

This past week, I finished a wonderful book entitled, *Velvet Elvis*. Written by Rob Bell, it is a creative and rich book of encouragement for Christians striving to speak authentically and honestly of their relationship with Christ to others. It is not a "Seven Steps to Spiritual Success with the Savior," kind of book. Instead, Rob Bell masterfully weaves the rich fabric of Judaism into the Christian experience. The writing is simple, but profoundly insightful. He offers a contemporary message, of what I like to refer to as, "futuristic antiquity," to the reader, bringing rich history into the future (and present) of those seeking to live by the teachings of Jesus. I think you will enjoy it. *Velvet Elvis* is a great book that will stimulate much conversation among your friends and family. It certainly has in my household.

MACK

Our 5th graders recently attended an Outdoor Education experience at Islandwood on Bainbridge Island. This experience was made possible through professional development funds received from last year's auction. **Matt Close**, a parent of a 5th grader at Mack, assisted at Islandwood and offered the following thoughts. First, it was an awesome experience for the students and adults. Kids grew spiritually, intellectually, relationally, and in confidence. Isn't it fascinating, and true, that we cannot separate the intellect from our spirit, and that learning is done in relationship with others (my thoughts, not Matt's). Accordingly, Matt reports that the facility was "top notch," staff excellent, and the organic food was great. Students learned much about "each other, themselves, and the environment." The students loved crossing the suspension bridge, the team competitions, and the "slug-licking" contest. (Okay, you lost me on this one. Not fun. Not interested. I will pass on the "slug-licking" contest. Too close to "Fear Factor" for me, but kids "love the slugs," go figure.) Great friendships were made, and according to Matt, watching students integrate their learning with God's truths, was amazing.

Thanks to the generosity of so many in the Bellevue Christian School community, experiences like this are made possible.

THREE POINTS

In December, The Three Points Choir went to a local retirement community to share Christmas music. The choir consists of fifth and sixth graders who meet before school on Fridays. At a rehearsal before the field trip, choir director, **Judy Robinson** shared with them about a friend's mother who had been a resident there last Christmas but had died in the spring. She reminded them that this might be the last Christmas for some of the residents. The choir sang for a group of about 50 residents in their Fellowship Hall and about a dozen in the commons area in the health care facility. They were even able to sing "Happy Birthday" to one of the men. Then the activities director brought them to the rooms of residents. There was a middle-aged woman in one bed with her husband by her side. The staff helped turn her towards the choir as they gathered in her room. The choir sang a few Christmas carols and ended with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." The activities director commented with surprise that the woman was mouthing the words. When Judy wrote to inquire about this woman, the director replied: "The woman we sang to was in the end stage of Alzheimer's disease and passed away on Christmas morning. It was so beautiful the way she mouthed the words to a familiar carol. The long term memory is amazing." The Three Points choir was able to bring the joy and light of Jesus' birth, penetrating even through the darkness of Alzheimer's disease. It was truly a demonstration of how God uses the power of music even through these young voices. .

HIGH SCHOOL

Bellevue Christian School is a member of the Eastshore League which includes Bellevue, Issaquah, Lake Washington and Mercer Island district high schools. Annually the Eastshore League hosts a Regional Vocal and Ensemble Competition for its high school students. Those selected move onto All-State, held at Central Washington University.

Our students did quite well in the Eastshore Regional Competition. Eight solo finalists advanced to All-State and two ensemble finalists advanced to All-State, including the alternates selected. Congratulations to BCS honorees: Soprano Finalist **Ellie VerGowe**-12th grade; Alto Finalist **Lindsey Larson**-12th; and 1st Alternate **Liz Orrestad**-12th; Baritone 1st Alternate **Tyler Kruse**-11th; 2nd Alternate **Isaiah Lin**-10th; and Men's Small Ensemble Finalists, the BCS Barbershop Quartet of **Ben Davenport**-12th, **Brian Hibbard**-12th, **Alex Kato**-11th, and **Isaiah Lin**-10th. We are thrilled to have so many representing BCS in the All-State competitions. Let us not, however, overlook the work of **Hillary Seaton, Joel Ulrich, and Tasha Reynolds**. Their professionalism, encouragement, and creative talents are also recognized through each student represented.

PRAXIS

Brian Davis, pre and post game interviewer for the Seattle Sonics, visited Praxis on Wednesday, January 18. He was invited to class by **Andrew Waterfall** who knew him through Boy Scouts. He spent one hour teaching the students interviewer's skills. Mr. Davis showed a recent interview he had conducted with Sonics coach, Bob Hill, revealing his thinking as he conducted the interview. A page long document was prepared as a result of that visit to use as a guide for each student to conduct their interview of a person in business.

