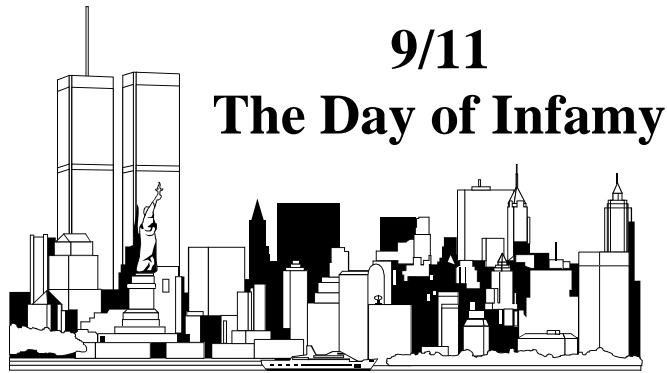


The **Messenger**

Washington Christian Academy
1820 Franwall Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20902
Tel: 301-649-1070, Fax: 301-649-9860
www.wcal.org



9/11 The Day of Infamy

As I walked into the school library on Tuesday, September 11 for my fourth period study hall at 11 am, I saw a handful of students and Mr. Vander Haak gathered around the computers surfing the Internet. I asked one of them what was happening, figuring it was a class project or research.

The reply blew me away.

As I learned that the World Trade Center had been hit by two hijacked commercial airliners and had collapsed, and that the Pentagon had also been attacked, new rumors sprung up like weeds. According to radio reports, the State Department had been bombed, the Metro was shut down, the twin towers had collapsed into each other, and a plane had crashed outside of Pittsburgh (which was true). Speculation and panic abounded, as more and more students and faculty filtered into the library. After a time of prayer for the victims, their families, our leaders, and the perpetrators, we were sent back to our classes shocked and scared.

After a day and a half of no school, we returned to WCA and attended our regular chapel service, where the Student Council announced that on Friday morning we would be collecting donations for the victims. We collected \$535 dollars from 6th through 12th grade, and the Student Council added \$265 to round it off to \$800 total. Giant Food has a program that matches all donations up to one million dollars, so we are in fact contributing \$1600.

On Friday morning there was a time of prayer at 8 am at the flagpole. The turnout was huge; we had to divide into two separate circles because there were so many people. We also showed our patriotic spirit by dressing up in red, white, and blue that day. We will not forget the events of that tragic historic week.

—Danny Keegan
Junior

Looking to God -for our Future

The start of this school year will always be remembered by the tragic events of September 11. We were faced with the evil and utter depravity of man without God. In the face of all of this, we reminded ourselves and our students that our security and stability is centered in the bedrock assurance of the sovereignty of God. God is in control. As we prepared for school this year, little did we realize how meaningful the theme for this year would become:

**Glorify the Lord with me,
let us exalt His name together.**

This verse, selected from Ps. 34:3, will assist us as we take the opportunity to study the names of God in both the Lower and Upper School chapels. As we learn about God's name, we grow to know Him better, and to love and trust Him more.

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We give thanks (our beautiful new doors) and we mourn.



The Stephen T.M. Tam Award

This fall, and for the second of three years, a special tuition assistance award has been granted. The award was funded by Mrs. Florence Moeson, sister of the deceased Stephen T. M. Tam. Mrs. Moeson and her brother came to the United States from China as children and their lives were changed by generous gifts that enabled them both to be educated in a Christian school. The \$2,000 award has been granted for the 2000-2001 school year to a high school student at WCA on the basis of need, academic strength, and Christian character.



GOD, OUR FUTURE

continued from page 1

Listed below are some of the goals established for this school year (not in order of priority)

1. To finish the recruitment of a the new Headmaster.
2. To complete the development of the Strategic Plan envisioned for WCA for the next five to ten years.
3. To continue the search for a new site for the new campus for WCA.
4. To organize and implement a major capital funding program to raise the funds needed for the purchase of property and the establishment of the new campus.
5. To commence a three-year program to develop a quality Curriculum Guide that outlines the total instructional program.
6. To study the current dress code policy to determine whether there is need for change, and if so, to recommend that change.
7. To study the possibility of establishing a separate middle school program.
8. To continue to move the Board of Directors toward that of being a policy-oriented Board.

