

NEWS FROM REDLANDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AND ARROWHEAD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY SPRING 2010

threads





STANDING FIRM

A little over a month ago we were surprised to wake up and see snow on the ground. While living in Washington, we often had snow, but it has been a rare experience to see snow since moving to California. The snow covered our trees beautifully. But after the snow fell and then melted in our neighborhood, we noticed that many of the trees had slumped over because of the snow. Similar trees in the Northwest would not have bent at all when it snowed; they have been conditioned to withstand the test of the weather. The regular wind, rain, and snow makes those trees stronger as they grow. The trees down here are different. Some of the pine trees in my neighborhood which have not experienced regular winds, rain and snow were unable to stand up to the test of the weather.

Like these trees, we want the students at Redlands Christian School and Arrowhead Christian Academy to grow through the experiences and challenges in life so they are able to stand. Our faculty and staff at both campuses help our students prepare to withstand life's day-to-day difficulties. At school, the students have godly teachers and staff to prepare them physically, mentally and spiritually every day. I think of that verse in Ephesians 6 that talks about how we should prepare as Christians:

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”

From my personal experience, I have watched our faculty and staff minister to our children to strengthen and prepare them for life. I am very thankful that God has provided us with schools like RCS and ACA to help our young people stand when they are challenged. The schools' partnership with the church and home will make it possible to give our young people the best opportunity to be successful as they grow into God's kingdom. God bless us all as we seek to serve our Lord in educating our children.

Nick Sweeney
Superintendent



WORTH THE COST

We are in that time of the year when many of you are evaluating the question, “Is Christian Education worth the cost and sacrifice?” From the chair I sit in, I know that your struggles are real. I also know that often my struggles are really the result of decisions I have made.

I married my wife in December of 1970, and together we knew from the beginning that our life's work choice (Christian school work) would create a dilemma for us financially. We knew that if we had children, they would be expected to attend the Christian school where we worked. We also knew that since the Christian schools we worked for did not offer tuition discounts, that resulted in certain life style choices for us. A smaller house, used cars instead of new ones, not as many new clothes and not as much to put away for retirement. Those were our realities. This has been our reality from the time I was 21 and my wife was 20. It lasted until my two children completed their last year of Christian college in 2000. Periodically in that 30-year span we, like so many of you, wrestled with the same question, “Is it worth it?”

Now, 10 years later we are finally coming close to the end of paying off those Christian Education bills and we can answer the question very confidently. “It was worth every dime we invested.” Nothing compares to the privilege of having our two children taught by Christian teachers, who were free to weave the truths of God into every subject. The value of this gift for our children and our family—priceless.

Ray Leenstra
RCS Administrator

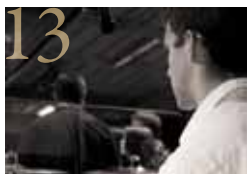
FEATURES



TOTAL COMMITMENT:
One family's story of commitment to Christian education



PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE:
Why this family chooses Christian education K-12



ALL THAT JAZZ:
Andrew Carnes' love for jazz

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BOARD UPDATE:

Our mission of "Christ-centered excellence in education while partnering with the church and home to advance God's Kingdom" is always at the forefront. We have united the ACA and RCS boards to manage a complete system of Pre-k through 12th grades. We continue to work at merging the corporations, knowing God's timing is perfect.

Our community has come together to purchase the five acres next to our ACA campus. Originally that land was going to be a retirement community, but it appears the Lord has other plans for it. We envision one 40-acre square block in Redlands dedicated to Christian education. This purchase brings us to 25 acres with 15 more nearby to potentially acquire in the future. We can build a complete system on 25 acres, but our vision is to develop the entire block. The five acres were purchased for \$2.55 million. We have pledges of \$1.4 million over five years and (as of this writing) have received \$510,000 in cash, \$1 million in loans from friends and family, \$600,000 borrowed from our endowment, and \$440,000 from our line of credit. We still need our community to come together within the next five years to raise a minimum \$1.3 million to purchase this land.

It amazes me that since 1921 God has brought a board of trustees together to carry out his perfect will. It is humbling to know that in spite of our sinful nature we have a Christian School where faculty and staff train young minds to advance God's Kingdom throughout the world. Please keep the administration, faculty, staff and board lifted up in prayer.

Matt Thalmayer
Board of Trustees President



ACA/RCS threads

SPRING 2010

ADMINISTRATION

Nick Sweeney, *Superintendent*
Ray Leenstra, *RCS Administrator*
Kathy Barr, *RCS Elementary Principal*
Mark Witvliet, *ACA/RCS Middle School Principal*
Thom Doney, *ACA High School Principal*

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Threads is a quarterly publication of Redlands Christian School and Arrowhead Christian Academy.

Our mission is Christ-centered excellence in education, partnering with the church and home to advance God's Kingdom.

