

## **We've Got Heart**

The month of LOVE is drawing to a close. Candy, flowers, and cards have made their anticipated appearance in appreciation for others but are now set aside awaiting the next special occasion. Most people have settled back into everyday routines and returned their focus on themselves.



At DCS, one of our core values is LOVE. Jesus said that the greatest commendment is love (Matthew 22:38), and one of the best ways we can show we are followers of Christ is that we love others and put their needs before our own.

DCS staff works hard to train students to show appreciation for others on a regular basis. Valentines Day will come and go, but at DCS every day is thought of as a special opportunity to show love toward others. For example, the 1<sup>st</sup> graders are awarded with taking the kindness bear home when they show consideration to a classmate. The sixth graders personally escort the kindergarteners to their class every morning. The twelfth graders work in the elementary classes helping both teachers and students. The teachers pray for current students and alumni. With all that is happening K-12, students at DCS are consistently reminded that they are LOVED, not just by teachers and peers but by their loving Father and Creator.

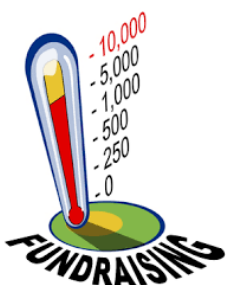
- Principal Zachary Davidson (I heart DCS!)

## **Recent News**

**ELDERLY ENDEARMENT:** While elementary classes exchanged valentines with each other across the school this past month, the senior class wanted to bless a population often overlooked on Valentines Day—the elderly! The seniors hand-made valentines and delivered them to a retirement home near Estacada, making the day for many of its residents extra special.

**PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY:** Forty-eight different churches represent the families that attend DCS. Since Damascus Christian reaffirms the importance of home, family, and church in the lives of each student, DCS held its very first Pastor Appreciation Day on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to honor and show appreciation for the many pastors and youth directors who influence the lives of our students. It was a treat to have the pastors attend chapel with our students and then offer them a tasty breakfast. We appreciate your effort in spreading the word about this special event and look forward to doing this again in the future.

**FUNDRAISERS:** DCS will be offering three fundraisers this spring with hopes to provide the means to purchase STEM equipment and other teaching resources for our different age-levels. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



Elementary students will be participating in a Read-A-Thon during March. Packets went home last week describing how students can collect pledges for minutes read. Our goal is for each student to raise \$100. Students will have 15 days to reach their reading goal. If a student reads just 15 minutes each day and finds 10 sponsors to pledge just \$.10 per minute, he or she could raise \$225! Raised funds will go towards purchasing supplies for after school clubs (such as Lego STEM classes) and enrichment classes for our elementary students. When this year's goal of \$10,000 is raised, each student that met their reading goal will be allowed to duct tape Principal Davidson to the wall! Stick It to the Principal!

Secondary students will separate fundraiser Raised funds from this supplement a \$10,000 for in the fall of 2016 for printer, more robust software, and Vernier science courses.



be holding a later this spring. event will go to STEM grant applied purchasing a 3-D audio-visual probes for the

Back by popular demand, students will participate in a Family Fun Night mid-March. More information is provided in the following “upcoming events” section. During this time, parents and guests will have the opportunity to participate in a fundraising opportunity to purchase from the teachers’ Buy-It-Now table. This was such a hit last year that we would love to bless our teachers once again with opportunities for us to purchase items that they need—from books to projectors and everything in between. Our teachers donate so much of their time and their own resources each year for our students that we want to show our appreciation for them in this way. We will not have a silent or live auction at this event because we will be holding our formal auction in the fall of 2017.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer at any of these events, please contact Kristie Herdener at 503-658-4100, ext 105, or at [Kristie.Herdener@DamascusCC.org](mailto:Kristie.Herdener@DamascusCC.org).

#### **ELEMENTARY AWARDS FOR FEBRUARY:**

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 months of February. Great job everyone!

	<b>DAVID AWARD</b>	<b>SOLOMON AWARD</b>	<b>PAUL AWARD for Love</b>
<b>K</b>	Christine Lupulescu	Xeya BigEagle	Miley Foley
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	Carter Adler	Joshua Zakharyuk	Chris Collins
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Mark Sacara	LillyAnne Larson	Dakota Weber
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Loraina Phifer	Kyle Botofan	Tay Balensifer
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	Devin Trost	Anna Berezanskaya	Sofia Potts
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Caleb Davis	Keira Roush	Will Sussman
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	Sierra Hale	Maksim Leontiy	Abbey Atkins

## Upcoming Events

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT FUNDRAISER:** You are invited to attend our Family Fun Night on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

This evening will be a great way for families to have fun together at school. The Family Fun Night will be free to attend, but RSVPs will be required, so an accurate count for food can be determined. Our activities will involve the entire family with team scavenger hunts and challenges. This year's competition is modeled after the Amazing Race, where families will be grouped with other families to form teams to compete, providing an opportunity to get to know each other. Our focus at this event will ultimately build community among families, but we would like to bless our teachers as well through the "Buy-It-Now" tables.

