

CHALKBOARD

A Weekly Newsletter for DCS Family & Friends

Vol. 8, Nov. 2 - 8, 2005

How Are We Doing? Join Us For Pastries With The Principal

Good communications is key for any organization. We want to make sure we are hearing from our parents as to how we are doing? Are we fulfilling our mission - to assist Christian parents in the Biblical training of your children spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally and physically to help prepare them to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ for God's glory and the building of His Kingdom? Are there things that you feel we could do more effectively? Talk to us.

Friday, November 18th, 8:30 - 9:30 AM and 2-3 PM, we are hosting two open forum gatherings we call *Pastries with the Principal*. The purpose

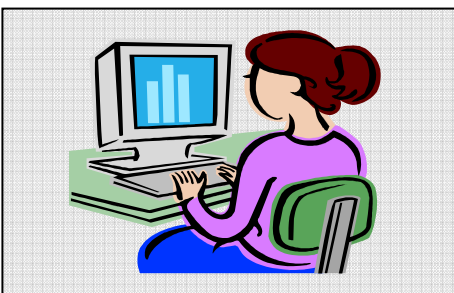
of this informal gathering is to interact on issues, concerns, questions or suggestions you might have to help make DCS more effective in meeting our mission. This is not a gripe-session but rather an opportunity to share, in the spirit of Christian love, how you feel we can better accomplish what we feel God has called us to.

Please mark your calendar to join us, either in the morning or afternoon, to meet with Mr. Oakley to help us help you in the training and nurturing of your children. Goodies will be provided (thanks to Mrs. Dawn Jeske). If you have questions, please feel free to contact the school office at (503) 658-4100. Thanks!

Crash and Change!

If you have ever had a hard drive crash, you know the frustration and fear of wondering how much vital information disappeared into cyberspace. That very scenario happened to our secretary, Mrs. Mattechek two weeks ago. Even though she had been faithfully backing up her computer to the server several times a week, everything was somehow lost - all school information and records since the beginning of this school year (fortunately, this did not include any information dealing with financial records). Our volunteer IT guy, Lou Eddy, along with our webmaster Ed Darnell and business administrator Jerry Johnson did their best to retrieve and recover the information, but it was to no avail. All was lost. Through extra time and effort, Pam was able to reconstruct most of the information from various sources.

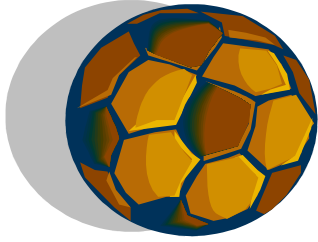
For a number of months, we have been looking into a website-based integrated school management software program called *Ren Web*. This proven system allows teachers to enter student grades and comments on-line and parents to access them from home or work. Parents will be able to tell how their child is doing, what assignments they may be missing, attendance data and other school-related information simply by going on-line through a secure password system. Report cards and transcripts will be computed and updated as teachers enter grades. Rather than simply put that information back onto the same system that recently crashed, we are moving ahead with the *Ren Web* web-based program. Over 99% of the schools that have joined *Ren Web* in the last seven years are still with the program. Right now, the folks at *Ren Web* are entering the school data we sent to them last week. Our next step will be on-site training of our staff and implementation of this service to you. Full information will be given to our parents so you can access this wonderful communications tool. In the next several weeks, we will be



surveying our school parents to see how many would be interested in utilizing this innovative program. There may be a small fee (approximately \$25-\$50 per year per family) to gain access to your on-line student information.

Please keep us in prayer as we move ahead with this exciting tool to enhance our administrative and communicative functions. If you have questions, please contact Tim Oakley at timoakley@damascuscc.org.

Visit our website at dcs.damascuscc.org or email us at DCS@damascuscc.org

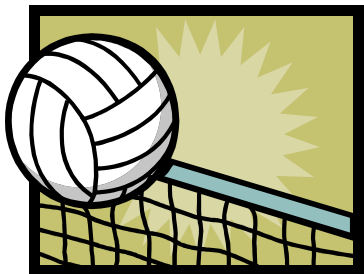


Soccer and Volleyball Regular Seasons Successful

This year's high school soccer team finished strongly, winning their last four games. Last Friday and Saturday, they competed in the first-ever 1-A Invitational State Tournament at Hood River winning two out of three games. Congratulations!

Our girls' volleyball team lost a heart-breaker against NCCS last Friday, dropping DCHS from a three-way tie for first to third as they enter the District Play-Offs Friday. They played outstanding post-season ball at the Saturday Dufur Invitational Tournament. Dufur is the defending 1-A State volleyball champions and had not lost a match all season. Our *Lady Eagles* spoiled their perfect season by defeating them and Condon to take the tourney championship trophy. Good job, girls!

Come out and cheer on our ladies as they play this Friday at 5:30 (the winner between St. Paul and Willamette Valley Christian) at our gym. *Go Lady Eagles!*



Parent-Teacher Conferences Next Week

This Friday, November 4th, is the end of our first nine week grading period and a half day of school. Thursday, November 10th, has been set aside for kindergarten through twelfth grade Parent-Teacher Conferences. The purpose of conferences is communication – how are the students doing? How are we doing? How can we work together to help students maximize their achievement?

We place a high priority on Parent-Teacher Conferences. We value the opportunity of meeting face-to-face to discuss student progress. Because of that, we cancel school for the day in order to be available. Fifteen minute **elementary conferences** are pre-scheduled by the office. If the designated time is not good, the parent simply calls the office to reschedule. Because of the larger number of **secondary students** this year, we have expanded our conference times. We will begin Wednesday afternoon, 3:15 until 6 PM. Thursday there are two conference sessions – 9:30 – noon and 3-6 PM, in the downstairs classrooms. Parents are to go first to their child's homeroom teacher to pick up the report card and conference with that teacher. They then move around the room, meeting with each of their child's teachers for five minutes each. If a longer conference is needed or desired, another meeting time is to be scheduled with the teacher(s).

Thank you for your cooperation and attendance at the first quarter's Parent-Teacher Conferences.

A Keen Eye and Good Choices

It was a plain and simple jar, not too near, not too far.

Ah, but any gaze within, would mould a perfect grin.

For heaped up to its very brim, started multiples of m & m.

Tho' if you'd made a taste your goal, you had to guess the whole.

Getting such a number right, call for keen and sharpest sight,
Not just the skill to count, but coming closest to the right amount.

The final tally shows who'd won: a bright and happy Thoreson.

Now that sweetened perfect grin, belongs to Kimberlynn.

Your own jar of M&M's would surely be cause for thanksgiving. But there is more! The keen eye of the Librarian has select books on display for your Thanksgiving encouragement. Check them out. A thankful heart makes everyone a winner.



November Happenings

Tuesday, Nov. 1st

Red Cross Blood Drive, 2-7 PM, DCS

Friday, Nov. 4th

Last day of the quarter; early dismissal (K-11:30; 1st-3rd – 11:40; 4th-6th – 11:50; 7th-12th – noon)

Monday, Nov. 7th

School Picture Re-takes

Wednesday, Nov. 9th

Secondary Parent-Teacher Conf, 3:15 – 6 PM

Thursday, Nov. 10th

K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences, No School

Friday, Nov. 11th

Veterans' Day, No School

Friday, Nov. 18th

Pastries with the Principal, 8:30-9:30 AM & 2-3 PM

Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 23rd-25th

Thanksgiving Break