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Grades 7 – 12



“IMAGINE” BECOMES REALITY

We've met the first deadline, and we're on our way

In the last issue of *Threads* I wrote:

“IMAGINE ... one square block in the heart of Redlands dedicated to Christ-centered education for this generation and future generations of our children and grandchildren.

We've met our first major benchmark to making this vision a reality. On March 31 we wired funds in the amount of \$2.55 million and completed the purchase of the adjacent five acres of property. Praise God!

Now, with 25 acres total (we have our eyes set on all 40 acres in this square block) we can proceed with creating a Master Site Plan which will include the eventual move of Redlands Christian School to the Tennessee Street Campus, and building our “ONE SQUARE BLOCK.” Our Vision Plan calls for uniting all of our Pre-K through grade 12 Christian education program on one campus.

An ad hoc site planning committee and our long range planning committee are working with our local architects, Higginson + Cartozian Architects, Inc., to develop a creative master site plan which will maximize use of the 25 acres currently owned.

The purchase of this property was made possible by generous gifts and pledges from current and past Board Members of ACA and RCS, which totaled nearly \$1.4 million. To complete the sale we borrowed from our endowment fund(s), and loans from friends and family. These loans and interest on these loans will be paid back as pledges are fulfilled and through future capital campaign initiatives. All capital funds programs are separate from operational funds, and our future capital development does not impact the annual operating budgets.

On March 31, 2010 we completed the purchase of five additional acres. We're on our way to “ONE SQUARE BLOCK.” Praise God!

Ron Cook
Director of Development

We respectfully request your prayerful consideration of becoming a part of

THE HERITAGE SOCIETY

of Redlands Christian School and Arrowhead Christian Academy

Please join us for the Seventh Annual Heritage Society Dinner and Program

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Village at Redlands (Wabash and 5th)

RSVP: Shirley Byma at 909.793.5172 x300
or Ron Cook at 909.648.3230



*Bad weather and flocks of pink
find Cirque du ACA*

RAINING TOMATOES AND FLAMINGOES



The pink was inescapable at the Cirque du ACA fundraiser, Feb. 27. So was the rain. An unexpected downpour moved all activities inside – except for the tomato toss (but we’ll get to that later).

The event replaced the Diamond Jubilee as the all-school fundraiser, and by the earliest counts was just as successful. More than \$80,000 was raised from opportunity-drawing tickets, auctions and special events to support school programs.

Development Director Ron Cook orchestrated the bird-brained madness and made a point of getting as many students and parents involved as possible.

“We had our big auction/dinner at the Orange Show last year, but it mainly appealed to parents,” Cook said. “I moved it to campus to showcase student artists and musicians and changed it to a circus theme to create an all-day, family-friendly event.”

After ordering 450 plastic flamingoes (which must have propagated along the way), Cook alerted the “Redlands Daily Facts” of the pink flock that had migrated to the front lawn of the school. The publicity worked as hundreds came out for the event in spite of the rain.

While the arena was packed with inflatable fun, clowns and circus acts, the real entertainment was hidden beneath the outside balcony by the football field. Nine thespians (enacting “Hamlet”) got pelted by tomatoes purchased by the crowd of critics.

“[Nathan] Smith told us the tomatoes would be rotten and gushy and wouldn’t hurt,” Mitchell Prins said. “He lied.”

“I didn’t expect my face to be throbbing by the end of our ‘play,’” Joanna Sowell said.

A two-hour scavenger hunt led students on a wild goose flamingo chase all over campus seeking answers to text-messaged clues. It cost \$15 to play, but the payoff was worth it for iPod touch winners Kirk Pearce and Cody Laliberte.

At the “chair-ity” auction, chairs stuffed with theme-related goodies (assembled by each class) sold for hundreds of dollars. The stakes were huge: the class whose chair raked in the most would win lunch at In-N-Out.

“Our rocking chair went for \$1,200, and it looked like the senior chair was dying at \$600,” freshman Madi Harris said. “Then someone bid \$1,500 on the seniors’ recliner, and we were done for.”

The day ended with a faculty/student basketball game where three of the \$20 ticket holders were selected in a drawing to shoot from half-court for a Nissan Cube. All three fell short but went home with consolation prizes: an X-Box 360, a Barnes and Noble Nook and a netbook.

Everyone left happy. Well, except for Harris, whose class lost the In-N-Out party to the seniors in the chair-ity auction.

“We were winning until your dad bought the chair,” Harris said to Janise Marvin.

“It’s okay,” Marvin answered. “You can have a bite of my hamburger.”

