

DAMASCUS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ChalkMarks

Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 2009

Home of the Eagles



CARPE AETERNITAS ~ Seize Eternity

Damascus Christian School, our mission, and you-Part 3

Damascus Christian School's mission is to assist Christian parents in the Biblical training of their children spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically, to help prepare them to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ for God's glory and the building of His Kingdom.

This issue wraps up the three-part series "Damascus Christian School, Our Mission and You." The intent has been to break down our mission statement to show how it affects you and your children. In difficult economic times, does it make sense to spend money on tuition and fees for your children's schooling? As we examine our mission statement defining why we exist, we believe it will clarify the reasons why Christian schooling is important, compelling, and an investment in future generations.

For the past two issues of *ChalkMarks*, we have looked at the school's role in assisting Christian parents in the training of their children spiritually and academically. Today, we will look at the social, emotional, and physical side of the process of partnering in childhood development. How does DCS enter in to this equation?

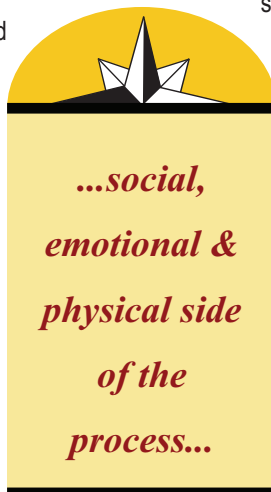
Socially—DCS plays a key role in assisting parents in the social development of their children. In a society that is quickly becoming desensitized and callused to the needs of those around us, we seek to nurture a spirit of caring and compassion. We put together opportunities for our students to grow in social situations and civility. Our teachers regularly bring to the attention of their students the needs surrounding us and around the world. Numbers of classes have taken on mission projects to pray for and give to. A growing number of our high school students have put forth the effort to raise money to go to the Heart2Heart Children's Village Orphanage in Honduras, some visiting and ministering multiple times. Others have spent their Spring Vacations or portions of their summer break on short-term mission projects. Classes raise money and gather clothing and food stuff to send to the mission fields around the world. We pray and send cards and letters of encouragement for those experiencing health issues. We have focused, intentional teaching on civility and good manners. We have provided opportunities to serve others through our newly formed Key Club. We devise programs which encourage older students to mentor and minister to our younger students through Mentoring, Spirit Week, Family Chapel, and other means. We seek to help students

work through conflict with Biblical resolution principles. As mentioned, these are character qualities that often go wanting in other school settings.

Emotionally—We are persons designed and equipped by our Creator with feelings and expression. The practice of self-control and appropriate speech and actions is an important aspect of a child's education. Our teachers seek to help each student understand their worth as a unique creation of God. We endeavor to help students grow in the understanding that we walk by faith, fueled by the facts contained in Scripture; our emotions will fluctuate. We look for ways to assist students to stand firm in their convictions, to be willing to stand alone for that which is true and right.

Physically—Our teachers remind our students that they are fearfully and wonderfully made and their bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. They seek to help each child develop a healthy lifestyle through proper nutrition and exercise. We work closely with our parents as you direct and counsel your children to dress in a modest manner that shows self-respect and is not a stumbling block to others. Our desire it to see each student maintain purity in mind, body, and spirit. Our PE and athletic programs, along with the daily classroom instruction, all add to this dimension

All of these examples and more point to the fact that Damascus Christian School is deliberate and purposeful in assisting Christian parents in the Biblical training of their children to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. It is a distinctive resource with great value. We provide opportunities and the tools to reinforce the Scriptural principles parents are teaching and modeling at home and the local Bible-teaching churches are presenting. We consider this an honor and sacred trust and a vital part of the training and nurturing process for children. Thank you for the privilege of partnering with you.



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Spirit week and homecoming have arrived! This week!

Spirit Week is a fun-by-design week to encourage school spirit and unity and just plain have fun in the middle of winter. Each day is filled with various activities, games, contests, and dress-up themes, with points accumulated and a top spirit class recognized. The end of the week is highlighted with the Homecoming game, this year with Heritage Christian School.

This year's schedule includes – **Monday** – high school poster creation day in the gym; Pajama Day. **Tuesday** – high schoolers vote for Honor Court (a boy and girl representative from freshmen through senior classes based upon spiritual and character qualities); noon lunch buffet; Destitute/Depression Era Day. **Wednesday** – Inter-class game day; Emergency Room/Injury Day. **Thursday** – High school Lip Sync presentations, 1:50; International/Missionary Day. **Friday** – Spirit Project (older classes working with younger classes), All-School Pep Assembly, 12:35 PM; DCS Spirit Day (Maroon and Gold).

Modesty and Neatness Guideline Reminder

We want to remind parents and students of our Modesty and Neatness Guidelines. These have been established, not as a means of defining spirituality but rather to help promote modesty and purity. Please review these (pp. 27-31, DCS Parent-Student Handbook). If you have any questions about appropriate clothing, please check with **Mrs. Mattechek** in the school office. Thanks!

Pep band opportunity

You are invited to again participate in our Pep Band in support of our DCS basketball teams. Last year we made a lot of noise and had a ton of fun. We had 20 DCS students in the band and 12 staff and parents. We would love to increase those numbers this year.

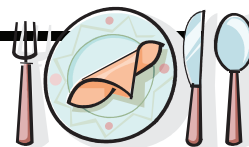
- **Monday**, Feb. 2nd – rehearsal at DCS from 7-8:15 PM
- **Friday**, Feb. 6th – play at high school game with Life Christian, 5-9 PM
- **Friday**, Feb. 13th – play at the SW Christian game, 5-9 PM

If you can be with us only part of the time or the entire time, we welcome you! Please let Pep Band director **Chuck Bolton** know if you will be playing so he can make up the music folders. If you would like the music in advance, please leave a note in his basket (teachers' lounge, room 111) or email him through the DCS band website (www.dcsbands.blogspot.com). If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Bolton at DCS. Thanks!



Dessert, entertainment & fun!

Saturday, March 14th, 6 PM, you are invited to join us for an evening of live music,



theater, and art – all presented by our very talented art, drama, and band students. In addition, we are featuring nationally known comedian **Tim Hawkins** as our special guest. This guy is hilarious as he pokes fun at some of our sacred cows in the Christian realm.

The format is create and bring your signature dessert and place settings for 8. The table judged to be the most creative and attractive will win that table host a two-night stay at Whispering Woods Resort in Welches! Also, the table host will receive two free tickets to the dessert. So round up your friends and put together a dazzling dessert display.

Tickets are \$15 per adult (no children/students, please). For further information, contact DCS mom **Kim Bucowski** at kimbuc@verizon.net. An opportunity will be given to donate to Damascus Christian School.



on Eli

Eli, fourth grade son of **Phil** and **Sue R**, continues with his chemo treatments for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. A health care fund has been established at the Key Bank to help meet the significant expenses (beyond insurance) for medical care for Eli. Donations to the fund may be made at the bank by using Eli's name, and don't forget to check out his updated condition by going to www.caringbridge.org/visit/elirankin. Your ongoing prayers are greatly appreciated by the family.