Please pray for wisdom and work together with us for the completion of these goals.

—Ron Whipple
Headmaster

BOOK REVIEW

David V. Hicks: *Norms & Nobility*

A Treatise on Education
Praeger Special Studies, New York: 1981

Modern educators commonly approach their task with the question, “What do children need to know in order to succeed in life?” David Hicks asks first, “Who is man and why is he here?” If that sounds like the launch of an unpractical, esoteric book, guess again. In *Norms and Nobility*, after laying out an inspiring definition of classical education suitable for modern students, David Hicks ends by offering a concrete curriculum for grades 7—12, even down to the details of weekly schedules and assigned readings. The author has implemented the curriculum in several of the schools where he has served.

To explore the question, “Who is man?”, Hicks places humanities at the center of classical curriculum. A thoughtful consideration of why man has been placed on earth leads him to focus on virtue as the goal of education.

Literature in the classical world offers not “slice-of-life” realism, but rather the ideal, or “norm.” We might say that a hero in a classical story is a *figment* of human imagination, but an ancient Greek would be likely to retort, yes, *human* imagination. Humans are created with an instinctive sense of what is good. Heroic literature holds up a moral mirror. As readers identify with the hero, their desire to strive for nobility is awakened. The best kind of education inspires the young person to reach for his/her better self.

For a summary of David Hicks’s ideas, see chapter 5 of *Classical Education* by Gene Veith and Andrew Kern.

—Doug Gropp
Parent

Do you give “at the office”?

You can channel your gifts to
Washington Christian Academy

United Way # 92428
Combined Federal Campaign # 7278

2001 Friends of the School Banquet

Saturday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m.
At Silver Spring Christian Reformed Church
Address by Mr. David Hicks:
“The Education of the Conscience”

The Friends of the School Banquet is for every person who wants to know what the vision of WCA is for the future, how that vision intersects with the needs of our times, and what is needed to fulfill that vision. There can never be too many Friends for the children of God’s covenant.

Purchase or reserve tickets (\$15 per person) in the school office

David Hicks is president of the Darlington School in Rome, Georgia. He has served in administrative leadership also at St. Paul’s School in Concord, NH; St Andrew’s Episcopal School in Jackson, MS, and several other schools. He is the author of Norms & Nobility, (reviewed above) which received the American Library Association Outstanding Book Award. He received his education at Princeton University (A.B. in English) and Oxford University (M.A. in Philosophy, Rhodes Scholar). David and his wife Betsy have four children, two in college, and two still in high school.

David Hicks has received many awards and done many admirable things. But it is because of his profound understanding of the issues at the heart of educating the Christian citizens of the future that we have invited him to speak to our community.



Facility Improvements

Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow! We thank God for the beginning of another school year, our second one here at WCA. We consider this school a blessing from God.

As we approached the school during the upper school orientation in August with our four children in tow, our youngest two were in a double stroller. I looked at the front doors and I immediately had the dreaded thought, “Oh no!!! I have to unload my children to get through the door with the stroller!” But something was odd. The doors looked brand new. I no longer saw the old deep red wooden doors. For a second I thought that I was mistaken and perhaps it was another school building that I was remembering having the old red wooden doors. The doors even sparkled. They looked so new, they invited me to try to get through them with the stroller, as I was told when we purchased it that it could fit through any door that a wheelchair would pass through. What do you know, the stroller passed through with ease! And when someone saw me hesitate at the door and asked if I needed help, I turned and with a big smile said, “No, thank you.”

The doors were just one of several improvements that WCA had undertaken during the summer. When I stepped into my 1st grader’s classroom, it seemed a little brighter than I had remembered from last year.

The floors had been replaced and they illuminated the room. Speaking of illuminating, there were new lights installed too! And as I hurriedly searched for my 8th grader last week when we were running late for an orthodontist appointment, I was told I could find her in the computer lab. I almost walked right back out of the room because it looked empty and a bit small. But as I scanned the room, I saw another door. I went in and, voila, there was the lab behind a new wall.

