

CHALKMARKS

A weekly Newsletter for Damascus Christian School Family & Friends
September 13 – September 19, 2006

Visit our Website at www.damascuschristianschool.org or email us at DCS@damascusc.org

Back-To-School Night This Friday

This is our first complete week of school. As of Monday, the kindergarteners and seniors joined us for a full house. Excitement is high for students and staff. We anticipate a great year.

To help get everyone off on the same foot, we will be hosting our annual Back-To-School Parent Night this Friday starting in the auditorium, beginning at 7 PM (*there will be a video presentation beginning at 6 PM, for parents with students in our athletic program; if you missed the first showing in August, you need to be present for this.*). This is a must-attend evening for parents only; we request that at least one parent from each family be present. We will introduce the staff, review some important policies and procedures, and then dismiss the parents of kindergarten through eighth grade students to the classrooms where they will meet with the teachers. Those parents with students in ninth and tenth graders will meet with Mrs. Urbanowski to discuss our next Washington, D.C. trip. Parents with students in eleventh and twelfth grades will remain in the auditorium to cover information crucial to the latter high school years. We anticipate the evening going no longer than 8:45 PM.

Parent-Student Handbooks and 2006-2007 School Family Directories will also be distributed to each family. In addition, there will be information on the various volunteer opportunities available. We will begin promptly at 7 PM. Again, parents only.



DCS Mission – To Assist Christian Parents

The Damascus Christian School Mission Statement says that *the school exists to assist Christian parents in the Biblical training of their 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.* That is it – the school is here to support and reinforce the training and modeling our parents give in the home. Research has repeatedly shown that the home - Dad and Mom – are the most influential persons in a child's life. George Barna in his book *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions* states, "...if you want to shape a person's life – whether you are most concerned about his or her moral, spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional or economic development – it is during these crucial eight years (5-to 12 years old) that lifelong habits, values, beliefs and attitudes are formed." It is during these crucial eight years that parents have the opportunity and responsibility to train, teach and model Biblical behavior and attitudes. Barna concludes that by the age of 13, their core beliefs and values are set and "The chances of seeing the worldviews of young people change to be more reflective of biblical trust are slim." (*Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions*, George Barna, Regal, 2003, p.37)

Deuteronomy 6 makes it very clear that it is the principle responsibility of parents to be purposefully involved in the intentional training of their children. Parents are to take every opportunity to instruct and demonstrate what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. In order for us as parents to be effective Christian role models, we must be students of God's Word – studying and meditating upon it, asking the Holy Spirit to illumine and instruct us in righteous living, and be willing to forsake those habits and behaviors that are clearly opposite of God's expectations. Only then can we truly say to our children, "Follow me because I follow Jesus."



Damascus Christian School exists to assist Christian parents in helping their children in the spiritual formation process. The school is not here to take on that full responsibility; rather, we are here to reinforce the biblical training the child is learning

at home. We consider it a privilege to partner with parents in this crucial endeavor.



Friday Feast Is Coming...With Your Help



Friday Feast is the weekly distribution of food for our students. It gives Mom a break from preparing lunch and it provides a treat for the children. If you are interested in helping, there will be a meeting this Thursday, September 14th, at 8:30 AM, in the Friendship Center. We will be sharing about Friday Feast which is a two-hour commitment one Friday a month.

Women's Fall Retreat Info

Damascus Community Church will be sponsoring its annual women's fall retreat entitled Girlfriend Getaway 2006 September 22-24 at the Cannon Beach Conference Center. The cost is \$130.

September Sports' Schedules

September is here and with it comes DCS sports – cross country, soccer and volleyball. Below is a calendar of games.

Cross Country (9-12 Grades)

Saturday, Sept. 16th @ La Salle HS, TBA
Saturday, Sept. 23rd @ Seaside, 3 PM
Monday, Sept. 25th @ Catlin Gable HS, 5 PM
Saturday, Sept. 30th @ Bryant Park, 10:10 PM



Varsity Soccer (9-12 Grades)

Monday, Sept. 18th @ City CHS, 4:15 PM
Tuesday, Sept. 26th @ Portland Adventist, 4:15
Thursday, Sept. 28th @ Portland Christian HS, 6 PM

Jr. High Soccer (all at 4:15 PM)

Tuesday, Sept. 19th @ NCCS
Tuesday, Sept. 26 @ Open Door
Friday, Sept. 29 @ Corbett



Varsity Volleyball (9-12 Grades)

Tues., Sept 19 @ DCHS, 5:30
Thurs., Sept. 21st @ City CS, 5:30
Sat., Sept. 23 @ Columbia CS, 1:30
Tues., Sept. 26 @ Open Door CS, 5:30
Thurs., Sept. 28 @ DCHS, 5:30
Sat., Sept. 30 @ Columbia CS, 8 AM



Jr. High Volleyball

Fri., Sept. 15 @ DCS, 4 PM
Mon., Sept. 18 @ Eastside, 4
Fri., Sept. 22 @ DCS, 4
Tues., Sept. 26 @ DCS, 4
Thurs., Sept. 28 @ DCS, 4

Elementary Volleyball (5-6 Grades)

Thurs., Sept. 14 @ DCS, 4 PM; Tues., Sept. 19 @ Trinity Lutheran, 4; Thurs., Sept. 21 @ DCS, 4; Tues., Sept. 26 @ Good Shepherd, 4; Thurs., Sept. 28 @ Country CS, 4 PM