

## Failing Forward

*Failing Forward* is the title of an excellent book written by John Maxwell. As only Maxwell can, lessons of failings are recounted, and through this book, the reader is reminded that failings teach the greatest life lessons. Lloyd Ogilvie once stated, "Success is a positive manipulation of failure," and Maxwell's book is built on that axiom.

What makes a person resilient – able to withstand and overcome failure and disappointment? In reading some research literature on this question, three attributes seem to be present in persons considered to be resilient. First, the person has faith – faith in something bigger than self. Secondly, the individual demonstrates self-efficacy. In other words, they have hope, and believe that the better picture they see in their mind's eye, they *can* achieve. Thirdly, there is a "third adult" surrounding them. A "third adult" is a person, or group of persons, speaking words of hope, comfort, and belief in the one disappointed. Typically, this person resides outside of the family, but is very influential in the life of the one who has failed. Enter the staff, faculty, and administration at Bellevue Christian School. We are here to be the "third adult" for you and your children. In fact, we take joy in serving in this capacity.

As a father, and as an educator, it is difficult to watch children fall. I confess, I tend to be too quick to rescue, stunting the growth of those with whom I have been entrusted; but, I am learning that the enduring lessons come from our disappointments and failings. In this culture, this is difficult to read and absorb. Yet, we *must* remember that our children need to learn the lessons of resiliency. And in order to do that, they will fall down. Remember, resiliency is about falling down (failing, disappointment) and getting up more quickly than others.

How are you letting your children learn the lessons of resiliency?

## MACK

Hurricane Katrina touched the hearts of Mack students, and they put their heads together to come up with a way to "Live It" for families in Mississippi. Each student was given the challenge of working for their parents, churches or neighbors to raise \$5 in five days. One kindergartener made cookies and sold them at his parent's workplace, others cleaned up their yard, cleaned bathrooms or vacuumed out the family cars. Together they raised hundreds of dollars to send to families devastated by the storm. But they weren't finished yet. At the end of five days, they held a hurricane relief sale. They sold homemade treats, gently used stuffed animals, handmade jewelry and hot chocolate. Working together, Mack students raised over \$1,000 of relief money. This money will be sent to Mendenhall, Mississippi and the John Perkins Foundation. Way to "Live It" Mack kids!

Friends and business partners of BCS have "Lived It" in a big way improving the grounds of Mack campus. This month brought a new brick entrance and a new sign on the Woodinville-Duvall Road. We also added a fantastic new parking lot. We thank E. Kent Halvorson and his crew: Dale Brevik, Walter Dolyski and Gene Stark; Watson Asphalt and Cliff Schroeder; Snap Lines and Derek Sterling; and our own BCS crew led by Ken Longfellow including: Paul Blom, Jon DeWaal and Mike Short. Your contributions and gracious support mean so much to all of us. THANK-YOU for all you do to make BCS such a wonderful community!

## THREE POINTS

In **Mrs. Hagan's** reading class, students were asked to respond to a series of questions from *Charlotte's Web*. One of the questions asked students to state whether they agreed or disagreed with this statement from the story, "Wilbur is so small and weak that he won't amount to anything." A group of boys, working together, recalled the story of David and Goliath. Applying this underdog – God is bigger principle – to the question, they disagreed with the quote, citing how God heroically used David to slaughter Goliath. Ah, from the mouths of youth, wisdom is spoken.

Three Points teachers (and Mack and JH teachers) are taking part in **Developing Mathematical Ideas Training (DMI)**. This training is occurring throughout the school year for all elementary teachers. It provides them with a deeper understanding of how students learn math, and offers a rich array of mathematical strategies to assist in helping students learn and grow in mathematics.

**Mike Downs**, the interim principal, offered this story of how "loving mercy" was seen. A first grader realized he was going to go under the parachute without his teacher. He began to panic and started to cry. A classmate, seeing his frightened peer, put his arm around the frightened student's shoulder, reassured him that all would be alright, and told him that he would be his buddy, and walk under the chute with him. What a great picture of what our Heavenly Father does for us.

## JUNIOR HIGH

What does it mean to "do justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" The junior high school staff is exploring various answers to this question. In Bible class, the students are studying the miracles and parables of Jesus. Their final project will be to produce a children's story book that will be read to their younger counterparts in the BCS Bellevue and Woodinville preschools later this month. In Praxis, students are thinking about issues of global warming, recycling, and disaster preparedness. They hope to raise awareness within the school community through emphasizing the importance of recycling and by updating posters of instruction to use in times of emergency. Orange bracelets, with our theme "Live It" embossed on it, are being distributed to students found "doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with [their] God." **Mary Trimble**, an eighth grader, shared what she had learned about trusting God at a summer camp in a recent chapel. It started a chain of spontaneous responses by other junior high peers. One by one, students came forward and shared where they sensed God moving in their lives, and how they, too, are learning to more deeply trust their Heavenly Father. Does it get any better than that?

