

Damascus Christian School Chalkmarks

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR DCS
FAMILY AND FRIENDS



PEACE ON EARTH

AUCTION ACTION *Being A Fragrance For Christ*

*A Christmas candle is a lovely thing;
It makes no noise at all,
But softly gives itself away;
While quite unselfish, it grows small.*

Christmas is my favorite holiday. It is such a beautiful time of the year. I love to have my morning quiet time with only the Christmas tree lights on. I love sitting in my rocking chair, reflecting the goodness of my Savior, drinking my fresh coffee. It doesn't get any better than that. I also love the picture of this little poem above portraits, the picture of softness, and the

giving of self away. Also, a candle, as it gives itself away, it fills the room with fragrance. We are the fragrance of Christ when we give ourselves away softly to those who don't believe, and to our brothers and sisters who do believe.

I have an idea that could help you live out one of the meanings of Christmas; doing that little extra thing that will be the sweet fragrance of Christ to those who are working so hard to make this year's DCS Auction be the best ever. The auction will be here before we know it. I'm offering you the opportunity to "give yourself away softly", to give out the fragrance of Christ during this season. The way you can do that is to offer yourself and some of your time to help one of the many DCS Auction teams. The procurement team is DES-

Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone.
Charles Schulz

PERATE for people who will even take a few moments of time to make some phone calls or

(Continued on page 2)

Christmas Shopping ~~ Some Cautions ~~



With the huge push to have the latest electronic gadget and game, caution needs to be utilized in what to get and more importantly, what to stay away from this Christmas season. According to a new study from the Indiana University School of Medicine, they monitored brain activity in children with no history of behavioral problems. What they discovered was increased evidence of "emotional arousal" and "decreased responses in regions that govern self-control" when teens played particularly violent, as opposed to merely fast-action, video games. While the research did find short-term effects on the brain, professors

admit that further studies are needed to establish a credible link between violent games and actual aggression. As violence levels and virtual realism increase in these games that dominate so much youthful time, more studies are urgently needed. As a parent, one thing is for sure – science doesn't need to find further proof that, when it comes to children's entertainment, caution is the name of the game. (excerpt from Family Research Council)

~~~~~  
Mid-Term Reports go home Wednesday,  
December 6th  
~~~~~

SCRIP **SCRIP** **SCRIP**

Remember Scrip for Christmas shopping. Next week is the last time it's available before the new year!

Points of Interest:

Auction News	1
Shop for Christmas	1
Movie Thoughts . . . <i>Happy Feet vs. The Nativity Story</i>	2
Bits & Pieces	
Winter Banquet	2
December Chapel	
Basketball Season	



Feet Not So Happy – Beware!

“Previews for *Happy Feet* give moviegoers no idea what they are in for. For half of the one-hour, 40-minute flick, *Happy Feet* (rated PG for mild peril and rude humor) behaves like a traditional children’s animated film. It’s beautiful. It’s filled with talking animals. It’s cute, although somewhat nonsensical. But with about 40 minutes remaining, *Happy Feet* takes a most displeasing turn – one so harsh and unnecessary, parents should avoid taking children to the film.”

So says John Dawson, movie writer for *World Magazine* (*The Buzz Culture, Bait and Switch*, p. 14, December 2, 2006). Mr. Dawson goes on to say that the movie turns from “...an ebullient musical to a heavy-handed message movie that feels distracted and especially angry. There is nothing happy about the last 40 minutes as George Miller (filmmaker) unleashes a political screed aimed at overfishing and human littering, among other things.” He concludes his article by stating, “It’s dark and sad in ways that children – especially young children – won’t understand. And parents won’t see it coming – it’s all bait for an environmentalist and anti-religion presentation that could make some moviegoers wonder if they accidentally stepped into Al Gore’s *An Inconvenient Truth*. Beware.”

We **would** recommend taking your family to see “The Nativity Story.” As one writer said, “The Nativity Story’ is a movie with everything: drama, action, romance, history and miracles – a sure bet to edge out the shallow, same old ‘pretend-Christmas’ offerings. The movie provides plenty of material for great family discussion.”

So unplug the penguins and take your family to something that you will find edifying, encouraging and refreshing – “The Nativity Story.”

 (Continued from page 1) 

other small things that will help procure items for our silent auction. Why not give the gift of yourself this Christmas season and talk to Dorian Forrar about what you can do to help with procurement? I guarantee if you do, you will be the fragrance of Christ to that team.

Another way you can “give yourself away softly” would be to offer to head up the class projects. This is also a DESPERATE need. OR, you could help with the “drop boxes” that will be available after the Christmas break. There are so many areas in which you can give yourself away softly, giving off the fragrance of Christ to those who do believe, your brothers and sisters who are heading up the many different teams it takes to make the auction successful. Remember, when a candle gives itself away softly, it spreads its fragrance around for the benefit of others. Do you want to be like that candle, giving yourself away softly by helping with the DCS Auction 2007, so that you will not be the personification of the quote below:

“A Merry Christmas, Uncle! God save you!” cried a cheerful voice. “Bah!” said Scrooge. “Humbug!”
--Charles Dickens (*A Christmas Carol*).

Don’t be a Scrooge, call the DCS school office right away! Tell them that you want to be a working part of this

year’s DCS Auction 2007, *Equipping for Excellence!* YOU will make a definite difference for the students at DCS!

Winter Banquet Reminder

Just a reminder that this year’s DCHS Winter Banquet will be Monday, December 18th, rather than the published date on our calendar of Tuesday, December 19th. All other information remains the same - Lakeside Gardens, 6:00-9:30 PM, \$28 per person. For further information, contact student council advisor Mitzie Tillstrom or a student council member.



December Chapels

Elementary Chapel – Wednesday, December 6th - Monthly Character Awards and Family Chapel; December 13th - 2nd Grade Chapel presentation - 8:35 AM

Secondary Chapel - Friday, December 8th - Mike Mai and *News Release* report and special presentations from the Sandy Post of the Veterans’ of Foreign Wars, 12:35 PM.

Let The Games Begin!

Yep! It’s that time of year - basketball. This past weekend our high school varsity teams traveled to Sherman County to compete in their invitational tournament with Culver, Joseph, Sherman County and Wahtonka. According to one parent who accompanied the team, “The weather was cold - 22° - but the town of Moro gave us a very warm reception. They were great!”



Our girls split their two games losing to Joseph and beating Culver. They finished third in the tournament. Our boys won both their games - Joseph and Sherman County.

This Friday our varsity *Eagles* play at Southwest Christian - girls at 5:30 and boys at 7 PM. The JV teams will be at 2:30 (girls) and 4 (boys). Saturday the varsity teams play Mapleton at DCS with the girls tipping off at 1:30 and the boys at 3 PM. **Go Eagles!**



“He’s tall, so he can help us under the boards. The only thing that bothers me is that stupid smile on his face.”