

Home of the Eagles



CARPE AETERNITAS ~ Seize Eternity

Changes

Ecclesiastes reminds us there is an appointed time for everything and a time for every event under heaven. Some of these times are of refreshing and delight. Others are difficult and painful. We each have our share of both – the uplifting and bracing times as well as the thorny and challenging periods. So it is with our school families. Numbers are now experiencing things that are greatly encouraging while others are struggling with the trying circumstances in which they find themselves.

Two families in particular are facing health issues – the **Lampinen's** and the **Rankin's**. **Karen's** health and strength continues to deteriorate. She is at home and under the care of Hospice and her family. Aside from God's direct healing intervention, it appears she will soon be ushered into the Lord's presence.

Eli R., fourth grade son of **Phil** and **Sue Rankin**, has been diagnosed with Nodular Sclerosis Hodgkin Lymphoma cancer. He will be undergoing a number of tests this week to give them a base line and then begin chemo therapy next week. The chemo is expected to run five to six months. Children respond well to chemo and the prognosis

is favorable. During this time, Eli will be home schooled; Mrs. Rankin has taken a leave of absence from her kindergarten position and expected to return to that duty next fall. Her position will be filled for the remainder of the year by former DCS 1st grade teacher **Kristine Gandara**. You can access the latest information from the Rankin's by going to www.caringbridge.org/visit/elirankin.

Please pray for these two situations in particular. Also be aware that a number of families are struggling in other areas – health, finances, and relationships - and would appreciate your faithful prayer support. Thank you.



ChalkMarks reminder

Effective January 7, 2009, we will no longer be distributing class-wide hard copies of *ChalkMarks* to go home. We are looking for ways to economize, both time and financially, and this will save both. *ChalkMarks* can be accessed through our website, www.damascuschristianschool.org. No more searching backpacks for those crumpled up copies of *ChalkMarks*! Just go to the DCS website.



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Elementary students capture character awards



Each month, the elementary teachers select various students from their class to receive recognition for three character award categories. For November, the following students received certificates acknowledging their accomplishments.

David Award – given to students who demonstrate a heart after the Lord – **Kindergarten** – McKenna P., **1st grade** – Brenner H., **2nd grade** – Shane A., **3rd grade** – Joshua M., **4th grade** – Beau M., **5th grade** – Emily B., and **6th grade** – Lexi G. The **Solomon Award** – given to students

who have shown wisdom in the choices they have made – **1st grade** – Ben P., **2nd grade** – Gabriel J., **3rd grade** – Micah G., **4th grade** – Silas M., **5th grade** – Bonnie M., and **6th grade** – Cyrus R. The **Paul Award** – given for demonstrating a fruit of the Spirit, patience - **Kindergarten** – Aaron S., **1st grade** – Jonathan B., **2nd** – Kennedy H., **3rd** – Samantha W., **4th** – Luke DeW, **5th** – Hunter S., and **6th** – Megan G.

Christmas care shown in different ways

Each class, kindergarten through high school, seeks various ways they can be a light to others, especially during the Christmas season. Their efforts range from preparing food baskets for the local fire departments to distribute to needy families, to food and gift packages for the men and women serving our country in the armed forces. Some classes visit shut-ins and those in care facilities, ministering through music, conversation, and small gifts. Other classes select a young person through the Youth Guidance Association *Light Up A Life* program where they can select the name of a young person who has experienced neglect, abandonment,



abuse or family fractures, and donate a gift for that person. This is being coordinated through our Key Club program.

Christmas chapel and concert – a great way to prepare for Christmas



On Thursday, December 11, the Advanced Band, Jazz Band, and Hallel will be presenting an all-school Christmas Chapel, 8:35 AM, in the auditorium. The Christmas Chapel program will include both sacred and secular Christmas music. There are seven vocalists in HALEL and 26 students in the Advanced Band. The Jazz Band is made up of 18 members from the Advanced Band and meets every Monday morning for rehearsal. This

will be the first performance for the Jazz Band at DCS.

On Friday, December 12, our band and choir students will be presenting our Christmas Program at 7 PM. The music groups performing are beginning band, intermediate band, advanced band, jazz band, and HALEL Singers. The program will include many Christmas carols with 63 band students and 7 vocal students. That is over 40% of all the

students in grades 5-12. The music groups have made wonderful progress this year. Invite all of your family and friends to join us in this traditional Christmas celebration, Friday, December 12th, 7 PM, in the auditorium!



Cold weather could mean school delay or closure



As we head into the winter months, we need to remind you of the procedures for school delay or closure. In the event of inclement weather, tune in by 7:30 AM to Portland area radio or TV stations for the *School Closure Report*. You will not be personally notified of such.

If you feel the roads in your area

are unsafe and choose to keep your child home, that will be recorded as an excused absence. If we feel we must close during the school day due to rapidly deteriorating weather conditions, we will notify and TV/radio stations so they can put DCS on their *School Closure Reports*. It will also be posted on RenWeb and our website.

Please review our entire policy and procedure for school closure on page 35 of your Parent-Student Handbook. Please wait for the official school closure report; **students are not to phone for parents to pick them up**. Thanks!