

Treasure Valley Christian School Newsletter

Newsletter May 2014
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Principal, Fran Renk
Development Director, Amanda K. Anderson



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ High School Graduation- May 31
- ◆ Fritter & Float Booth at Malheur County Fair- July 29th- August 2nd
- ◆ Back to School BBQ & Celebration- August 18th

Principal's News

Fun and Joy would describe Treasure Valley Christian School

- Fun is "working with students to help them solve problems." I have been in laughter silently to myself as I help children settle quarrels over "whose broccoli is it" to "who said what." We now have a new game called "Crime Scene Investigators" to help determine culpability. This has been effective in defusing anger and helping students think through situations.
- Fun is making snowmen.
- Fun is the annual silly string war.
- Fun is summer in February.

Joy is the long term feeling I get as I reflect upon all the blessings of the school.

- Joy comes with watching as the board steps out on faith to figure out ways to bring more students to the school.
- Joy comes from watching students make decisions toward growth in their spiritual life and academic life.
- Joy is seeing the Junior-Senior Trip become a reality in taking students to Summit Ministries in Manitou Springs, Colorado.

- Joy comes from having our first graduating class. Psalms 139 speaks to the unique giftedness of each child. It talks about how God knit us in the womb. He knows us so intimately. It is a privilege and a blessing to help these students grow in their abilities.

I am blessed and privileged to serve in a great school. From the bottom of my heart I thank the board, teachers, students and volunteers for making this a school that is both fun and a joy to be at.

In Christ,

Fran Renk
TVCS Principal

Development Director Update

First of all, I want to thank each and every individual, including staff, administration, volunteers, parents, friends, and of course all the amazing students who have welcomed me into this school with open arms and given me continued support. It is amazing to see what God has done in the last four months and I look forward to what he is going to do in the future for our school!

WE DID IT! The 11th Annual Potato Feed and Auction is now in the books and God blessed us tremendously. I want to personally thank everyone who supported our event this year and well as all our volunteers that helped bring it together. We would have not been a success without each of you. I am excited to announce that this was our largest Potato Dinner and Auction in its 11 year history. DRUM ROLL...We raised over \$22,000 in gross dollars and had just under 500 people attend! Thank you to everyone again and please mark your calendars for April 18, 2015 for the 12th Annual Potato Feed and Auction.

With that great success, we continue to move forward to the next chance to share about our school and to look for opportunities to increase our enrollment of like-minded families. We carry on, working towards our goal of \$40,000 in Tuition Aid for families that may not otherwise be able to attend our school. If you or anyone you know is interested in supporting our school and the tuition aid effort please contact the school office at (541) 889-4662 or find our "GIVE" tab on our website at www.tvcsonline.org for electronic giving options. We are also in the early stages of development for a Business Partner Program and Our Annual Warrior Fund. There will be more information forthcoming on our website as well as in future newsletters and other mailing materials to collaborate these two efforts. In conjunction we continue to hold events that support the goals of Treasure Valley Christian School.

Other Event Happenings:

- Open House was held on May 13th and we had several interested families attend to hear Mrs. Renk speak, meet the teachers, and tour our school.
- 8th grade and High School Graduation Day is May 31st- Please be here to support this Milestone of a success!
- Treasure Valley Christian School will have a food booth at the Malheur County Fair this year- July 29th to August 2nd please come and eat YUMMY food and support us!

Thank you again for all your support and I look forward to the continued success of our school!
Blessings,
Amanda K. Anderson
Development Director

K-4 & Kindergarten News

The K-4 class with Mrs. Carpenter is busy preparing for their program which will be held on May 22nd at 7:00 PM, the same night as the Kindergarten Graduation. The K-4 children are learning to sign and have learned a variety of songs, poems, blends, words, and Bible verses to sing, act out, and recite for everyone. Please join us for this very special program.

The Kindergarten class is buzzing with excitement for their upcoming graduation! These six children have worked and played hard and are ready to move up to the 1st Grade. They even raised 10 Painted Lady Butterfly's from caterpillar to beautiful adult butterflies.



First & Second Grade News

Mrs. McFadden and Mrs. Orris have been very busy in the last several weeks of school with their day-to-day schoolwork as well as some great presentations about safety.

The students were lucky enough to have the BLM, Ontario Fire, and Smokey Bear come to their class for fire safety.

