

As I walk alongside my son, who is completing his senior year in high school, it is easy to worry about his future plans. Through all of the discussions we are having about college, travel, work, and goals there really is one thing I most desire for him. In turn, I desire this for every student passing through Bellevue Christian School on their way to adulthood. It is rather simple.

May my son, and our students, reside in the "holy intersection" of life. It is the place where their gifts, talents, and abilities connect with God's intentions; where one finds contentment and meaning. In this "holy intersection" C.S. Lewis reminds us that, "There are no mere mortals." Every action and encounter matters and has eternal significance.

May this Christmas season find you and yours residing in the "holy intersection," thankfully offering your life and service to His Kingdom.

MACK

As Tent City 4 moved to a new site, Mack students and parents were there serving hot breakfast, lending a helping hand, and sharing scripture with its residents.

These students are part of an after school missions team created so that Mack kids will have opportunities to extend our BCS mission "to live fully for God" into needy communities. Parents **Susan Reinfeldt** and **Linda Dunshee** led 22 students and their parents to the Woodinville church that hosted Tent City 4. Our kids became the hands and feet of Jesus as they talked with homeless residents and helped them break down their camp assisting them in moving to their new location in Bellevue.

Tent City is only allowed to stay in one location for three months so moving is a regular occurrence for them. How much nicer the move is when elementary students pitch in with scrambled eggs, prayer, support and a kind word. This is a great example of our parents using their walk with the Lord to help our kids strengthen their walk. We look forward to amazing community connections as our missions team steps out into our hurting world to lend a helping hand.

THREE POINTS

What is it to "love mercy?" It is being *eager* to do good, looking for opportunities where goodness toward others can be displayed. Throughout this school year, as we focus on Micah 6:8, we take joy in highlighting students "loving mercy" and "walking their talk."

Each week the chapel team plans and prepares the room for chapel. Two students on the chapel team are tasked with retrieving banners carried by classmates into convocation. **Sam Taylor** and **Jake Fouquier** went beyond what was asked of them. They stood outside, greeted every student, welcomed them to chapel, and asked each of them to sing while generously giving high fives.

Dads of first graders ate lunch and attended recess with their children. What a sight. Tall, well-dressed dads were seen playing on the monkey bars. Big, burly, line-backer sized men played inside the playhouse. Many dads played dodge ball, and realized their muscles are not responding quite as quickly as in the past. Fortunately, no hamstrings or Achilles tendons were torn on this day. What an awesome display of love. Great job, dads!

JUNIOR HIGH

On Thursday, November 17, math teacher **Mark Allen** took time at our chapel to share a bit of his story with the students. He shared his own experience of junior high and how he came to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. He concluded his time by talking of his involvement with Young Life. **Mr. Allen** leads a Young Life group of middle school kids from our neighbor school, Chinook Middle School. He encouraged our students to join Young Life and build relationships with our neighboring students. We are blessed to have **Mark Allen** as

a part of our JH team. His passion for kids and his passion for Jesus are evident in his life!

HIGH SCHOOL

December is eventful in the high school. The Madrigal Feast, December 8-11, is an annual highlight of music, drama and dinner in which the student participants and parent volunteers easily outnumber the 144 guests each night. Unfortunately, again this year, all four nights of Madrigal sold out in the first few hours. (If you have never attended, put in your ticket request next October.)

Our special Advent worship chapel will be held December 15 at 9:45 a.m. in the Greene Commons. Parents are always invited to attend. The high school bands have a joint Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. on the 15th. Then on the last day before Christmas vacation, December 16, our homecoming festivities begin with the 13th annual High School Christmas Dinner followed by a pep rally and basketball games.

Congratulations to our students. Senior, **Liz Orrestad**, will be recognized by the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club on December 9 as the Student of the Month for her service and leadership. Liz is a member of the High School Senate and she has been involved in a variety of service and leadership activities throughout high school.

Senior, **Gylah Davis**; sophomore, **Sarah Evison**; and freshman, **Kendra Morris**, volunteered their time during the three days of parent conferences to sell donuts and items they baked themselves as a fundraiser for Mendenhall Ministries. In the three days they raised \$328. Great work, girls!

ATHLETICS

This year's boys soccer team did the very best they could do on and off of the field, giving those that follow a strong foundation from which to grow. They finished the year with a 4-10-0 record in the Emerald City League and did not qualify for postseason play.

The girls' varsity volleyball team had an outstanding year. They won the league title with a record of 13-2-0, qualified for state, and finished 6th overall in the Yakima 1A state tournament in Yakima. Three of the Lady Vikings earned sportsmanship recognition at the state tournament: **Melissa Reich**, **Hanna Olsen**, and **Janet Beckerman**. Congratulations girls!