**WE PUT THE  
FUN  
IN FUNDRAISING**

### **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Wednesday – Saturday, March 1 – 4<sup>th</sup>: HS Girls' basketball run for state in Baker City, Oregon
- Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Re-enrollment is due
- Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>: Family Fun Night Fundraiser
- Thursday – Friday, March 23 – 24<sup>th</sup>: Parent Teacher Conferences
- Monday – Friday, March 27 – 31<sup>st</sup>: Spring Break (School resumes Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.)
- Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>: Fine Arts Fair
- Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: Secondary Spring Fling
- Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>: National Day of Prayer

## Staff Spotlight: Nancy Gustafsson



My name is Nancy Gustafsson. I have been the bookkeeper for both Damascus Christian School and Damascus Community Church for 5 ½ years. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to help meet the needs of DCS students and their families through business office support. Watching the students grow and mature into young adults is one of the greatest blessings from God. My favorite part of working here is that I get to work where my son Jonah attends school!

I was raised a short 14 miles from here in Estacada and attended Estacada Christian Church growing up. I love Jesus! I graduated from Estacada High School. After high school, I attended MHCC and PCC and worked for the US Forest Service during the summer. I started working at US bank in Estacada to help pay for college and realized this was something I enjoyed. I continued working there and later at Pacific First Federal in Clackamas. In 1990, I began working full-time as a bookkeeper for our family business in Happy Valley.

I am married to Erik, and we have 4 children—Freya, Kaare, Robb and Jonah. We also have 3 grandchildren—Kade, Quin and Nash. One thing about me that most people don't know is that I'm a potter. When I retire, eventually, I see myself spending many hours in my studio.

Each year, God reaffirms the reason He has me at DCS from the fellowship I enjoy with fellow staff to the ability to share the love of Jesus while doing my job. It really doesn't get any better than this! I feel truly blessed by God to have this ministry opportunity!

## Outreach Opportunities

**STUDENTS AND STAFF ON MISSION:** Many students and staff members will be participating in mission trips around the world this spring and summer. Please keep the following people in your prayers as they make themselves vessels to be used by God. If you know of other students or staff participating on similar missions trips, please contact the school office.

- **Joy Kendall – Middle East:** During March, Joy will be traveling with a team from Damascus Community Church. They will be facilitating a children's program in the Middle East, while the children's parents receive training and refreshment.
- **Josh and Matthew Mitchell – India:** These young men will be working in India to build and strengthen Christian workers in their pursuit of sharing the gospel with those in their community. This will be Joshua's third time to India and Matthew's first.
- **Zachary Davidson – Rwanda:** Mr. Davidson will be returning to Rwanda this summer for a third time to lead a group of educators from around the U.S. They will provide professional development for the schools operated by Africa New Life.



**SPRING BREAK ROCKWOOD OUTREACH:** DCC will be hosting a Sports Camp March 27-29<sup>th</sup> at the Salvation Army Youth Center in Rockwood, Oregon. Adult volunteers and students age 12 and above are invited to serve together at this camp. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pastor Andy McClellan in the church office at 503-658-3179.

## Sport and Extra-Curricular Highlights

**BAKER CITY BOUND:** Congratulations to our basketball teams for very successful seasons. Both our high school varsity teams won their respective league championship and made the state playoffs. While the boys lost a tough battle to North Douglas, our girls' team was able to win their playoff game and advance to Baker City. They will play at the end of this week.



This was an extra special season for the boys' team who went *undefeated* in league play! Congrats to all of our coaches and players!! Special league honors for the two teams include:

- **First Team:** Tory Webb, Savannah Sullivan, Allyson Paullin, Seth Murphy, and Silas Marvin
- **Second Team:** Nicole Manning and Ryan Patrick
- **Defensive Team:** Faith Richards and Seth Murphy
- **Honorable Mention:** Faith Richards and David Zakharyuk

**SPRING SPORTS:** Track is starting this week! With numerous events to compete in, track and field is a great sport to develop fundamental athletic skills and discover success in one to over a dozen events. It is also a great individual and team sport.

**SPRING DRAMA PRODUCTION:** This springs drama production will be Thorton Wilder's *Matchmaker*. This is a tale of a matchmaker who desires the man she's suppose to be pairing with another woman. Show dates are May 4-6<sup>th</sup> and 11-13<sup>th</sup>. Ticket information will come soon.



## **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

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