

CHALKMARKS

A Weekly Newsletter for DCS Family & Friends

Vol. 9, Nov. 9-15, 2005

Parent - Teacher Conference Schedule

Elementary (kindergarten – 6th Grade) – Thursday, Nov. 10th, All Day
Secondary (7th-12th Grades) Wed., Nov. 9th – 3:15-6 PM; Thurs., Nov. 10, 9:30-noon and 3-6 PM

WINNING THE BATTLE FOR THE HEARTS OF OUR CHILDREN

The Israelites were attacked in the wilderness by Amalek, and Deuteronomy 25:18 describes the strategy used against them: *...he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God.* This strategy of seeking to overcome the most vulnerable is being used today by those who “do not fear God”, as they try to win the hearts and minds of children and young people to values and moral beliefs that deny the absolute truths of God’s Word. There is a battle for our children’s hearts (and for all our hearts) that is spiritual in nature, but manifests itself in this strong influence toward godlessness that now permeates our culture. We should be asking, “How can we win this battle?”

There is a two-fold strategy that was employed by Moses to win the battle against attacking Amalek, found in Exodus 17:9—*“So Moses said to Joshua, ‘Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.’”* One part of the strategy involved Joshua, rallying the soldiers who would fight “in the trenches” against the enemy. When we teach our children the values and morals of God’s Word at home, we are on the front lines. When we confront the depravity that now surrounds us with the light of the Word of God, we are again doing battle in this spiritual war that rages. When we seek to educate our children from a foundation of God’s truth and build their understanding on the basis of a Biblical worldview, we are indeed “in the trenches.” As families who have chosen that sort of education by enrolling in a Christian school and making the sacrifices required to support that choice, you have, like Joshua, engaged in the fight on the field.

But the other part of the strategy must not be ignored! Moses said, “I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” There, Moses would lift His hands in prayer, as one commentator describes it: “...the prophetic-symbolic action of the constantly upraised hands did

It’s Time To Order Your Apples And Pears

For the next three weeks, the Discovery Department at DCS is providing a holiday special – 23 oz. boxes of apples and pears for just \$13.00. That’s ONLY 56¢ per pound! Compare that to your local grocery stores!

Apple varieties include the following: Granny Smith, Fuji, Braeburn, Gala, Red and Yellow Delicious, and Newtown Pippin. Pear varieties include: Comice, Green and Red Anjou, and Bosc. **Pick up your order form during Parent-Teacher Conferences.**

The Discovery Department would like to thank Walter Wells and Sons of Hood River for supplying us with quality fruit and to Boeve Equipment Company in Clackamas for donating a forklift to unload the fruit. We also want to thank each of you for placing an order. Your support of this vital program is deeply appreciated. Monies from this fundraiser will help to make it possible for our educational therapists and classroom teachers to continue their professional growth at the National Institute for Learning Disabilities Winter Conference.

SPORTS

Trio Earn Soccer Honors

Congratulations to Mychal M. for being selected to the First Team All-League at the 1-A State Mock Tournament. Congratulations too, to Jordi B. (Honorable Mention All-League) and Caleb R. (Second Team All-League).

Lady Eagles Volleyball Team Headed To State!

After a spotty season of winning and losing, our *Lady Eagles* varsity volleyball team put it together to win their do-or-die District play-off game on Friday with Willamette Valley Christian. That win moved them to the next plateau of the qualifying round. Saturday morning, our girls faced the tough North Clackamas Christian team, defeating them and moving us forward to the next play-off game. In the final round, we played Jewell, losing to them in five games, which makes them the first seed from our league in State, with our *Lady Eagles* heading to the Springfield State Volleyball championship games as the second seed. Perrydale will go in the third seed position.

The 1-A State Volleyball Championship games will be played at Springfield High School, beginning Friday at 9 AM, with Damascus Christian matched up to play the defending State champs, Dufur, whom we defeated last week.

Congratulations to Amanda M. for being selected to the First Team District All-Tournament team!

Don’t Forget the DCS Auction

– Saturday, March 11th –

Last Week To Order Christmas Greenery

This is your last chance to obtain choice wreaths, swags, centerpieces and poinsettias for Christmas and to help send our sophomores and juniors to Washington, D.C. next spring. Contact a tenth or eleventh grader to order or Inger C. or Maria W. to order.

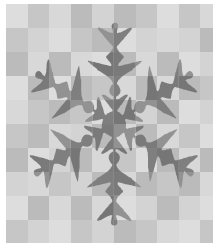
Library's Good News to Parents

This Thursday during conference schedule the library will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Drop in before or after your conference and see our special features. Take particular note of our new couch. It was graciously donated by Jeanine Nordling. Thank you, Jeanine, for adding comfort and beauty to our library.

Two things for the sports families: First, you may want to come in on Thursday and get some reading materials for the time between matches, if you are attending the Girls Volleyball State Championship games. Secondly, for students who have scheduled sports practices after school, the library is available for quiet study from 3-4 p.m. Here is a great way for them to redeem the time in a good study atmosphere.

Don't Be Left Shivering In The Cold

Why stand or sit around freezing when you could own a genuine DCS Indoor/Outdoor Waterproof, Zipable, School-Colors Blanket!! Check it out in the school office – only \$38!! Order your today!



Pastries With The Principal Coming

Remember to mark your calendar for Friday, November 18th, 8:30-9:30 AM or 2-3 PM, to meet with DCS principal Tim Oakley for an open-forum input session. The purpose of this is to gain information from your perspective on how we are doing. We want to hear what you feel we are doing well and suggestions on what we could do better. It is a time to gain information and updates from the school and share ideas that you may have. Pastries With The Principal – Friday, November 18th, 8:30-9:30 AM or 2-3 PM, in the Friendship Center.

Discovery Parent Meeting

A Discovery parent meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17th, 7-8 PM, in the Friendship Center. On hand to field questions and give practical advice will be a panel of Discovery parents whose children have graduated from our Discovery program in the last few years. As always, our Discovery parent meetings are open to any parent or teacher who would like to attend

Basketball Schedules On DCS Website

Basketball season is upon us and that means busy times and sometimes hectic schedules. In order to help with family planning, go to the DCS website (www.damascuschristianschool.org), click on "Sports", then on "Basketball". Next you will see "Basketball Schedules" and you will select which grade level you want to check out – elementary, junior high, or high school. Schedules do change during the season, so you will want to return to the sports page regularly to see if there have been any changes.

WINNING THE BATTLE ...

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signal the fervent prayers of the heart of Moses as he witnessed the battle." As long as Moses remained fervent in prayer to God, Israel prevailed, and ultimately gained the victory.

Israel could not afford to think doing battle on the field was enough, for they would have lost the war! Nor dare we think that we will enjoy success if we engage in the battle in various ways—but neglect to pray. The prayers of parents, grandparents, teachers, School Commission and others are essential to the work of God we are called to here at Damascus Christian School.

We have a prayer ministry just for this purpose, to pray for the school, its staff and students. It is called **PARK AND PRAY**, and is currently meeting **Monday mornings from 8:30-9:30 in the DCC Prayer room** (between 3rd grade and Kindergarten). We encourage you to drop your children off on Monday mornings, then drop in to join these folks who are "holding up their hands" before the Lord, carrying on the essential work of upholding DCS in prayer. If you would like to know more about this ministry, please call Michelle Ikemoto.

How can we win the battle for the hearts of our children? It does require our involvement in the fight "on the field," but also essential is the ministry of prayer. Thank you for interceding through prayer on behalf of DCS!

Visit our website at dcs.damascuscc.org

or email us at DCS@damascuscc.org