

SUMMER 2020

chalkboard

TRAINING AND NURTURING CHILDREN FOR GODLINESS AND EXCELLENCE

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020



FROM MR. BROOKE



It was in the first few days of the summer months that I walked through the front office and bumped into my former fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Bostrom. We quickly shared stories about God's faithfulness to the school and in our lives. The smile on Mrs. Bostrom's face was no different than when I sat in her class as a 10-year-old and fell in love with God's Word in a renewed way. I remember sitting on the left side of the classroom, 2-3 desks back, as we studied the death and resurrection of Jesus. One day, as Mrs. Bostrom taught on the tearing of the temple veil, she unpacked how powerful it was that we all could have access to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. She challenged us to bring bold prayers before the Lord and to invite Him to radically change our lives and our dreams. It was on that day that I wrote in my big blue Bible that my dream, my future, was HIS.

Mrs. Bostrom had done three unique things throughout that school year, and it is powerful as I now serve at the school in where I learned so much. She modeled the life of a Christ-follower, she asked questions that engaged my mind, and she taught me truth that was rooted in the Word of God. It was in a fourth-grade classroom that I began to discover how to invite God to do more than I could ask or imagine. And today, as we walk into this upcoming school year, I am asking that God would radically move in our community. I am asking Him to reveal His remarkable love to the next generation and that our students would be overwhelmed by the goodness of God. I am praying that students would hand their lives and dreams over to the One who created them, knows them, and longs to use Him to bring the gospel to many. I am asking that our broader community approach the throne of grace knowing that God wants to grant us access to His power. May 2020–21 be a school year in which the masses know more about the love of Jesus.

FROM MR. CLUM



Perhaps you have heard an instruction from a parent, teacher, or someone in authority prefaced by these words, "Now pay attention." Have you ever given much thought as to what would happen if you did NOT pay attention? If you were receiving directions, you may end up in the wrong place! If you were given a recipe to follow, the end result may not taste very good. And if you were being given tips for studying for a test, you might not do as well as you would have liked.

Do you take notice when you hear the words listen, pay attention, or gain understanding? The book of Proverbs is full of these admonitions. In Proverbs 4, Solomon weaves these commands throughout the entire chapter. He instructs us to get wisdom and to hold on to instruction.

As we enter a new school year, our focus and attention are on the heart. We have chosen Proverbs 4:23 as our Year Verse. "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." The context (v. 20-27) in which this verse is found is powerful. Solomon encourages his son to pay attention to his teachings because they will transform who he is as they penetrate deep into his heart. "A lifelong commitment to follow wisdom requires a change of heart" (NLT Study Bible Notes, Tyndale).



Why are we so interested in the hearts of our students? Because there is a constant battle and struggle for their hearts. The heart is the center of our emotions, feelings, thinking, and desires. It encompasses our values and actions. When Solomon refers to guarding the heart, he means the inner core of a person—the thoughts, feelings, desires, will, and choices that make that person

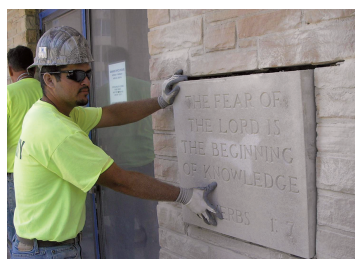
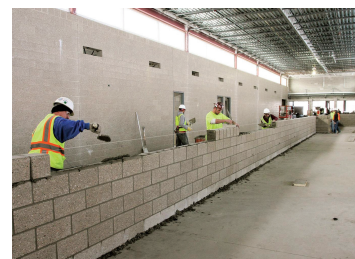
who he/she is. To guard your heart means you fill it with truth and then you make sure you guard that truth, so you do not forget it, compromise it, neglect it, or ignore it. A.W. Pink said, "For the Christian to keep his heart...means for him to pay close attention to the direction in which his affections are moving, to discover whether the things of the world are gaining a firmer and fuller hold over him, or whether they are increasingly losing their charm for him."

Pay attention. Guard your heart, for EVERYTHING you do flows from it! And when you do, you will experience the joy and security that comes from knowing and following the Lord Jesus



Celebrating 10 Years on Taylor Drive

It's hard to believe that Wheaton Christian Grammar School has been located on Taylor Drive for over 10 years. What was once a dream has become a reality and blessing to thousands of families and students and the WCGS faculty and staff. From its humble beginnings in a house, to this beautiful state-of-the-art campus, we are incredibly grateful for the Lord's sovereignty and how He has provided the space necessary to give our students the best Christ-centered education. Join us as we take a look back at the building of WCGS on Taylor Drive:



As we start the 2020-2021 school year, we are eager to see what the Lord has for the next 10 years here on Taylor Drive. We give Him all the glory and praise Him for His faithfulness.

Coming Up...

Oct.
16

Scholarship
Benefit &
Auction

TBD

Veterans Day
Assembly

TBD

Grandparents'
Day

Any edits to the 2020-2021
school calendar can be
found on our website.

