

## 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. Freshmen worked in Rockwood with various organizations including the CDC, Salvation Army and local schools. The end of the week was spent in Warm Springs. The experiences offered our students the opportunity to discover the diversity of our state and examine how we as Christians need to be aware of how we can effectively witness and serve those who have a different culture than ours.



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 work with AMEN Ministries by packing food boxes for veterans and their families.

Our juniors visited Washington D.C., Boston and New York as they explored how the faith of our Founding Fathers was integral to the formation of our country. They had great cultural experiences as they visited some of our countries most historic landmarks.

Finally, our 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.

**STANDARDIZED TESTING:** DCS has traditionally used standardized testing to help evaluate our students' growth. In fact, DCS is required to administer a standardized test to maintain accreditation with ACSI. After deliberation by the staff last year, NWEA MAP testing was selected to replace the retired Stanford 10 test. Our new MAP test will be administered three times during the year. While fulfilling accreditation requirements is important, this test will also provide us with information to assess student growth and achievement, so we can address trends and better serve the academic needs of your students. The link provided below offers more information about MAP testing. As always, if you have questions, please notify the school office; parents may opt their students out of testing.  
<https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2011/07/A-Parents-Guide-to-MAP-.pdf>

**DROP OFF AND PICK UP:** Thank you for not blocking the flow of traffic on Rust Way. We appreciate you staying over on the right side of the road when waiting to enter the parking lot and not blocking the driveways along the way. Finally, please make sure you look to your left before pulling out of line.

**SCHOOL SHIRTS:** Last year's student council developed a T-shirt to help unify the elementary and secondary levels and to spread school spirit. Like last year, DCS will be providing every new student and new staff member a school T-shirt. Returning students and parents may purchase shirts and sweatshirts.

Our desire is to have students wear such a shirt, or school related clothing, every Friday and during special school events. Our intention is to bolster school unity and provide identification and safety during field trips and school outings.



Please use the size charts on the handouts sent home with your students to select the appropriate shirt size for your child and return it no later than next Friday, September 30th.

**NEW TEACHING STAFF:** Please welcome Mrs. Clear and Mr. Knutson when you have the opportunity. Mrs. Clear has served DCS in a variety of roles from the after-school library to long-term subbing. We are excited to welcome her into this new ministry role. Mr. Knutson is making the long trek back to the Northwest after spending 17 years serving as a Christian school teacher throughout California, Alaska and Maryland. His teaching history specializes in Bible, but he has also taught social sciences and math.

## Staff Spotlight: Sue Rankin



I was born and raised in northern California. I feel blessed to be raised in a home with Christian parents who set a godly example for me. I think because of this fact, I became a believer at the age of 7. After I graduated from high school, I went away to college and discovered the Pacific Northwest (at Seattle Pacific University). But, God led me back to California to find an amazing man and complete my teaching credential. After marriage to my best friend, Phil, and bringing three wonderful sons into the world, the Lord brought us back to the Pacific Northwest in 1999 to a strangely named place called Boring, Oregon. I began teaching kindergarten at DCS after our youngest son started kindergarten in the fall of 2004. I really love teaching kindergarten; it is hard and rewarding work! The hearts of these little ones are very tender and open to the things

of the Lord. When I'm not teaching or preparing to teach, I like to garden and cook, and spend time at the coast with my husband eating clam chowder at Nye Beach!! Yum!

## Upcoming Events

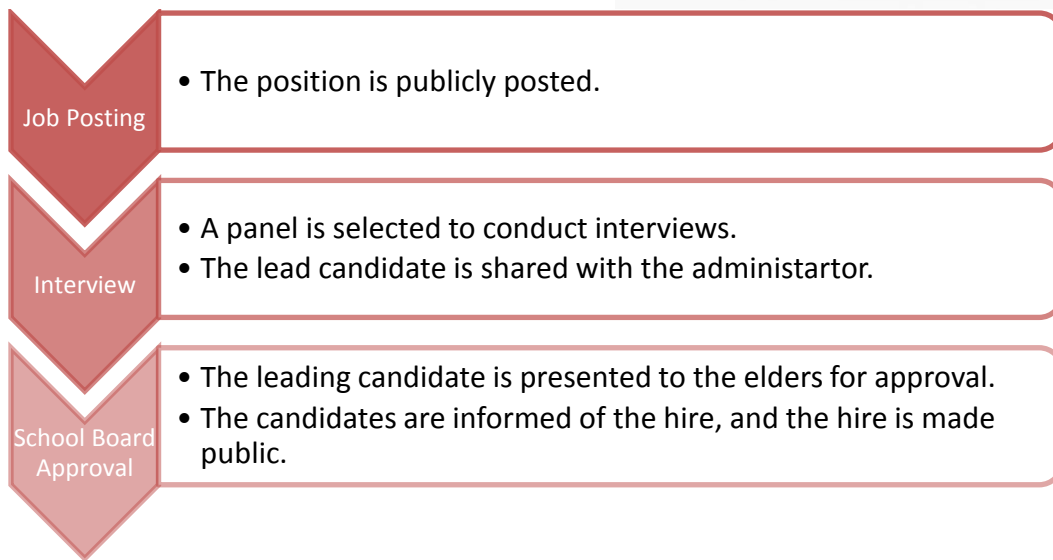
We have a great opportunity coming up to honor our grandparents. Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> is our annual **Grandparent's Day!** A special program designed just for them will showcase our school and run from 10:15 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. All students will dismiss from school at noon. Please begin to invite your grandparents or adopt a special stand-in.

