

## **Introduction to this Newsletter**

We are off to a great start in a new school year! After being in a quiet building most of the summer, I feel so much joy having the life students bring back on the campus. With a couple weeks in, I've observed students successfully navigating classes, teachers, lockers and classmates.



As we proceed through the year, I appreciate your prayers as we seek God's will in partnering with you in educating your child(ren) from a Christian worldview and for the glory of God. Our mission is to call people to follow Jesus and become like Him. We desire to see our school family as a growing community for Christ: Walking in truth, Living out love, Building on faith.

As part of our strategy to make Christian education relevant, we are using the word "SOAR" as an acronym and catalyst for our ministry to fulfill its mission and vision. As DCS Eagles, God has given us wings for more than just soaring through life. Instead, our wings are tools to bring Jesus to others. Consequently, teachers are infusing their curriculum with...

**S – Spiritual Development**

**O – Outreach**

**A – Academic Excellence**

**R – Relevancy**

I encourage you to talk with your child about their own spiritual development, outreach opportunities, academic pursuits, and relevancy of our faith in today's world. Please visit with our teachers about how they do this on a daily basis and for ideas you can use at home. Come *SOAR* with us!

- Principal Zachary Davidson

## **Recent News**

**LIVING CLASSROOMS:** Our 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders just participated in Living Classrooms, a week filled with unique activities that allowed for community building and 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 freshmen to start off the year and bond as a class.



During the same week, our sophomores took a unique tour of the Arts throughout the city of Portland. They painted, learned to play the ukulele, created art using recycled materials and made dumplings at a culinary school.



Finally, our juniors and seniors drove across the country to Yellowstone. Throughout their trip, students were exposed to our country's rich beauty as they toured through Yellowstone National Park. Many wonderful volunteers made this trip possible and provided an opportunity for our students to grow spiritually—ultimately to see how creation reveals the Creator. One student stated, "It was so awesome to see all the evidence He left scattered everywhere for us to

find and enjoy!" Another student mentioned, "The teaching by Mr. Hayley, Mr. Hergenrather, and Don Landis has immensely strengthened my faith."



To continue to seek ways to improve our Living Classroom program, we will be sending out communication to our secondary parents to assess the program's success and overall value. Our goal is to provide a stimulating academic experience that also cultivates spiritual development and is accessible to all our students. Information for our 2020 Living Classrooms will be going out later this fall.

**NEW TEACHING STAFF:** The new members of our teaching team are hitting the ground running. Please remember to welcome Mr. Dearden, Mr. Colburn, and Mrs. Pedersen when you have the opportunity.

- **Doug Dearden** (Assistant Administrator) [SEP]
- **Morgan Colburn** (Secondary Bible and Weights) [SEP]
- **Marnie Pedersen** (Secondary Social Studies and Algebra I) [SEP]



**DROP OFF AND PICK UP REMINDERS:** First, please do not block the flow of traffic for our neighbors 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 or sidewalks of our neighbors. Second, as you travel through the parking lot, it is important to remember the line nearest the building is for dropping off students, while the flow on the left is for cars driving

through to leave or park in the lower lot. Third, 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 24<sup>th</sup>, over a dozen volunteers gave of their Saturday morning to spruce up DCS. Volunteers worked on jobs such as washing walls, dusting and decorating classrooms. 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 future workdays the first Saturday of every month; our next one on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Financial Update:

**OVERVIEW OF LAST 4 YEARS:** Managing a school budget requires a careful balance of faith and good stewardship. Consequently, I would like to give you a brief financial synopsis of what has occurred over the last four years.

I am thrilled that we have ended each of the four school years in the black (positive). This means that the tuition costs have covered teacher salaries/benefits and operational costs. As a result, we were also able to give most DCS staff members a 7% increase in salary. Although this doesn't pay our teachers what they deserve, it is a step in the right direction.

To help provide for additional purchases outside the general budget, DCS has pursued Title funds, grants, and other funding to improve our student technology, campus security and professional development for staff. Our efforts have allowed us to collect over \$100,000 over the past four years to stimulate these advancements.

Where did the money fundraised last year go? We added 20 more iPads and a significant amount of materials for science labs, while providing professional development for teachers on Love and Logic for classroom management and MAPS standardized test training.

**NARROWING THE SALARY GAP:** God has taken care of DCS and has blessed our endeavors to increase safety and resources. However, there is one area that I have worked toward but is not yet sufficient. I strongly desire to increase our teachers' salaries. The average DCS teacher earns \$31,000 a year, which is 50% of what their public school counterparts earn. To help address this deficit, DCS has three potential steps to take.

- 1) **Increase Enrollment** – Unfortunately our enrollment did not increase this year like it has the previous three. We will continue to seek to build our enrollment up from 220 to approximately 250.
- 2) **Increase Tuition Cost** – We seek to make increases as minimal as possible. Over the past couple years, we have made only moderate increases of 2-3% to match inflation. These increased funds unfortunately allow us to maintain status quo but do not provide extra funds to allow for a salary increase for our hard-working staff. Therefore, I do not see increasing tuition as a viable option for increasing teacher salaries.
- 3) **Seek Outside Revenue Sources** – We are currently investigating the possibility of partnering with a development professional, who would pursue additional revenue streams for the school. This option appears to have the best financial outlook. If you have other ideas, please let the school office know and we will investigate them.



