

Excelsior

August/September 2008

Special points of interest:

- August, September, October, and November dates inside
- Look for volunteer opportunities
- School starts Wednesday, August 20

Inside this issue:

Field Day 2008	2
End of Year Awards	3
How Can I Get Involved?	3
High School Graduation	4
Kindergarten Graduation	5
Apples of Gold	6

Our Core Values Dr. James V. Garrett

I want to use this column in this edition so that you the reader will know exactly what the driving force behind Fountain City Christian School is. As an institution, we describe ourselves using several statements. One of the statements is known as our Core Values. These five points are uncompromising issues which are considered as non-negotiable. This means that they are not up for discussion, revision, or debate. They are foundational to who we, Fountain City Christian School, are as a ministry and as an institution. Here is the list of Core Values:

- Academic Excellence
- Christian Dedication
- Community Involvement
- International Commitment
- Spiritual Formation

It is my plan that every document you see emanating from FCCS contains these five simple topics. They embody what we as a ministry and as a school seek to attain.

Academic Excellence embodies both the efforts of our staff and the accomplishment of our students to excel in the subjects in which we

engage at Fountain City Christian School. These include Bible, Math, Language Arts, History/Social Studies, Science, Health, and other subjects. While we have accu-



rately reported that our students have continually scored at 1-1½ years above their grade level (on average), that is not enough. Annually, we go through a curriculum review to be assured that we are presenting our students with the best material available. Last summer, we spent considerable time evaluating our Math Curriculum and have made the transition to Bob Jones curriculum in Math. This year, we spent a lot of time looking at Bible and Language Arts materials. From this, we are switching elementary Bible Curriculum to Positive Action materials. Additionally, we are moving the upper level Bible curriculum to eclectic materials that emphasize basic knowledge of the Old and New Testaments with an emphasis in Hebrew

roots in both testaments. Language Arts in the elementary levels are remaining primarily ABeka with supplemental material in handwriting, reading, and writing. This is not a final product but is instead, an ongoing project that seeks to provide the very best for our students in order to continually provide excellence in education.

The thought of **Christian Dedication** embodies a Christocentric view of the world, and thus, a Theocentric approach to education. This means that everything we do, think, and present as a school has God at its very center; everything else emanates from Him. In other words, because God simply IS, and nowhere seeks to defend or define Himself, we begin with that as the core of our curriculum. Also, because God is and because God presented Himself to humanity in the form of the Son, Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, we seek to embody before and in our students an understanding of and relationship with Him as the only Way, Truth, and Life.

Community Involvement means that we seek to be both an asset to our commu-

(Continued on page 2)

Our Core Values continued

(Continued from page 1)

nity and an agent of change within our community. We seek to train our students with such a love and devotion for their community and their nation that they are both faithful and servile to that community. That means that they are respectful citizens, faithful stewards of the land and its resources, active participants, loyal employees, and responsible members of the business, faith, and national community. We also practice this through community clean-up, local ministry of helps, and other aspects.

International Commitment is initially practiced through our participation in missions. On the elementary level, this is observed through awareness of and prayer for missionaries throughout the world as well as the people whom they impact. At upper levels, this awareness and participation actually furthers itself to include travel to and ministry in

varying communities both overseas as well as in the states. While we believe that true missions work is done throughout the entire world, we also believe that such work begins within our own backyard.

While some may confuse **Spiritual Formation** with Christian Dedication, and while there truly is an overlap of the two, we position the concept of Spiritual Formation as the direct, intentional, purposeful guiding of the students to a deeper faith in Christ. This guidance certainly manifests itself through study of the Bible, classroom devotions, and chapel services; it is also carried out through purposeful readings, prayer, silence, and other intended methods. Our emphasis here is that spiritual formation is not an accidental occurrence but instead, an intended journey that is, at least in part, directly engaged. While the old axiom states that a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step, it is



our intention that spiritual formation at Fountain City Christian School not only presents a first step to the students, but that it also presents to them a methodology of such a journey that will last them to a thousand miles and beyond ... even to an entire lifetime and beyond.

Culminating this direction of our Core Values is our Latin Motto, *Soli Deo Gloria*. This very simply sums up the attitude of Fountain City Christian School and the students we train: to God alone [be] the glory!

“...spiritual formation is not an accidental occurrence but...an intended journey...directly engaged.”