Then, about two weeks ago the class got to learn about water safety from Malheur County Sheriff's Office Deputy

Holom. These were two very important presentations which helps are students learn more about safety procedures in everyday situations.

Thanks to all of the fire safety presenters and Deputy Holom for taking time out of their day to come in and speak with us!



1st & 2nd Grade Class with Smokey Bear

Third & Fourth Grade News

The 3rd & 4th grade students finished up year-end book reports and other assignments to wrap up the school year. These students were able to enjoy some away time earlier in the year at the Birds of Prey and more recently at the Oregon Interpretive Center in Baker City.

These two activities were a lot of fun and very informative for all the students.

During the Birds of Prey tour the children were able to see a variety of amazing birds and even dress up like one. What fun to be a bird for a day!

At the Interpretive Center the students loved the playroom where they were able to dress up in old time clothes as pioneers and play inside a wagon loaded with all the necessities needed to take a trip on the Oregon Trail.



Caitlyn Farrow being a Bird of Prey

Fifth through Eighth Grade News

Mrs. Larsen and the 5th-8th grade class are happy to have some much anticipated time off for the summer. However, the class was able to squeeze in a couple fun activities before year end including a trip to the Boise Zoo and a full day trip up to Owyhee Dam for Owyhee Field Day.

Mrs. Larsen's students learned so much and will make this an annual trip! They were able to see the workings inside the dam, learn about Noxious Weeds, Mosquito control & West Nile, took a hay ride, saw a demonstration on Birds of Prey, and had life boat & life jacket safety class before rafting on the Owyhee River. Wow, sounds like they had an awesome time!

High School News

Our High School students have been extremely busy pushing forward to finish up studies before year end. The High School will have a half day break when they join in the younger grade's last day of school celebrations on Friday! Hopefully this will give them the boost they need to finish up their last week of school strong.

We are extremely pleased to announce our first ever High School Graduation!

Our two High School Seniors are Hailey Hiatt and Tessa Winebarger. These are two amazing young ladies that have persevered in TVCS. We are very proud of both of you and look forward to seeing continued success in all of your future endeavors. Please don't forget about us!

Join us on May 31st at 2:00PM for our graduation ceremony!

"We are extremely pleased to announce our first ever High School Graduation!"

The following article is written by Dan Krause of GraceWorks Ministries who is partnering with TVCS to grow enrollment and financial aid opportunities.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: The Value of a College Education

Christian Education: America's Best Hope

By Dan Krause

President, GraceWorks Ministries

I firmly believe in the American Dream. I think anyone who supports Christian schools believes the same. There are many good reasons - here are five:

Reason #1: Opportunity

"Work hard and you will succeed" - the American dream in essence. Yet American children born in poverty have a coin's flip chance of escaping it in their lifetime.

Except for children schooled at Christian schools. Two thorough "meta-analysis" studies of Christian school outcomes by Dr. William Jeynes. He analyzed 134 studies over 40 years to show that all traditional achievement gaps problems (poverty, race) **disappear** in Christian schools with an intact family (with significant improvement in single parent homes.)

Disappear - the exact word Jeynes used in his International Handbook of Protestant Education (2012), page 33. *Disappear*.

Contrast this to the official positions of the NEA and teacher unions. Achievement gaps are very real in both public and charter schools, excoriatingly and depressingly detailed in Greg Duncan's massive 2011 tome, Whither Opportunity.

Reason #2: College

Kids who attend Christian schools are twice as likely to graduate college - about 60% vs 30%. Our own government (NCES) announced that finding in 2013, based on a 10-year longitudinal study of over 15,000 2002 high school sophomores.

On average, Americans with a 4-year college diploma make over \$26,000 a year more than those with a high school diploma. In fact, only 4% of persons with a college diploma needed government help in 2012 - compared to 40% with only a high school diploma. Ironically, that same ratio - 40% to 4% -- was true for white women who had children out of wedlock, according to Charles Murray.

College graduation really, really matters because America is #2 in the industrialized world in producing college dropouts. This, in a country whose higher education system is the envy of the world.

Reason #3: Character

Besides an epidemic of college drop-outs, America has an epidemic of narcissism, according to Jean Twenge. The two are very much related!

Character has become quite the hot topic with Paul Tough's 2012 best seller How Children Succeed, an entirely secular book which explains exactly why you should send your kids to Christian schools.

