

inside

Administrator's
Desk
Giving to
Cornerstone
Prayer Requests
and Answers

And more!

God at Work – In Amazing Ways

Cornerstone students, parents, and grandparents collect thousands of Campbell's Soup labels throughout the year. Day after day, students bring in red and white labels from their favorite soups (chicken noodle seems to win hands down!) Mrs. Doran in the school office stores them under her desk in a very large plastic container. A parent volunteer comes to collect them once a week. She then cuts them and counts them and packages them to send off to Campbell's, where the points are tallied. We have learned that nothing, not even soup labels, is wasted with God!

This process is repeated week after week until the exciting day comes when we receive our total point amount **and** the order catalog filled with all sorts of "school stuff." When the catalog arrived this year, we determined that the greatest need was in our Athletic Department, so the two P.E. teachers, Mr. Irvin and Mr. Olson picked out two large ball cages, as well as playground balls of all types. They selected basketballs, softballs, kickballs, and soccer balls and an electric air pump to fill them. After adding all the points up,

they still had enough for a ball rack on wheels. They wanted the large rack that would hold over 20 balls, but were out of points. So, they chose instead two 3-tier racks that would hold 12 balls each.

The order was placed.

We have learned that nothing, not even soup labels, is wasted with God!

When the items arrived, the 3-tier wheeled ball racks

were put together. Unfortunately, one of them was short a piece. It was missing one leg support, which made it very wobbly. They took it apart and repacked it, intending to send it back and obtain a replacement. When the company was called, the teachers were told that if it was the large ball rack it should be returned, but since it was the small one, the company wouldn't take a return, but instead would just send a new one to us.

Here's the amazing part of this story! When the new ball rack arrived and was put together, the box wasn't empty. At the bottom they found – you guessed it – an extra leg support! Coincidence? Never! God knew we needed ball racks, and saw to it that we would have **three** to make up for the large one we couldn't get. He is amazing!

the Administrator

On November 5th, our 10th graders went on the first student retreat ever. I had looked forward to it for weeks because I was going to kick off the retreat with some time alone with them. They are such a remarkable group of young people and I love each one of them. I couldn't wait to have them all to myself for a couple of hours. I wanted to tell them how I admire them and share the vision God has given us for Cornerstone. I also wanted to hear from them. And I did. I got to listen as they shared some of their dreams and what they want to do when they graduate. Finally, I wanted their feedback. What are we doing well? What can we be doing better? Specifically, I asked them to do an analysis of the school's strengths and weaknesses. Their discussion was intelligent and insightful. What do our students (particularly those who have been here the longest) think of their school? Take a look and see for yourself. The lists were not prioritized. I simply wrote their responses down as they thought of them. I was surprised to discover that they had an equal number of entries!

Strengths

Staff/Administration (*were they trying to impress me?*)
 Godly faculty
 Spiritual freedom
 Small
 Teachers care
 Individualized instruction
 Academically advanced
 Positive reputation
 Trust between students and teachers
 Unity
 All ages together
 Awesome gym
 God's obvious blessing
 Lots of land
 Isolation (but still close)
 Great kids (*I agree!*)
 Emphasis on prayer
 No fundraising
 No drug dogs!

Weaknesses

Well water (*not likely to change any time soon*)
 Small
 Limited athletics
 Limited participation
 Apathy in Upper School chapel
 Lack of unity
 Complacency
 No cafeteria
 Small Upper School rooms
 Lack of space
 Limited extracurricular activities
 Lack of diversity in student body and staff
 Familiarity with teachers breeds lack of respect
 They are "curriculum guinea pigs"
 Lack of technology
 Few electives
 No science labs
 Some 8th graders leave
 Not enough Upper School field trips

You'll notice, perhaps, that though being small is one of our strengths in their eyes, it also shows up as a weakness. I would agree with that. Our small size allows us to do some things that very big schools can't do. On the other hand, we couldn't have a high school soccer team right now if we had the field. We don't have enough kids (but they're coming!). I especially appreciated that most of the other perceived strengths fell into two primary categories: God and people. They seem to appreciate the spiritual blessing that is an everyday part of life for them. They sense God's presence and like that He is here with them. And from their vantage point it doesn't seem to matter whether you are a student (a three-year-old or a sophomore in high school), a teacher, a staff member, or an administrator. You are one of the strengths at Cornerstone. They are wise beyond their years, wouldn't you agree? They love God and the people He has placed around them.

