from a small Christian college like Covenant, to major state NCAA colleges like Duke University and the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Each college shared with us the standards for getting in. It was helpful to know that they do not only look at grades, but also at leadership and extracurricular activities. We also found out that besides looking at the GPA, they take into account the difficulty of courses taken and comparisons to other people in the class, rather than to people in other schools. This visit really gave me a wake-up call, showing me exactly what I need to do to get into the college of my choice. I would suggest this tour to everyone in the high school. I am lucky to have the opportunity to have this trip in my sophomore year, so I still have two years to shape my high school record.

Kelly Rosetta
10th grade

Class of 2000: FUTURES! Our seniors have received acceptances from the following colleges so far:

Babson College
Emory University
George Washington University
Liberty University
Smith College
Trinity Christian College
U. S. Naval Academy
University of Maryland (Honors College)
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Virginia
Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Thus far, they have been offered a total of \$58,300 in scholarships, grants, and financial aid, plus the "free" education at the Naval Academy (valued at \$250,000). Go Graduates!

College Prep. How do WCA staff work with students in the college preparation and application process? Stay tuned for the details from Nancy Keegan in the next issue.

Why We Give to WCA.

"Providing Christian education is of paramount importance to us, and we take this into consideration each year as we plan our charitable giving. It's because WCA provides a godly environment, incorporates the spiritual component into all academic areas, and places Christ above all else that we choose to give to this institution."

WCA parent and Board member
35 Special Friends donor

"I support Christian schools because they are meeting a need that no other school can meet. I support WCA because I see here Christians

working together to make it the best possible Christian school.”

WCA Faculty member
WCA 100 donor

“In doing God’s work, WCA is providing enormous benefits to our family. Giving as we can seems to be a great way to support that and to show our appreciation.”

New WCA parent
Academy Patron donor

“Giving \$40 per month is the price of one dinner out, which seems like the least we can do. We do this happily, wanting to be a part of the work that goes on at WCA.”

WCA parent of 13 years
Gideon’s Band donor

Eighth Graders to Chesapeake Bay. On April 26, the 8th grade took a trip to Meredith Creek to see and explore the life of the Chesapeake Bay. We were split into groups and were taken to different places. We saw an all-natural bathroom that uses no water and helps improve the Bay. We rode on a boat and caught some oysters on one of the largest oyster beds in Maryland! We examined them and then threw them back. We also caught two fish, a Hog Choker and a Pumpkin Seed, and caught and looked at some zooplankton through a magnifying glass. After lunch, we took a canoe trip to a marsh and walked through it using tall boots to protect our clothes, although some of us didn’t stay too dry. Then we discussed what we saw, to encourage us to help to save the Bay. The trip helped me with my knowledge of it, and it encouraged me to study it more. And I had so much fun!

Stacy Robinson
8th grade

Erratum. In the last issue we reported on the annual Sports Banquet, held on March 18th. Regretfully we left out one of our soccer players, Hannah Adams, from the list of athletes who received an award for “**Christian Character**.” So, we now extend our warm congratulations to her as well. Go Wildcats!

Fine Arts Week. WCA’s annual Fine Arts Week will take place this year during the week of May 1-5. Fine Arts Week is a school-wide celebration of the arts and of the many gifts with which God has so richly blessed our children. During this week, student artwork will be on display throughout the school. Parents and friends are welcome to walk through the halls and enjoy the drawings, paintings, clay projects, and other creations of our students. There will be two talent

shows this year. The upper school (grades 7-12) talent show will take place on Thursday, May 4, at 1:30 p.m., and will include vocal, instrumental and dance performances. On Friday evening, May 5, at 7:30 p.m., students in K-6 will share their talents. The program will include a variety of individual and group performances, including vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles, dance, speech, skits, the WCA Choir, and more. Friends, parents, and grandparents are welcome to attend both of these programs.

Bette Vander Haak
Art Teacher

God’s World Book Fair. The Fair will be held in the library *next* week, May 1-5. Parents can stop in after school, or Friday evening before the talent show.

“Sarah, Plain, and Tall.” An excerpt from a 5th grader’s “comparison paragraph”:

“Anna’s relationship with Sarah was different in the movie and the book. In the movie Anna didn’t want Sarah to come, and when she came to visit, Anna disliked her in the beginning. Then, in the movie, Anna had a nightmare about her dead mother, Catherine, and Sarah comforted her and they became good friends. I think the reason Anna disliked Sarah at first was because Anna didn’t want anyone to replace her mother.”

Lara Linden

Alumnae. Ginny Mange, who graduated from WCS in 1970, visited our 7th grade classes in March. Have you noticed some students wearing the colorful woven scarves from Cambodia that they bought from Ginny? She is a missionary in Cambodia, working with the Khmer people. As a nurse, Ginny started working with Youth With a Mission (YWAM) in 1985, when she was sent to Thailand to help the Cambodian/Khmer refugees in one of the largest camps along the border. Her responsibilities included working with, and training, midwives and other health care workers, giving vaccinations, providing supplementary feeding to malnourished children, etc. She also supported and prayed for the Cambodian Christians and churches.

