

WINTER 2018

chalkboard

TRAINING AND NURTURING CHILDREN FOR GODLINESS AND EXCELLENCE

**MAKING EVERY
DAY COUNT IN
THE 2018-2019
SCHOOL YEAR**

Read more inside

WCGS NAMES JEFF BROOKE AS NEW ASSOCIATE HEAD OF SCHOOL

The WCGS Board of Directors is pleased to introduce Jeff Brooke as our new Associate Head of School beginning July 2019. As Associate Head of School, Jeff will work under Steve Clum and will be learning from Steve as he prepares to become our next Head of School. We are praising God for this answer to prayer and are looking forward to how the Lord will continue to bless the mission of WCGS.

Jeff Brooke comes to us from Wheaton Academy where he serves in an administrative leadership and coaching capacity as Vice Principal of Campus Life, Bible Department Head, Bible teacher, and Boys' and Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach. As a '98 WCGS graduate, school parent, and current WCGS Board member, Jeff knows and values our culture. He has a heart for young people and a desire to help them grow in their relationship with Christ. He is a gifted leader. Jeff is married to Rachel, a former Art Teacher at WCGS. Jeff and Rachel have four children (Mason – 4th grade, Natalie – 2nd grade, Jenna – kindergarten, and two-year old Ethan). Rachel is excited to join with Jeff in providing support as he leads and shepherds the Grammar School family.



"I am incredibly honored and grateful to serve the Lord in this role at Wheaton Christian Grammar School. God has used this school for over 75 years to shape the lives of students and families in remarkable ways. The mission of WCGS is firmly rooted in the power of Jesus Christ, and it is my hope and prayer to uphold the mission in the years ahead. I am thankful for my time at Wheaton Academy and pray that my belief in Jesus Christ, my passion for the Gospel, my understanding of Christian education, my partnership with families, and my hope for young people will guide me in this role. I believe God will continue to transform lives at Wheaton Christian Grammar School, and I am thankful to be a part of His great work here."

We thank God for His provision of our new Associate Head of School. The WCGS Board of Directors and administration enthusiastically and unanimously endorse Jeff in his new role. Please pray for our leadership team as they all work together to make WCGS a school that continues to glorify God in all we do.

Read the full article on our website at www.wheatonchristian.org/news-events/news-around-campus/

STRIVING for Excellence



Every year, WCGS looks for new ways to provide a better education for its students. For the 2018-2019 school year, there were many new initiatives that are helping our students grow emotionally and academically.

One of the new initiatives involved the hiring of a school social worker, Mrs. Mandy Jasper (pictured to the left). As the school social worker, she works on enhancing the academic and spiritual mission of WCGS. Her role helps bridge the home and school community by helping students with issues that affect their school performance, behavior, and socialization.

During this first half of the school year she has held new-student lunches where they play games and talk about life, as well as giving presentations in classrooms on how to handle various situations and to observe student behavior.

Another addition to the 2018-2019 curriculum is the integration of Spanish in grades K-2. Mrs. Valerie Busch was hired on this year to help further the WCGS mission "to educate, train,



and nurture children for godliness and excellence, equipping them to engage and transform their world for Jesus Christ." Students get taught multiple times a week to learn the Spanish language as well as Hispanic culture.

As STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) programs are growing all over the country, WCGS wanted to create a space for our elementary students to gain a deeper understanding of these topics. A classroom in the K-4 hallway is there for students to meet with WCGS STEAM leader, Mrs. Lauriat (pictured above), to develop further skills that will help them in their academics.

WCGS is grateful for the opportunity to help further grow our students' hearts and minds so they can be equipped to better serve Jesus in this world.



38 YEAR LEGACY AT WCGS

An interview with two former WCGS families

The Anderson and Gieser families have spent a total of 38 years in the WCGS community. Being anywhere for 38 years has a tremendous impact on one's life. This is why we asked both families to answer a few questions and reflect on their time at WCGS after they both graduated their youngest child in May of 2018.

How has WCGS had an impact your family?

