

SPRING 2019

chalkboard

TRAINING AND NURTURING CHILDREN FOR GODLINESS AND EXCELLENCE

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SCHOOL CULTURE: A DIFFERENCE MAKER

From Mr. Clum

Recently, as I was interviewing a prospective new family, they mentioned that they “love the culture around here.” From the moment they walked into the office, observed students interacting with teachers in the hallways and classrooms, and had faculty and staff introduce themselves and take time to talk with them, they experienced something different in our school. They understood that children, parents, and faculty and staff are valued in this place.

School culture and climate are huge at WCGS. Our Statement of Faith, Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Core Values are the beliefs, values, and assumptions that help shape our culture and climate. We are unapologetically Christ-centered, family-centered, and Bible-centered as we strive to provide our students with a Christian worldview that permeates their thinking as they undertake the rigors of the classroom and seek to engage and transform their world for Jesus Christ.

School culture and climate impacts people, which in turn

impacts lives. In the recent Parent Survey that we conducted in advance of our upcoming ACSI/AdvancED re-accreditation visit, we read this time and time again. One parent said, “The entire community is welcoming, helpful, and encouraging. The teachers and administrators take such interest in the students; it still amazes me that they are able to have such meaningful relationships with so many students.” Another said, “The staff is open to partnering with parents and genuinely care about students. We value this.”

There are so many factors that impact culture and climate—trust, accountability, quality education, great teachers, facilities, programs, and incredible parental support to name a few. However, building relationships with students and parents, and taking time to develop, get to know, and invest relationally in the lives of students and their parents is high on our list of priorities. Thank you for the important role you play in helping shape the culture and climate of Wheaton Christian Grammar School. May we always seek to honor and glorify the Lord in all that we do.

CHECK-IN



What's new at school?

Wheaton Christian Grammar School is currently in the process of re-accreditation with ACSI and AdvancedED. This is a multi-year process that needs to be done every 5 years. The work being completed now is for the intent to be re-accredited by spring 2020. Please be in prayer as we work diligently towards this goal.



MISSIONS 2019

Each year, we dedicate two weeks in March to focus on missions throughout our school. This is a beloved tradition at WCGS as our students get to learn in and out of the classroom about service and missionary experiences. The Missions Emphasis Weeks for this school year took place March 4–15.

This year's theme was *Get Out of the Boat*, which taught and encouraged our students to be bold and share their faith with others. To emphasize this theme to our students, missionaries gave presentations to most grade levels sharing their experiences about "getting out of the boat" and trusting God.

Students also went out into the community to serve others. Many grade levels went to Feed My Starving Children where they packaged meals for children around the world and to Windsor Park to spend time with the residents. Other service opportunities included our Kindergartners going to Build-A-Bear Workshop where they made bears for children served by ECFA,

and at school, our 7th graders packed boxes with donated food for Loaves and Fishes.

During the closing chapel, we commissioned our Father/Son and Mother/Daughter teams who went to the Dominican Republic during Spring Break. Our community raised over \$19,000 to go towards Kids Alive, Oasis International, and Roseland Community Daycare during our offering in the chapel.

We are praising God for the work He did this year in the hearts and lives of our students and community!



To see more pictures and videos from this year's Missions Emphasis weeks, head over to our blog! wheatonchristian.org/good-words-blog



EYE DISSECTIONS

Our 5th and 7th graders teamed up to dissect cow eyes so they could learn about the intricacies of the eye and marvel at the details of God's creation. This annual tradition usually is done using sheep eyes, but cow eyes were used this year. The students were troopers during this lab, overcoming fears to enhance their learning. We are thankful for teachers who take the time to plan out these valuable lessons for our students and assist them in hands-on learning, and love to see the leadership of our 7th graders as they lead their 5th grade partners through this lab. For up-to-date information on what's going on at school, check out our social media pages!



