

Thank you to all within and outside of the BCS community who helped make the auction such an incredible event. For those who donated, no matter how much the amount, I offer my sincere gratitude. Each donation received increases our capacity to help our students “transform the world.” To those who attended and simply let their presence be the message of support to BCS, I say thank you. Your presence at the auction is an important symbol of the ever-widening support for the work being done at BCS. Finally, to the teachers and staff members in attendance, thank you hardly seems enough. Your unwavering and steadfast commitment to our students is the cornerstone of our school. Thank you for giving your “hearts, souls, and minds” to Christian education.

## PRESCHOOL

One of our goals at the preschool is to help parents understand the process of learning through exploration and play and the importance of the child's developing confidence in his/her own abilities. Therefore, Portfolio Sharing sessions led by the four-year-olds at the Woodinville campus occurred earlier this month. In these sessions, students led the discussions with parents, and truly, few things are more delightful than watching a preschool student light up as they articulate their new insights. The following responses are from parents about the Portfolio sharing sessions reflect that they have been able to see this learning in action.

- *I saw that my child could explain what to do at each station.*
- *I got to see how confident my child has become.*
- *My child felt special and the focus was on her.*
- *I saw that my child could follow directions, and was very self-confident.*
- *I saw that my child could be very independent in the classroom community.*
- *I saw that my child could stay focused on a task.*
- *I was able to see my child in a leadership role, directing me instead of the other way around.*
- *My child could tell me about his portfolio and all the experiences he is having at school.*

## THREE POINTS

Recently, students at Three Points wrote compositions about what they learned from presenting the play *America Becomes a Nation*—here are a few thoughtful messages from students:

- “I took a deep breath and was nervece. After the first song I was not nervece at all and I learned there was nothing to be nervece about because God was with all of us.”
- “I was nervis at first. I thought I would forget my lines or stumble. I learned lots of things like it took them (Founding Father’s) a lot of thought to do what God wanted them to do.”
- “I also learned about myself that I could actually project my voice that loud in speaking and singing. Even though I’ve been in tons of plays, I have always had worrieness before a show, but I discovered that I am not as scared when all my friends are there to back me up. Also, I learned about my friends. I never knew so many of my classmates were gifted at singing and drama...In the play I not only leaned about American history but my classmates too.”
- “I changed a lot because of the play. I am going to help people believe in God that don’t. Because of our learning I know we need God in America and we are turning away from him. I also learned I can sing OK.”
- “During the play I discovered things that you couldn’t learn from a book or a study sheet. I learned more about some of the other singing and performing talents of some of the other kids in the class, I also learned more about how to work together and communicate with my classmates in a different way. It taught me also how to work with my classmates.”

Ah, that we as adults would be as open to being startled by new learnings as **Mrs. Sckorohod’s** students are. Take to heart the instructions of these students.

- “Worrieness” can be overcome.
- We do not need to be “nervece” because God is present.
- Learning changes the learner.
- Learning requires action.
- As we learn, we look at others differently.

## JUNIOR HIGH

The Junior High is in the midst of our annual Hunger Drive and this year we have adopted newborn twins from Ghana, Africa. These orphaned twins were brought to the Ghana Rafiki Children's Center when they were just days old. The Rafiki Foundation is a Christian organization that cares for these orphans from newborn to age 18. During that time the children receive excellent medical and dental care as well as food, shelter, clothing and a God-centered education in an accredited school in the Rafiki village. It is the goal and prayer of Rafiki that these children will grow in the knowledge of the Lord to be leaders of their country. It costs \$20,000 to raise one child from newborn to age 18. Fundraising efforts are underway for our twins Derreck and Diana. The JH culminated this activity by having a 24-hour fast, on-campus sleepover, worship time, and canned food drive (for a local food bank) on March 31 and April 1.

And how cool is this? Two of our teachers **Ann Steffan** and **Phalice VanderPol** will be joining Rafiki on a short-term summer mission in Africa. Keep each in your thoughts and prayers as they embark upon this missionary journey.

## HIGH SCHOOL

We congratulate **Lily Piccora** (12th grade whose oil painting, *Insomniac*, (now on display outside our high school office) was named Best of Show by the organizers of the NW Christian Schools International Art Festival held in Mount Vernon in March. Lily’s painting also received the Student Choice Award. Paintings by **Roya Nourani** (11th grade) and **Elisabeth Handler** (9th grade), also on display, received Honorable Mention at the event.