Andersons: WCGS had a huge impact on our family. Our children received a Christ-centered education in an extremely nurturing and spiritually sensitive environment that is part of the foundation of who they are today. When our oldest son was diagnosed with leukemia in 8th grade, the entire WCGS community jumped into action and provided direct encouragement, prayer, and support to each member of the family. For this, we are forever grateful. WCGS is much more than a school. It is a vibrant Christian community that blends great education with a full community experience.

Giesers: WCGS has had a tremendous impact on our family. Our children were trained to identify the ungodly messages being promoted by our culture so they would not be taken "captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy" (Colossians 2:8). While in the 3rd grade, our youngest son would be reading quietly in another room and suddenly shout, "I found a 'hollow and deceptive philosophy'!" We would smile hearing those big words come from the mouth of our 3rd grader and were thrilled at the discernment he had been taught. To this day, our children continue to spot the messages in our culture that seek to negatively influence their Christian worldview.

What would you say is the benefit of a WCGS education and how have you seen it play out in your children's lives?

Andersons: WCGS prepared our children for life. The excellent academics, spiritual development, and nurturing environment all contributed to their success in high school, college, and as young adults. WCGS helped our oldest son develop a strong character and reliance on the Lord that carried him through his illness. Our second oldest wasn't a reader in first grade, but through proper intervention and encouragement, he has become one of the most ferocious readers we know. Our daughter benefited from the strong academics and excelled in high school, and our youngest had the

opportunity to enjoy many different extracurricular activities that built integrity, teamwork, and a strong work ethic. An education from WCGS is a blessing that benefits every child.

Giesers:

Our children had the opportunity to explore and develop their academic, musical, and athletic gifts through excellent classroom instruction and extra-curricular activities provided by WCGS. More importantly, however, was the spiritual training that our children received. A biblical worldview is taught in the classroom and reinforced in chapels and all student activities. Through WCGS, our children had many opportunities to put their faith in action in our community and around the world. Whether serving at WCGS, PADS, FMSC, Pacific Garden Mission, performing music at local nursing homes or community events, or traveling to the Dominican Republic, our children began to look at other's needs with compassion and to develop hearts for serving others. We have seen this interest in service play out as our children continue to desire to serve in their schools, family, church, and communities.

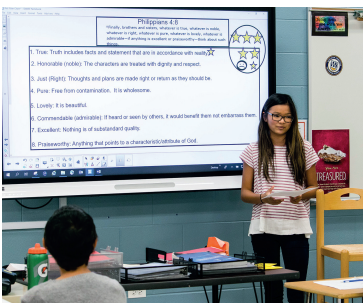
As you reflect on your time at WCGS, do you have any other comments or stories you'd like to add?

Andersons: We were convinced to choose WCGS when we experienced the prayer support shared at a Kindergarten Roundup for a school family in critical need. Little did we know that the Lord was leading our family to WCGS to become a recipient of that prayer during our own time of critical need.

Giesers:

The impact of WCGS on our family began when I (Sarah) was a student. My father died suddenly in my 7th grade year. During those difficult days, the faculty, staff, and administration rallied around me and my family with tremendous love, support, and prayers. My 6th grade teacher, Miss Bingham, sent me a note to let me know she was praying for me every year on the anniversary of his death until her own passing several years ago. The WCGS faculty and staff continue to be committed to building meaningful, long lasting relationships with students. The relationships my children formed with teachers, administrators, and coaches continue through notes and words of encouragement they receive.

CHECK-IN



Would you like to receive the *Chalkboard* through your email instead of regular mail?

Let us know!

Email us at: communications@wheatonchristian.org



MAKING EVERY DAY COUNT IN THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

How have you been making every day count? This question is what the WCGS community is seeking to answer during the 2018-2019 school year. Based on the book, *Make Every Day Count, Teen Edition* by Max Lucado, the WCGS administration chose to do a school-wide theme this year because they wanted every student at WCGS to have the same central focus each month – discussing that month's theme in the classroom, in the hallways, in chapels, and in daily conversation. The hope is that those discussions will continue at home as students share what they have learned and the experiences that have shaped their understanding. Each month's theme is based on a chapter in the book:

Make Every Day Count
Faith for Fear-Filled Days
Gratitude for Ungrateful Days
Peace for Stressed-Out Days
Hope for Catastrophic Days
Fuel for Drained Days
Passion for Purposeless Days
Service for Fork-in-the-Road Days
Forgiveness for Sour Days
Grace for Guilty Days



Already in the first three months of the year, we have seen a positive impact on the culture within our school. The monthly themes have created consistency in our vocabulary from kindergarten through 8th grade and have created a sense of unity as they work towards a similar goal each month. God is at work in the hearts of these children!