This year's Cross Country teams took everyone by surprise at the State Tournament in Pasco where they earned a 4th place finish. What was really awesome about their 4th place finish is the fact that they didn't have a placer on the podium. What a lesson! Working together for the good of the team vs. individual glory! This was a powerful lesson, not only to our students, but to all who witnessed their team success at the state meet.

Congratulations Girls' Soccer team for taking 3rd in State!

1601 98th Avenue NE
Clyde Hill, WA 98004-3400

Learning to think through life...

SAS

The benefits of SAS are long-lasting and restorative. The following is a brief essay written by an SAS student. His words bring you into a world of pain and hope.

“There were gun shots flying past my head as I lay on the ground crawling forward. Then all of the sudden, there was an explosion not that far away. Well, that is how I felt last year. I barely made it through. The bullets were all the homework and the explosion was all of the tests. Yes, I was staggering under the weight. I thought I would never get through the year. It was a long year with long days. Under all of the shouting and talks about my homework habits and what was required of me, I still made it through. If I was still in the bullet-filled air, I would have kept getting E’s in high school. I am going to say if it weren’t for everyone who helped me along on those assignments I probably would still be in junior high (I wouldn’t care junior high is awesome. Too many cool things they get to do). I finally got motivation from out of nowhere and I started going uphill. I was doin’ much better in my work and turning my assignments in. My grades were still a bit poor but much better than when I was slacking off. The moral of the story is, don’t give up. When toughness is beating you down, you can still do it. I gave up during the middle of it and I got hit a couple of times, but, I kept going. Once you start falling behind or start getting shot at, it’s hard not to get hit.”

PRESCHOOL

At the annual Dad’s Night, hosted by our pre-schools, the following story unfolded. **Mrs. Simmons** and **Mrs. Campbell** opened the evening by sharing a memory of their own fathers before sharing what each preschooler wrote about their dads. After this portion of the program concluded, pre-school children were asked by **Mrs. Simmons** to pray for their own dad. All seven children present offered their prayers, for their father, to our Heavenly Father. What a meaningfully rich, eternal moment for all present.

Throughout Bellevue Christian School we are regularly asking, “What did you learn today?” of students and colleagues. **Juliann Philips**, Director of Preschools, often asks, “How do you know that?”

The other day, she was in a classroom during snack time. A student told her that ants eat celery and worms eat apples. **Mrs. Philips** asked, “How do you know that?” This can be dangerous because one must be ready for the answer given. In this case, the student responded by saying, “My brother told me.” On this same day, **Mrs. Philips** learned that “a can of soup can be a snack; that someone needs to hold the baby when you go to the grocery store; two people can do a puzzle

together *if* they take turns; and a child’s laugh is a thing of joy.”

PRAXIS

Praxis students are leading a recycling program on the Clyde Hill campus. Through their study of global warming, these students are taking the call to stewardship seriously. Through their research, a number of benefits to recycling were found. Recycling can reduce the amount of garbage and therefore reduce greenhouse gasses and also reduce deforestation by reusing wood products. Their efforts have brought the junior high and high school campus into compliance with the standards from the city of Bellevue.

In the past few weeks, Praxis students have created a short movie to teach about recycling, developed a concept for the posters and tee shirts, learned silk screening techniques in Art class, produced 25 silk screened posters and 10 silk screened shirts to launch the new recycling program on Tuesday, November 15 – National Recycle Day. The city of Bellevue provided new recycle stickers for bins and gave us large new containers for the Commons and Learning Resource Center.

What a wonderful lesson! A few, focused persons can change the course of many. Passion, energy, organization can alter the actions of many. We want our students to use their gifts, talents, and abilities to change the world. This is the training ground for “difference-makers.”

CLOSING

It is so easy to move through life, wrapped in busyness, controlled by schedules, moving at hyper-speed, yet, going nowhere, particularly this time of the year. I am probably most guilty of all. Our theme verse for the school year is disruptive, requiring each of us to consider a proper investment of our time and energies.

Micah 6:8 is quite clear (leaving me little excuse), “He has showed you, oh man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.”

So, how are you doing in the midst of your hyper-paced lives? Have you acted justly in your interactions with your children, family, and business partners? Are you eager to do good, displaying mercy to others? And, are you humbly walking with God?

Celebrate God’s passionate pursuit of us through His son Jesus Christ through this Christmas season.

Ron Taylor
Superintendent

