

There are so many wonderful stories of God's love being extended to others through our teachers and students at BCS. This publication attempts to capture the joy of our students living out the mission. Yet, one story stands out to me. Last week our choir students were on tour. Passing through the Bellingham area, on Joel Ulrich's initiative, the choir surprised Al Greene. They unexpectedly visited his home in Bow, Washington, and sang many wonderful songs to encourage him. What a remarkable picture! Tenderly, lovingly, and passionately singing of Christ – could Al have possibly envisioned the impact his life would have on so many? We are all so grateful for his legacy. A life faithfully lived for Christ will touch the hearts and minds of many.

PRESCHOOL

The preschool is busy preparing themselves for a big move. While we are making no changes at our Woodinville location, we are moving away from Westminster Chapel, and into two different Bellevue sites. These moves are keeping all associated with the preschool tremendously busy.

Seahawk frenzy was happening during the first week of February. Preschool teachers made games out of counting footballs, had the kids make patterns with blue and green game blocks, paint with blue and green paint, the kids took surveys about the game, made megaphones and pom-poms, and participated in a football toss. There was one counting game that was based on a football field. The kids, the parents, and the teachers were super fans. The week after the Super Bowl, the kids were bringing stories of watching the game. They knew the Seahawks lost but that didn't seem to crush their excitement. I don't know how this relates to their biblical worldview but there sure was a sense of community!

Valentine's Day brought talk of kindness and love. **Mrs. Harris** was reading the story of the lost sheep, sharing how much the shepherd loved that little sheep and how much each is individually loved. When students were asked how they know they are loved, they responded by saying things like, "When someone gives you hugs and kisses." or, "When your mom tucks you in." In some of the classes, kids were encouraged to "catch" others being kind. When a child told the teacher about an act of kindness, she wrote it on a heart and gave it to that child.

THREE POINTS

Many students are "walking the talk" at Three Points and it is a delight to observe. **Mr. Downs** shared these stories:

Fourth graders **Kemper McQuaid** and **Dylan Foreman** worked during recess helping a classmate shoot baskets without insisting they have a turn or a "watch me do it right" mentality. Instead, they patiently encouraged this student to keep trying and not give up. They rebounded missed shots and stayed with their friend throughout the recess.

Bryce Oldham, sixth grader, has really been a great example for others, by standing up for students who get picked on. **Bryce's** strong convictions, warm heart, empathy, and caring to *all* his classmates is a demonstration of justice and mercy in action. **Bryce's** willingness to simply act, is a reminder of how easy it can be to bring justice and mercy to others.

Often our SAS sessions run into lunch time. Fifth grader **Ben Salzman** has extended kindness to a fellow classmate, by quietly, and regularly, taking time out of his own lunch to bring lunch to another in SAS. **Ben**, on his own, delivers the hot lunches or lunch boxes without fanfare. He has been doing this all year, eagerly expressing mercy to his friend.

MACK

God willing, our school children will never realize how much their teachers know about disaster preparedness. The Mack teachers and staff have spent many hours planning and preparing how to keep our kids safe in the event that a major natural disaster should occur in the Seattle area. We have worked in conjunction with the Woodinville Fire Department and the King County Sheriff's Department to plan and run a full scale disaster drill during the month of March. This mock disaster drill will include simulating triage stations to handle injuries, sweep and rescue as well as a partial campus evacuation. Our campus, like all BCS campuses, is outfitted with a fantastic set of supplies including: portable bathrooms, water vats, flashlights, radios, food rations for up to three days and abundant first aid supplies. We even have tubs full of child friendly activities to keep our kids busy while we wait to reunite students and parents. All of our staff is trained in first aid and CPR. Regardless of the many potential disasters that can occur in a broken world, we pray for God's protection so that our students will never need to know what capable, trained hands they are in.