- “Once. Twice. Sold!” Auctioneer Doug Jorritsma encourages a bidder to cough up \$550 for a vacation in Mammoth. Photo: Ben Michaels
- Jordan Daniels tries out the square piano donated for the live auction. The 140-year-old Steinway sold for \$600. Photo: Megan Reade
- Hundreds of pink balloons hang from the ceiling in the mall as potential bidders peruse the silent auction wares. Photo: Megan Reade



ELEMENTARY BLESSINGS

One of my favorite times of the day is when the 8:25 a.m. bell rings in the morning. At this time the first-through fifth-grade students and teachers line up in their designated spots on the outside basketball courts. I get the privilege of leading the elementary student body in the pledges to the American flag, Christian flag, and the Bible. After the pledges, I take time to make announcements of birthdays (very important!) and special activities that will be happening that week. We have a word of prayer together, and then I send them on their way to class. Each class will have a turn to help me by holding the flags and leading the students in the pledges and prayer. It always blesses my heart when the student praying offers thanks to our Lord for the privilege of attending Redlands Christian School. God has truly put our school in this community for His honor and glory to make a difference for Him.

At the elementary level in our school, we have a high percentage of parent involvement. Any day of the week you are sure to find a mom or dad volunteering precious time at school in some capacity—from selling Cuca’s tickets on Mondays to Pizza slices on Fridays. Parents are here on campus continually being involved with what their children are doing at school. Many times you will see moms and dads working with groups of children or one on one in various academic areas including practicing multiplication tables, oral reading, and listening to children recite Bible verses. I believe that much of the excellent academic success of our students is due to the fact that parents are involved and attuned to their children’s school life. This is just one way that we are partnering together.

If you need your spirit uplifted, stop by the RCS gym on a Friday around 10:15 a.m. Every other Friday our elementary students take a half an hour to get together and offer praise to God through song. It is a rewarding experience for me to be able to lead these “praise” chapels. What an encouragement to my spirit and a pleasing sound to God’s ear are the voices of 300 plus children singing their favorite praise songs! I think our personal favorite is “Every Move I Make.” A double blessing is to be walking around the campus later in the day and overhear the children on the playground singing those songs as well.

This is just a glimpse of the elementary school life at RCS. I am truly thankful for each day I have the honor of serving these little ones and having a part in their Christian education, partnering with their parents to bring these young lives up in God’s Truth and knowledge of His love for them.

Kathy Barr
Elementary School Principal

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

“The students have taken on an attitude of others first. They’ve started looking outside of themselves in a lot of ways.”

KATHY BARR, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

ELEMENTARY READING CURRICULUM

A little over two years ago, the elementary teachers at Redlands Christian were informed that the reading curriculum was up for review and a new program could be purchased for use in the classroom beginning in the 2008-2009 school year. We began the daunting, yet exciting process of reviewing the latest and greatest reading curricula on the market. We soon found ourselves perusing materials from a program entitled, *Literacy by Design*, a curriculum published by Rigby. It didn't take long for us to realize that we had discovered a great program.

Rigby is unique in that it has developed the first comprehensive program to include instruction in both reading *and* writing. Connecting these two components of literacy allows students to see their relationship and benefit instructionally. The program is designed using the gradual release of a control model. Simply stated, the teacher models a skill, the teacher and students work together on the skill and then the students work independently on the skill. An opportunity for the students to be engaged in independent reading and writing is integrated into each day. In addition to whole class instruction and independent work time, materials and lessons for small group instructional time in both reading and writing are provided.

The reading aspect of the program includes instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, listening and comprehen-

sion. It also provides a weekly spelling list and high frequency words. The curriculum is divided into sixteen science and social studies themes with fiction and nonfiction selections. Leveled readers are provided for the small group, guided reading time.

The writing aspect provides instruction in grammar as well as comprehensive coverage of all four key elements of writing instruction. These elements include writing forms, organizational patterns, writing traits and the writing process.

The first and second grade teachers are on our second year of using the Rigby program, while the third grade teachers are just rounding out their first year. The program is thorough and all encompassing which also makes it a bit overwhelming at first. Nevertheless, we are finding that, for the most part, we are very satisfied with the decision to adopt *Literacy by Design* as our reading and writing curriculum in the lower elementary classrooms. Is it perfect? No, I don't believe such a curriculum exists. Are our students better readers and writers? Probably, but I believe that even more important than great curriculum is a great teacher. A teacher passionate about teaching his/her students how to read and write will do so effectively, regardless of the curriculum he/she has to use. I believe we have these teachers at Redlands Christian.

Laura Witvliet, RCS First-grade Teacher

A DYNAMIC DUO

There is a quick connect between a five-year-old and a dog. So, Guide Dogs of the Desert seemed a logical kindergarten service project for RCS's SURF program (Serving with Understanding, Respect, and Faith). Frequent visits by puppies in training, retired veteran guide dogs, and on the job service dogs stir the hearts of our kindergartners. Our little ones who have huge capacities to love enjoy playing with the pups and learning through hands-on experience. They learn about the serious and wonderful jobs the dogs do for real people in everyday life who cannot see.

Tugs at the heart are evidenced through their year long giving.

