

## Introduction to this Newsletter

We are off and running with the start of a new school year. Students are navigating new classes, teachers, lockers and new classmates. After being in a quiet building most of the summer, it is a joy to have the life that students bring onto the campus. I appreciate your prayers as we seek God's will in partnering with you in educating your students from a Christian worldview for the glory of God. Please visit our website, [www.dcs4you.org](http://www.dcs4you.org) to stay abreast of DCS news.

- Principal Zachary Davidson



## Recent News

**LIVING CLASSROOMS:** This fall, our 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders participated in Living Classrooms, a week filled with unique activities that allowed for experiential learning. Our freshmen were able to spend a few days in the Mt. St. Helens area observing evidence of Creation and the Flood by examining similar evidence seen following the Mt. St. Helens' eruption. It was a great opportunity for our freshman to start off the year.





Our sophomores interviewed veterans and created a multi-media presentation as a tribute to their service. They also spent a day at camp Withycombe mimicking a day in the life of a National Guard soldier. Finally, they had the opportunity to visit the evergreen air museum and cool off at the Wings and Waves water park.

Finally, our juniors and seniors made their annual journey out to Yellowstone. Along the way, they explored geologic evidence that testifies to God as Creator and serves as additional proof of a worldwide Flood. Besides enjoying Creation, they spent time bonding as a class.

To continue to seek ways to improve our Living Classroom program, we will be sending a survey to secondary parents to assess the program's success and overall value. Our goal is to provide a

stimulating academic experience while cultivating spiritual development.

**DROP OFF AND PICK UP:** Please do not block the flow of traffic on Rust Way. Please stay over on the right side of the road when waiting to enter the parking lot but take care to not block the driveways of our neighbors. If you wish to walk your child to class, please park in the lower parking lot. It is very important for everyone's safety that you never leave your car while waiting in the drop off or pick up line. Finally, please make sure you look to your left before pulling out of line.

**WORK DAY A SUCCESS:** On August 26<sup>th</sup>, over a dozen volunteers spruced up DCS. Volunteers—whose ages ranged from two to retired—worked on jobs such as washing walls, repapering bulletin boards, painting classrooms, refinishing woodwork, and painting curbs in the parking lot. We want to send a huge THANK YOU to those who served the school and church. It was a great time of fun and fellowship. If you were unable to attend, we will be having more workdays in the future.



**SCHOOL SHIRTS:** Once again, student council is developing a new T-shirt to unite our student body in school spirit and pride. The picture to the left is our current shirt, which will be replaced with our new design. Each student and staff member will receive a new school T-shirt. Parents and grandparents may purchase shirts and sweatshirts at a reasonable cost. Ordering information will be communicated in the next couple weeks.

The purpose of creating new shirts is simple—visually we are united together. Whether on spirit Fridays or class outings, when all students wear Eagle gear and our school colors, we bolster school unity and provide identification and safety during field trips and special events.



**NEW TEACHING STAFF:** We are so excited to introduce the new members of our teaching team. Please welcome Mrs. Davis, Mr. Ting, Mr. Preston and Mrs. Sandy when you have the opportunity.

Mrs. Davis joins her husband Mr. Davis (secondary math) and brings a wide range of musical skills for the areas of music and band. She received her degree from Georgia in music education and has taught in schools, provided private lessons and worked in music programs at her church. Her wealth of experience will be a great benefit to DCS.

Mr. Ting is making the long trek back to the Northwest after spending a couple of years in Hong Kong at a Christian school and one year at Sandy High School. He will be teaching our social studies classes and comes to us with repertoire of excellent instructional strategies.

Mr. Preston, a Moody graduate, is taking over our Bible program after serving as a teacher and youth group pastor in the Spokane area.

Finally, Mrs. Sandy returns to DCS to rejoin her sister Mrs. Lorenzen and mother Mrs. Tillstrom, where she will serve as the athletic secretary. She has spent a number of years coaching at DCS. As a DCS alumnus, she is excited to be on campus on a regular basis.

## Staff Spotlight: Brett Preston



I was born in Southern California but mostly grew up in Spokane, WA, where my great and Godly parents raised me. By God's grace, I was saved early in my life. He has blessed me in many extraordinary ways. Some of the ways God has blessed me would be to give me my wonderful wife Lauren and our three awesome children Ryan, Mark and Megan.

I went to Moody Bible Institute where I graduated with my Bachelor degree in Biblical Studies and then I graduated with my Master's degree in Theology/Church History from Regent University. I enjoy people, reading, writing, movies, learning, basketball, and teaching. I look forward to see what God will teach me at Damascus and how He might use me.



## Upcoming Events

We have a great opportunity coming up to honor our grandparents. Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> is our annual **Grandparents Day**! A special program designed just for them will showcase our school and run from 10:15 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. All students will dismiss from school at noon. Please begin to invite your grandparents or adopt a special stand-in.

- School pictures will be on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor School Training will be from Thursday – Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor School will be from Thursday – Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>
- **No School** on October 13<sup>th</sup> – Teacher In-service Day
- **Grandparent's Day** is October 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:15 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. School will dismiss at noon.
- Hearing and Vision Screening on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Picture Retakes on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>
- Sophomores and Juniors will be participating in the **PSAT** on Wednesday morning, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your students to get plenty of rest and eat a healthy breakfast that day.
- Come to the DCC/DCS **Harvest Festival** on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5 - 8 P.M.