Field Day 2008

Kayla Andrews

Fountain City Christian School's Spring Field Day was stupendous. The weather was windy, chilly and cloudy, but everyone was glad to be outside. The third grade awards went to these girls: Maizie Cole who won third place in the hula-hoop contest, Alyssa Della Flora who won second place in the wheel barrow race and third place in the softball throw. Katie Winzeler and Rachel Broadwater also earned ribbons.

Third grade boys winning awards were: Levi Nofziger who won third place in the wheel barrow race, second

place in the 50-yard dash, and Austin Wontroba who won first place in the 100-yard dash, second place in the 50-yard dash, and third place in the wheel barrow race.

The fourth grade awards went to: Ellie Rupp who won first place in the 50-yard dash and wheel barrow race, Maddy McMaster who won second place in the hula-hoop contest and first place in the wheel barrow race, and Kayla Andrews who won first place in the hula-hoop contest and potato sack race.

Kayla, Maddy, Ellie, Levi and

Austin ran the whole 400-yard track nonstop, just for fun. While playing tug-of-war, Serina, a kindergartener, got hurt. Many kids got wet playing the water balloon fight. Austin declared compliments to Mr. Donnelly: "He's a good helper. We couldn't have done it without him."

This reporter cites Field Day was a lot of fun. We should have one in the fall too.

Kayla is entering the fifth grade, and she served as the fourth grade student council representative this past year.

End of Year Awards Mrs. Rebecca Miller

July/August 2008

In the first and second grade classroom this year, every child grew in some area of his or her life. A few days before the end of the school year I gave out Certificates of Award to each one in an area that he or she excelled. Here is the list of awards presented:

Reading Achievement Award:
Kendi Nofziger

Clean Desk Award: Mackenzie
Carlin

Responsibility Award: David
Clark

Attitude Improvement Award:
Michael Bonner

Good Manners Award: Krista
Davis

Outstanding Love for Jesus
Award: Angela Cantu

Outstanding Scholar Award:
Ethan Phipps

Good Sport Award: Brock
Nafziger

Happy Face Award: Emma
Huffman

Creative Thinking Award: Isaac
Andrews

The David Award: Alex Zuber
Sunny Disposition Award: Ty-
ler McIntosh

Highest Grade Point Average
Awards went to:

Spencer Winzeler—Bible 1

Macy Dawson—Bible 2

Drew Franklin—Arithmetic 1

Macy Dawson—Arithmetic 2

Bryton Cole—Phonics 1

Macey Rupp—Phonics 2

Bryton Cole—Spelling 1

Macey Rupp—Spelling 2

Drew Franklin—Handwriting 1

Macy Dawson—Handwriting 2

Congratulations to all of you!

With love,

Mrs. Miller



*“How can I get
involved?”*

How Can I Get Involved?

There is always a need for volunteers at FCCS. Many parents and family members feel, however, that there is nothing they can do to help; they are often scared away because they feel like they would be unable to provide tutoring or they would have to commit to a weekly job. This is certainly not the case; there is work for everyone to do, and we can use all of your help. Here are some upcoming ways you can

consider getting involved at FCCS this year. Choose one, and call to set up a time!

- Williams County Fair, September 6-13: Parents are needed to work the FCCS booth at the fair. Please contact Jody McClure at 419-636-2333 to sign up for an available time slot.
- TAPS, October 13, 6pm: This is the date of the first

TAPS meeting of the year. Consider attending TAPS this year to let your voice be heard at FCCS.

- Teachers and the office staff always need volunteers to help with reading one-on-one, copying, and other tasks. Consider helping your child's teacher with these things this year.

Thank you in advance!

September 2008

August Schedule of Events

- 14—7:00pm Parent Orientation
- 18-19—Teacher Work Days
- 20—First Day of School

*Please note that there will be no school held on Monday, September 8, due to the Williams County Fair Kids' Day. This day will be counted as a school-wide activity, and your student will need to check in at FCCS's booth in order to be counted as present.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day—No School	2	3	4	5 Set up for fair	6 Williams County Fair
7 Williams County Fair	8 Williams County Fair Kids' Day—No School*	9 Williams County Fair	10 Williams County Fair	11 Williams County Fair	12 Williams County Fair	13 Williams County Fair
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Picture Day	26	27
28	29	30				

High School Graduation Mrs. Crystal Bunts



The graduating class of 2008 gathered in the school auditorium on the afternoon of June 1. While this year's class was small with its boast of two graduates, the ceremony was rich with personal touches from each of them.