Pennies, nickels, and quarters dribble in weekly. Proudly they announce, "This is for our guide dogs!" as they deposit their precious coins in our designated jar. Dear little Matthew Magill brought his tooth fairy money—

two times! Yes, we teared up over that one. Mom Heather Hekman wrote a note to go along with bills in a baggie. "This is Jenelle's

money for the guide dog harness. She earned it by helping around the house and having a good attitude." Last year, Garret Leyden emptied out his piggy bank and tucked \$50.00 into the jar. His mom Claudia said he really loves dogs.

All this is a blessing to others, yet it is also training our youngsters to grow daily in listening to the heart of God, to love others as they love themselves, to share their bounty with those they meet along the way, and to know the incomparable joy of... "It is better to give than to receive." So our goal this year is to provide a harness for a graduating guide dog, with a tag on it saying, "With love from the kindergarten classes of Redlands Christian School."

Betsy Jeffers, RCS Kindergarten Teacher





POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

I have been reading a book that has reminded me about the importance of building positive relationships with middle school students. Due to the physical and emotional changes that middle school students experience, it is critical that they have people around them who teach, respect, encourage, discipline, and who love them.

I have had the privilege of watching our teachers interact with our students in a variety of ways, both inside and outside of the classroom. I am grateful for and encouraged daily by the dedication and commitment of our teachers. Here is a brief glimpse at some of the ways in which I have seen these relationships develop just in the past few weeks.

There are many times when I walk the halls before or after school and see students who are being tutored in a classroom.

I frequently observe students hanging out in the classrooms during their break times talking with their teachers. Several high school students have returned to visit with their middle school teachers—evidence of previous, strong relationships built.

Many teachers give of their time after school to coach a sport, direct a drama, or conduct a musical group.

Recently, several teachers sacrificed time away from their families to chaperone a trip to Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City. This trip gave them the opportunity to develop close relationships with their students away from the classroom setting.

While in Washington D.C., one of our students had a minor accident, and a teacher willingly volunteered to accompany him to the ER. (Four hours and four stitches later, they were on their way back to the motel.)

Each middle school teacher on both campuses leads a group of students in a small group. During this time, we study the Bible, hold each other accountable, and pray for one another.

As you can see, there is a concerted effort on the part of our teaching staff to build these positive relationships. What a blessing it is for me to see middle school students supported and encouraged by their Christian teachers.

Mark Witvliet
Middle School Principal

RCS WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP

On March 13, 48 Redlands Christian School 8th graders headed to LAX accompanied by 22 parents and four teachers. Their trip to Washington, D.C. is the capstone of their time at RCS.

On Sunday, the group attended the morning service at the National Cathedral. Those who chose to spend the previous night talking rather than sleeping found the service somewhat lengthy. They also visited Ford Theatre and Mount Vernon in the evening.

Our students visited the Library of Congress, the U.S. Capitol, the highest court of the land, and Arlington National Cemetery. Four of our students, Anna Koning, Brooke Sebek, Jake Hooker, and Cassidy Mulder received the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We visited the Pentagon and the memorial honoring those who died there Sept. 11, 2001. We had time to visit the Smithsonian Museums, the National Archives, and the Washington Monument. We were all impressed with memorials honoring those who gave

much to forge the foundation of our country.

Leaving Washington, D.C., we traveled to Philadelphia to view the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. On the same day, we arrived in New York City and experienced the top of Rockefeller Center in the night lights. The most touching part of our time in New York City was visiting Ground Zero and seeing the wall lined with pictures of those who lost their lives in that tragedy. We also saw “The Lion King” and viewed the Statue of Liberty from a harbor cruise.

Our tour guide impressed upon our students the need to begin now to know what they stand for and to someday be leaders in our nation so we can uphold the truths our forefathers fought to preserve. The experience promoted patriotism and gave our students an insight into the importance of the freedoms we all enjoy. Our eighty-graders are to be commended on their behavior and cooperation helping to make this a great trip.

Gwen Leenstra, RCS Opportunity Center



■Alyssa Curti was one of 48 students to travel to Washington D.C. and New York City to view national monuments and learn about the country's history.

ACA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTS "THE FABULOUS FABLE FACTORY"

I entered into a quiet room filled with many faces I had seen but never known, but that was soon to change. This group of middle school students all had one talent

"The Fabulous Fable Factory' was a perfect fit for middle school. It was fast-paced and had a lot of movement, choreography and colors."
Colleen Langley, director

in common: acting. By the end of the first read-through, we all knew it was going to be a spectacular show.

We practiced for weeks and weeks – some rehearsals better than others—but every practice was filled with the presence of God. Through Him we hoped to put on a show that would bring joy to our audience.

As rehearsals went on, the cast developed many friendships, and by tech week we were a family. There we were, eating dinner together, laughing and playing, but during the time of rehearsal we had to "put on our character's skin," as Miss Langley would say.