DADDY/DAUGHTER NIGHT

Wheaton Christian Grammar School hosted its first ever Daddy/Daughter Night on February 15, 2019, and everyone had a blast! From playing games together, learning how to dance, taking pictures at the photo booth, and enjoying an ice cream dessert, there were many fun memories made. Thank you to all who helped make this night a success! We can't wait for next year.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



8th grade students (left to right), Anna Wank, Dylan Ochs, Audrey Brcka, and Vander England received recognition and awards from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Competition in February. Anna received an honorable mention for her journalism piece, and Dylan received a Silver Key for her poem in the regional competition. Audrey (short story) and Vander (humor writing) both won Gold Key regional awards and both pieces went on to national judging where Vander's piece received a National Silver Medal. Vander also represented WCGS in the 2019 National Geographic GeoBee Illinois State Competition on March 29, 2019. He was one out of 100 students across Illinois who earned a spot in the competition. Congratulations all around!

A THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



Throughout the school year, parents, grandparents, former parents, alumni, and friends walk through our doors to volunteer their time to WCGS. From its start to today, our volunteers ensure that our teachers and staff are supported to help our school run smoothly and provide wonderful experiences for our students. They have been, and continue to be, an invaluable part of our community.

In 1941, local parents and community members gathered to address “the urgent need of distinctively Christian instruction in the plastic young lives of early school age,” and made the decision to form Wheaton Christian Grammar School. These people volunteered an immense amount of time, money, and work for the children in their community. Mothers acted as admissions recruiters, maintained the playground, and sold items to cover school expenses. A father helped supervise the first building phase of the old school on 530 Harrison Street in Wheaton. Board members did construction on homes to help the school add additional students. Parents donated school and playground equipment, held regular prayer meetings, and formed the Auxiliary which began organizing more school involvement opportunities for parents. All these people laid a foundation for our school that has helped us become the school we are today. (If you would like to read more about our school’s history, you can go to our website at www.wheatonchristian.org/about/our-heritage.)

In addition to those who have served in the past, those who serve now continue to provide opportunities for WCGS students that otherwise would not happen. Nearly 25 volunteers work three times a week to set-up, serve, tear down, and clean up so that our students can have hot lunch – a near impossible task for our faculty and staff to do. Others volunteer in classrooms to listen to memory verses, drive and chaperone for field trips, plan class parties, prepare class materials, and help with activities. Parents pop and distribute popcorn once a month to our students, they make meals for families who are in need of extra support, lift up our school community and country in prayer on a regular basis, organize special events like Grandparents’ Day, the Fall Family Fun Fair, Daddy/Daughter Night, the 7th and 8th Grade Gala, and the Children’s Christmas Sale, as well as hosting numerous fundraising opportunities for the school. As you can see, there would be many special aspects of our school that would be lost without our volunteers’ generosity to our school and community.

“We are immensely blessed by the volunteers who walk in and out of our building each day. We truly would not be the school that we are today without the incredible support of these people. Their service to our students, faculty, and staff allow us to maximize our impact on student growth and achievement. We thank the Lord for our volunteers; they are the best!”

– Marc Painter, Principal

When parents volunteer, not only do they get to help the school and its community, but they also get the chance to be a part of their child’s education. They interact with their student’s classmates, teachers, and administration and participate in class activities to help students grow. One mom shares about her experience of serving at WCGS:

“Serving in various capacities has truly been a gift to me! Being in the school has allowed for new friendships with parents and faculty across the grades and has also given me the opportunity to get to know many students in the school. I love walking through the halls and being greeted by many familiar, smiling faces! I am also grateful for the chance to get my own “glimpse” into the school day. The atmosphere is so positive, so energetic, and just so special to be a part of.”

All of us at WCGS are thankful for our volunteers who so freely give of their time to serve our school and community. We love to see the students interacting with them as they walk throughout our building and learn in the classrooms. They are examples to our students of how to serve others for the Kingdom of God.