As Nehemiah says in 2:17-18, “...I told them, ‘You know full well the tragedy of our city; it lies in ruins and its gates are burned. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and rid ourselves of this disgrace!’ Then I told them about the desire God had put into my heart, and of my conversation with the king, and the plan to which he had agreed. They replied at once, ‘Good! Let’s rebuild the wall!’ And so the work began.” Until the Lord blesses us with another facility, we should honor the Lord here as we carry on the work with our covenant children. We must continually be in rebuilding mode.

When our home was in need of several repairs, my husband and I realized that we have to be good stewards of what the Lord has already blessed us with if we want Him to bless us with more. We are so glad to see that the physical building that the Lord has blessed WCA with is not bringing disgrace to the Lord, but instead, through each and every improvement/renovation, it brings honor to His name!

—Lydia Kenlaw
Parent

WCA Society



Washington Christian Academy was brought into being by a group of people from three local churches who organized themselves some 40 years ago as the Washington Christian School Society. Their motivation was the belief that it is our duty to provide an *excellent* Christian education for our children, and that this can be best accomplished through the concerted actions of Christian day schools. The school was founded with the additional purpose of providing that Christian education from a *Reformed* perspective, basing the beliefs and philosophies of the school on the interpretation of the Bible according to Reformed standards, such as the Westminster Confession and Catechisms, the Belgic Confession, and the Heidelberg Catechism.

The Society and WCA live on today, through God's faithfulness and grace. The continuing role of the Society is to maintain the purpose, vision and mission of WCA, so that today's—and tomorrow's—children may continue to develop their God-given talents to their fullest, and occupy their places worthily in society, church, and state. The Society accomplishes this through the work of the Board of Directors, which is elected from the membership of the Society, and through the work of the Board's various committees. The Society also has direct approval of the annual WCA budget.

If you share this vision of WCA for excellent Reformed Christian education, I encourage you to find out more about Society membership. More detailed information about the Society, its beliefs and purpose, is available on the WCA web site, as well as through the school office. The first of our three regular Society meetings for this school year will be held on Monday, October 29. While only Society members can vote, attendance is open to all, and all parents are welcome.

—Howard Bushouse
President of WCA Board

MEET THE NEW STAFF

We are committed to the principle that the Sovereign God provides just those men and women He has designed to be a part of WCA for this year. We are very pleased to introduce these folks to you:

Mrs. Sharon Callaway -Day Care Director, Lower School Keyboard, and with lunch and recess duties; has many years of experience in child care including the WCA Day Care program last year.

continued on next page

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AT WCA

“The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” —Psalm 24:1. This verse was the theme for the upper school's environmental stewardship week. Christians, as God's appointed stewards, have a rightful place and obligation to be leaders on environmental issues. Our goal as teachers is to challenge students to be better stewards of the world God has created.

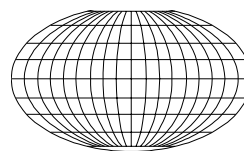
Each day of environmental stewardship week, a different group of students toured the Montgomery County Recycling Center. Students saw what happens to the paper, glass, cans, and other materials that their families collect and place at the curbside. They watched as the co-mingled materials were inspected and sorted along the main processing line in the 50,000 square-foot. A powerful magnet pulls out steel, tin, and bimetal cans, and sends them to a baler for compacting into approximately 1,200 lb bales for shipment to steel mills. Aluminum and plastic are likewise separated, compressed and baled into 400 lb and 500 lb bales, respectively. Students learned that soda bottles may be recycled into jacket insulation, while phone books may become ceiling tile or animal bedding, thus closing the recycling loop.

Seventh grade students learned in Bible class about God's concern for the environment, starting with Adam tending the garden, and God's covenant with Noah regarding man and every living creature. God gave specific stewardship commands through Moses, requiring that the land lay fallow every seventh year, and gave instruction on sustainable harvest in Deuteronomy 22:6-7. Seniors in Bible class contrasted the Christian world view with the ethics of pantheism and secular humanism, regarding the stewardship of the earth.

Ninth grade biology students learned basic principles of ecology in the context of the Chesapeake Bay as they prepared for a trip with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Students explored Meredith Creek in canoes and studied the Bay on a workboat. Last spring, these same students grew submerged aquatic vegetation from seed and then planted it in Jug Bay on the Patuxent River.