Finally it was March 19, opening night, and nerves were setting in. Miss Langley led us through a quick run-through, and then we were off. All of us rushed to the bathrooms to finish getting ready while the middle school gym filled with our viewers.

Our hearts raced as the clock read 7:15. We went into the hall and prayed for an unforgettable show, which soon calmed us.

The blinding lights lifted, and the show was on. Our nerves quickly turned into adrenaline. Just as soon as it started, it was over. This 45-minute show brought smiles, laughter and life lessons to our audience. By the last night we were upset to see the show end, but it was a great experience and a memorable one to those who were able to see it.

*Katie Seaton,
Eighth-grader*



■ Performing the 'Lion and the Mouse,' Cierra Roy dances over Briana Lesh. Roy came up with a little song and dance in rehearsals that stuck.

RCS SPORTS

This winter season, Redlands Christian competed in middle school baseball, softball, and elementary soccer.

The boys' baseball team, coached by Mr. Jeff Hartog, had a great season, finishing with a season record of 11-3 and winning the Central Division title. The Cougars were able to win their first round playoff game against the Academy of Academic Excellence. In the semi-finals, the boys fell to a very tough team from Cornerstone Christian. A strong group of eighth-grade boys will be missed as they move on to high school, but a solid group of seventh-graders will provide the leadership for next year's team.

In softball, the Cougars competed hard all season. The team's overall record of 2-7 did not discourage the girls as they gave their all in every game. Led by their coach, Mr. Matt DeBoer, the Cougars showed flashes of great fielding, pitching, and hitting. The girls displayed great spirit and enthusiasm all season long.

A little more than 50 fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders competed in our elementary soccer program this winter. They were broken up into four different teams, and while they had varying degrees of success, each team had a great time competing against not only the other schools, but also against the other RCS teams. Mr. Matt Wiers, Mrs. Lisa Edge, Mrs. Andrea Kidd, and Mrs. Melissa Lemm gave their time and enthusiasm as coaches.

Spring sports are underway, and that means it is basketball time. Middle school boys' and girls' teams, as well as a coed sixth-grade team, have begun practicing and competing.

The boys' basketball team is off to a 1-1 start, and while they are led by a youthful group of seventh-graders, they have a lot of talent and look to be a tough team to beat this season. Mr. Russ De Kock is the coach of the squad.

In girls' basketball, the Cougars have begun the season 2-0 and anticipate a great season ahead. A talented group of eighth-grade girls will try to lead this team into the playoffs. Mr. Mike DeJong is the head coach of the girls' team.

The sixth-grade team is made up of 14 boys and girls and has just begun practicing for their upcoming season. Mr. Mark Witvliet hopes to teach this team a few things about basketball.

Mike DeJong, RCS Athletic Director



Arrowhead Christian Academy is having an incredible school year. I hope you have had a chance to be on campus, or off campus for that matter, and see some of our kids in action. They are truly remarkable young people, and we thank you for being a part of the ACA family.

As you may know, it is the “mission of Arrowhead Christian Academy to provide a Christ-centered, excellent education as we partner with church and home to advance God’s kingdom.”

It is important for you to know that Jesus Christ is the reason that we are in existence. He is the center of all we do. We are privileged to be able to teach our students, your children, about our Lord Jesus Christ in all aspects of our curricular and co-curricular program. It is our goal to reinforce your Christian values. We do not take this opportunity lightly, and we are grateful.

I Corinthians 10:31 says that “whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (NKJV) As an educational institution, it is our desire to provide our students with academic excellence. It has been my privilege to have visited every teacher’s classroom this school year on at least 50 occasions, and I can assure you that our teachers are doing an excellent job of educating our kids.

Whether rockets are being launched for Physics, a baseball player is being taught the finer points of the “hit-and-run,” or our choir performs in front of thousands, you can be assured that ACA students are part of a quality, Christian educational experience. Equally important, they are receiving this training from teachers who are dedicated believers, highly qualified, and who care deeply about your child’s well-being.

Thank you for being a part of the ACA community. You are valuable to us and we want to be a resource for you and your family. If we can help in any way, please let us know by contacting the school office. Thank you again and God bless you.

Thomas Doney
HS Principal

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TEAM UP FOR SERVICE DAY APRIL 1



■ Eddie Gallardo (eighth-grade) was one of several students and teachers to participate in the volunteer service day by picking oranges for Helping Hands Ministry, a local food pantry.



■ Nasi Feles hammers out the frame of a house that will be sent to Mexico.

The first Volunteer Service Day (April 1) was organized to give students an opportunity to put their faith into action and give back to their community. Over 100 students participated in a dozen different activities held both on campus and throughout the region.

“The kids and staff did a great job supporting this event,” coordinator Jeff Gordenier said, “When you get kids out of the classroom and into the community, perspectives begin to change. It’s a great chance to see the world as it really is.”

