

# The Messenger

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## The Society Meets Larry W. Danner



On January 31<sup>st</sup>, at the Winter Society Meeting, Ron Whipple introduced his successor, Larry Danner, with sincere warmth. Mr. Danner, who presently serves as a Middle School Principal at Evangelical Christian School in Memphis, spoke for only ten minutes. But in that brief address he gave a strong indication of the leadership and enthusiasm for which so many have recommended him. One of his commentary note especially resonated with many at the meeting describing our community as one where “love has taken the place of tolerance.”

Larry Danner and his wife Cindy are planning to move here with their daughters in June. Their daughter Cherith (15) will be a Junior next year. Christy (19) is a sophomore at Covenant College, and Cara (22) is a beautician. Mrs. Danner is an elementary school teacher and will continue to pursue her Masters Degree in Education. Larry has served previously as Headmaster of Covenant Christian Academy in Colleyville, TX, and as Principal of Texas Christian Academy in Arlington, TX. He has also been a teacher and a pastor. He has a B.A. and a Master of Theology degree. His administrative experience spans all levels, from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and all areas, from curriculum to capital campaigns. The Danners are members of Riveroaks Reformed Presbyterian Church (PCA).

The Headmaster Search Committee reviewed many recommended candidates who were screened and interviewed by our consultant. The Committee formally interviewed five candidates in a series of intensive 3-day visits for this position. God most graciously and very decisively led us in the unanimous selection of this candidate. We received a letter of recommendation from a notable Christian leader who stated that “Larry Danner offers a school scholarship, leadership, creativity, and humor, but all of these would be mere ornaments were he not a man of character. He thinks and acts like a mature Christian who knows what the Scripture says and who applies it to his own life.” The Board of Directors found this to be an accurate assessment of the man they called, after much prayer, to lead WCA into the future.

—Sterling Mehring  
Chair, Headmaster Search Committee

Heartfelt thanks to the Search Committee members: Jan Adams, Howard Bushouse, Ayanna Carter, Marcia DeYoung, Dorry Kenyon, Jim Olthoff, David Schutt, and Ron Whipple



Larry W. Danner  
New Headmaster of WCA

## The Grandparent Factor

What makes a Christian school succeed? For one thing, the support of its community. One of the important elements of the WCA community is its grandparents, and from time to time we like to tell everyone what they do. Here are just a few examples:

**Mr. and Mrs. Ken Olthoff** (grandchildren Peter and Ryan Olthoff). You probably have seen a grandpa making hamburgers and a grandma dishing out chips at our picnic lunch on the last day of school. The Olthoffs regularly visit WCA at year’s end and cook for the whole school.

**Mrs. Lucretia Coffey** (grandchildren Brandon and Ebony Coffey). Mrs. Coffey navigates the Franwall traffic jams and the WCA carpool regularly to serve as an indispensable part of the transportation system for her grandchildren.

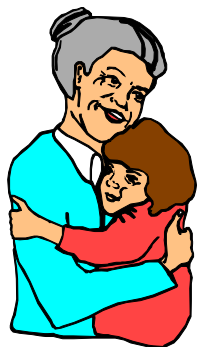
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**Mrs. Hennie Vos** (grandchildren Matthew, Elizabeth, and Michelle Bushouse). If you've been buying kitchen towels and potholders at the Bazaar, you're paying for the crochet handiwork of Mrs. Vos. She donates the proceeds to WCA.

**Mrs. Betty Llewellyn** (grandchildren Emily, Isaac, Stephen, and Courtney O'Dell). A former teacher, Mrs. Llewellyn taught the spelling and social studies lessons in Mrs. Brown's fourth grade class on Grandparent's Day last year.

**Mrs. Esther Loewenstein** (grandchildren Andrew and Evan Kuester). Mrs. Loewenstein lives in Walnut, IA, but finds distance no barrier as she prays frequently for the spiritual and academic growth of her grandchildren, and sends generous contributions to the school.

