

## Recent News

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF:** Last week, the DCS staff received lunch provided by several DCS parents. The hearty meal was a fantastic reminder of the wonderful families we have the opportunity of working with and serving. On behalf of the staff, thank you for your generosity and encouragement.



**OPEN FORUM SUMMARY:** On Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, DCS held an open forum about our secondary program, ranging on topics like college readiness, rigor, curriculum, spiritual climate, and changes within OSAA. I would like to share what was addressed with everyone in case attendance at this event was inopportune for you.

### **Advanced or College Curriculum Taught in High School:**



We addressed why DCS doesn't offer AP (advanced placement), honor, or dual college credit classes. At the most basic level, there are some staff and financial issues. First, these types of classes often require teachers to hold a master's degree in the discipline. Second, the teachers must solely teach the secular, canned curriculum. Third, students are not guaranteed college credit by just taking the class but must pass an expensive and challenging test to receive the college credit. As you can see, the lure of these classes can become less glamorous.

Our greatest concern about offering such classes at DCS is the great impact it would have on our curriculum—DCS would be mandated to teach curriculum directly opposing our Christian worldview. A lesser impact, but worthy of noting, is that even if we met all the expectations and were willing to abandon the integration of a Christian Worldview, the four-year university system does not universally recognize all credits. In other words, the college selected to attend may or may not accept a student's college credits earned in high school. It truly varies by college what credits are accepted or not.

So, as an alternative, the DCS staff will strive to train students to be college and career ready by continually evaluating our rigorous curriculum. We will also more vocally encourage students to "CLEP a class" or test out of college courses by taking a CLEP test as a college freshman in hopes to show proficiency in that curriculum. This method provides the greatest assurance to achieve credit at the university you plan to attend and has proven successful by many of our former graduates.

DCS is dedicated to providing the best education we can for our student body and will continue to seek out alternative educational pathways. This does mean that we are open to partnering with a local college to offer dual credit classes, but the integration of our Christian Worldview is our top priority.

### **A Greater Focus on Finance and Career Education:**



Currently, our guidance counselor Jan Dauntless meets with each junior and senior student to individually discuss college plans and to aid in the pursuit of scholarships. This personal advocate on staff is a tremendous blessing for our students.

DCS would like to additionally prepare students for post-high school pursuits and will be altering our personal finance class to also include a career education component, which would

include writing college essays, preparing resumes, and conducting interviews. Additionally, this spring we plan to hold a career day for our high school students to address several of these topics in efforts to provide our students more guidance as they plan for their future.

**Outreach Opportunities:**



Our vision at DCS is to see students more actively pursue opportunities to be involved in practical outreach. This includes regular activities within their churches and communities. While our long-term focus is to really create a culture around purposeful outreach, we recognize this transition will take time to establish. Currently, DCS is pursuing local outreach opportunities such as a short-term mission to Rockwood (Gresham, Oregon) this spring. See the article “Rockwood Sports Camp” under the Outreach Opportunities section below to find out more details.

**OSAA Impact on Daily Operations:**



There are new laws coming down through OSSA, which could impact private Christian schools. Currently, DCS is set up to facilitate these changes as a result of our impartial system to fairly process students for scholarships and financial aid.

**ELEMENTARY AWARDS FOR JANUARY:** 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 January. Great job everyone! February’s recipients will be announced soon and will be posted in the March newsletter.

	<b>DAVID AWARD</b>	<b>SOLOMON AWARD</b>	<b>PAUL AWARD for GOODNESS</b>
<b>K</b>	Brian Buller	Kaydie Briece	Zachary Miller
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	Haavah Lorenzen	Zion Lee	Calvin Green and Dakota Weber
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Kyle Botofan	Shawn Johnson	Loraina Phifer
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Reece Miller	Michael Briece	Sofia Potts
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	Samantha Boyette	Will Sussman	Gemma Kleve
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	Abbey Atkins	Emily Werth	Natalie Gohman
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	Nathan Larson	Lauren Baumgarth	Claire Watts

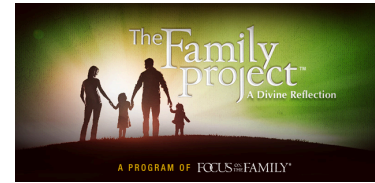
## Upcoming Events

**RE-ENROLLMENT:** You have received a notification for re-enrollment through RenWeb for the 2016-2017 school year. Please act on this re-enrollment request by February 29<sup>th</sup>. As we plan staffing and book orders for the fall, it is imperative that we have an accurate count for enrollment. More importantly though, we want to insure your child has a spot in his or her class for the fall. Already this winter, we have been blessed to receive interest from several prospective parents and have been conducting tours. Although we give current students priority over new students, we recognize new families could possibly bump current families if re-enrollment is not secured. The month of February is dedicated for this process. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Mattecheck at (503) 658-4100, ext. 200.



Please note: If you enroll before February 29<sup>th</sup>, the associated registration fee will be credited to your account in the fall. However, if you decide to re-enroll after February 29<sup>th</sup>, the registration fee will not be credited to your account for the following school year.