Volunteers served meals at Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda and at Youth Hope Ministries, helped build homes for Hands of Mercy, picked oranges for Helping Hands Ministry, painted buildings and raked grass at Redlands Community Field, and painted and cleaned facilities at Calvary Deaf Church in Grand Terrace.

While there was an 80% chance of rain forecast for that day, the weather cooperated.

“God was good to us with the weather,” math teacher Debbie Natress said, “This was a great event for the kids and staff. I look forward to even more kids getting involved next year.”

WINTER SPORTS WRAP-UP

BOYS' SOCCER (League record 6-1-1; overall record 16-6-4)

- Won Christian league title for the fourth year straight
- Reached CIF quarterfinals in CIF playoff tournament
- Nine players made the All-League team.

BOYS' BASKETBALL (League record 1-7; overall record 7-18)

- Earned first round play-off berth.
- Third straight year to reach playoffs
- Team received the league sportsmanship award
- Three players made the All-League teams

GIRLS' SOCCER (League record 8-2; overall record 13-9-5)

- Sixth straight year to reach CIF playoffs
- Second best record in the league
- Seven players made the All-League team

GIRLS' BASKETBALL (League record 3-7; overall record 9-11)

- Missed CIF playoffs for the first time in eight seasons
- Two players made the All-League team

MEET EAGLES' NEW FOOTBALL COACH

Retired head football coach, Wayne Cochran announced John Beck as the new head coach of the Eagles' football program.

Beck served on the coaching staff of Centennial High School's powerhouse football program. He has seven years of experience coaching high school football, including one of year coaching Pop Warner football.

"Beck will bring energy and enthusiasm to our program," athletic director, Richard Yaross said. "Our selection committee narrowed down the applicants to the candidate who best matched our school's mission and values. John Beck is a perfect fit."

Beck has already begun getting to know the athletes. He is passionate about working with high school students as a coach and role model. For the past seven years, Beck and his wife have taken six teenagers into their home and served as their guardians and mentors.

Beck is currently attending classes at Cal State San Bernardino to earn a master's degree in sports psychology.



BLAST OFF!

In March, physics students applied their classroom instruction on motion to rockets. Students enjoyed the chance to build their own rockets, thus getting a real taste of what engineers at NASA deal with on a daily basis. When I was in high school, I dreamed of being an astronaut and I was shocked when I was told that girls were not allowed in the NASA program. Each time I step into the classroom to teach physics, I remember that this type of experience was discouraged.

Physics can be an intimidating class where the math becomes integrated with the science. As a physics teacher I enjoy letting my students "play" with the physics. When my children were young, we had fun making things go boom and then fly into the air. I remember teaching my own boys how to turn a plastic film can into a rocket engine for our own rockets. It was exciting for them to experience what they had only seen or read about in school.

The rocket lab was created so that the physics students could have a similar experience. This lab has become one of the most enjoyable labs for me as it combines all the classroom knowledge with an explosive experience. While the rocket launch is fun, it is backed up with data collection, graphing, and a formal lab report resulting in a full lab science experience.

The world around us is full of physics, which can only be explained by a God who placed all we see and don't see into a set order. Physics allows us to explore the universe, find the constants such as gravity, and then explain all of this using the laws of Newton, Einstein, and faith. Come fly with us!

Tamara Bonn, ACA Physics Teacher



TRAIN UP A CHILD

It was in September of 2000 that our journey in Christian education began with our daughters as we enrolled them at Redlands Christian School, one in pre-kindergarten and one in kindergarten. Like most parents, it seems like only yesterday, and yet today we have a freshman at ACA and an eighth-grader at RCS.

Along the way we have been blessed by the administration, the staff, students and parents. We have learned the blessings of Christian education and the sacrifice. Our commitment to Christian education has grown, and our love for our school is great. As we look back over the years, we are amazed at what

the responsibility of raising them and training them in the knowledge of His kingdom. We value Christian education as it supports our belief in a sovereign God who is in all things. This helps to teach our kids that whatever they do in life, it is all under God's authority.

We appreciate having all subjects taught from a Christian perspective by a staff who believe in Christ as their Savior. In today's world, when most are taught there are no absolutes, it is great to be a part of a school where Christ is central, and the Bible is seen as God's absolute plan and direction for our kids. Proverbs 1:7 talks about how the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wis-

It is our belief that Christian education is vital to raising our kids. We believe that God has entrusted our kids to us and given us the responsibility of raising them and training them in the knowledge of His kingdom.

our daughters have learned and experienced. We have shared in their learning and remember every "first" with fondness. We have experienced many changes. From learning the sound that "a" makes to $y=4a+2(2+3y)$. From learning to capitalize the first letter of each sentence to understanding a gerund phrase. From playing jump rope with rhyme to volleyball and softball. From playing rhythm sticks to the tuba and French horn. From skipping around the playground to texting. From being at school 30 minutes early to play outside to seemingly perfect precision arriving three minutes before the bell rings. From dressing up on gold rush days to wearing sweatshirts with eagles. From projects entitled "All About Me" to projects like "What Type of Wood Releases the Most Heat?"