Many more grandparents help in countless ways. The number of grandparents who support WCA financially has also increased from year to year. WCA grandparents deserve our thanks for their help with the computer lab, the APR sound system, the new lighting in some of our classrooms, and contributions to our Expansion Fund.



Grandparents' Day is Monday, March 11, and we look forward to honoring the grandparents of our students, and providing them with an opportunity to see their grandchildren in action in their school environment!

## Winter Society Meeting Provided Glimpses of Future

Participants in the winter WCS Society meeting, which was held at the school on January 31<sup>st</sup>, enjoyed a two-part preview of the future of Washington Christian Academy.

The Society formally welcomed Larry Danner, who will begin his service as WCA Headmaster on July 1<sup>st</sup>. (See front page)

Mr. Danner told the Society he was attracted to WCA because of our commitment to Reformed theology, our caring covenant community, and our commitment to educational excellence. Explaining further his decision to come to WCA, in light of the limited number of days God has given each of us for His service, Mr. Danner said, "I want to spend all the days I still have doing something that counts."

In addition to meeting the new Headmaster, Society members also received a brief introduction to a piece of land that is being considered as a possible site for a permanent WCA facility. The property, located approximately 10 minutes north of our current site, includes nearly 60 acres of land. Approximately 35 acres of these could be developed, providing roughly twice our anticipated need.

The meeting also provided the members a review of the 2002 Strategic Plan report (see below), the status of the forthcoming capital fundraising campaign, and the proposed budget for the 2002-03 school year. The 2002-03 budget was unanimously approved by the quorum present.

–Mark Steimer  
Board member

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## 2002 STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

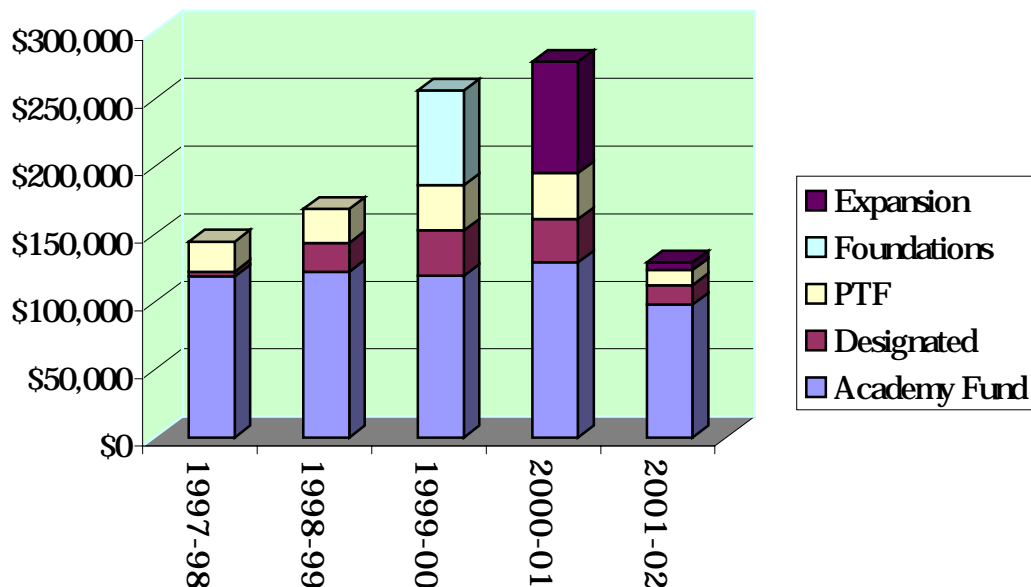
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In order to fulfill our Mission Statement, we strive to obtain the following objectives:

- To establish a permanent facility for WCA.
- To maintain and strengthen WCA's traditions and its philosophical foundation of a biblical world and life view.
- To develop the Upper School as an exemplary regional Christian high school.
- To develop a Middle School program with a distinct identity.
- To establish and implement an integrated model curriculum for Christian education.
- To further develop and strengthen the entire school program (specifically, to develop and strengthen the Fine Arts Program, the Resource Program, and the Athletic Program).
- To further nurture a united school community.
- To continue to retain and attract a high-quality Christian staff.
- To maintain the strength of the Lower School (to fill the early grades to expected levels, and to expand the Early Childhood Program).
- To become accredited by both a national Christian, and the regional accrediting associations.