Jessica Culler, our valedictorian, shared her words of thanks to all of her family and friends as well as some choice memories from her years attending FCCS. Jessica plans to attend Northwest State next year, and she will continue afterward to pursue a double

major to become a licensed massage therapist and an x-ray technician. In addition, she will, of course, continue to show her animals, namely her dogs. We expect to see many more awards from her in the coming years!

Caleb Groeneweg has attended FCCS part-time and homeschooled part-time for a number of years. This year he also attended Northwest State to begin his college courses. At this time his major is undecided, so he will continue to attend Northwest State while

making that decision. One thing is sure: Caleb will not disappoint us with his achievements in the future. During his speech at graduation he took a witty approach at his small class size, commenting that while he wasn't valedictorian, he was one of few who could say he was second in his class.

We pray for blessings to follow both Jessica and Caleb as they continue life's journey. We know they have been well-equipped to face the future and contribute greatly to the kingdom of God.

October 2008

July/August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Ready, Set, Relax	7	8	9 K5 Fall Party	10 Elementary Fall Parties	11
12	13 6pm—TAPS Meeting	14 Eye, Ear, Spine Check	15	16	17 PLAN/ EXPLORE Tests (7-12 grades)	18 TAPS Scavenger Hunt
19	20	21	22	23	24 End of first quarter	25
26	27	28	29	30 Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences	31 No School—Parent/Teacher Conferences	

November Schedule of Events

- 6—Picture Retake Day
- 10—Poinsettia Kick-off Assembly
- 13-14—No School—ACSI Conference
- 27-28—No School—Thanksgiving Holiday

Kindergarten Graduation Mrs. Julie Andrews

In the evening of May 23, friends and family gathered at FCCS to honor eight very special individuals. Receiving diplomas for the successful completion of our kindergarten program were Jacob Andrews, Heaven Della Flora, Serina Della Flora, Shay Donnelly, Gavyn Dunn, Caleb Nafziger, Kaleb Sampson and Kalani Urbina. The students entertained those gathered with toe-tapping, boot-scooting song and dance about the great adventures God has planned for each of

them. Brightly colored western hats and stick horses added to the fun. Each student recited a scripture verse relating to the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). After a slide show of the children and their various activities through the months, the graduates made a stately re-entry in their caps and gowns. Dr. Garrett, our administrator, awarded diplomas to the students while the cameras

flashed. The celebration concluded with cake, punch and fellowship in the cafeteria. Each of these eight wonderful children professes the invitation of Christ Jesus into their hearts, and it is our privilege, honor and Christian duty to uphold them in their growing faith.



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*Soli deo Gloria...to God
alone be the glory!*

Apples of Gold

The Man Next Door

*I have been crucified with Christ;
and it is no longer I who live, but
Christ lives in me. Galatians 2:20*

Mike Wallace of *60 Minutes* once interviewed Yehiel Dinur, a Holocaust survivor and witness at the Nuremberg trials. During the show, Wallace played a 1961 clip of Dinur walking into the Israeli courtroom where Adolf Eichmann was on trial. A principal architect of the Holocaust, Eichmann had evaded capture for years but had finally been found and brought to justice.

As Dinur spied Eichmann for the first time in 18 years—he had last seen the German mastermind at Auschwitz, the notorious

death camp—he stopped still in his tracks. He began to sob uncontrollably. He fainted and collapsed to the floor.

Was he overcome by hatred? Fear? Horrid memories? Actually, as he said later, it was none of these. What overwhelmed Dinur was this: Suddenly he realized Eichmann was not the godlike army officer who had sent so many to their cruel deaths.

Adolf Eichmann was just an ordinary man.

Wallace captured it best when he asked, “How is it possible for a man to act as Eichmann did? Was he a monster? A madman? Or was he perhaps something even more terrifying—was he normal?

“Eichmann,” said Dinur, “is in all of us.”

This hard truth about ourselves is difficult to swallow. If not for fear of consequences or a liking for our own reputation or the healing flow of God’s grace, we are capable of anything.

May the Lord keep us from ever believing that our goodness is something we’ve worked up from within. May we realize again that whatever goodness lives in us is the goodness of God shining through...the One who gave His Son to give us life. And to save us from ourselves.

Rainey, Dennis & Barbara. *Moments with You: Daily Connections for Couples*. Ventura, California: Regal Books, 2007.