

VCS EAGLE

Volume 29, Issue 1, Winter 2008

“...so that in every-
thing He might have
the supremacy.”
Col. 1:18b

From Sally Baier . . .



In Exodus 33:12 Moses reminds the Lord that he has been challenged to lead the people but, God hasn't let him in on who is going to help him. So God reminds Moses, in verse 14 that, “*My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.*” How often I have thought about these new leadership responsibilities here at Valley. I am so very thankful first of all that God's Presence is with us and secondly, that I am not alone!

I watched one of our school Moms, mop and bucket in hand, encourage a young man in the hallway. I know of another parent who works in the Student Store who is faithful to pray for the students who come through the lunch line with a downcast face and unspoken needs. I know of so many who have dug deep into their pockets to help continue the ministry we have with our students. We are blessed with so much help! Thank you all who have helped in our ministry this school year. Whether you work here on campus or not, you have supported us financially and prayerfully. Thank you all!

As we begin this new year and look forward to the Lord's continued provision for Valley Christian School, may you all enjoy the rest that God promises in Exodus 33:12. Happy New Year!

School Board

Valley Christian School - Parents, Students,
Faculty, Administration, Alumni, and Friends,

Greetings to you as we begin a new year following a special time of celebration when we stop and reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This event seemed insignificant to the world at that time but forever changed the world! In a much smaller way seemingly insignificant events affect our lives every day. God certainly has our future in

His hands, right down to the smallest details. Our hope is in the Lord!

There are many exciting things happening at Valley this year as we are faced with new challenges and opportunities. We are going through a time of transition and organizational change, not in our core values and belief, but in the way we manage the resources God has entrusted to us. We are working on completing our new classroom building as building funds are available. We are working on expanding our courses offered and maintaining our accreditation. Most of all we are seeking God's will and trusting Him. Our hope is in the Lord!

We are in the process of producing a strategic plan that will look at where we have been, where we are now and where we are going as a Christian school that has Jesus at its center and represents God to our community. Our goal is not so much to formulate this strategic plan as it is to discover God's plan for us. This is God's school and we are His; our hope is in the Lord! We have not been without direction in most areas of school operations. Our way of doing business has been closely defined by the Board Policy Handbook, the Faculty Handbook, and the Student Handbook. Our intention is not to re-define or replace these but rather to prayerfully incorporate pertinent information from these into our strategic plan with an eye to the future. In addition, we intend to include new vision in the funding and financial operations of the school and in becoming debt-free. We ask that you pray for wisdom and guidance for Valley Christian School's Board and Administrators. Also be in prayer for our teachers who are doing a wonderful job in teaching our children and in teaching God's Word to them.

May God richly bless you in this new year.
Bradley D. Miller,
Valley Christian School Board Chairman

...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31



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Sports News . . .

The 2007-2008 boys basketball team is expecting a great season. Coach Hill is returning for his 4th season and Jordan Wittmier is returning for the 2nd year as assistant coach. The varsity team is captained by seniors Cody Parsons and Stephen Kasun. We have one major team goal this season: to create an identity of being the most intense, hardest working team on the floor, night in and night out. We look forward to seeing you in the stands this season.

The Lady Eagles are looking forward to a great season of always working hard. The focus this year is to "not sacrifice to the Lord a (basketball season) that cost us nothing." (Based on II Samuel 24:18-24.) Our team is small (in numbers and height) but mighty. The Lady Eagles are coached by Brennan Koch and assistant coach Rachael Schieder. We are blessed by the excellent management of Erin Meagher. Please pray for us, thanking God for strong minds, healthy bodies, and attitudes that exemplify the supremacy of Christ.
~Grayson Leder and Lauren Cross

