

A few weeks ago I heard an interview with Rick Warren. Often, I shy away from listening to those within the pop-Christian world, but I have read some pieces on Rick Warren, and have been thoroughly impressed by his passion, and discipline, for Christ. The following question was asked of him 'how can we pray for you?' His response struck me. It was simple and strong. "Pray that I would have generosity, integrity, and humility." He stated, "If these be manifested in me, I am following the teachings of Jesus."

Pretty good stuff! Generosity. Integrity. Humility. The teachings of Jesus are so simple – not easy, but simple, bringing us back to the essence of life. The Kingdom of God operates on a different set of standards. Colossians 3: 12-14 reminds us to, "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievance you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." So, what are you "clothed with" today?

Ron Taylor

PRESCHOOL

Preschool classes have been focusing on building relationships, learning about taking turns and sharing, and how to be a part of a community – refresher lessons many adults need to take, particularly while shopping at Costco. God communicates elements of His character through relationship. As our students work through the joys and struggles of human relationships, the wonder of God is being taught by expressing compassion, strength, love, and laughter with one another.

At our new site, Overlake Park, Pastor Charlie has been meeting regularly with the preschool children in the sanctuary. He is using this time to introduce our students to worship in God's house, and together our students are preparing their hearts, minds, and souls for the worship of our Creator in all they do.

If you wandered down our halls you would see a lot of apples being made into applesauce or apple juice, charts sorting favorite apples by colors, seeds being counted, and children and teachers talking, reading, and wondering about this simple piece of fruit. God's wonder simply displayed. The creativity of God is manifested in everyday of life.

We have a new tire swing in Woodinville and the ground is being prepared for a new play structure at Overlake Park. The Bellevue campus has been enjoying the light that shines into their classrooms making them bright even on the rainiest days.

Juliann Phillips, Director of Preschools

MACK

God is active in all of life. At Mack, we take note of God's hand in the conversations. In a job well done or in the joy of children laughing, we recognize that God is present. He shows up in hundreds of small ways each day. It's like He gently uses His 'inside voice' to say to us "I'm alive and present in this place with you". Then, every so often, God's voice isn't subtle and His power shouts at us through the compassion, encouragement and love that He gives us to share.

Recently, God shouted at us so loudly through an act of kindness, from one tech guy extraordinaire to a 6th grader who through her cancer feels isolated from her classmates.

Elise Reinfeldt is not attending school while she prepares for a bone marrow transplant. Therefore, folks at Mack have been working to get her connected with her classroom peers. **Matt Hite**, tech support, not only got her connected via webcam, but he built her a personal computer, dedicated solely for Elise's private use, complete with audio and video connection. Elise can now tune into her classroom, hear a lesson or have a lunch time conversation with her friends. This system is completely private, and internal, therefore it cannot be accessed by anyone outside of the classroom. Matt worked on his own time to build a system that is 'state of the art'.

God's glory was demonstrated the first time Elise could connect to her friends on her laptop, her classmates joyously erupted when they saw her on the screen for the first time. Thanks also to **Cliff Otis** and **Elaine Dawson** for their vision

and support. God's glory will be displayed every time Elise and her classmates connect.

Deb Symonds, Mack Principal

THREE POINTS

How would *you* best exemplify our theme of "Let's Soar!"? In Isaiah 40:31, God promises that those who hope in the Lord will soar on wings like eagles. While we don't have any resident eagles at Three Points, we were able to demonstrate this verse through the kind help of a parent, Jeff Cole. At our 1st Day Flagpole Convocation, Jeff brought racing pigeons. After several excellent student messages, the pledge, Scripture, and a song—he opened the cages, and in a twinkling of an eye, these birds swiftly soared off and back home.

In a way, their flight could represent our brief time here on earth, before we go to meet our Maker, Father, and Redeemer. While "our wings" may be very busy flapping and navigating so much busyness in our lives, we often don't realize how quickly all of it will pass by.

Make your days with children count! The old Latin phrase, *Carpe Diem*, "seize the day" is an essential reminder for all of us. None of us knows how many days we have left here with our loved ones on earth. In "seizing the day" we need to be especially attentive to what our kids are saying and doing. Here are a couple of illustrations from our campus:

Perspective After recess, I complimented a student on his honesty in telling about his role in a tough situation. The student said, "Yes, but that's just from my perspective. I'm sure there are some things that others would say or have seen things that I didn't." How great that he recognized that only GOD fully comprehends and communicates the truth!