The next half hour of the class was spent interviewing Mr. Davis. Andrew conducted the interview and the class was able to watch and provide feedback to him after the interview. Incidentally, I tried to borrow Mr. Davis's press pass for the Super Bowl to no avail.

So, what are the common threads to a good interview, according to **Brian Davis**? First, do your homework. Research background information, remember the interviewee's life is more than work, develop a short list of key questions to ask. Second, make the interview conversational, be respectful, make your interviewee comfortable, and if you have a difficult question to ask, put it in the middle of the interview so you can begin on a light note. Third, at the conclusion of the interview, ask if you can contact the person for more information, and graciously thank the interviewee for their time. Some pretty good rules to remember.

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Learning to think through life...

JUNIOR HIGH

Recently, the junior high hosted a geography bee. Thanks to BCS parent **Carol Ricard**, it was a great success. Three of our students placed in this competition. **Tim Ricard**, first place finisher, followed by **Joshua Johnson**, second place and **Kelsey Caffey**, who finished third. **Tim** will take a written examination determining whether he will qualify for the National Geography Bee competition. Good luck, **Tim**.

Our spelling bee is presently under way. Stay tuned for those winners to be announced in the next LTTTL. These students will also be recognized at our upcoming honor roll dessert on February 16.

ATHLETICS

The girls varsity basketball team recently took a trip to Damascus Christian school in Oregon. These two teams met at basketball camp in Oregon last summer and struck a friendship. The Damascus visit was very positive as the body of Christ collectively served one another. Letters of thanks and gratitude were received from administrators, coaches, and athletes at Damascus Christian School, each thanking us for making an effort to share our walk of faith with them through athletics. Our girls are reaching many with their actions and words! To God be the glory.

Last month, through the vision and direction of **Paul Perkins**, the BCS wrestling team hosted the first **All Christian School** wrestling meet. The meet opened with **Mr. Perkins** asking the following question of all present, "Why do we value a gathering of all Christians at a wrestling meet?" **Mr. Perkins** then explained the importance of an academic and athletic education founded upon the application of a Christian worldview. The first ever Christian School Invitational trophy stayed at BCS. This event will be hosted by Eastside Catholic next year. A new tradition was born.

BCS student athletes are once again on target to win the WIAA Scholastic Cup points for the 2005-2006 school year. Last year they were the State 1A Champions with points earned for academics, sportsmanship, and postseason play placement. The points earned to date are for the varsity fall teams which include boys soccer, girls soccer, volleyball, and boys and girls cross country. We are very proud of our BCS athletes and coaches for the hard work and dedication required to earn this prestigious award.

Both the girls and boys basketball teams are undefeated to date. District playoffs are February 23 and 25. State dates for basketball in Yakima are March 2-4. For more information on these teams, please visit the BCS Athletic website. All league, district, and state information is located on this page, along with specific team pages that have pictures, schedules, and more.

Spring sports: track, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track begin on February 27th. Your athletic forms must be received by the athletic office no later than February 22nd.

PRESCHOOL

Our preschools are filled with encouraging stories of new learners. Eight new preschool students joined our classes in January, giving children who have been here a chance to be welcoming and helpful to newcomers. Last week, a child in **Carol Marshall's** class, seeing other students need help, took initiative and assisted many of her classmates zip their coats. "See a need. Meet a need." How great is that!

The children in **Mrs. Salzman's** class have been learning the story of baby Moses. By taking turns acting out the story, they began thinking and discussing how people feel when they are afraid or not treated well.

Mrs. Peterson is helping children learn to be active listeners by reading books and poems with rhyming text. Once they have heard the story, she reads it again, leaving out a word here and there to see if anyone can guess the missing word. Now I am sure these preschoolers would be more successful at this assignment than I would.

Mrs. McNeil's class has had a woodworking shop in the classroom to help students think about the kinds of things Jesus learned as he worked with Joseph.

The simplicity of faith and learning through our preschoolers constantly draws me to the essence of Christ. His message – so confounding yet so simple – when seen through the eyes of children. Oh Lord, that you would open my eyes as widely as these remarkable preschool children.

CLOSING

Significant decisions about our school's future will be made in the next few months. Please pray for us. Specifically, as interviews for the Three Points principal take place in February that all involved in decision making would listen carefully to what God is communicating in order to move precisely as God directs. Also, pray for our preschool program. Over the next few months, they will be leaving the Westminster Chapel. When school starts next year, BCS will have preschool sites at Overlake Presbyterian Church and Grace Lutheran Church. The Woodinville preschool will remain in its same location. This move requires much from our teachers, preschool director, building and grounds, and families. Pray that these moves would bring unity, and new faces, to BCS

Ron Taylor, Superintendent

Our mission is to prepare young people to live fully for God in a rapidly changing world, with the ability to understand, evaluate, and transform their world from the foundation of God's unchanging values.