During the border clashes between the various Cambodian factions, Ginny experienced some aspects of war. After four and a half years she moved to work inside the country of Cambodia, in a northeastern province near the border with Laos. There, Ginny again trained midwives and nurses and witnessed the birth of a church, as many people came to the knowledge of Christ. For the past five years, Ginny has been living in Colorado Springs,

Co., but is still working with YWAM. In May of this year, Ginny will return to Cambodia to continue her work in bringing the gospel of Christ to the Khmer people.

Esther Adams, WCA'96, UVA'00, received the Gray-Carrington Award from the Alumni Association of the University of Virginia. This award is the highest recognition given to an undergraduate at UVA in recognition of personal integrity, academic achievement, leadership and humility. The award consists of a framed certificate, tuition, room on The Lawn, and board and fees for one year. Esther was also commended for her leadership in student residence life and in small group Bible studies for students, and for founding the Christian Fellowship Council. She will use the award at UVA to complete her Master's Degree in 2001. Her future plans include teaching, and the pursuit of a Ph.D.

Alumni view. "For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and suffers a loss in his soul?" As an alumna and a child care provider, I am very pleased to see that more of our 8th graders are remaining in WCA for high school this year than in any others. But why does that matter so much?

Being an alumna, I know just how academically excellent this school is. I'm not the only one of my fellow graduates who found college to actually be easier than high school, and some of those fellow alumni went on to full scholarships and degrees from Calvin, GW, and Yale. In a few weeks, I'll be attending a former classmate's graduation from UPenn Medical School. I wish I had a dime for every time a college professor remarked on my unusually good writing skills, or broad knowledge base. Unusual? I'd been one of the slower ones in my classes! This is not to mention the incredibly solid grounding I received in critical thinking, one that withstood the thorough test of a secular college. Maybe that's unusual in today's world, but it shouldn't be.

As a child care provider, I come to this with a whole different perspective, though. Academics are extremely important, but even more so the worldview that the child develops during the crucial years of high school. Some secular schools are also solid in their academics and may not necessarily openly teach evolution or new age philosophy or humanism. But the teachers cannot help but teach from their godless worldview, and their natural comments, "facts," and assertions can do serious subtle damage to children's Christian worldview.

All this doesn't even consider the enormous influence peers have. In such an atmosphere, students will inevitably adopt some questionable beliefs, even if they remain Christians. I've worked for so many Christian parents who believe their still-maturing children are being salt and light in their overwhelmingly secular schools, never seeing the side I do, of how much more the school affects them than they affect the school.

The great strength of WCA is the values that permeate every subject taught, every teacher's lecture, every adult role model in the school. It's what allows us to fulfill our biblical mandate of raising our children in the way they should go. And no sports program, class size, or extracurricular activity in any other school can make up for that.

K.Hanna Korossy
Class of 1990

Note from the Latin teacher: In this column you see different endings on the word *alumni*. These are not spelling errors. *Alumnus* is a singular male ex-student, and its plural is *alumni*. The female version is *alumna* in singular, and *alumnae* in plural. Many other English words follow the Latin pattern. For example, *nucleus* becomes *nuclei* in plural, the plural of *vertebra* is *vertebrae*, etc. By the way, *etc.* is also Latin. It is the abbreviation for *et cetera*, which means "and the others."

Moms in Touch. By God's grace, Mrs. Carter's surgery went well. Continue to keep her in your prayers for excellent recovery and for successful surgery on her other hip, planned for a month or so from now. Also, keep praying for our school's Headmaster search, for both of those teachers who are leaving us, and for those who will now join our WCA community.

The Board of Directors invites all families and friends of WCA to a FARWELL PICNIC for the KOANs on June 4, 2-7 pm, at Lake Needwood. We hope all of you can join us.

TO PONDER

"Faith ought to be the central organizing companion to all other kinds of knowledge...Christian scholarship and institutions are necessary, so the insights of the gospel can judge critically the academy and the culture, as well as the church. The only alternative is to allow the church to be judged by the academy, and the gospel to be judged by the culture."

James S. Burtchael, Mars Hill Audio, Jan/Feb 1999

Coram Deo

The Coming of Christ

'Twas the morning that Jesus came,
And outside the school
All the students were chatting,
They were all acting cool.

Mr. Koan in his office was sending a fax.
Mrs. Arnoult in hers, paying the tax.
The teachers in their classrooms were getting prepared.
They were a little bit nervous, a little bit scared.

The clock kept on ticking.
The bell would soon ring.
Miss Kuik was wondering
What they should sing.

Mrs. Groves in her classroom
Her desks rearranging.
Her children were there,
Her calendar changing.

The clock struck eight twenty
And the children all ran
Down to their classrooms
And so the day began.

The morning was happy,
Things were going quite well.
That things would soon change,
No one could tell.

And suddenly in the schoolyard there came a loud blast.
Christ was returning - He was here at last.
The children all ran to the window to see,
Excited to know He had come for you, and for me

All His children He gathered.
How they looked didn't matter.
What was in each heart
Was how he told them apart.

We judge by appearance;
Is he funny, is she cool?
God judges by the inside.
That's His kingdom rule.

Your heart is the measure,
Judged by all that you treasure.
Is the Lord number one?
Are you ready to be done?

Our 1st grade teachers, Miss Kuik, and Mrs. Groves, and her daughter, Christy Groves wrote this poem, and the 1st graders read it and "acted" it out in Chapel. The theme of that month's Chapel was the "from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead" line of the Apostolic Creed. May God be glorified!