The concept of a school-wide theme came from a parent request to have a biblical Jr. High Summer Reading book. This led to the question, "How can we make this have more of an impact?" Participating in summer reading strengthens a student's analysis and discussion skills, but we wanted this to also impact their hearts... and not just the hearts of Jr. Highers, but of all our students, K-8.

The book, *Make Every Day Count*, is based on a very familiar verse from the Bible which says, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Our purpose as Christ-followers is to glorify God. This book gives us the opportunity to practice making a diligent choice every day to live for Christ while we teach, learn, and live together.

I believe that our student body can be difference-makers in this community. This starts with them being able to maximize opportunities that God has placed before them each day.

– Marc Painter, *Principal*

The monthly themes are the focus of our *Continuing the Discussion...* parent series as well. The first sessions have included a coffee with the administration, a panel of teachers talking about technology, and a family activity night focusing on gratitude led by WCGS Social Worker, Mrs. Mandy Jasper.



I am so excited it has taken off and seems to be making a difference in the life of our community, impacting everyday interactions among students, faculty, and families. While this whole-school theme is great from an educational perspective, the main goal is to impact our spiritual condition.

– Sue Macaluso, *Director of Curriculum and Instruction*

This year's school verses state, "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16). As a school, we want to make the most of each day we have been given with our students, doing our best to help shape a biblical worldview, bring unity, practice Christ-like behavior, and focus on what really matters.

We don't expect our school-wide theme to cause students to walk around with a smile on their faces all day, every day. God knows that some seconds, some minutes, and even some hours are going to be difficult for each of us. However, that is why God gave us a



"day," 24 hours. In the book, Max Lucado shares some great words about rejoicing each day: "An hour is too short, a year is too long. Days are the bite-size portions of life, the God-designed segments of life management." God doesn't demand that we rejoice every second. But He does ask that as we go through each day, we pause and take time to rejoice in it.

So, will you partner with us to make every day count?

Faculty Spotlight: Sue Hravatic

The Lord led Sue Hravatic and her husband to the mission field in Nairobi, Kenya, for 13 years, but little did she know that a colleague in Kenya would be the resource that would help Sue find Wheaton Christian Grammar School. In the Hravatic's transition back to the United States to be with family, this colleague and former WCGS student had recommended to Sue that she should apply to teach there. After research and lots of prayer, she knew this was the next mission field in which God wanted her to serve.



Sue is now in her third year at WCGS teaching 1st grade and feels settled and at home. Working at WCGS has been a blessing to her because of the wonderful, appreciative families and caring staff. The support is unlike she has ever seen in her 25 years of teaching.

How does she like 1st grade? "There is never a dull moment! I absolutely love hearing the hilarious things they say," says Sue. "You also get a glimpse of the wonder in their eyes as they learn. There are many 'light bulb' moments that happen, and it's exhilarating and rewarding to watch it all unfold."



The Lord is at work in 1H. Sue says they have many "out of the mouth of babes" type of moments where they reveal God's character to one another. "Their innocence is refreshing." The class is continuously working together to find God-sightings, and the connections the 1st graders make are remarkable and tender!

Sue decided that she wanted to become a teacher when she was in 2nd grade, so working with her students every day is a dream come true. She is grateful to be able to play a part in her students' lives.



Thank you for joining our crew at the Scholarship Benefit & Auction!

This year's Scholarship Benefit and Auction was a huge success, raising over \$108,000 to help families send their children to WCGS for a Christ-centered education. Praise be to God for this accomplishment!

The \$108,000 combined with \$68,000 that had already been raised puts us 41% of the way to our 2018-2019 Scholarship Goal of \$425,000.

The night contained a silent auction featuring over 130 items, dinner, performances by the WCGS Jazz Band and String Ensemble, an interview with a school family and Mrs. Messer, and a special live auction with Mr. Burgess, Mr. Clum, and Mr. Painter as auctioneers.

