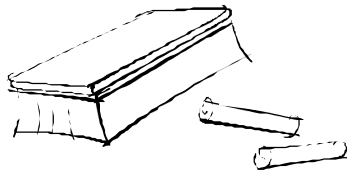


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CARPE AETERNITAS
SEIZE ETERNITY



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ChalkMarks

Home of the Eagles



Damascus Christian School

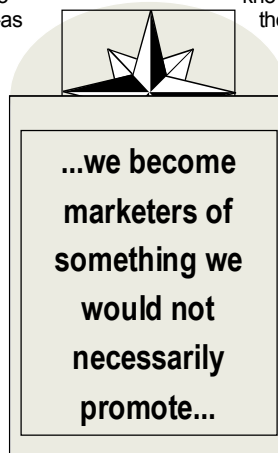
A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR
DCS FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Media Comment—to recommend or condemn?

Damascus Community Church (and Damascus Christian School) are being asked often for a “stand” on current concerns in the culture or Christian sub-culture. This takes a number of forms, such as being asked to recommend and promote things like movies or books, other times to condemn or join in a boycott of some kind. With the numbers of “products” out in the media, cultural comment could become an all-consuming endeavor! Such comment also carries with it certain real concerns.

One concern is that we consciously or unconsciously become a marketing tool for certain enterprises. Sometimes we are asked to do so outright, such as when the church (and school) are asked to promote a particular movie. Other times we become marketers of something we would not necessarily promote because of an extreme negative reaction that leads to increased media coverage and popular curiosity. Either way, the high purposes of the church (and school) easily become lost in the clamor, our message muddled, and the focus on Jesus Christ and the Gospel is diminished.

Another concern has to do with our mission to call and equip people to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ. To become faithful, those who Scriptures and become discerning—as who “have trained themselves to It seems at times the church is one, a role that was given to indwelling Holy Spirit. Too quickly church or its representatives begodly, biblical thinking on the part of



know Christ must be encouraged to know the book of Hebrews describes it, believers distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:14). called on to be the conscience for every- individuals guided by the Scriptures and the the positive or negative comment of the comes the answer, rather than provoking the believer.

Finally, it is rare that something time. Something that might be inap- to provoke serious discussion and clear from the book of Hebrews that of subject matter (5:11-14). Further, that simple comment, to recom- everyone and every situation, is not

is fully good or bad, for all believers all the propiate for a young person may be used thought for the more mature. Again, it is maturity level impacts the appropriateness most things are complicated to the extent mend or to condemn something in total, for sufficient.

A couple of present illustrations Shack has many talking about the story and the portrayal of the Trinity aspect of the nature of God. Yet in the story, that love is not balanced with the reality of God’s justice, and there seems no room or necessity for God’s righteous judgment of sin or sinners. The door is open for one to be drawn to conclusions about the nature of God, the present condition and future of individuals, or other theo- logical perspectives that are not aligned with Scripture.

may clarify the point. The popularity of The pros and cons of the book. For many, the has been a valuable reminder of the loving

Also popular in the media at this time is the movie “Expelled”. This gains wide acclaim for its disclosure of the bias in educational institutions against those scientists who favor intelligent design as the way to under- stand origins. That may be a very positive aspect to the production, but do we endorse the spirit and attitudes portrayed in the movie? Would we embrace association with the narrator of the film, and possibly other things he has worked on, without any disclaimer? Is the production a good reflection of the spirit of Christ, and does it further the work Christ called his church to embrace?

Do we take a stand to recommend or condemn when such things come into the cultural focus? Our prefer- ence as leaders of Damascus Community Church has been to encourage people to encounter the culture and its products asking, “But what does the Scripture say?” The Word of God is the truth (John 17:17). Our theo-logy should be derived from that source of truth, and our methodology aligned with its teaching and the spirit of God revealed. Believers are to be discerning, trained to think critically with a biblically informed mind. We endeavor to maintain a focus on Jesus Christ, and the good news of forgiveness and eternal life he came to pro- vide and offer us through his death, burial, and resurrection.

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. Jesus, John 17:15-17

Damascus Community Church Elder Council

This & That

Teachers Pampered Last Week



Teacher Appreciation Week comes once a year and this year a group of parents took it on with enthusiasm, creativity, and generosity. Each day last week these good-hearted DCS Moms made sure the teachers and staff knew they were appreciated. Monday, the Teachers' Lounge was decorated with school colored crepe streamers, balloons, and stars. The tables were laden with wonderful goodies and treats. Tuesday, the staff was treated to specialty coffee drinks. Wednesday we enjoyed a Potato Bar lunch; Thursday it was a Taco Bar. Delicious! Our thanks to these wonderful parents for their servant's hearts in making sure the DCS staff knew they are loved and appreciated. Thanks!

Thank You

Cinderella Spectacular!

"This was the best thing I've ever seen! I was blown away! It was fantastic! It took me back to my high school years when I was in The Sound of Music but this was so much better! I would go again and again!" Comment from a parent of a Cinderella cast member? Nope. Remark by the director? Naw. Commentary from someone running for public office? No way. Statement issued by the Oscar and Hammerstein press office? No. This was an unsolicited call from a person in the Damascus community who attended Thursday night's performance of our spring production of Cinderella. She called the school office early Friday morning to express her appreciation for what she had seen the previous evening. Most likely, those who have seen the DCS presentation would agree with her. It is outstanding!

Because of the large cast turn-out, **Mrs. Closner** was able to double-cast – she has almost two complete casts for the various parts. Is one cast better than the other? Absolutely not. Each is different and unique and brings a particular flavor and flair to their evening's performance. You walk away from the presentation shaking your head and saying to yourself, "That was



unbelievable. What a fantastic feat! Each year just seems to get better and better."

There are still a few tickets left for this week's presentations. Tickets are available before and after school in the foyer or in the school office during the day. Adults - \$9; students and senior citizens - \$6. Do not miss it! Or you may turn in to a pumpkin...

Watch next week's edition of Chalkmarks to see how God is working in this play. Amazing!

2008 DCS 8th Annual Basketball Clinic For Boys and Girls Grades 2-5

When: Tuesday through Friday, May 27, 28, 29, 30,

Time: 3:15-4:45 (Kids may come and hang in the gym after school until the camp starts. There will be supervision.)

Where: Damascus Christian School Gym

Who: Damascus Women's high school basketball team will be putting on their annual basketball clinic for boys and girls currently in grades 2-5.

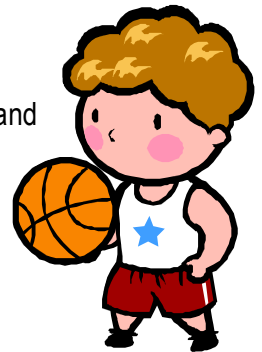
What: A fundamentals/skills camp

Cost: \$25 (Scholarships available)

Ages: Currently in Grades 2-5 (boys and girls)

Medical Release Forms: Each child must have a medical release form filled out to be able to participate.

Questions: Call DCS—503.658.4100



More in the world of writing

Back in the fall, numbers of **Mrs. Huggin's English and Creative Writing students** participated in the Letters About Literature (LAL), a national reading and writing promotion program sponsored by The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and Target. Those students who entered the contest wrote a letter to a favorite author sharing why a work of that particular author was meaningful to them.

Of the almost 1,100 Oregon students who took part in LAL, two DCS students, **Danny R.** and **Lexi Y.**, were selected as State Semi-Finalists and received an award certificate and a \$10 bookstore gift card. **Way to go!**

