

## Recent News

**FINE ARTS FAIR:** On April 6<sup>th</sup>, DCS hosted an open house to showcase the many talents of our K-12 students. Those who attended were graced with the opportunity to listen to individual elementary kids play the piano, eat scrumptious cookies baked and served by the Home Ec. class, observe living art, navigate robots and view skillful art work created by our high schoolers. This event presented a wonderful collection of items demonstrating the many gifts of our students, hard work of our teachers, and the creativity of our own God.



**ELEMENTARY SPRING CONCERT:** On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the auditorium was filled with the sound of music as family and friends listened to the elementary classes perform during the spring concert. Kindergarteners through 4<sup>th</sup> graders sang a collection of songs that addressed the musical growth and knowledge of our students.

**POSSIBLE RE-K CLASSES NEXT YEAR:** Are you looking to enroll your child in a Pre-K program for the 2018-2019 school year? If so, please let us know. DCS is actively considering the possibility of opening a pre-kindergarten class designed to develop foundational skills for classroom learning success in a loving, Christ-centered environment. An enrollment of at least 7 students by June 1 would be necessary to operate the program. Tuition would be \$200 a month with a \$150 registration fee and a \$150 curriculum usage fee. The hours would be 8:15-11:30 A.M. three days a week. We are excited about the opportunity to serve your family in this way!



**ELEMENTARY AWARDS FOR MARCH:** Each month, elementary teachers acknowledge a few students, who demonstrate characteristics of David, Solomon, and Paul (spiritual fruits). The following students were recipients for the month of March. Great job everyone! April's recipients will be announced soon and will be posted in the May newsletter.

	DAVID AWARD	SOLOMON AWARD	PAUL AWARD for Faithfulness
K	Elijah Purington	Parker Valdez	Finn McNally
1 <sup>st</sup>	Alissa Ryan	Carter Liepold	Eunice Cristurean
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Junior Hollier	Carter Adler	Zachary Miller
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nathan Zagaryuk	Haavah Lorenzen	Mark Sacara
4 <sup>th</sup>	Makala Hollier	Jenna Taylor	Jackson Liepold
5 <sup>th</sup>	Ernest Koval	Garrett Walsh	Ava Mai
6 <sup>th</sup>	Elijah Nikiforets	Liam Dye	Ben McClellan

**KEATON COFFEY AUCTION and HERO HALF MARATHON:** Corporal Keaton Coffey was a marine and DCS alumni, who was killed in action in 2012. Through the efforts of his father, family and friends, his legacy of sacrifice and service continue. One example of this is the Keaton Coffey Scholarship, which annually provides scholarships for some of our DCS secondary students every year. To help fund this scholarship, an auction will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 9:30 in Lebanon, Oregon, at the Boulder Falls Inn. Fifty percent of the funds raised will go towards the DCEF Keaton Coffey Scholarship Fund. Please consider attending or donating if you would like to support this noble cause. Tickets can be



purchased at [tributetohonor.com](http://tributetohonor.com) for \$25 apiece. The Hero-Half marathon will also be held on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Sweet Home, OR, as a fundraiser for the scholarship fund.

## Upcoming Events

**MOTHER'S DAY and GRADUATION GIFTS:** Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>! Graduation is just a few weeks later! DCS encourages you to purchase Scrip as an easy way to purchase gift cards as gifts and for items that your family regularly purchases like gas and groceries. When you do, you support our school! You receive the gift cards to use as you would like, and DCS wins by receiving a certain % back for the purchase of the gift card. Plan now to purchase gift cards as birthday presents, graduation gifts, and even Mother's Day gifts!



**IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATES:** Just like around Christmas time, the end of the school year brings with it a number of events that fill the calendar. Please encourage your students to end this last quarter academically strong and to enjoy their time with teachers and classmates before we depart for summer.

- National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- DQ Night – Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 to 9:00 P.M. (Funds raised will go towards scholarships.)
- Spring Drama Production: Agatha Christie's *Black Coffee* – Thursday–Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- Election Speeches – Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:15 to 9:00 A.M.
- Junior/senior Dessert – Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.
- Secondary Registration and Forecasting for 2018-2019 – Monday–Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup>
- Pastor Appreciation Chapel – Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Drama Production: Agatha Christie's *Black Coffee* – Thursday–Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
- District Track Meet – Friday and Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup>
- Band Concert – Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Senior Finals, Chapel, and Last ½ Day – Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>
- Memorial Day (No School) – Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>
- Secondary Awards (1:30 P.M.) and Senior Awards (2:10 P.M.) – Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Skate World / Field Day / Spring Assembly – Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>
- Secondary Finals – Wednesday–Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>
- Kindergarten Last ½ Day and Promotion – Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Last ½ Day and Promotion – Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M.
- Last day of school for 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> graders – Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Last day of school for 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> graders – Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Senior Commencement – Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M.
- All-school work day in late summer – TBD—FREE lunch provided!