## WCA Giving: 4.5 Years



*Track God's blessing on the children of His people. The current school year is a little past its midpoint. There's still time for everyone to join in the work of the Lord at WCA.*

## Looking to the Future

Keep WCA in your prayers and in your charitable giving plans. Plans are laid for our capital campaign, but we are flexing the timing in accordance with the results of our site search. Pray for God's direction as we pursue the property described at the Society meeting that we may provide a permanent home for this work of His Kingdom!

## PILLARS OF WCA

**WCA parents**, support your churches. But then we urge you to look on our ministry as your #2 concern as you plan your charitable giving for 2002. We are educating 383 children, many with tuition assistance. And of course you are aware of our grave need for a secure and adequate campus for the future. Every parent can be a supporter, too, at some level, even those who need and benefit from tuition assistance.

**WCA friends**, we thank you for your great generosity, year after year. Some of you have been a student of WCA, some of you do not even have children, but believe in our mission. We are encouraged to see grandparents and parents whose children are now in college or beyond, but still helping the next generations. The work of WCA is not "over" when our own children graduate. God set this institution in motion in the 1950s, and there is every indication He plans to use it to prepare more young people for the mantle of Christian leadership for the Church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Don't you want to be a part of that?

**Grandparents** will have a special opportunity around Grandparents' Day to help prepare the next generation of Christians.

—Robin Gropp  
Director of Advancement



1. Give at the 35 Special Friends level (\$5,000) for the first time and it will be doubled. Three of these matches have been offered by a donor; two are filled, and one is still open.

DOUBLE  
DOLLARS

2. It's hard to find a match for our volunteer parent, Maureen Rosetta, who has given so much of her time and energy over the years to help our school and our sports program. Nevertheless, "The Maureen Match" is here! In her honor, an anonymous donor has offered to match donations designated for the WCA Athletic Program, up to a total of \$1,000. Not only that, you can pin up your own red strip on the U-Pin Thermometer just inside the front door!



Section from Jared Hoobler's (4<sup>th</sup> grade) American Indian design, made in art class, complementing his studies of American history. An example of our curriculum integration.

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## IN-SERVICE ON WORLD VIEW

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I believe that knowing and being able to articulate one's world view is essential to the Christian life. It has been said that a world view serves to orient and guide us in this world. It shapes the way we assess the events, issues, and structures of our civilization and of our times. It is the way in which our students can be prepared to think critically about basic convictions, and seek to bring every thought captive (2 Corinthians 10:1-5). Thus we would enable our students to say "no to ungodliness and worldliness and to live upright and godly lives in this present evil age..." Titus 2:11-12.

The WCA staff and administrators attended an in-service training along with the AACCS (Annapolis Area Christian School) staff and administrators, on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The theme was, "Preparing Students for World View Perspective." We were addressed by Dr. Alan Crippen, vice president of academic affairs, founder and rector of the Whitherspoon Fellowship at the Family Research Council. We also heard from Dr. William Edgar, professor of apologetics at Westminster Theological Seminary, past president of the Huguenot Fellowship and of the Society of Christians in the Arts, and author of several books. We enjoyed the gracious hospitality of AACCS, who provided us with a continental breakfast, a balanced lunch, and the use of their facilities.

Dr. Crippen emphasized the importance of thinking about how a Christian world view affects our teaching, content, and perspective in preparing a student to adopt a world view—a focus not many other schools have. He

spoke of the necessity of preparing the students' world view because of a disintegrating culture around us. Bill Edgar echoed this call, pointing out the problems with the world's thinking today. In contrast to the "compartmentalized" secular world view, the Christian world view is holistic and critical, providing a comprehensive framework of one's basic beliefs about all things, shaped and tested by the Scriptures.