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020

Wheaton Christian Grammar School graduated its sixty-four members of the Class of 2020 on May 26 through a virtual commencement and many unique celebrations. Although this year's graduation looked different because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Class of 2020 celebrated their accomplishments with joy and perseverance; living out their class verses, Romans 5:3-5 (NIV): *"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."*



The celebrations for the Class of 2020 kicked off a few weeks prior to graduation with an at home visit for each of the graduates from administrators and teachers. Students were met with cheering, noise makers, and congratulations as they were delivered a celebratory yard sign and goodie bag full of cookies, streamers, and other celebration items. Photos were taken with their sign, and the students were able to catch up with those delivering the items - a gift for everyone after being away from each other for a few months!

Throughout the next week, Jr. High students were celebrated through a virtual award ceremony. They received

awards for their accomplishments in science, music groups, clubs, competitions, and more. You can find a summary of the awards ceremonies for the entire school community and the winners of our 8th grade special awards on our website at wheatonchristian.org/news-events/news-around-campus/.

Celebrations continued for our 8th graders as they participated in a virtual bonfire before graduation through Zoom instead of the 8th grade trip. Administrators, 8th graders, and teachers all joined in to have a time of reflection, prayer, and worship. During the night, Mr. Koslosky spoke to the students about what an incredible group of young adults the class had grown to be and gave the students time to speak about what was on their hearts. It was a sweet time of sharing funny moments, stories of those who had an influence in their lives, and how God had stretched and grown them during their time at WCGS. It might not have been able the typical 8th grade trip, but this was a precious time of reflection and gathering for this class.

There was a special energy on graduation day this year with the day kicking off with each student receiving a special video

from our administrators. Later in the day, the pre-recorded graduation ceremony was launched for our graduates, their families, and faculty and staff to watch and participate in. This year's commencement featured music by Mr. Wright and Mr. Petersons, prayers over our graduates from 8th grade parents, student testimonies, words from Mr. Clum, Mr. Painter, and Mr. Burgess, and a charge from 8th grade dad and former WCGS Board President, Mr. Jim Rathbun. To watch this year's graduation ceremony, you can head to our Vimeo page at www.vimeo.com/422786740.

Jim spoke to the Class of 2020 on their class verses, Romans 5:3-5. He walked through the different aspects of suffering, perseverance, character, and hope, encouraging the students to fear the Lord reverently, follow Him obediently, friend Him faithfully, and serve Him wholeheartedly.



"Class of 2020, your world has changed in significant ways, but WCGS has developed your leadership skills and equipped you to engage your world for Jesus Christ. God has uniquely prepared you and sovereignly ordained that you would graduate this year, at this particular time in history. I believe God has His hand on each of you and eagerly desires to continue to use you for His eternal purposes. You must choose to fear Him, follow Him, friend Him, and serve Him. As you graduate from Wheaton Christian Grammar School and set out on the next phase of your life journey, I urge you to endure suffering, maintain perseverance, forge your character, and embrace hope."

This year's awarding of diplomas didn't consist of walking across the stage, but rather driving in front of our school in a drive-by parade following the commencement ceremony! This culmination of our graduation festivities had students and their families showing up to school in decorated cars, getting in alphabetical order, and parading through the parking lot surrounded by the WCGS faculty and staff cheering them on. Each car pulled up in front of the building, and every graduate received his or her diploma off a pizza peel from Mr. Burgess. Here they were able to celebrate in physical-distance style with our administrators, their teachers, and their peers. The joy on their faces and fun memories of this special event will be forever cherished.

We love this class and are grateful for the many ways the



Lord allowed us to celebrate them throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The 64 graduates in WCGS's Class of 2020 will be headed to numerous local high schools this fall including Wheaton Academy, Wheaton North, Glenbard West, and Wheaton Warrenville South, and it is our prayer that they will continue to shine God's light for all to see in this new phase of life. We will miss this class but know that the Lord has big plans for them. Congratulations, Class of 2020!



Other fun celebrations for our 8th graders this year included taking individual pictures in their graduation gowns by the WCGS sign, featuring our grads on WCGS social media, and sending out a video of each student's poster that would typically be displayed at the graduation reception.

Congratulations, Class of 2020!



Faculty Spotlight: Pete Lindner and Antonio Rodriguez

How did the Lord lead you to WCGS?

Pete: I had been working for a few different companies as a marine engineer onboard ocean-going ships, which had me spending six months out of the year away from home. Between jobs, I had been actively volunteering at WCGS during my free time, assisting the custodian when he had a task that he did not normally do like repairing electrical and heating and cooling equipment. This was back in the early 90's. Numerous people were asking and encouraging me to consider working for the school, so I decided to follow the Lord's guidance and finally made the decision to change careers.

