

**DAMASCUS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
CHALKMARKS
HOME OF THE EAGLES**



The Heart Of Education is Education of the Heart

I Resolve That This Year I Will...

Another new year – bright, shiny, untarnished, untried. Many of us set about to make new resolves – to be better, to try harder, to be more generous, loving, caring, fit, and focused. For most, these well intended commitments begin to fade and are soon cast aside as a variety of pressures, pleasures, pitfalls, and pursuits engage us. What began as a purposeful ideal soon becomes a definite maybe or a promise to give it more effort next year.

Old habits die hard. Replacement *patterns* are difficult to incorporate. For most of us, change is tough. I have an idea.

Why not set some goals that are realistic to achieve, incremental in nature, short-term in design, and move you in a definite, positive direction throughout the course of this new year? Why not make *monthly* goals and resolves?

Rather than telling yourself (and perhaps others) that this year you are going to lose 65 pounds, run 50 miles a day, climb Mt. Everest, read your Bible 3 hours every day, and cook nothing but gourmet meals for your family, why not seek to set resolutions that are achievable over a relatively short period of time, move you out of your comfort zone (but not unrealistically far), have an element of fun built in, includes your family (or portions there of), and are measurable?

Examples? One couple set the following as their 2009 resolves: January – reduce the consumption of sugar. February – study Scripture every day. March – no meat. April – finish two house projects. May – visit four Northwest sites. June – bike 150 miles. July – hike four new-to-them trails. August – unplug the TV. September – buy nothing but the essentials. October – try out four new-to-them local restaurants. November – learn something new. December – start and finish four books.

How did they do? Check it out for yourself by going to



www.ed-emily.blogspot.com. And they have a new list for this year. This might give you some fresh ideas that will help motivate you to a stronger and healthier lifestyle and a closer walk with the Lord. You might even find that you will choose to continue some of them throughout the ensuing year(s) (reading Scripture each day would be a great one to maintain!).

Start today. Make a list of possible activities and projects; hone it down to the twelve most beneficial and doable. Be realistic. Enlist an accountability partner. If you would like, send me a list of what you have come up with (timoakley@damascuscc.org). Could it be shared with others? Have fun.

DCS Family Update

Please continue to pray for **Danette Schneider** and her family as they work through the realities of treating her aggressive cancerous brain lesions. This has brought about many changes in their routines and priorities. Pray for wisdom and strength as **Jeff** and **Danette** seek to incorporate the many changes they must make to deal with this issue. Pray too, for **Aaron** and **Amy** as they process these changes in their own first and fourth grade ways. For daily information and inspiration, check out www.caringbridge.org/visit/danetteschneider.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST ON NEXT PAGE

- ⇒ WINTER BANQUET RECAP
- ⇒ JANUARY EVENTS & HAPPENINGS
- ⇒ COLD AIR REROUTED
- ⇒ SCRIP—GOT IT? GET IT!

Winter Banquet Recap

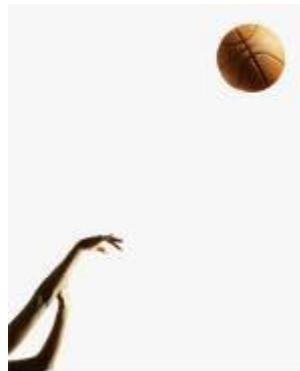
Saturday, December 19th, was the date for our annual Damascus Christian High School Winter Banquet gathering. This affair is designed by our Student Council to give our ninth through twelfth graders an excuse to dress up, eat great food, and enjoy a fun social time together. On the night of the banquet, 60 high schoolers showed up to enjoy the evening festivities. In a step to reduce expenses, council advisor **Alisa Thompson** and her faithful crew put together a different venue and format for this year's banquet. Rather than going to a local restaurant, they held the event at Alisa's church, Good Roots. The food was prepared and served by our own **Lisa McEnany**. Various individual and group-oriented games were enjoyed by all. Follow-up comments by the students were favorable and enthusiastic. Good job, Miss Thompson and the DCHS Student Council!



January Events and Happenings

Even though January is considered a "slow" month in school parlance, there are many things happening at Damascus Christian. Basketball is in full swing as our junior high through high school teams compete in regularly scheduled games. Our 7th and 8th graders open their season this Thursday with two each girls and boys teams. The girls' I team will be playing at Open Door at 4 PM, while the girls' II team hosts Portland Lutheran at 5:30. The boys' I team will play at Open Door with a 5:30 tip-off time; the boys' II will play at DCS against Portland Lutheran at 7 PM. For a full schedule of our junior high games, check out our website at www.damascuschristianschool.org.

Our high school teams started their season back in November, so have several games under their belts.



The girls and boys teams are currently ranked #2 in the Valley 10 League standings. This Friday, we host Life Christian starting with our JV boys at 4PM, followed by the varsity girls at 5:30, and varsity boys at 7. If you enjoy fast-paced run and gun-type basketball, then you will

want to be present to catch all the Eagle games. Why not make it a family outing enjoying a tasty dinner from the DCS Snack Shack (proceeds go towards our athletic program) along with exciting basketball? For a full high school schedule, check out the DCS website listed. **Go Eagles!!!**



Friday, January 15th, is the end of our first semester – half the school year completed. That will be an early dismissal for students (kindergarten, 11:30; 1st-3rd – 11:40; 4th-6th – 11:50, 7th-12th – noon).



Monday, January 18th, is Martin Luther King Day – no school.



Thursday, January 21st – report cards will be sent home with students.



Friday through Saturday, January 25th – 29th, is Spirit Week culminated with our Honor Court presentation and the Homecoming games with St. Paul on Saturday, January 30th.

All of this plus regular classes, weekly elementary and secondary chapels, Friday Feasts, Scrip, clubs, and other events. Again, check out our website for a listing of all monthly calendar happenings.

Cold Air Rerouted

For some time our cold air return ducts on the lower level of the main building have been collecting winter water and thus posed a potential health issue. Over the Christmas Break, Gohman Mechanical ran new ducting and decommissioned the old ducts. Problem solved.



Got Scrip?

Be sure to order each week and be included in periodic drawings for valuable Scrip gift cards. In addition, the school benefits financially as the various vendors send along a portion of their profits which then go to directly benefit our educational endeavors.



Just a note ~ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they are sticking to their diets.