K-8 Program Notes

Fall is always a beautiful but busy time of the year. This year has been no exception. The 5th grade class held their annual Egypt Day to culminate their study of ancient Egypt. The children dressed in Egyptian clothing, ate Egyptian food and completed a variety of Egyptian-themed activities. The results of their endeavors were on display at the Open House. The 4th grade continued their monthly ministry visits to Riverside Health Care. It is such a blessing to see the children showing the love of Jesus to the senior citizens. Not only does it minister to the people at the center but it ministers to the children as well. The 6th – 8th grade students held their annual 50's Day event. They held competitions in hula hooping, Frisbee throwing and costumes, with judges from the high school Student Leadership team choosing winners in the costume segment. A good time was had by all. Musically we have received many blessings during this past season. The Thanksgiving Program was a time of simple, but profound praise from the lips of infants and children. An added blessing was having the children proclaim the name of Jesus to the Chinese teachers who visited the program that evening. We were also blessed by the Christmas concerts from both 5th grade through Junior High School bands and the choirs from the 6th grade and Junior High choirs. God has indeed given us a tremendous gift in music. The Lord has also given us the gift of artistic endeavors in our Junior High art class. Their artwork was showcased during the band concerts. You can see their work in both the North and South Offices. Academically, we were scheduled to participate in the Readers' Digest Word Power Competition. However, Readers' Digest is reassessing their program and did not conduct the contest this year. We will be participating in the National Geographic Geography Bee on Friday, December 14. Students in grades 4 – 7 compete to see who has the most knowledge of the geography of the world our God has created. To wrap up the month of December the halls will be filled with the sounds of Christmas on December 20 as our classes celebrate the birth of the Savior before we adjourn for the Christmas break. Remember that school will reconvene on Wednesday, January 2. May the Lord bless your families as we remember the reason for the season.



Parent Teacher Fellowship



VCS Family,

Here is an update from the Parent Teacher Fellowship. We had a good response from parents and teachers filling out cards so we can see how they can serve the school. We are still sorting through them, but should be contacting some of you in January.

We have a couple of fund-raising activities going on. Nicole is selling raffle tickets for a quilt that we will give away towards the end of the basketball season. In addition, at home basketball games during half time, we are doing different games to raise money. We are gathering information about different projects toward which this money will be funneled. One long-range goal that everyone seems to agree on is a new playground.

We will continue to have regular monthly meetings scheduled around other school events. I will post the time and place on the portal and Wednesday note home. If you ever have ideas and just want to share them or even better, implement them, please give one of us a call. Thanks for your help and support as we strive to have the attitude of Phil 4:13.

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| President, Mark Huber | 251-7208 |
| Vice President, Julie Dybdal | 721-9722 |
| Secretary, Nicole Blubaugh | 239-1674 |
| Treasurer, Joe Kesler | 829-6636 |

New Faculty Update

Once again the Lord has proven Himself faithful by providing the staff we needed for the new year. Each one has a story of how God moved to bring them to us. The School Board made the decision to split the 2nd grade class into two classes and the Lord brought us Ava Ernst who had substituted for us last year in the very classroom she is teaching in this year. In the Junior High Bridget Niemeir, the mother of four VCS students, is using her degree and experience teaching English, Bible and leading a girls' discipleship group. The Lord also brought us Jeremiah Cameron to help out in the High School math program, Eagle Christian School math and in the Junior High math and discipleship program. (Jeremiah also brings along his wife and 2 children who happen to be Mrs. Baier's daughter and grandchildren.) We were again delivered by the Lord with the addition of Paula Graves leading our vocal music program. She has taken on the full gamut of elementary school, junior high and high school music. We were desperately seeking part-time positions in Spanish and P.E. without much success when the Lord answered our prayers through Debra Smothers teaching 2 classes in High School Spanish and Eagle Christian School Spanish and Geoffrey Lukasik picking up elementary and high school P.E. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness in providing all of our needs! Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome these servants into our school family.

High School News

Sally Baier

High School Programs

High School staff and students have been motivated this year by James 5:13-16. Inspired by this great passage in the Word, we have challenged ourselves to be faithful in *prayer!* Our key words on the bulletin board outside the offices display teacher's experiences on prayer under the words, "Powered by Prayer, Answered by God!" Stop by and read these encouraging stories of how God has answered prayer in teachers' lives.

Along with many academic and sports accomplishments this fall, our Student Leadership team organized "See You At the Pole," a national day of student led prayer. They helped to host Open House on September 26, and organized Spiritual Emphasis Day with Bethany (Hartzell) Peake as our Keynote Speaker on October 10. The Fall Pep Rally was also an SL event that recognized all Cross Country, Soccer, and Volleyball players and they even squeezed in time to do a Dodge Ball lunchtime tournament!