These are just a few of the many activities students have been involved in during environmental stewardship week.

—Jack Schaefer
WCA Science Teacher



NEW STAFF

continued from previous page

Mrs. Connie Dever -*Upper School Algebra III*; BA in Economics from Duke University

Mrs. Natalie Gazo -*Upper School Physics*; BA in Engineering from Syracuse University

Mrs. Heidi Granzow -*Lower School Resource*; BS in Special Education from University of Maryland; veteran elementary teacher; has served as a WCA admissions tester

Miss Stephanie Hazzard -*Administrative Assistant to the Upper School Principal*

Mrs. Barbara Hoover -*Upper School Chemistry*; BS in Chemistry from Houghton; MA in Science Education from University of Maryland; taught at WCA from '84- '89; currently in the PhD program at the University of Maryland

Mrs. Karen Jordan -*Secretary to the Headmaster and Registrar*

Mrs. Lisa McGovern -*Upper School English, and Yearbook Advisor*; BA in Communication and Spanish from Grove City College

Mrs. Sue McCotter -*Receptionist*

Miss Veena Narang -*Upper School Honors and AP English and History*; BA in English from Salisbury State University

Mrs. Melissa Rogers -*Upper School Resource*; BS in Elementary Education from University of Maryland; MA in Reading from Hood College; served as a WCA admissions tester

Mr. George Sanker -*Upper School Theology, and Physical Education*; BA from Colgate University; near completion of MA in Theology from Reformed Theological Seminary; returning faculty from a year ago

Mrs. Benita Slye -*Bus Driver and Maintenance*

Mr. Paul Tarry -*Lower School Physical Education and athletic coach*; BS in Physical Education from Stroudsburg University; extensive experience (22 years) in teaching PE, as well as serving as Athletic Director

The following employees have changed positions:

Mrs. Vickie Fanara -*Vocal music*, full-time

Mrs. Charlotte Frasch -*Instrumental music*, part-time

Mr. Simons -*Athletic Director*

Miss Karen Myers -*Admissions Director*; continues to teach *Journalism* and *Newspaper*; part-time

We are so thankful for each of these people for sharing their gifts of expertise with us, and for their enthusiasm for building God's kingdom at WCA. Please be sure to uphold them in prayer, daily.

—Ron Whipple
Interim Headmaster

The PTF is Popping up Everywhere



Strolling through a dense forest, the keen observer might notice the ubiquitous presence of mushrooms popping up over the mossy ground. What most observers do not know is that these clumps of mushrooms, though separated by many yards, are actually all interconnected by a fine network of underground cell-like fingers known as mycelia. These mycelia connect and unite each individual cluster as the collective unit in a real sense, as one organism.

In the same way, the PTF's representatives and its volunteers are busy popping up in all areas of the school, each contributing in their own unique way for carry on the duties of the PTF to fulfill its mission to allow parents to be responsible as the primary educators of their children, support the teachers and parents of the school, and nurture a caring community which will carry on the mission of the school.

We are delighted to have filled most of the leadership positions in the PTF even before the start of the school year, thus demonstrating the health and vitality of the organism as a whole. (I hope these volunteers do not mind being compared with mushrooms!)

Additionally, we would like to announce the availability of the position of Bazaar chair to head the 47 eager volunteers willing to help with one the most enjoyed fellowship events of our school. Please contact Pam Garren at your earliest convenience.

Feel free to greet our PTF representatives and volunteers and thank them for "popping-up" to do the job:

- ✧ PTF Coordinator: Pam Garren
- ✧ Board Liaison: Tammy Prestipino
- ✧ Staff Liaison: Robin Gropp
- ✧ Spokesperson: Marilyn Hoobler
- ✧ Hospitality Chairs: Tee Clark, Theresa Lopez
- ✧ Homeroom Coordinator: Pre-K-6, Claire McGoff
- ✧ Homeroom Coordinator: 7-8, Linda Olthoff
- ✧ Homeroom Coordinator: 9-12, Maureen Rosetta
- ✧ Welcome Volunteer: Mary Wagner

Auction Co-Chairs:

- ✧ Jean Visy: donations, acquisitions, catalog, checkout
- ✧ Tammy Prestipino: event facility, food, setup, cleanup
- ✧ Tracey Cleveland: communications, invitations, publicity

—Marilyn Hoover
Parent



From HERE and THERE

Congratulations to the Sanker family! We welcome their newest member, Nicholas William, born on Sep. 19, weighing 7lb 3oz. Praise our God for the safe arrival.