Thank you to everyone who made the night a success! We are excited to see the Lord work in our students and families.



INVESTING GENEROUSLY

A message from Mr. Clum

As I reflect on my life, I'm grateful for the many who have invested in me over the years. As I think about my tenure at WCGS, I'm humbled by those who have invested their time, talent, and resources in our school to help make it what it is today. Why have we invested in WCGS? Because we believe in the vision, mission, and role of this school in the hearts and lives of students and families.

I could expound for hours on how God has used WCGS to transform hearts and lives for His glory. One former student, attending a secular university in California, writes about her WCGS experience, "WCGS helped me develop the ability to articulate my ideas and beliefs concerning my faith which has been my favorite gift from the school." God is at work...one life, one heart at a time!

I am humbly asking for your help. We need your financial support. Here are ways you can help us.

- **Annual Fund:** We need to raise \$425,000 by June 30, 2019.
- **Capital Campaign:** We have retired all but \$1,850,000 on our new building and campus.
- **Endowment:** We are continuing to build on the \$2,600,000 that has been given to endow scholarships designated for specific needs (Christian formation of students and faculty, students experiencing learning challenges, families experiencing death or loss of jobs), and the professional development of faculty and staff, to name a few.

You can give to WCGS through cash, checks, stocks, and planned/estate giving. You may also give online at www.wheatonchristian.org. Kindly contact Joanne DeGroot (jdegroot@wheatonchristian.org), Development Coordinator, or Steve Clum (sclum@wheatonchristian.org), Head of School with any questions regarding giving.

Please prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you give this Christmas. Have a blessed Christmas season with family and friends! "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).



Alumni News



Mr. Burgess and Mr. Clum at the wedding of Clayton Thorson ('10) and his bride, Audrey, on June 16, 2018. He is pictured with Clayton's siblings: Hunter ('06), Luke ('07), Molly ('11), and Ben ('15).



Mr. Clum reconnected with 2011 graduates Nick Singleton and Matthew Rogers at the wedding reception for Clayton Thorson.



This past spring, Chelsea (Link) Marks ('02) and her husband, Evan, welcomed their son Micaiah into the world!



Mr. and Mrs. Clum attended a Northwestern University soccer game this fall where WCGS alum Ty Seager ('12) plays.



The Savenok family stopped by our booth at the Taste of Wheaton!



Students from the Class of 2014 were reunited at a graduation party for William Fan ('14).



Paul Correa ('73), visited WCGS earlier this fall to reconnect and get a tour of the new school.



On July 13, 2018, WCGS Marketing Specialist, Claire Young ('10) married Patrick Van Tholen.

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



Special thank you to all of our alumni who generously donated items to our Scholarship Benefit & Auction this year!

Josh Adams '09, Kelly Bickhart '02, Abby Jones '15, Darlene (Strope) Krueger '83, Ryan & Kayla Lotz '14, Jonathan Nielson '97, Marc Painter '97, David Petersons '04, Phil Ryken '80, Ty Seager '12, Amy (Schock) Soule '01, and Alyssa (Linnane) Zarn '06.

1N350 Taylor Drive
Winfield, Illinois 60190
www.wheatonchristian.org

Know someone who would be a good fit for WCGS?

We have openings in many grade levels! Refer a friend and tell them to contact Kim Norbeck at (630) 668-1385 ext. 216 or email at knorbeck@wheatonchristian.org

GRANDPARENTS' DAY 2018

Grandparents' day is a beloved tradition here at Wheaton Christian Grammar School. This year, we welcomed more than 460 grandparents to our school for a special afternoon full of fun activities with their grandchildren. For grandparents who couldn't make the event, many sent cards and other goodies to surprise their grandchildren that day. We had so much fun and can't wait to continue this tradition next year!

Coming Up...

**Dec.
31**

Year-End
Giving
Deadline

**Feb.
21**

K-3 Vocal
Music
Concert

**March
5**

Ladies'
Salad
Social

**April
29**

Fine Arts
Solo
Recitals

**May
2-4**

Jr. High
Musical



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