As we have moved from stage to stage with our daughters, we have seen tremendous growth.

Christian education has not only increased their social and academic skills but their spiritual maturity as well. We have seen our kids grow in God's truth and knowledge. We have watched them grow closer to God by not just learning knowledge about the world and who God is, but by encountering Him through the classroom lessons, chapels, middle school retreats, devotions, small groups, sporting events, and musical activities.

We look with anticipation as they continue in the years ahead at ACA and as they begin to form their world view which affects everything they do. We actively participate with our school to help them understand their place in this world.

It is our belief that Christian education is vital to raising our kids. We believe that God has entrusted our kids to us and given us

dom. Christian education's foundation is that God is over all and that whatever subject is taught, it is taught from a Christ-centered perspective. That is basic to teaching a respect and reverence toward who God is and giving our kids a basis on which to build and gain knowledge.

It is our prayer as parents that our kids would mature in the character of Christ and live out that character in obedience and



service throughout their lives. For the role that RCS and ACA has played and will play in that maturity, we are forever grateful.

And if you know our family, you know the blessings of Christian education continue in the fall of 2011 as we enroll our daughter Lucy in kindergarten at RCS and begin the faith journey anew.

Fran Mulder, RCS/ACA Parent

MUSIC EDUCATION AND ALL THAT JAZZ

My mother made me take piano lessons when I was growing up. "It's good brain work," she used to say. She spoke often about how piano-playing helped develop a person's hand-eye coordination. I argued that playing Nintendo seemed to work for my friends.

The truth is that music always captured my attention. When I started playing piano, I remember feeling enthusiastic about it. I had watched my older brother and sister enviously for years as they learned to play on the old upright in our living room, and I couldn't wait for my turn. My enthusiasm waned when I realized that this was going to take some work. If I was to be anything but terrible, I was going to have practice.

This kind of discipline doesn't come easily to most 9-year-olds. That's where moms really shine. My mom doesn't have a musical bone in her body. Parliamentary procedures make more sense to a toddler than sheet music does to my

saxophone, but switched to the drums when the spot was vacated by a graduating eighth-grader.

"Drums are loud and obnoxious," Carnes said. "They're perfect for a middle schooler."

Many of the members of the first RCS jazz band came to ACA in ninth grade and were eager to continue playing together. They lobbied the administration and music teacher, Chris



Andrew Carnes plays on center stage with the ACA jazz band at Cirque du ACA Feb. 27. Carnes, a junior, is one of the founding members of both the RCS and ACA jazz bands. He plays drums and saxophone. He plans to major in music composition.

My mom was second-to-none in presenting a convincing case against my continued existence should I fail to plant my keister on that piano bench for 30 minutes every day.

mother. But she was second-to-none in presenting a convincing case against my continued existence should I fail to plant my keister on that piano bench for 30 minutes every day.

Learning to play the drums followed a similar pattern for me. I was eager to begin, and I excelled immediately, largely due to my background in piano. It was easy to practice while it was all so new. But eventually the newness wore off, and the fun of practicing turned to work again. This time mom wasn't there to threaten motivate my practice time. I was on my own.

I am a flagrant music education advocate. I believe that the benefits of learning to play an instrument are too numerous to count. We are fortunate to have increased the number of opportunities for students in our schools to be involved in music in recent years. I was reminded of this in a conversation with ACA junior, Andrew Carnes.

Andrew has the distinction of being one of the founding members of both the RCS and ACA jazz bands. Jill Leonard, the RCS band director (and my wife who is beautiful in every way), started the jazz band at RCS to give her students a chance to learn a different style of music. Andrew started out playing

McDonal, to start a jazz band at the high school level. It was an easy decision, and the group has been a huge success ever since. They play around Redlands dozens of times a year and will perform at the Anaheim Heritage Music Festival in May.

Without my knowledge my mother taught me something invaluable through those years of forced piano playing. She taught me that you reap what you sow. I got out of playing piano everything that I put into it. And later, when I developed interests of my own, I had this lesson in mind. Mom didn't have to threaten me to get me to practice drums. I knew where I wanted to go, and I knew that the only way to get there was to push through the drudgery of consistent, repetitive practice.

This is why it is so encouraging to me to see Andrew and the rest of the jazz band working so hard to accomplish a goal.

"Practicing is hard," Carnes said, "but I know that if I want to get better there is a price to pay."

Mark Leonard, Director of Communications

RCS events

APRIL 30

Holland Festival preparation, half day

MAY 1

Holland Festival

MAY 20

Spring Band and Choir Concert

MAY 31

Memorial Day Holiday

JUNE 1

Heritage Society Dinner, 6 p.m.
The Village at Redlands

JUNE 3

Middle School Awards night, 7 p.m.