Yes, public, and especially charter schools are trying, but Tough notes (p. 60):

A national evaluation of character education programs published in 2010 by the National Center for Education Research, part of the federal Department of Education, followed seven popular elementary-school programs over three consecutive years. It found no significant impact at all from the programs - not on student behavior, not on achievement, not on school culture.

Another 2012 meta-analysis of 88 studies by Dr. Jeynes showed that only Christian schools consistently deliver life-changing character traits such as self-control, optimism, gratitude, zest, curiosity, and perseverance. The largest study of educational outcomes ever done, the 2011 Cardus Educational Survey, found that Protestant Christian graduates are uniquely grateful and optimistic - which takes a great deal of courage in our rapidly changing (deteriorating?) world.

While America's public school system gyrates from one academic reform to the next, the real reason that Christian school kids graduate college is Christian Character.

Academics + Character = College graduate.

Reason #4: Community and Church

At a time when trust in America is at a record low, and greed and individualism at record highs, Protestant Christian School graduates are uniquely the glue that holds communities and churches together.

"Community stabilizers" is the descriptor used in the Cardus study, and the community safety nets Christian school graduates support will be critical in our increasingly volatile economic world - with a government "tapped out."

Plus, Christian school graduates are the elders, leaders, pastors, missionaries, and teachers in the Christian church. They are community volunteers.

And, they put their money where their time is, giving away on average \$1500 a year more than graduates of public or charter schools.

Both Dr. Mark Labberton of Fuller Seminary, and David Kinnaman, head of the Barna Group, have both recently and publicly stated that Christians in America are entering a new Babylon - a culture far more hostile to our kid's faith convictions than anything their parents experienced. With sin abounding, the fabric of our society will unravel even more quickly, as carefully document by John Dickerson, in his important 2013 book, The Great Evangelical Recession.

Reason #5: Eternity

I can think of at least a dozen studies, with tens of thousands of survey respondents, all saying the same thing: Our kids are losing their faith after college, some 60 to 70%, according to the majority of studies.

Importantly, the notable exception is Christian Schools. The Cardus Study, directed by Dr. David Sikkink of Notre Dame, found that:

ONE OF THE MOST significant findings in this study is the long-term commitment of Protestant Christian school graduates to stay within the Protestant faith. Attending a Protestant Christian school seems to impact graduates' choice to stay into adulthood within the Christian faith. Other schooling types, including Catholic schools, have no impact on the religious affiliations their graduates choose as adults. (p. 19).

While the fastest growing demographic in America is young people who actively reject the Christian faith, Protestant Christian school graduates remain a beacon of hope for our nation, and for individual Christian families like yours and mine.

This is why GraceWorks spends so much time helping schools understand financial aid - and why you should apply for it if you need it. And, give money to support financial aid, if you have it.

This summary is based on a 42-page paper, which you can request from Starr@gwmin.com. There is much more to this story, economically, politically, and culturally.

Dan Krause is the President of GraceWorks Ministries, a 501 (c) (3) that has been exclusively serving Christian K-12 schools since 2005.



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**Excellence in education
while instilling Biblical
character in our future
generation!**

New Students

We are excited to say that Mrs. Renk is having several Education Consultations with prospective new families for Treasure Valley Christian School. God continues to bless us as we share our vision of TVCS with many families.

If there are families that you have been thinking of referring for an Education Consultation with Mrs. Renk, now is the time. Mrs. Renk has morning and afternoon appointments available

throughout the weekdays or evenings if needed, so please call the office at (541) 889-4662.

We are currently accepting enrollment and will continue to do so until classes are full; however, we are filling quickly so the sooner the better. Please watch for updates in our newsletter, website and Facebook page.

New Staff

We would like to welcome back Mrs. Stephanie Hicks who will be teaching our 3rd & 4th grade class. Mrs. Hicks took a much needed extended leave when her daughter was born and now that she has a healthy family we were able to get her back! We are all excited to see her around once again and look forward to working with her in the

upcoming 2014-2015 school year.

We also want to thank Mrs. Martindale for all her work with the 3rd & 4th grade children this school year. We all wish you and your family the best as you move on to the next chapter of your life.

Treasure Valley Christian School
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This Newsletter will be sent out on a quarterly basis, so please look for the next issue in late August! To check for updates and events during the summer please follow our website at www.tvcsonline.org and follow us on Facebook.