The lectures and the following group discussions encouraged and motivated all of us, and affirmed our desire to incorporate the Christian world view into our subject curriculum in practical ways. In Theology II and III at WCA, we examine the development of various world views in history, and then apply the lessons learned to the student's present culture. For example, Mr. Sanker in his Theology class has the students write down their world view, and then helps them to examine those views in the light of the Scriptures.

Instead of an intellectual debate, the in-service helped us to "put legs on the thing [world view]," as someone put it. It taught us practical ways to develop our students' world view, to prepare them to graduate from WCA with the right understanding of God's word, and to equip them to take on life's challenges as mature Christians.

—Bryan Austin  
Theology Teacher

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## WCA Heritage Library

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According to the Scripture, everything we think and do depends on what is in our hearts, i.e., what is our "world view." In other words, our thoughts and actions will reflect how we feel about the world, about God, about ourselves, and about all issues of life.

Our Board of Directors established the WCA Heritage Library to facilitate the development of this biblical world view in general, and its application to education in particular. It contains many excellent books, tapes, issues of Modern Reformation magazine, and a binder with a brief description of each item. Parents, teachers, and interested high school students may access this library, which is located in the front office, and has posted directions for the self-serve "honor" check-out process.



# PROMISE TREE AUCTION

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Our annual Promise Tree Auction will be held this year on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at Einstein High School. This live and silent auction is a fun event that has been a WCA tradition for more than 20 years. There is no admission charge, and it is a great way to introduce your family and friends to our school community.

A variety of finger foods and a catered cappuccino bar will be provided, and Don Dean will return as our auctioneer. Don was a WCS parent, and also served on the Board for years. He was also a very popular auctioneer of past "Promise Tree Dinners" (see note below). For our joy, he returned in that capacity last year.

The funds we raise will be used for our tuition assistance program, which enables many students, who could otherwise not afford it, to attend our school.

As a new item this year, we will be having a Door Prize drawing for a \$700 tuition credit for the 2002-03 school year. The specific details will be written in the Auction Catalog, which will be distributed in early April. The winner must be present to win!

There are several ways you can help to make this year's auction a great success. We are currently accepting donations of items and services. We encourage every family to participate. You may also invite businesses in your community to take part in this good cause. Donation forms are available in the school office. Please return your completed form by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks—food, decorations, set-up, catalog, invitations, and publicity. Please contact Jean Visy to offer your assistance, or with questions regarding donations. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated! If your business is interested in being a Promise Tree Sponsor by underwriting part of the costs of the evening, please contact Susan Minite.

Most importantly, we encourage you to attend our Promise Tree auction. We hope you will come and be a part of this memorable evening.

—Jean Visy  
Parent

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Over two decades ago, in the early years of this worthy tradition, the "promises" were attached to the branches of a small tree, and the auctioneer called them out one by one as he retrieved them from the branches. The auction was part of a festive dinner, so the event was called the "Promise Tree Dinner." As the school grew, the number of participants and the number of promises grew, too, therefore the format gradually changed, but the giving and festive spirit of the evening remains.



*The Promise Tree*

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## WCA'S RESOURCE PROGRAM

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WCA has expanded its Resource Program this year. A team of three teachers is working to support the classroom teachers with the task of educating students from the broad spectrum of our Christian community. They are acting as consultants to the teachers and as educational specialists with the students and their parents. Each classroom or subject area teacher from Pre-K through grade 12 has been assigned a Resource teacher to assist him or her. Linda Blackistone serves grades Pre-K through 2, Heidi Granzow works with grades 3 through 5, and Melissa Rogers is assigned grades 6 through 12.

Throughout the year, the Resource teachers have been actively working in the classrooms to give general assistance and support to teachers and students. As educational needs arise, the Resource team is available to assist the classroom teacher in addressing those needs. In some cases, individual students and small groups are taken to a quieter setting to work more intensely with a Resource teacher. The teachers reinforce and develop specific skills and provide interventions that will promote learning and school success. At the Upper School level, the Resource teacher is also a liaison between parents, teachers, and administrators when there is a concern about a student's academic progress. In this way, there is a team effort to provide the necessary assistance in each area of need.

