

Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas! This has always been one of my favorite times of the year, but all the extra lights, festivities and gatherings that help create the specialness of the season also pile on unneeded and distracting hustle and bustle. I hope you and your family intentionally create opportunities to point to the reason we as Christians celebrate this season—the birth of our Savior who came to die in our place on the cross. Our school family has reminded me of this compassion as classes raised funds and awareness for different needs in our community. It is encouraging to see our students empathize with others through their participation in these projects. During the next two weeks off, I pray that you and your family find time to create memories and enjoy fellowship with one another.



- Principal Zachary Davidson

Recent News

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Damascus Christian School held their annual Christmas concert comprised of traditional Christmas songs as well as a few jazzy renditions of others. Those in attendance were blessed by vocal and



instrumental performances, which included the Kindergarten through 4th grade choir, 4th grade recorders, 5th grade band, 6th grade band, advanced band, and jazz band. DCS's strong music program is an amazing treasure, creating an enriching musical educational experience for all our students. A special thank you goes out to the oversight of Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Schmidt, and Mrs. Werth, and a hand of praise is extended to the students for all their hard work in preparing and executing this performance.

BOOK FAIR—A GREAT SUCCESS: Our library was the place to be last week with the Scholastic Book Fair. Thank you for making it such a great success! The library earned \$737.58 in Scholastic dollars. Mrs. Dennis has already chosen 31 new books to add to our collection and still has \$500 left to spend! Scholastic offers many wonderful library supplies, as well as great books. She is looking forward to looking through their catalog and sharing those purchases with the kids!

ELEMENTARY AWARDS FOR NOVEMBER:

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 November. Great job everyone! December's recipients will be posted in the January newsletter.

	DAVID AWARD	SOLOMON AWARD	PAUL AWARD for PEACE
K	Brielle Balensifer	Chase Means	Jonathan Koval
1 st	Calvin Green and Dakota Weber	LilyAnne Larson	Lilya Wildman
2 nd	David Janzen	Ethan Myers	Luke Brown
3 rd	Tori Myers	Nick Yarnell	Wyatt Sussman
4 th	Demetri Carandanis	Kiera Roush	Cole Patrick
5 th	Grae Miller	Haley Botofan	Abbey Atkins
6 th	Emily Powers	Ian Gustafsson	Tane Olsen

PATRIOTS PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: We continued our strong showing in the Patriots Pen writing contest and Voice of Democracy. This year we had three students receive special recognition. Shane Atkins was awarded 3rd place and will receive \$100; Brooklyn Bresko was awarded 2nd place and will receive \$200, and finally, Joshua Mitchell was awarded 1st place and will receive \$300. Excellent job!

Upcoming Events

- A celebration for the 2006 Basketball Championship will be held in the gym on Tuesday, December 22nd at 5:00.
- Christmas break is from Friday, December 18th through Saturday, January 3rd.
- Classes resume Monday, January 4th.
- DCC is hosting a Red Cross blood drive Friday, January 15th from 1:00 – 6:30 P.M.
- There will be no school Monday, January 18th in recognition of MLK Day.
- Homecoming & Spirit Week will be the week of January 25th through January 29th.



Staff Spotlight: Dr. Steve Hardy and Beth Hardy



Steve and Beth Hardy serve the Lord along side one another at DCC/DCS. Steve is the lead pastor of DCC, and Beth is the 3rd grade teacher at DCS.

Steve grew up in and around Salem, OR, and Beth is from Upstate New York. After attending U of O for a year, Steve transferred to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. The two met and later married in June of 1980, a year after they graduated. Their early years of marriage were spent in Indiana. Steve graduated from Grace

Seminary, and Beth graduated from Grace College majoring in elementary education. They served as pastor and wife for churches in Illinois, New York and Michigan, before coming to DCC in 2001.

Beth was a stay-at-home mom for 20 years. When the opportunity to teach at DCS came in 2004, it seemed the right time for her to begin her career. Third grade is her favorite! Steve and Beth consider the opportunity to exercise their gifts in service together at DCC/DCS to be a blessing from the Lord. Steve has a strong interest in the spiritual development and nurture of faith in children, the subject of his doctoral project. The school as a ministry of the local church provides an opportunity for a team approach to spiritual nurture, as parents, educators, and church ministers can work together to build a strong spiritual foundation with the unique contribution each makes to a child's development.

Steve and Beth enjoy camping and have traveled across the U.S. several times visiting family on opposite ends. For many years, the trip was with all 4 kids and the dog, in the smallest camper 6 people could fit in! Steve also enjoys wilderness backpacking and running, and both love spending time with the 4 grandkids—Owen, Clark, Nora, and Ava. The 4 Hardy kids all graduated from DCS, Karen ('02), Emily ('04), Sarah ('07), and Jonathan ('09). All are now married and pursuing their own careers and calling here in Oregon.

Outreach Opportunities

STUDENT CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECTS: Our student body had the opportunity to put their faith into practice and be the visible presence of Jesus Christ as they took on several service projects and ministries these past few weeks. As a result of their efforts, multiple families in our community will be blessed this Christmas.