Focus A teacher and the counselor were talking with the class about how one of the students needed different tools to help him focus. Another student asked, "How come he has to focus?" I'm glad that this youngster is asking the right kind of questions!

Clifford Williams, in his book *The Life of the Mind: a Christian Perspective* calls all of us to be explorers in our own backyards: "The explorer ...has an animated interest in the people she encounters and asks about their hopes and dreams, and when she listens, her face lights up. She displays spontaneous delight when making new discoveries." May you and your family be filled to overflowing with the joy of such exploration together!

Steve Kennedy, Three Points Principal

JUNIOR HIGH

We often focus on how we can best teach the students God has provided. Sometimes, however, we forget that students teach us. Our students are image-bearers of God and thus they show us elements of God. **Jamie Sipma**, a teacher in both the junior high school and SAS has very thoughtfully reminded us that our students are also our teachers, and their lives often point us, as adults, back to Jesus.

"I Know Jesus More Deeply Because of Your Son..."

Everyday I look across the table into the eyes of a young man. He is your son.

Everyday I am humbled by the vulnerability and trust of a struggling student. He is your boy.

Everyday he quietly exposes the very things of which he is so afraid. You have taught him to be brave.

Everyday in his smile, the imperfections fade and I find myself face to face with the purest reflection of God's Son."

Jamie, thanks for reminding us that God's love and provision is seen in and through our students. image bearers of Jesus.

Tim Krell, Praxis and JH Principal

SAS

At a recent Parent Meeting, various strategies for equipping our students were highlighted for active learning. In reading the book, *The Big Picture – Education is Everyone's Business*, the authors Dennis Littky and Samantha Grabelle, remind us that we all have a crucial part in helping students become life-long learners. Problem-solving is a key aspect of learning. Problem-solving includes how to connect something new to something we already understand. In order for students to truly grasp the new concepts taught in math they **need** to know their math facts and review some basic mathematical ideas. Parents can help their student by looking for

opportunities to use: estimating, following directions, measuring, and dealing with money. Finding opportunities at home to emphasize mathematical concepts will not only help increase a student's understanding but will also improve an interest in learning to learn.

Brenda Fournier, SAS Director

HIGH SCHOOL

The Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club recognizes BCS Students of the Month four times a year for service, leadership and academics. **Jeff Langdon** (12) was the BCS honoree in October. Jeff is an Eagle Scout, an AP student and a member of the BCS Concert Choir.

Amber Thomas (12), who will be honored in December, is also an AP student, has served on the high school Senate and has been a Peer Mentor for freshman for two years.

Kent Ross (12) has been named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test (NMSQT). The selection is made on the basis of the scores from the PSAT exam taken in the junior year. This puts Kent in the top 5% of college bound juniors in the nation. Finalists will be selected this spring.

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HIGH SCHOOL (cont'd)

Drama director, **Kristie Murphy**, and her high school cast and crew proudly present Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winning drama *Our Town*, November 16-18 at 7:30PM in the Greene Commons. Tickets are available in the bookstore or at the door for this thought provoking, generational look at life that the whole family will enjoy.

Bill Safstrom, High School Principal

ATHLETICS

Bellevue Christian fall sports had an outstanding season – here is a brief run down on how the teams fared:

Girls volleyball had an excellent season, finishing second in the Emerald City League; they ended the season with a 10 – 4 record.

The boys soccer team finished the season with a 5 – 11 – 1 record season. They really improved and picked up their game at the end of the season finishing in third place in the season ending tournament.

The girls soccer team finished the season with a 13 – 7 - 1 record season. The girls team made the state tournament, losing in the first round in a heartbreaker on penalty shots to Seattle Christian.

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

The boys cross country team had an outstanding season winning the Emerald City League / District Title and sending the team to the state meet in Pasco. At the state meet the boys ran well finishing in 6th place!

The girls cross country team had four members this year. They worked hard all year, sending two girls to the state meet in Pasco. *Mark DeJonge, Athletic/Activities Director*

CLOSING

Our Annual Fund Campaign has begun for the 2006-2007 school year, and I am so grateful for the generosity of the BCS community. Throughout the years, this community has given freely to support the operations and educational services of BCS. We are most grateful for the support of so many throughout the years. As we enter into another Annual Fund campaign, please know that donations *of any amount* will be kindly received. We desire that all associated with BCS participate. Whether you are a friend, present family, staff and faculty, or alumni gifts of any amount would be gladly accepted. Give what you are able to contribute. Thank you for supporting BCS, and please keep praying for our students and the resources needed to serve them.

Ron Taylor, Superintendent