## Building on Faith Update

Through the summer the Damascus Community Church leadership has continued to gather input and information regarding our anticipated facilities development. This has included consultation with construction and fundraising/development professionals. We are gaining insight into the needed process for moving forward, and in particular the need to assess the potential for raising the money required for a project. This will include information gathering from all our interested constituency, the Damascus Community Church congregation and the Damascus Christian School families and supporters. The assessed “giving capacity” may result in refining of the design or construction process (for instance, through doing development in multiple stages). But beyond what we can assess, we are seeking to “build on faith”, and are trusting God to accomplish what he desires for our facilities. Thank you for praying with us –

- That the DCC elder council will have wisdom from God in understanding the relationship between the “giving capacity” that can be assessed and the challenge of moving forward in faith.
- That we will identify appropriate partnership(s) for both the fundraising and construction aspects of facilities development.
- That we will receive good input from our constituency, both Damascus Community Church and our Christian School families and supporters, so that questions and concerns may be adequately considered and responded to
- Your input and/or questions may be addressed to [elders@damascuscc.org](mailto:elders@damascuscc.org). Thank you for praying and connecting with us!



# Outreach Opportunities

In an effort to provide avenues to express your giftedness, energy, or interests, we offer the following opportunities for you to volunteer. Through our volunteer program, we are able to accomplish tasks and projects with little or no cost, which allows us to direct more funds to the process of educating our students.

Therefore, we are encouraging every parent to sign up for at least one task. There is even space to “Design Your Own Job!” Thank you for your involvement in this endeavor. For the safety of our students, each volunteer must agree to a background check. For further information, please contact the parent coordinators listed below. Thanks!

- ☐ **Friday Feast** – Help distribute pre-prepared lunches (pizza, subs, burritos, etc.) to classes. 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Fridays (Melissa Piscitello 503-491-5641)
- ☐ **Park and Pray** – Meet in the parking lot. Join others to pray for related school needs on Monday mornings at 8:15. (If you are interested please contact Pam Mattechek, office 503-658-4100.)
- ☐ **Classroom Aides** – Assist teacher with paper correction, recess duty, bulletin boards, etc. (Sign up in classroom with classroom teacher)
- ☐ **Room Parent** – Mom and/or Dads partner with teacher to help plan class parties, etc. (classroom teacher)
- ☐ **Damascus Christian Education Foundation Gathering** – Dinner, presentation & entertainment evening to help raise funds for our student financial assistance program (Rachel Wakefield 503-702-8885)
- ☐ **Scrip** – Work with others to promote this great form of fundraising. Collect orders, pick up *Scrip*, and package for Friday morning distribution. (MaryBeth Davis 503-927-5584)
- ☐ **Box Tops** – Trim, count, bundle labels.
- ☐ **Maintenance** – Help with general maintenance projects (Ed Darnell 503-658-3179, ext. 109)
- ☐ **Sports Booster Club** – Support our teams through prayer, keeping stats, providing transportation, planning half-time activities, being hospitable to visiting teams, etc. (Kristen Sandy, Athletic Secretary (503) 658-4100, ext. 222)
- ☐ **Teacher Encouragement Team** – Find ways to tangibly encourage our teachers.
- ☐ **Adopt-A-Teacher Prayer Ministry** – Pray for the general and specific needs of your adoptive teacher on a daily basis. Can be done at home!
- ☐ **Clerical Work** – Help the office with telephoning, filing, word processing, etc. as needed for special projects. (Pam Mattechek, office 503-658-4100, ext. 200 or teachers)
- ☐ **Harvest Festival** – Serve at the carnival that occurs on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> as an alternate to Halloween. Help set up or tear down for the event and man a booth. (Rachel Davidson 503-290-9393)
- ☐ **Auction** – Help plan and sequester donations for our fundraising auction (Kristie Herdener 503-860-4226)
- ☐ **Design Your Own Job!** – Do you have something not listed above that you would like to do that would benefit DCS? Email us and we'll be in touch!



**DCC/DCS HARVEST FESTIVAL:** Plan now to attend and even help facilitate a booth at our annual Harvest Festival (Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>). Hundreds of community members will enter our gymnasium turned carnival that night looking for a safe alternative to Halloween's trick-or-treating. Parents and secondary-aged students are invited to help manage a game booth. If you are interested, keep your eyes open for future information or contact Rachel Davidson at 503-290-9393.

## Sport and Extra-Curricular Highlights

**FALL SPORTS:** The soccer and volleyball seasons are well underway. Please check our website for game times and locations for all teams – 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade, junior high, and high school.

**DRAMA CLUB:** DCS alumnus Kaleb Easterbrooks is facilitating the fall drama club with the goal to give beginner to veteran thespians an opportunity to grow in this discipline. Students will have a multitude of opportunities to refine a variety of skills related to acting. Drama club meets three days a week—Monday, Wednesday and Friday—from 3:15 P.M.—4:45 P.M. in the auditorium. Kaleb Easterbrooks will prepare different kinds of material each day for the kids. The material may be anything from improv drills, to reading different screenplays, and so on. If you have any questions, feel free to email [kaleb.easterbrooks@gmail.com](mailto:kaleb.easterbrooks@gmail.com). There will also be an informational meeting on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 4:30 P.M. in Friendship Center.

### Damascus Community Church

**Sunday Services:** 8:15 & 11:00 AM

**Community Groups:** 9:45 AM

**Children's Sunday School:** 8:15, 9:45 & 11:00 AM

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

**Website:** [www.dcs4you.org/](http://www.dcs4you.org/)

**Email:** [zach.davidson@damascuscc.org](mailto:zach.davidson@damascuscc.org)

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