- The Kindergarten Christmas project was to purchase backpacks for the boys at the Youth Guidance group home, Charis Ridge. Students took on extra chores around the house to "raise" the funds for giving towards the backpacks.

- Our 1st and 2nd grade students collected food for the Clackamas Fire District to be distributed to families in the community who are in need.
- Our 3rd graders collected items for children that Embrace Oregon serves through DHS.
- The 4th and 5th graders raised funds and collected items for a local single mother who was in need. Several of our 5th graders were so moved by this family, they produced and sold items to raise additional funds for this special family.
- The 6th graders and several of our secondary students collected items for a baby shower, which was thrown for a family who is taking on a young baby with some significant needs.
- Our Key Club “filled the helmet” to raise funds to provide a Christmas for two needy military families. Key Club members were often visible asking for donations during basketball games and before or after school. They will have the opportunity to meet these families as they deliver the purchased items next week.



LOBBY GREETERS: We continue to seek volunteers to staff a reception desk in the foyer or lobby by the upstairs entrance from 8:00 A.M. through 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. Volunteers would work shifts of 2 hours (or longer if desired) for the purpose of greeting visitors, signing them in and out, providing guest badges, and directing them to their destination. This is a great opportunity to warmly welcome visitors to our building and maintain security for our students.



BLOOD DRIVE: You have an opportunity to give the gift of life on January 15th from 1:00 to 6:30 P.M. During our last drive, we collected 25 pints of blood...up to 3 people are helped with each pint of blood. Please consider signing up: www.redcross.com. If you have trouble, feel free to contact Marianne Wallace at 503-698-8400.

SCRIP GIFT AND CASH CARDS: Scrip is an easy way to support our school by purchasing gift cards for items that your family regularly purchases. You simply fundraise while you shop! For example, if you regularly fill-up your car at the local Safeway gas station, you could purchase Safeway cash cards through DCS. You receive the gift cards to use as you would like, and DCS wins by receiving a certain % back from Safeway for the purchase of the gift card.

If you are planning to purchase gift cards as birthday presents or gifts, plan ahead and order them through DCS. Also, we periodically hold scrip contests to promote this great fundraiser. Cheryl Gianalli was December's scrip winner.



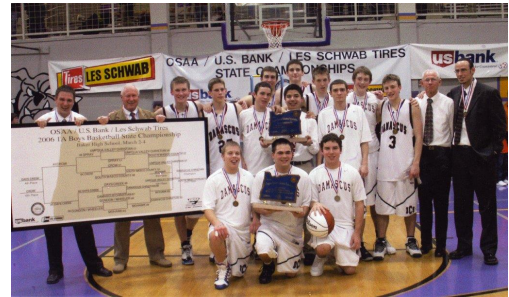
END OF YEAR GIVING: If you are looking for ministries to make a tax-deductible donation as 2015 winds down, we encourage you to remember DCEF—our very own 501C3. Your year-end gifts help fulfill our mission. Donations of every size are needed and greatly appreciated. We encourage you to check out our link for the Damascus Christian Education Foundation on our website (www.dcs4you.org/). Thank you for your generosity!

Sport and Extra-Curricular Highlights

DRAMA OPPORTUNITY: DCS will be presenting a spring **drama production** this school year. As we desire to maintain our strong fine arts legacy, we eagerly anticipate providing this opportunity for our junior high and high school students. A parent meeting and an announcement of the chosen production will be coming up in the month of January.

2006 BOY BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATION:

DCS will be hosting a 10-year celebration for the 2006 Boys Championship team. Even Coach Mike Mai will be in town from Germany! The celebration will be held in the gym at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 22nd. Come and hear from these boys about that magical year and what they have been up to the past 10 years. Following the event, the current DCS Varsity boys' team will play Country Christian. Bring your friends and family and celebrate with us!



WINTER SPORTS: Our secondary basketball season is in full swing, while our elementary programs have wrapped up their seasons. The elementary boys' basketball team was made up of eight 6th graders and two 5th graders. The team experienced a successful season having the peace of mind that comes from knowing they gave their best effort on the court. They finished 8-2 in league play with a win against the team they lost to in the first game of the season. Players grew in skill, knowledge, character, and teamwork. Now, their goal is to apply their good attitudes and best efforts in the classroom and where the Lord leads them. (Coach – Troy Clear)

The 5th-6th grade girls' basketball season was really enjoyable. We had a dedicated group of hard working players that applied themselves and focused on getting better each day. The girls went 9-1 for the season and showed a lot of heart in gritting out a couple of really close wins. They played with great attitudes and sportsmanship that represented the school and our Lord well. It was a blessing to get the opportunity to coach such a fine group of young ladies—great kids, from great families, representing a great school and a greater Savior. (Coaches - Elaine and Chad Powers)

Please consult our weekly Eagle Eye or the school website for upcoming games, so you too can cheer on our Eagles.

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/
Email: zach.davidson@damascuscc.org
Address: 14251 SE Rust Way, Damascus, OR 97089
Phone: (503) 658-4100