## Upcoming Events

We have a great opportunity coming up to honor our grandparents. On Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, DCS will host our annual **Grandparents Day!** A special program designed just for them that will showcase our school and the kids. This event will 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. To help make this day more student-focused, DCS is partnering up with Damascus Dairy Queen for a lunch fundraiser from 11 AM to 2 PM. All proceeds will go toward tuition assistance.

Other upcoming events include...

- **Outdoor School:** September 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>
- **School pictures:** October 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Hearing & Vision Screening:** October 8th
- **PSAT** for the Sophomores and Juniors: Wednesday morning, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your students to get plenty of rest and eat a healthy breakfast that day.
- **Grandparent's Day:** October 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:15 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. School K-12 will dismiss at noon.
- **"What's Next" IGC Strategic Plan Unveiling:** October 25<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 8:30 P.M.
- **DCC/DCS Harvest Festival:** October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5 - 8 P.M.
- **Picture Retakes:** Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

## Building on Faith Update – "WHAT'S NEXT?"



Join us Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. as we celebrate what God has done for DCC/DCS over the years. Kelly Blake from IGC will also brief us on the information compiled by the focus groups last year. The most exciting thing is that the Elders and School Board will answer the question “WHAT’S NEXT?” as we look toward a capital campaign.

- All school and church families will hopefully send at least one representative.
- We will provide dessert, coffee and childcare.
- Kelly Blake (IGC), Principal Davidson, Pastor Hardy and Pastor McClellan will share what we learned from all your feedback and how we plan on moving forward.
- We will also celebrate in a time of worship led by Jeff Miller of *Toast and Jam*.

## Outreach Opportunities

**SECONDARY OUTREACH HOUR REQUIREMENTS:** DCS is encouraging all secondary students (7-12 grade) to seek opportunities to serve the community and live out their faith. As part of the plan, each student is required to put in 20 hours of service over the course of the year. To help facilitate this requirement, DCS will be providing multiple opportunities for students to fulfill their hours. More information on those opportunities will be forthcoming.

**PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Similarly, we believe parents also are gifted to serve. In an effort to provide avenues to express your own 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 complete an application and background check. For further information, please contact the coordinator listed next to each opportunity. Thanks!

- School Improvement Team** – This group meets monthly to examine ways to improve the school from various improvement projects like a playground equipment, connecting with alumni, encouraging school staff and addressing school accreditation requirements. (Contact Zachary Davidson, office 503-658-4100 ext. 201)
- Friday Feast** – Help distribute pre-prepared lunches (pizza, subs, burritos, etc.) to classes. 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Fridays (Contact Larisa Zagaryuk, lorazagar@yahoo.com)
- Prayer** – Join others to pray for related school needs. (Contact Heidi Hale, office 503-658-4100)
- Classroom Helpers** – Assist teacher with paper correction, recess duty, bulletin boards, reading, class parties, field trips and driving etc. (If you are interested please contact your child’s teacher directly)
- Damascus Christian Education Foundation Gathering** – Dinner, presentation & entertainment evening to help raise funds for our student financial assistance program (Rachel Wakefield 503-702-8885)

- Box Tops** – Trim, count, bundle labels. (Amy Hill, 971-998-4191 )
- 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. 110)
- Teacher Encouragement Team** – Find ways to tangibly encourage our teachers. (Heidi Hale, office 503-658-4100)
- Clerical Work** – Help the office with telephoning, filing, word processing, etc. as needed for special projects. (Heidi Hale, 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)
- Design Your Own Job!** – Do you have something not listed above that you would like to do that would benefit DCS? Jot it down 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, junior varsity and varsity. Our elementary volleyball team has only lost one game and our junior high team is 2-2. Our varsity volleyball and soccer teams are ranked in the top 10 among the state's 1A schools. Finally, our cross-country team had a great start performing very well at their first meet. Please come and cheer on these great students.

## Parent Corner: *Sleep is Key for Surviving Adolescence*

*By Jim Liebelt -HomeWord.com*

Could it be that adequate sleep is the 'magic pill' that helps kids survive adolescence? Could it really be that simple? It's not likely that simple, but there does appear to be a protective effect against some significant adolescent issues for teenagers who receive adequate sleep.

A review of recent research involving teens and the sleep they get (or don't get!) shows a fascinating connection between inadequate sleep and a broad range of issues many adolescents struggle with.

Studies have linked inadequate sleep in teens to:

- Increased occurrences of depression - A less healthy diet
- Increased suicidal thoughts and behaviors - Headaches
- Daytime drowsiness and inattention - Moodiness
- Poor school performance - High blood pressure
- Increased at-risk behaviors - A higher rate of obesity
- Impaired cognitive development - Increased sport injuries
- Increased rate of bullying - Increased rate of auto accidents

It's unlikely that all teen problems will disappear if kids simply get enough sleep. Still, the science tells us the links between inadequate sleep and these problems have been established; so, it seems reasonable to believe that for at least some teens, adequate sleep may be a key to resolving some of the most problematic issues they face.

At minimum, parents with teens facing these issues should at least ask themselves the question, Does my teenager get enough sleep? And if the answer is no, they should seek to help their teen begin getting the sleep they need.

Research has also identified some teen behaviors that have been linked as contributors to inadequate sleep. The list includes:

- Caffeine intake - A high rate of video gaming
- A high rate of texting - Taking cellphone to bed
- A high rate of viewing video (television, online, or via hand-held devices)

Obviously, parents cannot force a teen to sleep. But parents can take steps to reduce behaviors known to contribute to a lack of sleep.

The accepted recommendation is that on average a teen should get between eight and nine hours of sleep each night. In reality, each teen is unique and some will require a bit more sleep and some a bit less.

## **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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