National Honor Society, under the able-bodied leadership of Jessalynn Huber and Advisor Laurie Job, hosted a new student luncheon and has also accomplished several other fall service projects. Our Key Club (with President, Bekah King and Advisor, Joe Messner) also had a busy fall ministering in the community as well. In fact, you may see them ringing bells for the Salvation Army. Our music performance classes have had great opportunities to share their voices and instruments here at home, and along with the Art classes, to display their accomplishments at our annual Christmas concert.

Testing

Our entire school community (staff and families) can all help prepare students for tests this school year. We always appreciate your prayers and help

The Junior class has already taken the PSAT, which is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship competition and the ASVAB, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. Both test results have been returned and Joe Messner, our Counselor, is going over test results with each student.

Financial Update

Did you know that Valley Christian School doesn't charge anyone the full cost of educating their children? Since the inception of the school almost thirty years ago, our financial philosophy has been to only charge a portion of the actual cost of education. However, last year the school Board of Trustees raised the tuition rate from 60% of the actual cost to 70%. You may ask, "How does the school come up with the remaining 30%?" We have always relied upon God's people to supply the remaining 30% of our operating budget through financial gifts throughout the year. This difference is called the Faith Challenge Difference. This Faith Challenge Difference keeps us reliant upon God's provision through you - families, grandparents, relatives, alumni, friends and supporters of Valley Christian. We praise God that all of our bills are paid and teachers' payroll, retirement and flex payments are all current. This is possible because just before the beginning of this school year, the Board acquired a line of credit in order to keep our payroll current. Our line of credit balance now

The National German Exam is scheduled for mid-January as is the University of Montana Writing Assessment. We still have our major test season ahead in March when we offer the Criterion Reference Tests.

Senior Reminder: All seniors should have taken both the ACT and SAT test this fall/winter. Most colleges and universities require these test results in making admissions and scholarship decisions. If your student has not registered for either of these tests, please stop by the South office for further information. Also, FAFSA information is available and should be initiated soon after January 1. Admission's counselors advise us that scholarship funds are disbursed quickly, so the sooner a student completes the FAFSA and the admissions process, the better.

All Seniors have met with Mr. Messner to verify that they will be fulfilling graduation requirements and to discuss post graduation plans. If your Senior has not already applied for their first three choices for college or university, the Christmas break is an excellent time to accomplish this task. And please utilize the "Counselor's Corner" on the Portal to catch the latest news on scholarships and college admissions.

High School Music

by Michael Reimer

The VCS music department concluded yet another busy season of Christmas concerts. The school choirs and bands performed beautifully as they sang and played for our Savior's birthday. The high school band also had an opportunity to present their performance at Southgate mall.

Next up is the high school choir tour, March 13-15, as the choir takes to the road to sing in several Christian schools in Coeur d'Alene and Spokane. The choir will be hosting a "dessert and sing" fundraiser on Feb. 15 in the cafeteria to raise money for their trip.

Pep band is underway with high school band members playing pre-game and halftime songs at all home basketball games.

The high school choir and band have traded Spring concert dates for 2008. Choir will be performing their Spring concert on March 11 and the band will be performing on April 24. Please note this calendar change.

Come out and support the VCS music department.

stands at over \$291,000. As you consider your yearly giving, maybe you are wondering, is our school fiscally responsible to receive these special gifts? The recently completed financial review done by the accounting firm of Galusha, Higgins and Galusha found no glaring financial inconsistencies and made some suggestions the School Board is in the process of implementing. The Board is entering into a period of Strategic Planning with The Barnabas Group, a Christian organization that helps ministries carry through with their vision. Please be in prayer for the Board and Administrators as this process begins in January. If God leads you, would you consider making a gift to Valley Christian to help repay this line of credit indebtedness? Your faithful response to the prompting of the Spirit to help with the Faith Challenge Difference over the last thirty years has kept the ministry of Valley Christian School going. Our eyes are on the Lord as we seek His will and ask for your financial support.

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