Each year BCS awards senior honors based on their four year, cumulative grade point average. However, these honorees represent our students well in so much more than academics. God has clearly gifted them, but we salute their willingness to seek challenges, work hard and persevere, act as consistently positive role models, and serve their school, church and community in many ways. We congratulate BCS Class of 2006 Valedictorians **Michael Dean**, **Rebecca Lee**, **Alicia Stacy** and **Sreyppich Taing** (each with a 4.0 gpa); and Salutatorian, **Brice Budke**, who has earned a 3.98 gpa.

On Saturday, April 8, 25 BCS students and 10 adults fly to Mississippi for a week of volunteer service, relationship building and learning. They will split their time between the rural setting of Mendenhall Ministries and the Spencer Perkins Center in metropolitan Jackson, 40 minutes north. This is the sixth high school student trip to continue our school’s long relationship with these two Christian organizations committed to racial reconciliation and community development.

## *Learning to think through life...*

### **SAS**

Educational therapy through SAS is hard work. Students and therapists each commit to entering into a painful world. Often times, students come to SAS lacking the confidence and belief in their ability to learn, having experienced repeated failures and negative messages about their capacity to learn. Yet, as seen in the lives of hundreds of students, “Adversity does not develop character but reveals the character that is already there.” God made each of us in His image. Students in educational therapy choose to diligently work at developing the fullness of their gifts in Christ. As SAS students come to understand their creative design through educational therapy, they are slowly, but genuinely transformed into learners – learners more able to understand their gifts, limitations, and pathways to learning. Below is a great example of the transformative work of educational therapy, written by Peter Orrestad:

“I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and I have been in SAS for four years. SAS has helped me a lot with my thinking in other classes, such as math. Math used to be a real struggle for me, but SAS has gotten me to think in other ways, and to come up with strategies to make math easier. When I first started out in SAS, I was getting C’s and D’s, but since I’ve been going through the program, I’ve been getting mostly A’s and B’s. These are just two ways the program has helped me through the years. Now I find myself helping others by getting them to think through how they got the answer to a problem rather than giving them the answer I got.”

### **PRAXIS**

Recently, Praxis students visited the University of Washington. They attended a seminar by Dr. Eric H. Chudler who has developed resources for students to learn about the variety of ways our minds work. <http://staff.washington.edu/chudler/neurok.html> is the website. This fascinating seminar provided Praxis students an opportunity to be exposed to rich learning of and new understandings of how the brain operates. Below are excerpts of thank you notes written to Dr. Chudler.

“Thank you for giving the presentation on brains. I learned that our brain weighs about 3 lbs. My guess was that it would weigh far less. This also made me think about how intelligence is not affected by the size of brain. I learned all the different parts of the brain. My guess was that a brain would be less complex! You made the presentation more interesting than I expected. Brains are incredible.”

Paul Elbert, 7th grader

“Thank you for giving us a lecture on the brain. I really liked the pictures you showed of the animal and human brains... I thought it was cool to handle real human brains. It would have been great to see pictures of the persons whose brains we saw.”  
Andy Altig, 8th grader

“Thank you for giving us the speech on the brain... Touching the real brains was very remarkable because I could see how they worked. The speech you gave left me with a lot of things to contemplate.”  
Andrew Waterfall, 8th grader

The wonderful complexity of the human brain speaks of God’s creative brilliance. Oh, to observe the fascination of God. What a delight to stand in awe of God.

If you want to understand one of God’s wonders and see how our brain works, go to this website:  
[http://www.patmedia.net/marklevinson/cool/cool\\_illusion.html](http://www.patmedia.net/marklevinson/cool/cool_illusion.html)

### **CLOSING**

“*God’s creation speaks.*” Hardly a day goes by without these words of Al Greene coming to my mind. Since every person is created by God, then each individual is a separate painting – “We are His workmanship” (Eph 2:10) – embedded with its own message about the character of God. C.S. Lewis understood this in deep and profound ways. He stated, “We sit down before a picture in order to have something done to us, not that we may do things with it. The first demand any work of art makes upon us is surrender. Look. Listen. Receive.”

Every person is a “picture.” So, are you entering into each encounter with your child, husband, wife, friends, and strangers by “surrendering to the art before you?” Are you fully present in conversations? Are you truly listening? Are you curious to ask probing questions? Are you open to be startled? As eternal beings, C.S. Lewis reminds us, “That there are no mere mortals.”

In the midst of the busyness each of us must be willing to “Look. Listen. Receive.”

Ron