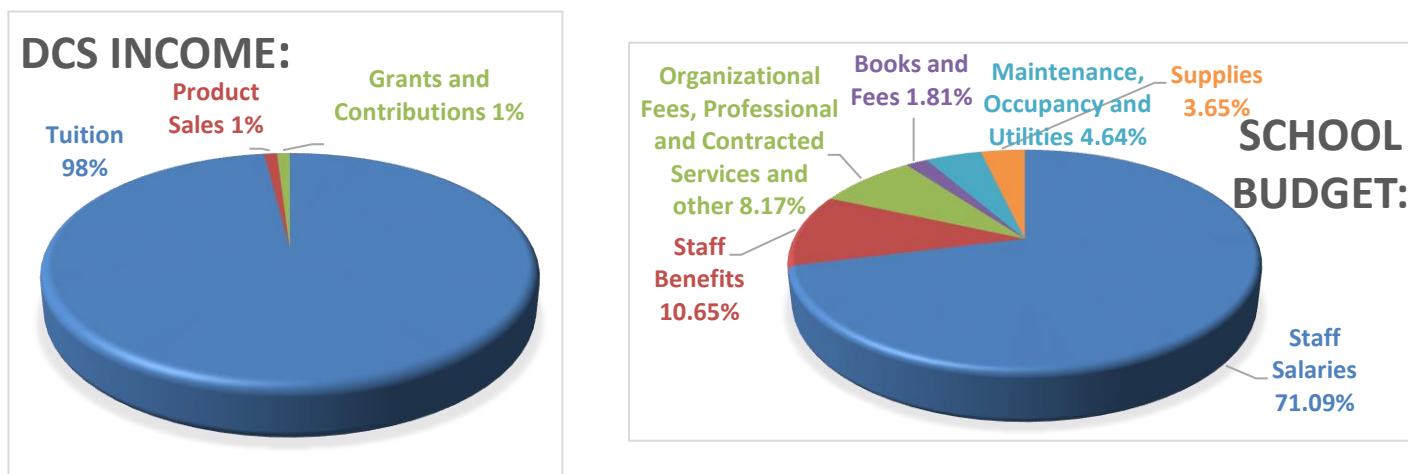
## Financial Update

One of the challenges of Christian education is providing an affordable education while still providing a livable wage for the teachers and staff who so generously pour their lives into the students with whom they work. Nationally, most Christian schools raise their tuition 2-3% a year. This coming school year we will be likewise increasing tuition by 2%. In addition, our kindergarten tuition will go up as a result of being significantly lower than almost any other comparable kindergarten program.

The report we recently received from IGC provided several strategies for achieving greater financial sustainability by a more concerted focus on grants and fundraising. We plan on pursuing these options as we seek to make DCS as accessible as possible for families seeking a Christian education. The factors detailed below highlight why the school board and leadership decided to increase tuition by 2%.

- 1) **Staff Salary** – Our teachers' salaries on average are approximately \$30,000 and are at least 50% lower than their public school counterparts. We want to create a livable wage that attracts and retains talented teachers.
- 2) **Limited Success in Fundraisers** – The last two years we have struggled to get several volunteers to help out with fundraisers and have consequently struggled to raise as much as we have in previous years.
- 3) **Textbooks and Paper** – Prices for such supplies increased again this year.
- 4) **Inflation** – Cost of living and other inflation costs increased by at least 2.5% this year.
- 5) **Unfunded Scholarships** – DCS does provide scholarships to assist families in sending their children here, but these scholarships are largely unfunded and affect the general budget.

The pie charts below depicts how our 1.2 million dollar budget is allocated. As you can see, most dollars are fixed, which means we can only be creative with a small margin of our funds.



Ultimately, God faithfully provides for us year after year. One of such way is that we are blessed to be a ministry of Damascus Community Church, who allows us to use the facilities for free. The school only pays for its portion of maintenance and utility costs. This enables us to make significant savings that otherwise would go towards rent or a mortgage. If you have additional questions about the information provided here, please contact Zach Davidson.

