

Chalkmarks

A Weekly Newsletter for DCS Family and Friends

Vol. 24, March 15 - 21, 2006

Auction 2006 – The Best Just Keeps Getting Better!

The 6th Annual Damascus Christian School Auction took place amidst red and black balloons suspended in white netting. Touch A Heart With Art! was this year's dramatic theme, with a portion of the auction proceeds going to the DCS Fine Arts Department – drama, vocal choir, band, and visual arts. A second, specific amount has been designated for the DCS Student Financial Aid program.

It was obvious that DCS parents and friends came to support the school through their generous bidding. This year's designated item – student financial aid – received \$16,100 plus a \$10,000 matching gift from four anonymous donors. The unofficial end-of-evening auction total was \$53,300! Of course, deducted from that total will be the auction expenses.

All-in-all, it was a delightful and successful evening and we wish to thank all who generously participated. Comments included, "The food was plentiful and good." "There was a very positive spirit present. It was fun!" "We were so excited to see so many people!" "We appreciated the auctioneer not belaboring the big-ticket items." "Everything was great - the food, the service, the items to bid on. The whole atmosphere was special!"

And it was. Again, thanks to all who pitched in to help make this the best ever DCS auction. A special thanks goes to Dorian Forrar, auction coordinator, and his faithful (and busy!) crew. You did an outstanding job!!!

A REFRESHING PERSPECTIVE

Book review by Katie Dennis (DCS alumni, jr. at Corban College)
A good book allows you to create new thoughts, but a great book takes each of your thoughts and organizes them for you allowing things to finally make sense. Blue Like Jazz, by Donald Miller, accomplishes this in a unique way. People say, "It's nothing like anything I've ever read." The book is a journal covering Miller's life-changing and thought provoking experiences. You can't get enough of the honesty – you begin to thirst for it. Holly, a junior in college, notes that, "Don Miller's candidness is refreshing! He strips away all of the presumptions and superficial attitudes associated with Christianity and brings the focus back to what really matters – loving God and loving others."

Growing up in the Northwest, Don Miller refers to places that are close to home, in our hearts and our lives. Why the unusual title? He explains, "I never liked jazz music because it doesn't resolve. But sometimes you have to watch somebody love something before you can love it yourself. I used to not like God because God didn't resolve. But that was before any of this happened." Unbelievers and fellow Christians alike can benefit from Blue Like Jazz. I would strongly encourage you to find out for yourself what is this fascinating perspective of Christianity known as Blue Like Jazz.

This book is available for check-out at your DCS Library.



Spring Flowers Bring Joy

Spring is just around the corner and the freshman class is here to help! This energetic class of 37 students will be having a plant sale to help offset the cost of their Washington, D.C. trip. This sale runs now through March 17th, so don't delay in getting your order in from one of the freshmen students. There is a wonderful variety of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, geraniums, planters and hanging baskets. Delivery date is set for April 21st (just in time to get Mother's Day gifts ahead of time!). Any questions call LeAnn Teixeira at (503) 6565-4325. Thanks!!

POSITIVE COMMENT FROM BAKER CITY TOURNAMENT

The following comment was part of a longer dialogue found last week on OregonLive.com, written by a Mohawk alumnus. "The ONLY school that I think was exempt from the poor behavior was DCS. You deserve every award you received. You are the classiest bunch I have ever seen in Baker. You lead by example and I hope we all will follow. Your kindness and graciousness speaks volumes about you and your character and integrity. I think maybe you have done more than win a championship. You have shown the state of Oregon what high school sports should be about. I am very thankful." We too, are thankful for the very positive impact the DCS students, parents, and friends had at the tournament. Thank you!



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY ESSAY

As reported in our February 22nd issue of Chalkmarks, two of our high school students won awards through the Veterans of Foreign Wars essay contest. The theme for this year's contest was "How Do I Demonstrate My Freedom?" We published a portion of Erin Huggins' essay; we will complete that next week. This week we will share Amy Young's written piece.

"You're free to dance, forget about your two left feet and you're free to sing even joyful noise is music to me..." As this popular song states, we are unfettered in many different and unique ways, and we will not be punished for our behavior as long as it is not harmful to others. If anyone asked me which freedoms I considered most essential and which ones I expressed regularly in my life, I would

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identify the freedoms of religion, speech, and association.

The most important reality in my life is my relationship with Jesus Christ. Without freedom of religion, I would not be able to talk, sing, or pray to my Lord and Savior except perhaps in private or secret. For example, I may arrive at school and enter my class somewhat downcast, and my teacher asks if anyone has prayer requests. I am free to raise my hand and share what is on my heart without being in a clandestine setting or being ridiculed for my actions. In many places in the world, this simple action might get me sent to prison. Here in the United States, children and adults alike are able to say that our nation is one under God. Even our money is engraved with 'In God We Trust,' which phrase, if written in many countries, would also land you a spot in prison.

Like the aforementioned freedom, the ability to speak unreservedly is close to my heart. I am a girl, and I love to talk. One of the most powerful elements of a democracy resides in this essential underlying right. Allowed to stand up for what I believe is true and correct, I am permitted to give my opinion, even if it is not a popular idea."

Continued next week...