On the other hand, they yearn for more. They want to go deeper in their relationships both with people and the Lord. They grieve when students leave (as do we all), and they want facilities that will allow us to have an even better program, whether academic or athletic. I couldn't disagree with anything they listed.

These young adults will graduate in May of 2007. It is just around the corner! It is my fervent prayer that when they leave, our strengths will have multiplied and our weaknesses diminished (a completed Phase II building project will eliminate many of them). Nevertheless, I was so blessed to discover that my vision is their vision. We appreciate the same things and we desire the same things. I believe these bright and beautiful young people deserve the very best we have to give. They have been the true trail blazers here and I suspect they will continue to be. I hope we can keep up with them!

2004-2005

Giving to Cornerstone

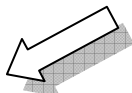
Here at CCA, we recognize that everything comes from the hand of God, but it's so much fun to see who He uses to accomplish His work. Through the years, Cornerstone has had over 400 donors whom God has raised up to bring about the following:

- ◆ A beautiful keyboard for Chapel AND portable ones for music classes!
- ◆ A portable sound system and powerpoint projector!
- ◆ Landscaping!
- ◆ A playground!
- ◆ Lunch chairs for our students!
- ◆ A new drum set, a practice set and several new instruments!
- ◆ A Weight Room!
- ◆ Microwaves and overheads!
- ◆ A wonderful building!

Thanks to all our Donors – You are very special people!



Mr. Pavey and Mr. Kinzinger pose with the yet-to-be-named CCA skeleton!



A Skeleton

Someone very special showed up at Cornerstone this last month! Our very own skeleton was added to our Cornerstone family, and will be used in our science classes. Thanks to the couple who made this fabulous addition possible!

in our Closet!

Prayer

Requests & Answers

We're experiencing exciting answers to prayer lately! Our cheerleading squads had been praying for practice mats to use. These mats can be quite expensive, and were not a part of our budget. So the girls prayed. And prayed. God showed Himself to be faithful yet again as a donor came by the office and gave the monies needed. The girls rejoiced! Their mats should be delivered by Christmas. In addition, the last issue of the *Courier* asked for prayer for a custom made stage curtain. We're thrilled to be able to report that God has answered that prayer, and our custom curtain is on its way! Thanks to the generosity and support from Bloomington Radiology, Cornerstone's new maroon velvet curtain will also arrive later this month. Thank you, Bloomington Radiology!



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Giving Update

If you look closely at the giving table, you will notice something new! Yes, our Building Fund now has a Phase II column! That's because even after only a year in our new building, we are out of room! Next year, we'll lose the conference room which will have to become a classroom, as well as current rooms which will have multiple purposes. But we're excited about what God has in store for us, and it's evident He is already at work! A wonderful donor came into the office last month and added \$30,000.00 to the over \$300.00 that students had already donated for Phase II. You'll be hearing more about our Phase II building plans in the coming months.

Meanwhile, Tuition Assistance giving remains low when compared to the amount awarded. In fact,

Annual Fund Giving 7/04-11/04	Tuition Assistance Giving 7/04-11/04	Building Fund Giving 7/04-11/04	Phase II Building Fund 7/04-11/04	Total Giving 7/04-11/04
\$46,457.54	\$10,304.03	\$60,226.73	\$30,381.95	\$147,370.25
Same Period 03-04				
\$49,882.90	\$9,571.82	\$64,417.41	0	\$123,872.13
Same Period 02-03				
\$18,297.66	\$24,563.58	\$157,512.08	0	\$200,373.32
Same Period 01-02				
\$29,247.18	\$12,108.57	\$18,185.06	0	\$59,540.81
Same Period 00-01				
\$28,183.44	\$4,438.02	\$13,349.00	0	\$45,970.46

\$121,293.75 has been granted to students currently enrolled at CCA. That money is not a part of our annual budget, but must come from donors. We pray each and every day that God will bring in these much-needed funds – will you pray with us?

Cornerstone Christian Academy does not discriminate against students of any race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin in its admission of educational policies or its scholarship, athletic or other school-administered programs.