Juniors will be participating in the **PSAT** on Wednesday morning, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your students to get plenty of rest and eat a healthy breakfast that day.

- The 6<sup>th</sup> graders will depart for Outdoor School on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- **All-school Workday** will be Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30 A.M. – Noon—FREE lunch provided!
- **Grandparent's Day** is October 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:15 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. School will dismiss at noon.
- Come to the DCC/DCS **Harvest Festival** on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5 - 8 P.M.

## Hiring Process

Since arriving at DCS, I have made it a goal to maintain consistent and transparent communication with you. Since I would like to continue this, I have chosen to take this opportunity to make you aware of a new practice. In the last few months, we have had several teaching and coaching positions to fill. I want you to be aware of the process DCS now follows when any position is vacant, so please review the flow chart below. Our purpose is to remain impartial and professional as we seek to make the best possible hire.



## Outreach Opportunities

**MORE ELECTIVE CHOICES:** We are excited to expand our elective offerings! First, we added a shop class for our secondary students this year and have been busy creating a workshop on campus. We feel especially blessed that a school parent, Jim Gustafsson, donated all his electrical expertise and materials. DCS also received a generous donation from Platt Electrical Supply, who donated a substantial amount of tools. We are however still in need of miscellaneous tools and building supplies to get this class fully up and running. If you have any of the following that you would be willing to lend or donate, please contact Dave Wakefield.



- Any large or small tools (jig saws, circular saws, wrenches, tool boxes....)
- Materials (sheetrock, sheetrock tape, mud, nails, screws...)

Second, we are equally excited to expand our home economics program for both junior high and high school students. Beside basic cooking and sewing, students can learn how to cook foods from around the world among other skills. As a result, students quickly filled these classes! Thank you to the many families who generously gave at the auction to provide specific materials to meet the demands of this growing elective. We are still in need of a few specific items. If you have any of the following that you are willing to lend or donate, contact Vicki Boyette.



- Irons and Ironing Boards
- Sewing Machines

**ADDITIONAL SCHOOL WORKDAY:** Please join other DCC and DCS families at our second All-School Work Day (October 1<sup>st</sup>) from 8:30 A.M. to noon. Jobs include painting the hallway and classrooms in the upper gym, landscaping, and installing tetherball poles. There are BIG and small jobs available for the whole family. Experience is not needed but is definitely invited! Lunch will be provided for all participants! Please RSVP to the school office if you are able to attend.



**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, cross-country 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:** This year, DCS alumnus Kaleb Easterbrooks will facilitate a 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).

**5-6th Grade Girls Basketball:** DCS has an opening for a 5th and 6th grade girl's basketball coach. Please contact our athletic director Dave Wakefield if you are interested at [dave.wakefield@damascuscc.org](mailto:dave.wakefield@damascuscc.org).

**HS Boys Basketball:** After much prayer and discussion, the interview panel has recommended Coach Tim Swanson for the head boys' basketball position. His heart for the Lord and for the school as demonstrated by the 18 years he has coached and volunteered at DCS have prepared him to serve God and the school body in this way. The DCS administration and DCC elders have approved this recommendation. Coach Swanson is dedicated to the program and his long-term coaching goal includes striving to be a positive role model and influence in players' lives. Coach Swanson will host a meet-and-greet parent meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss the 2016-2017 basketball season. We hope you all can attend!

## **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)

**Address:** 14251 SE Rust Way, Damascus, OR 97089

**Phone:** (503) 658-4100