Second graders are **watching caterpillars** grow and change into butterflies (which will be freed at the end).

Let the bears come! Mrs. Brown's class is collecting teddy bears again for the orphans in Russia. They hope to collect 150 bears, which then will be sent to the Russian orphans with a kind note attached to each from our children. All school families are invited to take part in this heartwarming mission.

As part of the Stewardship efforts in our school, the six grade classes organized a **recycling project** for WCA. They will collect and sort all recyclable materials from both the upper and lower school classes.

"What I like best about WCA is that **nobody yells** –not the teachers, not the students, not even the principal! It's so quiet, I can do my work. –*David Foxworthy, new student*

Open house every month! In place of the previous "Welcome Wednesdays," Annual Open House, and Upper School Information Night, we plan to have an open house on the first or second Friday of each month, always starting promptly at 9am in the library. Here is the schedule: Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 12, May 3. Be sure to let your neighbors and friends know about these opportunities to learn more about the unique education WCA provides. –*Karen Myers*

Moms-in-Touch. Continuing in our tradition, all those who desire—not only moms—are invited to join us in prayer for our children, our school, communities, nation, and the world, every Thursday morning, 8:30-9:30am, in the kitchen. Even if you cannot come, you may submit prayer requests to us via the Moms-in-Touch "mail slot" in the teachers' workroom. At this time, we especially encourage all school families to pray for those in authority, as the Lord commended us (1 Timothy 2:1-2). One of the places you may find the names of our national leaders is www.nationalprayercenter.org/pray.htm.

Helping WCA with your grocery purchases. Giant and Safeway continue to support education by transferring 5% of all your purchase amounts to the school of your choice. You need to let the stores know which school you desire to support by signing up the school of your choice on their websites, or in person at the stores.

"Shepherding a Child's Heart." We hope you all plan to attend Dr. Tripp's seminar on the character development of children, from little ones to teenagers. He is a nationally known speaker on this topic. See the office for application forms for the October 12-13 seminar.

Free Ride-On passes for students are available in the office.



Athletics



Washington Christian Academy athletics has become an established part of this school after only five years of existing with a high school. The improvement achieved by our athletics teams in their short existence is truly phenomenal. God has blessed this school with not only parents, teachers, administrators, and students who are followers of Christ, but also athletes who are determined to give 100% in their athletic endeavors, and to honor and glorify God through it.

This year in the fall, we are offering Boys Varsity Soccer, Girls Varsity Soccer, Middle School Co-ed Soccer, Girls Varsity Volleyball, and Varsity Cross Country for boys and girls. In the winter, we are planning Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball, and Girls and Boys Middle School Basketball. Finally, in the spring we offer Varsity Baseball, Varsity Tennis for girls and boys, and Varsity Track & Field for girls and boys. An additional piece of good news is that our field teams will be competing on the field right next to our school, and that our gym teams will consistently be able to use the Silver Spring International Middle School gym on Wayne Ave., in Silver Spring. We are grateful to the Lord for providing these facilities.

The element that makes this athletic program successful lies primarily in parental support. I have been overwhelmed with the willingness of parents to assist and to make our programs successful. I want to extend much gratitude to all those adults who made and make athletics at WCA possible.

I anticipate an exciting and productive season from our athletes this year. I also expect them to strive for academic excellence and spiritual growth, as well. We invite you to come to WCA games, whether your child is playing or not. Please, continue to support our teams as they go out and compete with excellence, for the Lord.

–*Wade Simons*
Athletic Director

To Ponder

Every generation of Christians faces unique challenges....The challenge of living with popular culture may well be as serious for modern Christians as persecution and plagues were for the saints of earlier centuries.

–*Ken Myers*
Editor of Mars Hill Audio

Coram Deo