JUNE 7

Last day of school for Pre-K 3-day

JUNE 8

Last day of school for Pre-K 2- and 5-day

JUNE 9

Kindergarten Graduation, 10 a.m.

JUNE 10

Last Day for Grades 1-8
Dismiss at Noon
Eighth-grade Graduation, 4 p.m.
The River CRC

JUNE 14-19

Summer Basketball Camp

ACA events

APRIL 24

Senior Brunch, 9-11 a.m.
ESRI Cafe \$25/person
Contact Tami Marvin:
tmarvin@me.com for information

MAY 5, 6, 7, 8

“Play On!” High School Play, 7:30 p.m.
Limited seating. \$10
Reservations: 909.335.3594
MS Gym

MAY 3-7

AP Testing, 7:30 a.m.
Eagle Arena

MAY 15

Prom
March Air Force Base

MAY 22

Fashion Show, 1 p.m.
MS Gym

MAY 25

Spring Choir concert, 7 p.m.
First Congregational Church, Redlands

MAY 28

Lettermen’s Club
Dodgeball Fundraiser, 6:30 p.m.

MAY 28

Yearbook Distribution Party, 1-3 p.m.
Eagle Park

MAY 31

Memorial Day Holiday

JUNE 1

MS Awards Night, 7 p.m.
MS Gym

JUNE 1

Heritage Society Dinner, 6 p.m.
The Village at Redlands

JUNE 1-4

Senior Exams

JUNE 4

High School Awards Night, 7 p.m.
MS Gym

JUNE 5

Baccalaureate, 4 p.m.
Trinity Evangelical Free Church, Redlands

JUNE 7-9

Senior Class Trip

JUNE 7-10

Second Semester Finals

JUNE 10

Last Day of School

JUNE 11

Middle School Promotion, 7:30 p.m.
Trinity Evangelical Free Church, Redlands

JUNE 12

High School Commencement, 7:30 p.m.
Redlands Bowl

TOTAL COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Grace Van Der Laan's Family Heritage in Christian Education



THE YEAR WAS 1910.

A young man and young woman (children, really—they were 19 and 16 respectively), journeyed across the ocean to find new hope and new life in America. They didn't know each other in The Netherlands. They met on the boat, but really got to know each other during the 12 months that followed their landing in America where they were indentured to work for a whole year to pay for the trip. They worked clearing land and as domestics in Dickinson, North Dakota. After that year, they moved separately to Whidbey Island, Washington.

THE YEAR WAS 1913.

The young couple married, settled into life in the Pacific Northwest as farmers and began to raise a family. Six children were born to them in Washington (two others were born later).

THE YEAR WAS 1921.

The couple read in *De Wachter!* (a newspaper written in Dutch for the immigrant population) that there was a group in Redlands that was considering starting a Christian School. The young father of a growing family threw his arms in the air and said, "Das is it! De kids need a Christian school. We will move to California! Dis is God's plan." And so they did.

They sold the family car and just about everything else and arrived in Redlands by train. By faith, without money or jobs, Dirk and Grietje De Wit, moved their entire family 1300 miles to a new community because of their deep-rooted commitment to Christian Education.

Dirk and Grietje's eight children (six moved with them from Washington, and two others were born in Redlands) all attended Redlands Christian School. They had 30 grandchildren, and 16 of them attended Redlands Christian School. There were 68 great-grandchildren, and 10 of them attended Redlands Christian School.

THE YEAR IS 2010.

One hundred years after this story began...

And, today? That legacy continues with two great-great grand children of Dirk and Grietje De Wit's at Redlands Christian School.

Now that's commitment!

■ Director of Development Ron Cook chats with Grace Van Der Laan about her family's history and their commitment to Christian education for their children. Van Der Laan's parents moved the family from Washington to Redlands to attend RCS in 1921.



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Redlands Christian School



ACA
Arrowhead Christian Academy

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Redlands Christian School 57th Annual

Holland Festival

Saturday, May 1, 2010 • Opening Ceremonies 10:00 a.m.

There's a little "Dutch" in all of us!

Whether you are brand new to the RCS community, or your roots go back generations you will enjoy The Holland Festival. The kids at RCS (and alumni) look forward to this day all year long. Extended family fun for all ages. Come early! Stay late!

Student Musical Performances • Bounce Houses for All Ages • Dutch Kitchen • Live and Silent Auctions •
Pony Rides • Petting Zoo • Olliebollen! • Alumni Rooms • Game Booths • Dutch Import Store •
Face Painting • Art-In-The-Park • "You-Choose Cruise" Opportunity Drawing • Prizes

KOMT DE HELE DAG MET ONS GENIETEN!

(RESERVED Senior Citizen & Handicapped Parking Behind LifeHouse Theater)