## PRESCHOOL

All around the preschool are charts, graphs, and posters with names and handprints of students. Kids are learning each other's names, finding out who likes what kind of apples or what kind of cookie, counting how many boys and girls are in each class, seeing who is the tallest or how many have blue or brown eyes, and comparing the letters in the names. All of this helps children see how God has created each child uniquely and to also see how we are alike yet different. While they are learning about each other, they are also learning about colors, shapes, numbers, letters, and making lots of connections.

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

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

Our students are central to all we do at Bellevue Christian School. With great joy we highlight the following students, sincerely believing that their talents, gifts, and efforts will truly impact the world for Christ. Congratulations to **Christopher Richards** who was selected as a National Merit Semi-finalist. **Jordan Ribera** was recently recognized as a Commended Scholar in the National Merit Competition. The College Board named **Rebecca Burbick** a Scholar in the National Hispanic Recognition Program. And **Brice Budke** received the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club plaque as their Student of the Month for October.

The excellence of our high school staff is recognized throughout the state. Their professionalism and expertise is making a difference in the lives of other professionals. **Ken Olfert** (along with **Tim Krell** and **Debbie Symonds**) served on the visiting committee which assessed Shoreline Christian School's accreditation process. **Joel Ulrich** serves on the Washington State Board of music teachers as the chair for repertoire and standards. **Dan Ribera, Jan Garner, Pat Perkins, Joel Ulrich, JoAnn Grambush** and **Tasha Reynolds** presented workshops for teachers at our joint Washington/British Columbia Christian Schools Convention

### **ATHLETICS**

Our athletic programs are very busy this fall. We have sixteen high school coaches coaching eight fall sports, and seven junior high coaches coaching six fall sports. Between both campuses there are fourteen programs simultaneously competing. This fall we have scheduled 232 contests for 211 athletes – 130 of these athletes are in high school, and 81 are in junior high school.

Our athletic programs are bringing students together through competition. In each sport students are learning much about discipline, friendship, sportsmanship, and, yes, even disappointment and failure. In fact, the most enduring and life changing lessons often result from our failings. Perhaps that is what I love most about athletics. Its lessons are often deeply emotional and highly personal, and when guided by coaches who understand both the limits and joys of competition, students do truly come to know Christ in remarkable ways. As the fall season comes to a close, look for an update on varsity league, district, and state competitions on the new and updated BCS athletic team pages at [www.bellevuechristian.org/athletics](http://www.bellevuechristian.org/athletics)

*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.*

### **PRAXIS**

**JoAnn Grambush** and **Evelyn Seymour** are collaborating on a grant received from BCS. After attending the Glen Workshop this summer in New Mexico, both **JoAnn** and **Evelyn** have a greater appreciation for the importance of art in communicating the wonder, beauty, and fascination of a living God to students. **JoAnn** says, "The importance of Christian community and collaboration in encouraging our artistic expression was very clear during both our general and workshop sessions. Helping our students actively find a voice in the arts may be one of our most important tasks. The arts shape, communicate, and frame our experiences with culture, community, and Christ. We need to propel student artists among us to actively participate in, and wrestle with, the beauty and tragedy represented in the arts. Artists play a critically important role in the transformation of culture."

**Evelyn Seymour** has used Gardner's idea of multiple intelligences to inform her students in Praxis and in 7<sup>th</sup> grade English. Applying the multiple intelligences simply highlights, once again, God's unique crafting of each individual. The colorful pie charts in the classroom give a graphic view of each student's unique creative outlook and paint a fantastic picture of the class as a whole. Take time and ask your students about this task. In doing so, you will probably gain a new perspective on your child.

### **CLOSING**

"What did you learn today?" This question is being asked often at Bellevue Christian School because the answers received are often informative and impact instruction. I offer various derivations of this question to be asked of your student. Try asking any of these questions and see where the ensuing conversation takes you. What did you discover today? What was re-affirmed that you already knew? What learning are you going to take away from school today? A good question will often lead to a good conversation. You might be surprised by where the answers to these questions will lead you.

Ron Taylor  
Superintendent