

# CHALKMARKS

A Weekly Newsletter for DCS Family & Friends

Vol. 17, Jan. 18 – 24, 2006



## *Spirit Week A Lively Affair*

Our annual Spirit Week has come and gone. Lots of activities, games, contests, and excitement. The purpose of Spirit Week is to fire up the students with school spirit and enthusiasm. Throughout the week, there are numerous activities to generate spirit. At the conclusion of the week, points for each activity, games, lip sync, talent show, wall poster, and dress-up days, are totaled up and the winning class is announced at the pre-Homecoming game pep assembly. This year's winner was the junior class. Good job, juniors!!

A highlight of the week is the class selection for Honor Court. Each high school class votes for a guy and gal in their class that best exemplifies consistent Christian testimony, respect, school spirit, and encouragement. This year's Honor Court was comprised of Freshmen Kristina R. and Seth R.; Sophomores D. Murphy and Alex W.; Juniors Sarah M. and Andrew T., and Seniors Bonnie M.s and Marc M. Congratulations to these students and their parents.

The week finished with our Homecoming games with Jewell. It was a clean sweep for DCS, with all four teams coming out victorious! It was a fitting conclusion to an exciting week. *Go Eagles!!*



## **School Commission Completes First Year**

The first-ever Damascus Christian School Commission has completed their inaugural year with significant accomplishments under their belt. All Commission members would admit it has been a learning experience. Unlike many boards, DCS has chosen to utilize the John Carver Policy Governance® model. How does this differ from other board operations? Whereas many boards try to lead through their rear view mirror by review of management practices, Policy Governance® (PG) fosters forward thinking and focuses on identifying and reaching the true results that the school wants to bring about in the lives of its students. Instead of the board (in our case, commission) telling the administrator to "Stop until we say go, a PG commission says "Go unless we've said stop." The empowerment is strong and the accountability is clear.

There are four pillars of Policy Governance®. 1. *Accountability* – the commission must hold the administrator strictly accountable for policies it has stated, but cannot hold the administrator accountable for policies it has not stated, nor can it take on itself responsibilities that belong to the administrator. 2. *Empowerment* – the commission must empower the administrator to carry out his/her responsibilities in an environment reasonably free from fear or uncertainty and must draw clear limits on the acceptable activities of the administrator. 3. *Servant Leadership* – the commission must provide strong visionary leadership and must be a servant to the school constituency. 4. *Clarity of Group Values* – a healthy commission should have rigorous diversity and members have freedom to express divergent opinions. The commission only has authority when it is functioning and speaking as a group; individual members have no independent authority at all. The commission must speak clearly with one voice.

So what has the commission accomplished thus far? First, each member participated in rigorous training utilizing the Policy Governance® model. They have established operational By Laws. They have formulated an initial DCS Commission policy of which they are now reviewing and reworking. They have developed a ministry description for the administrator and are in process of an administrative evaluation (the first in 30 years!!). They have developed an alumni survey to help assess the effectiveness of DCS in preparing our graduates for their next phase of life. They are learning to interface with other DCC Commissions (Stewardship and Facilities). They are preparing to give input in the formulation of next year's budget as well as developing policies regarding student financial aid. Looking ahead, the DCS Commission is seeking direction on future development and vision.

Current Commission members include Rob Young, Chairman, Dave Jeske, Vice-Chair, Rachel DeYoung Davidson, secretary, John Dunbar, Treasurer, Zach Davidson, Jo Nielsen, and Ed Rolph. Pastor Steve Hardy and school administrator Tim Oakley serve as non-voting, ex-officio members. Please pray for our school commission as they seek to be responsible stewards for Damascus Christian School.

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If you would like to sit in on a Commission meeting, the general sessions are open to the public. They meet the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:45 PM, in the Friendship Center. If you have any suggestions or comments for the commission, those may be left in the School Commission box in the school office.



~AUCTION ACTION~  
2006

*Touch a Heart with Art*



Yes, *Auction Action* is back! I know that many of you are cheering that this newsy article is finally weaving its way back into *Chalkmarks*. I am resting assured that it has been sorely missed. I hope that each of you are excited about the upcoming articles which will hold you spellbound as you read pithy tidbits concerning our DCS Auction 2006.

Here is your first pithy tidbit. The mascot of DCS is the Eagle. I would like to give you some eagle facts and then follow up with some Eagle opportunities.

At the ripe old age of three months, baby eagles begin to get special feathers they will need for flying. The mother eagle then will fly into the nest and begin to thrash around causing a great commotion. Eventually, one of the babies will fall out of the nest and begin heading for the earth below. Never having used his wings before, he's not really sure what to do, but does do lots of flapping while heading straight down!! Just before the baby hits the ground, the mother eagle flies underneath in order to catch the baby on her powerful wings and she flies him safely back to the nest. This continues day-after-day until all the babies learn to fly. Deuteronomy 32:10-11 makes reference to this. So many times, we are quite comfortable in our little "nest". It might be our way of doing things, our way of thinking, our opinions, or our way of living life in general. Then, when God comes and stirs up our nest, we get upset. We don't always identify this as a growing experience. Sometimes, if we are really honest, we really don't want to grow. We get very complacent and satisfied with where we are and any interruptions are viewed as negative. But God wants us to fly, to become all that He intends for us to become. He never stirs up our nest without good reason to do so.

There are many life lessons to be learned from the eagle. I will be sharing some of these from time to time in our Auction Action articles. If you want to learn about

the noble eagle with your own eyes, we have some great opportunities for you to do so at the DCS Auction. There are vacation homes you can rent and take your family/friends so you can make eagle observations on your own. Here are a few examples of rentals up for auction so far:

- 1) Two nights at EAGLE CREST in Redmond.
- 2) Seven nights in a seven bedroom home with Jacuzzi in LaPine
- 3) Two nights in a beautiful home at Ft. Stevens
- 4) Three nights in Sun River

This is an opportunity you will NOT want to miss out on!! EACH of these vacation homes are wonderful places to observe the noble eagle, the mascot of DCS. You can rent one of these homes for a personal spiritual retreat, or you can take your family and enjoy eagle watching along with other activities. These rental homes are just a small taste of what is offered at the DCS Auction this year.

You will NOT want to miss this year's auction. All of the proceeds go to our Fine Arts department, thus the theme, "Touch a Heart with Art". Tickets go on sale Monday, January 23. They are \$17.50 each. Be sure to call the school office to reserve your ticket NOW. Also, if you are able to help with the auction or make a donation, please call the school office. They will pass that information along to our Auction Chairperson, Dorian Forrar.



## DCS Elementary Chapel Program Selected By ACSI As Exemplary School

We have received word that our elementary chapel program, Family Chapel, has been selected as a 2006 ACSI *Exemplary School Program* winner! This means DCS, along with other winners, will be featured in the April edition of *Christian School Education* magazine.

We are excited about our Family Chapel program featuring our sixth graders leading Family Chapel groups, made up of younger students, kindergarten through fourth grades. Fifth grade students act as interns, learning how to lead from the example of our sixth graders.

Congratulations to our elementary chapel program and elementary chapel coordinator, Carroll Klingbile.