JUNIOR HIGH

Recently, much has been written about C.S. Lewis, largely because of the success of the movie, *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, released in December. This mythical journey into Narnia, a world separated from time and space, reminded child and adult alike that fantasy and imagination point humanity to a caring, personal God, who is lovingly terrifying. Lewis understood the importance of myth, and therefore, created a literary beauty in the *Chronicles of Narnia*. Students in Honors Bible class are studying the significance of Biblical themes in C. S. Lewis's book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Groups of two are selecting a theme to present to the class. Students also present a discussion question for the class to ponder and reflect upon. Students reflect on their own answers and write about them in their journals. This is a most important activity. Lewis understood that God was the God of all – the rational and imagined – and our students will most assuredly deepen their understanding of God by walking through Narnia.

HIGH SCHOOL

For the 19th year, the BCS High School Math Team will advance to the State Math Competition in April, following the Regional Math Contest on March 8.

Seniors honored: **Christopher Richards** has been named a National Merit Finalist, placing him in the top 1% of all juniors nationwide who took the PSAT test in October of their junior year. **Jeff Wilken** has been named the March student of the month by the Woodinville Chamber of Commerce. **Brandon Teng**, has been named March student of the month by the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club.

BCS senior independent projects: **Megan Odegaard** is doing an internship at Bellevue Christian Reformed Church. **Brice Budke** proposed, and is editing, a BCS student newspaper, *The Bee*. **Serrena Taing** is taking AP Economics, not one of the nine AP courses normally offered at BCS.

Learning to think through life...

ATHLETICS

Bellevue Christian School's winter sports program has been very exciting this year. For the first time, both our boys and girls basketball teams played in the championship game at the State 1A Tournament, held in Yakima March 1-4. The boys held the #1 title for the second year, and the girls placed second.

Kathy Kansky, Athletic Director, shared these thoughts following the tournament. "From an Athletic Director's perspective, this is as good as it gets – a huge gathering of community in support of BCS athletes and coaches...could anything be better? Yes it could. After all the games had been played and everyone else had gone home, the BCS fans, athletes and coaches all gathered upstairs in the victory room of the Sun Dome to give glory to God for all that had happened in the basketball programs this year!

It was so uplifting to hear coaches giving God the glory for the success they had on and off the court with their athletes and for the wonderful state experience they had! It's not about the game; it's about bringing glory to God by using the gifts each of us has been given to the fullest degree. What a joy to see the many people in the room that had given so much for the athletes to reach this particular moment. It was a team effort to get to state not only for the boys and girls, but for all who were in the room – each had contributed in some way."

Congratulations to both teams for your excellent play and sportsmanship. And, thank you to the BCS community for your great show of support – the fan section was immensely impressive!

The wrestling program was also very successful sending five athletes to state and winning the first ever all Christian School invitational and the District Championship, culminating Coach Paul Perkin's last wrestling season. Paul will be retiring from coaching after 31 years of faithful service.

In addition, the entire wrestling team was awarded the 1A State Wrestling Scholastic Award for excellence in the classroom. The team had the highest average GPA of all the 1A schools in the state of Washington. This is the third year in a row for the wrestlers to receive this award

Mr. Perkins presented a certificate of achievement for 31 years of coaching in the state of Washington – a well deserved recognition for a man who has given so much to BCS wrestlers and their families, and remarkably to wrestlers, coaches and fans in all of region 1 and in the state of Washington.

CLOSING

You have probably heard about our upcoming All School Parent Seminar that we are offering BCS parents on April 4. Bellevue Christian School has a long-standing commitment to families. Our mission is to support parents as they guide their children to "live fully for God in a rapidly changing world." To support our families in this daunting endeavor, we are offering a school-wide parenting seminar on **April 4, 2006**. I really want to encourage you to attend this event because you will leave equipped to help your student(s) safely navigate the challenges they will face growing up in our culture. For more details on the courses offered, go to the **What's Happening** section of our website and click on **All School Parenting Seminar**. Don't miss this event; your children will greatly benefit from what you will learn. I look forward to seeing you there as we partner with families to offer a Christ-centered education to our students.

Ron