**FREE FINANCIAL RELIEF FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:** There is great news and reprieve for families paying for private school tuition. The recent federal tax reform law created a great opportunity for Christian schools and families. The *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* was signed into law December 22, 2017. In a significant step forward, the law expanded 529 savings plans, so they now allow savings for K–12 tuition expenses. The maximum distribution for K–12 tuition is \$10,000 per year per child for expenses incurred beginning January 1, 2018.



***This means current account owners may begin using these funds immediately for K–12 tuition!***

The practical effect of this change is that beginning January 1, 2018, parents can begin to save for both college expenses *and* for K–12 tuition expenses and the earnings will grow free of federal tax. Special federal tax provisions exist for treatment of gifts to 529 savings plans, so even grandparents or extended family may

contribute. This is just a federal tax benefit. Unfortunately, unlike many states, Oregon does not provide state tax benefits for 529 savings plans. For more information, please visit <https://www.acsi.org/legal-legislative-pages/legal-resources-misc-pages/529-central/529-savings-plans-statement>

Another option for planning is setting up an Educational Savings Account (ESA) or Coverdell. These are similar to a 529 plan but are not tax free. Educational savings accounts can be used to pay for private school in grades K-12. You can put in up to \$2,000 a year. Coverdell ESAs allow money to grow tax-deferred; proceeds can be withdrawn tax-free for qualified education expenses at a qualified institution. The definition of qualified expenses in an ESA includes primary and secondary school, not just college and university.

**FACTS – TUITION ASSISTANCE:** Our school is blessed to have financial resources to come along side parents. We can provide tuition assistance through scholarships for families, who struggle to afford Damascus Christian School. This past year, twenty families were awarded scholarships. While we do have limitations to the number of families we can help, I would like to encourage those who need financial assistance to visit our website and submit an application with FACTS, an outside organization that helps us determine how to best meet the financial needs of the applicants. This is a confidential process. Applications must be submitted ASAP to be considered for tuition assistance next year.

## Outreach Opportunities

**EXCHANGE STUDENTS:** We have a couple of exchange students who would like to return to DCS next year and need a host family. A stipend is provided for host families to help with the additional cost of hosting. Please contact the school office if you are interested in this exciting opportunity.

**SUMMER WORK DAY:** Last fall, over 40 volunteers of all ages came to spruce up DCS. It was a fun and successful event. This year, we plan to have the work day toward the end of the summer before the start of school, so indoor needs can better be addressed before teachers begin to set up their classrooms. We would like to continue to spruce up the playground, take care of landscaping needs, increase campus safety, and add paint to freshen up classroom walls. Like last year, we plan to offer free lunch to all who give of their time. Please keep your eye out for the date of this event.



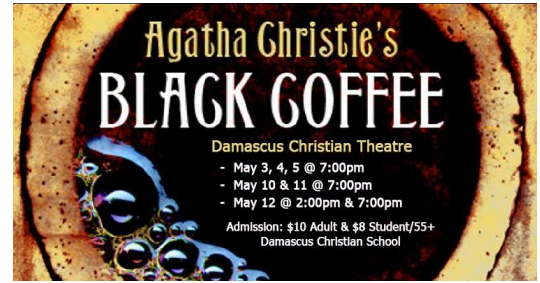
## Sport and Extra-Curricular Highlights



**TRACK AND FIELD:** Rain or shine, approximately twenty high school student athletes have been out practicing and performing at meets. Under the guidance of their coaches, these students have set personal records and look forward to districts at Portland Christian on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. We have several students poised to qualify for state and earn a place on the podium. Please consult our weekly Eagle Eye or the school website for upcoming meets, so you too can cheer on our Eagles as they jump, run and throw their way to success.

**SPRING DRAMA PRODUCTION:** Our students and director Kaleb Easterbrooks have worked hard to prepare lines, costumes, and an enthralling theatrical performance of Agatha Christie's *Black Coffee*. Performances will run this Thursday through Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> and then again May 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.

Save \$1 per ticket by purchasing in advance. Adult tickets are \$9 in advance or \$10 at the door, and tickets for student and those 55+ are \$7 in advance or \$8 at the door.



## **Damascus Community Church**

**Sunday Services:** 8:15 & 11:00 A.M.

**Community Groups:** 9:45 A.M.

**Children's Sunday School:** 8:15, 9:45 & 11:00 A.M.

**Zachary Davidson**  
**Principal, Damascus Christian School**

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