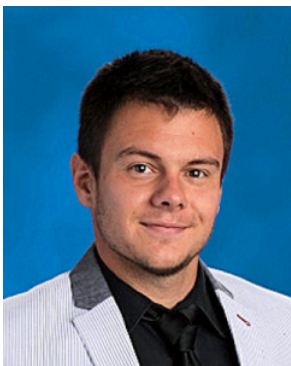
**THE FAMILY PROJECT:** The world around us is rapidly redefining family, so it is imperative that believers understand what God says about this foundational building block of human society. Damascus Community Church is hosting a free 12-week video series, which includes discussions led by Pastor Steve. We meet in the auditorium each Sunday night from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. Childcare is provided through our kids' AWANA program and nursery.



### **DATES TO NOTE:**

- Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup> – Re-enrollment is due
- Wednesday—Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> – No School: School Accreditation Days
- Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – K-8 Noon dismissal: Report Card Prep Day
- Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – K-12 Noon Dismissal: Parent Teacher Conferences 3:00 – 7:00 P.M.
- Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – No School: End of 3rd Quarter, Parent Teacher Conferences 9:00 – 12:00 P.M.
- Monday—Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> – No School: Spring Break
- Monday—Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Outreach opportunity in Rockwood through the Salvation Army Sport's Camp

## **Staff Spotlight: Will Lampinen**



“This is where God wants me to be,” is the most common answer I give when someone asks why I teach at DCS. It is the simplest and my favorite reason to be at this wonderful school. I feel truly blessed to be in a place that I know well and can serve vocationally in ministry with people who are close to my heart.

As a graduate of DCS, I knew the school and the culture well, so I knew that working here would be a good fit. Even before graduating from Moody Bible Institute, getting my degrees in Elementary Education and Bible, I applied to work at DCS. At the time, there were no openings at DCS, but God knew exactly what He was doing, allowing me to focus on finishing school and looking for opportunities to grow that would also fit my skillset and passions. On the day of my graduation, I received a call from my one-time teacher and now colleague Linda Urbanowski. (Yes, that does still seem a little strange to call her a colleague, but I digress.) The phone rang as I was getting in my cap and gown to drive to my commencement ceremony, and she informed me of the opening at DCS for a Computer Technology Teacher. Prayers answered and, foreseeable future figured out, I praised the Lord for His provision and providence.

All of my life, God has been working in my heart and my life for some purpose I have yet to fully know. Some things are clear; teaching kids is what I love to do, and working within the body of Christ is just where I fit best. Other things will take more time to develop, and that's the way God wants it. For now, DCS is my home, my training ground, my ministry and the place God wants me to be.

## **Outreach Opportunities**

**ROCKWOOD SPORTS CAMP:** Damascus Community Church is teaming up with the Salvation Army Youth Center in nearby Rockwood, Oregon, to put on a basketball and arts camp for student-age kids over Spring Break. The Rockwood community is made up of families from very diverse backgrounds, such as multiple ethnicities, refugees of war, those with lower economic status—all who need to witness the love of Jesus. Gresham's Salvation Army has



built a social service center in Rockwood that already sends out 800 food boxes a month and hosts a series of after-school youth programs.

Over Spring Break (March 21-23), DCS will be partnering with Salvation Army to put on a sports and art camp as a short-term mission opportunity for our high school aged students and adults. So, if you are looking for an opportunity to serve those in our community and would like more information about helping out at this camp, please contact Andy McClellan at (530) 658-3179. Donations of basketballs and sponsoring a camp member are also ways that you can participate.

**SCRIP GIFT AND CASH CARDS:** If you are planning to purchase gift cards as birthday presents or gifts, plan ahead and order them through DCS. 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.



**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. We currently have slots open on Tuesday from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M., Wednesday 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M., Thursday from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. and Friday from 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Please contact the school office if you are interested in volunteering.

## Sport and Extra-Curricular Highlights

**SPRING DRAMA PRODUCTION:** DCS has a great history of dramatic performances. This spring, our drama club will be presenting the *Magician's Nephew*, from the Chronicle of Narnia series, directed by Katelyn Perot. Roles are being announced this week. We are excited to have participants ranging from elementary students to high school in this year's production. Performances will be April 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium.



**OYSA COACH OF THE YEAR 2015:** It's an award that caught DCS parent and varsity soccer coach Brian Davis completely off guard. "I didn't even know this existed," he says. Brian coaches both the DCS varsity soccer team and a team at the Valley Premier F.C. that his two younger boys are on. It was while coaching this younger U11 team that a sparkling crystal trophy surprised Brian as the Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA) Coach of the Year for 2015.



He was nominated for the award by the mom of one of the players on his team in a season marked with ups, downs and, at times, drama. He never wavered from teaching his players how things should go on the field.

"My number one thing is their sportsmanship. Have fun and show good sportsmanship regardless of whether you are winning or losing. Number two is team camaraderie and building each other up—but also being disciplined and

focused on operating together as a team,” he says. “Not just having kids focus on what each of them can do as an individual but really what all of them can accomplish when they work together as a group.”

If you see Brian around Damascus Christian or on the soccer field, be sure to congratulate him on being chosen as the OYSA Coach of the Year for 2015!

**WINTER SPORTS:** If you haven’t had an opportunity to come out and watch our basketball teams, what are you waiting for? Both of our varsity programs won their league and are moving into district playoffs with an opportunity to go to state in Baker City. Our junior high and elementary teams are also sporting a winning record. Please consult our weekly Eagle Eye or the school website for upcoming games, so you too can cheer on our Eagles.



**SPRING SPORTS:** Keep your eyes and ears open for information about our spring Track and Field program. Athletes of all abilities and interests can join together to form a winning team! We are also looking to fill an assistant Track and Field coaching position.

## **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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