There aren’t enough words to say thank you to everyone who has given so much to our school. To anyone who has volunteered to our school, we say “Thank you.”

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer at WCGS, please don’t hesitate to contact us! We’d love to get you plugged in.

Faculty Spotlight: Marybeth Sauter



Marybeth has been teaching 5th grade at WCGS since 2005, but her journey began far before that. Her WCGS roots started with her mother, Marti Knudsen, who taught 1st–4th grade at Wheaton Christian Grammar School for 28 years (1953-1957, 1970–1972, 1976–1999) after graduating from Wheaton College. The Knudsen family lived in Tennessee for a short time before moving back to Wheaton when Marybeth was in 3rd grade. Upon moving back, they enrolled Marybeth at WCGS, and Marti returned to teach. Marybeth's mother loved the school and its ministry, something that Marybeth grew to love as well.

Marybeth followed her mother's footsteps and applied to WCGS after graduating from Wheaton College. She got the job and ended up finishing the school year for Janet Burgess who was leaving her 4th grade position to start their family, and, upon completing that year, she returned to teach 4th grade for three more years. After that time, Marybeth left WCGS to stay at home as she and her husband started their family.



The Lord called Marybeth to return to WCGS in 2005 after teaching in a local public school for eight years. She had learned a lot during that time but missed having the ability to openly teach the full truth and talk about God, the source of all truth. She wanted to teach her students to “see how God

is the Creator and basis of every subject, that He is actively involved in the world and their lives, and that it is through Him that our lives are redeemed and purposeful.”

Marybeth returned as a 5th grade teacher and loves being able to teach the full truth to her students as well as playing a part in their transition from the elementary grades to Jr. High. They are growing in their curiosity, in-depth thinking, and compassion, so it's fun for her to share in many great experiences like Outdoor Education, hatching chicks, supporting a child in the Dominican Republic, going on field trips, and more.

She takes what they learn in the classroom and helps the students gain a deeper understanding through the opening of God's Word daily to help them make their faith more their own. “As the students become more independent, they ask great questions about God, the Bible, their purpose, and their place in the world,” says Marybeth. “I have the privilege of helping them turn to God's Word and search the Bible for truth to guide their thoughts and actions instead of just following along with the world.”



We are grateful for the seeds she and the rest of our teachers are sowing in the lives of our students. God was at work when Marybeth's mother was here, and He continues to be faithful and at work in our school today.

Alumni News



Christopher ('89) and Alina Papendick welcomed their daughter, Naomi Rose, last September.

We have two new designs for our baby onesies! To get a free onesie for your little one, email Joanne DeGroot at: jdegroot@wheatonchristian.org



Dan Stayskal ('84) and his wife, Sarah, visited us in February!



Have an update you'd like us to feature? Let us know!
Email us at communications@wheatonchristian.org

Coming Up...

**May
2-4**

Jr. High
Musical

**May
7**

Spring Band
Concert

**May
9**

Spring
Orchestra
Concert

**May
14**

Spring Pops
Concert

**May
24**

Field Day

**May
29**

Awards
Assemblies

**May
30**

8th Grade
Commencement

**June
3**

Annual Golf
Outing

**June
6**

Last Day of
School

You are invited to the 22nd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing!

Date: June 3, 2019

Location: Cantigny Golf, Wheaton



Mixed 18-Hole Event

Join us for a round of golf and dinner to help support our families through the Scholarship Fund!

For more information and to register, go to wheatonchristian.org/18-hole-mixed-event



Women's Brunch & 9-Hole Golf Event

Spend a relaxing morning with friends having brunch at beautiful Cantigny! You can attend brunch only or continue the fun by participating in the 9-hole event right after.

For more information and to register, go to wheatonchristian.org/womensevent



Every year, a quarter of our students are able to attend WCGS and receive a Christian education because of your support at events like these!

Make sure you follow us on Facebook, Instagram,
& Twitter for the most up-to-date information!
@WCGSWinfield