Antonio: When my wife started working at WCGS in 2014, I started to volunteer with Pete in the mornings before my regular job. During this time, I started to notice that the community and environment was different here from where I was working. God put a little whisper in my mind that working at WCGS would be a great transition.

What are your responsibilities at WCGS?

Pete: As the Director of Maintenance, I manage building maintenance and grounds. I oversee the life safety requirements to keep us in line with building codes for the Village of Winfield, Carol Stream Fire Department, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Illinois Board of Education, as well as assisting in security and COVID-19 efforts. My favorite thing to do is troubleshoot and get things up and running again.

Antonio: During the school year, my responsibilities are leading and providing training for the second shift custodial crew, setting up and breaking down events, and performing maintenance around the building.

How have you seen the Lord work at WCGS?

Pete: I appreciate the leadership at WCGS. Our administrators are top notch, and I appreciate their focus on relationships, prayer, and their concern for the community's spiritual growth. This has been the best place to have all five of my children attend. They received a Christian education and were nurtured by administration, faculty, and staff. Now, I am able to see a few of my grandkids come to school each day and experience the same things.



Antonio: During my time at WCGS, I've seen the Lord work in many situations. One way is when someone in our community needs help. From staff to parents, this is a community that comes together to not only pray, but to also be the hands and feet of Jesus to help in any way they can. I've experienced this personally, and can say that I truly felt the love of God through the WCGS community.

Are there any new initiatives that have taken place in your work because of COVID-19?

Pete: For the facility, I am working with the administration and health staff to monitor what changes we will need to be made for the new school year. We will proceed forward with an abundance of caution and examine closely what those in the government will require of us. We are learning new things every week.

I believe we are already doing a great job of cleaning and disinfecting. Our teaching and nursing staff are especially mindful of those with compromised health issues, and the trained maintenance department will be there to support them when extra services might be needed. With the Lord's help, we will overcome the obstacles to change and persevere.

Antonio: COVID-19 has brought a new set of rules and precautions that we need to follow. Since the closing of school in March, we have been disinfecting and preparing our building for when students return. When school resumes, we will be working harder than ever to keep things disinfected and clean so our community can stay healthy.



We are grateful for our entire maintenance team and how they take such immaculate care of our building and grounds. They have worked especially hard over the past few months to keep our school clean, and we appreciate all they do behind the scenes to keep things running. The entire WCGS community is abundantly blessed by their work!

Campus News

Welcoming New Babies!

This spring we welcomed some new members to our WCGS family! Three beautiful girls joined the families of Jr. High Literature teacher, Jackie Messer; Jr. High Science Teacher, Luke Spradley and his wife, Digital Arts and Elementary Art Teacher, Audra Spradley; and Marketing Specialist, Claire Van Tholen.



Jackie and Mike Messer with their daughter, Emerson.



Luke and Audra Spradley with their daughters, Judah and Emmaline.



Claire and Patrick Van Tholen with their daughter, Callie.



Welcoming New Faculty and Staff!

We are excited to announce the new members of our faculty and staff for the 2020-2021 school year! Miss Emily Baldwin will be our new Orchestra Teacher, Mrs. Molly Furrow will be joining us as a 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Susan Heidelberg will be teaching 8th grade English, and Miss Ingrid Prichard will be WCGS's new Marketing Specialist. Current Faculty Update: Mrs. Mandy Jasper has been hired as the Student Services Director in addition to being the school social worker, and Mrs. Heather Van Wagner is now the Student Services K-4 Coordinator. You can read more about our new hires and updates on the school website at www.wheatonchristian.org.



Emily Baldwin



Molly Furrow



Susan Heidelberg



Ingrid Prichard



Mandy Jasper



Heather Van Wagner

COVID-19 Campus Update

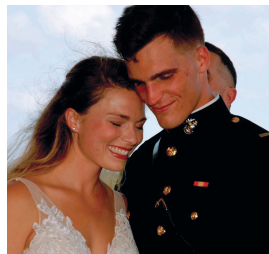
With much prayer and hard work, WCGS is excited to open its doors on August 18 for the 2020–2021 school year! We have been monitoring the information from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and other governing authorities as it has evolved and based on what we know today, we have created our Re-Entry Plan 1.0.

Our top priority is to open our school safely and maintain our high standards so that students can continue to flourish in this environment. We are asking the Lord for wisdom, and are confident that He will provide. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" (James 1:5). We are grateful for our team, the members of our Task Force Committees, our Board of Directors, and each one of you. We appreciate your prayers and would ask that you continue to pray for us during the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Alumni News



Jonathan ('06) and Kirsten Burdett welcomed their son, Liam, on February 23, 2020.



Sarah McClain ('10) married Oliver Wells in Corpus Christi, Texas on May 24, 2020.

Have any updates you'd like us to feature or would like a WCGS onesie for your little one? Let us know! Email us at: communications@wheatonchristian.org



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Heavenly Lights

WCGS's Annual Scholarship Auction

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow. – James 1:17

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