Teachers and students are noticing many positive results, and we are pleased to be able to offer this service to our school families.

—Melissa Rogers  
Resource Teacher





*“Glass,” a chalk and crayon work by junior Alexandra Havrilishyn is one of the many excellent works our students produce in art class under Mrs. Vander Haak’s instruction.*

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## WCA Ice Skating Tradition

Ever since I was a little girl in Miss Kuik’s first grade class, I was fond of the WCA’s annual winter trip to the Wheaton Ice Rink. On the last day before Christmas break, all the elementary skaters would pile into parents’ cars and drive the few minutes to the rink. The older grades were actually allowed to walk to the rink! I eagerly awaited the day that I, too, would walk to the rink. As a first-grader, I remember clinging to the walls or to Miss Kuik for support. I wobbled on my skates, struggling to find my balance on the ice.

As the years progressed, so did my skating skills. By fourth grade, the girls raced the boys around the rink. Then the girls gravitated to the center and experimented with twirls and triple axles. (And, yes, as a fourth-grader I at last had gained the privilege of walking to the rink.)

One year, the ice-skating trip fell right on my birthday. My mother surprised me by bringing a cake and having an announcement about my birthday over the speaker. My face reddened, but Mrs. Brown comforted me by saying, “You’ll remember this for a long time.” You were right, Mrs. Brown, I do!

This past Christmas, a few other Upper School students and I joined the Lower School at the skating rink. We hopped on WCA’s new yellow school bus – something I never had as a child! At the rink, we taught children how to tie their skates, and held their hands as they wobbled on to the ice. Although they struggled at first, they too will learn how to slide on ice, the way I once did.

*–Alexandra Havrilishyn  
Junior*

## From *Here* and *There*

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**Kindergarten** classes visited Brookside Nature center, Wheaton Library, Noyes Children Library, and the post office. Soon they will visit Safeway grocery store, as they learn about nutrition. One of the students prayed before snack, “Dear Lord, thank you for this food, and thank you for putting all good nutrients into it so we can grow.”

**Second grade** visited the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Afterwards, they received a letter of compliment from the Aquarium staff for their exemplary behavior. They are learning the meaning of being God’s representative!

**Geos Planet** is the planet our 5<sup>th</sup> graders made. They also designed its countries, each with its own flag. Come in and see (Ms. Minor’s class)!

Upper School went **ice skating** to the Wheaton Rink, and they are planning a full day **skiing trip**.

**Wildcat Basketball teams** are having a very successful season. Be sure to check out their scores and their schedule of games on the Athletic Bulletin Board or on the WCA web site.

**Model United Nations.** In a four-day program hosted by Catholic University, twenty WCA students with several hundred other high school students worked in committees to develop a better understanding of our world, and to work out solutions to tough international problems.

**Future Gallery of Founders.** A gift has been given to initiate a collection of portraits to honor founders of WCA. The Messenger will keep you informed as we develop policy for this program and implement it.

**Pray for school families** touched by death or a serious illness: David Foxworthy (4<sup>th</sup> grade) lost his mother; Kristin Bernard (7<sup>th</sup> grade) also lost her mother; Mike Taney, father of our six Taney students, is ill; Marcie Gaskins, mother of Emily (8<sup>th</sup> grade) has been ill; Sharon Low, little sister of Sarah (9<sup>th</sup> grade), is battling leukemia. Praise God and continue to pray for Luke Johnston (9<sup>th</sup> grade), who is now in remission, and for Dyara Henderson, mother of Talia (7<sup>th</sup> grade), who has had successful brain surgery.

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## To Ponder

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“Real sorrow is over what it has cost God to redeem you; false repentance is over the consequences of your sin and what it has cost you.”

*–Dr. Robert N. Norris  
Sermon at Fourth Presbyterian Church  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2001*

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## Coram Deo