



From the Administrator's Desk . . .

Keeping It Personal

**Cornerstone
Christian Academy
Est. 1997**

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"Training students from a distinctly Christian point of view"

**CORNERSTONE
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY
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I find myself pondering often these days what a large school Cornerstone has become. Back in the "early days" we had the vision of what might be; we even prayed that God would expand our territory (before the prayer of Jabez was a commercial success). Still, I don't think there were any among us who would have accurately predicted what God was going to do in such a short time. That was probably His protection. I think had I known, I would have turned and run, convinced that I would not be up for the task.

Of course, I can look back now and see how faithful God has been to us all. He has led every step of the way – providing what we needed, putting the right people in our path to teach us what we didn't know. The school has grown and matured under

His guidance and watchful care.

Nevertheless, I suspect that if we would take a poll, those families that have been here from the beginning share some of my feelings. On one hand, I am in awe of God's goodness to us. On the other, I must confess that there are times when I miss the small school that once was. I feel it more this year than any other. Adding another layer of administration has left me feeling isolated at

"...how do we celebrate the increase that God has given while keeping it personal?"

times – isolated from the students I love so dearly and isolated from their families. And so I ponder: how do we celebrate the

increase that God has given while keeping it personal? How do I get to know the new children who come to us and the families that bring them?

For all my ponderings, I still don't have the answers to my

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Winterim: An Educational Distinctive

Beth Sondgeroth, Academic Dean

As the new year approaches, CCA high school students and faculty eagerly anticipate the inaugural Winterim session. "Winterim" is a unique program modeled after a collegiate inter-semester schedule. The addition of the Winterim session allows us to expand curricular pro-

gramming and to offer an educational distinctive. Courses offered during the Winterim session will engage students in non-traditional, participatory learning activities both on and off campus. The exploratory nature of the courses will aid students in identifying and utilizing

their God-given gifts and aptitudes while developing skills and disciplines for academic, social, and spiritual development. Students and faculty will be challenged to approach teaching and learning in new settings, moving thinking about a variety of subjects to a higher level.

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Administrator's Desk-continued from front

"...we remain committed to the Person of Jesus Christ who makes this a very personal operation."

Becky Shames

questions. But one thing I know, the Lord Jesus Christ is still the master of keeping it personal. He comes to us as individuals at just the right time and in just the right way. Though I may not be able to see what "keeping it personal" looks like in a school of 500 or even 1,000, I am convinced that as long as Jesus is the center of all that we do and all that we are, Cornerstone will remain a personal kind of place. We are committed to following His

lead in all things. Keeping it personal is just one of them.

Cornerstone is not a little school anymore. Because it isn't, I don't know some of you as well as I would like. Don't take it personally. Instead I encourage you to get personal. Spend some time here. Get to know us and learn how we think and operate. I believe it will be time well spent. Though we may fall short some-times, we remain commit-

ted to the Person of Jesus Christ who makes this a very personal operation. My prayer is that in getting to know us, you will get to know Him. . . personally.

Still personally yours,

Becky Shames

Did you know? According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 62% of Christian schools today have an enrollment of between 49 and 150. 24% enroll less than 50, and only 6% have more than 750 students. CCA is in the remaining 8%.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY HELD AT CCA

Over 300 grandparents crowded the gym on November 18th for our annual Grandparents' Day. After being welcomed by Mrs. Shames, they were entertained by our High School Brass Ensemble. The students came in to join them for Chapel, where a kindergarten tried to point out his grandmother in the audience to his teacher. The following exchange took place:

"There's my Grandma!"

"Which one?" said the teacher, looking at the sea of faces. "The one with the gray hair!" he replied.

Following the regularly scheduled Chapel service and a slide presentation of all the CCA kids, grandparents visited individual classrooms. It was an exciting day for our students. And for all who attended, thanks for coming—we appreciate our grandparents!

FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE RETREAT!

The annual freshman-sophomore retreat was held Oct. 28-29 at East Bay Camp.

Friday night's activities included a challenge course and campfire. Teens were encouraged by Bible teacher Andy Huette to persevere by faith through difficult times. Satur-



day morning brought a special "Retreat of Silence" which gave the teens time for personal contemplation about their relationship with God, and the danger of becoming "too comfortable" with Him. They were challenged about the words they say and discussed together the warning signs within Christian culture

today. What did the students think about the retreat? In their own words:

"It was awesome—a really good chance to bond!"

"It unified us."

"It was a little convicting and made me think."

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, Dec. 6—6:30 PM—Upper School Christmas Concert

Thursday, Dec. 15—6:30 PM Lower School Christmas Program, "The Mighty Messengers" - at CCA

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 15 & 16—High School Finals

Friday, Dec. 16—Last day of school before Christmas Break

Monday, January 2—School Resumes

Month of January—Re-enrollment for current students

Tuesday, January 31—6-8 PM—Open House for prospective students;

Wednesday, Feb. 1—Enrollment for new students begins

Dads' & Pastors' Prayer Breakfast
Wednesday, Jan. 18th
6:30-7:30 AM

Watch for sign-up opportunities, and come pray for what God is accomplishing at C.C.A.!

Winterim—continued from front page

During the first two weeks of January, the regular high school schedule will be suspended while students participate in more concentrated coursework, study trips, and internships. Students who select the on-campus study option register for one academic class and one practical class. Courses being offered during the upcoming Winterim session include: *Twentieth Century Survey*; *Learning to Look: Developing a Christian Worldview*; *Money, Money, Money: A Course in Stewardship and Management*; *Bowling*; *Introduction to Auto Mechanics*; and *Basics in Cooking*. Students who are enrolled in Spanish 2, 3, or 4 during the regular school year have the option to participate in a two-week study trip to Spain during the Win-

terim session. Two junior level students have opted to participate in independent internships, granting them the opportunity to explore fields of interest in the surrounding community. Our currently enrolled students have been very instrumental in the selection of courses being offered and development of internship programs for this first Winterim session. As our high school enrollment increases, we plan to offer more study and service options during the Winterim session based on student interest and identified needs of the local and global communities.

As a Christ-centered academic institution, we understand that we are called to teach and to learn in a way that is different than what the world

has to offer. We believe that the addition of this program will significantly set Cornerstone Christian Academy apart from other schools and help us to accomplish our mission of “providing a superior college preparatory education integrating faith and learning in order to equip students to be leaders in their communities and lifetime followers of Jesus Christ.” Challenging academic courses will provide unique opportunities to prepare students for the rigors of the college classroom environment. Extended class sessions will offer exposure to block-scheduled courses and allow more concentrated time devoted to the study of a particular subject or execution of a specific project. Students will be challenged to examine specific subjects and contemporary issues through the lens of God’s Word. Off-campus opportunities will aid students in developing an outward focus. Extended time with staff and students from a variety of disciplines and grade levels will provide opportunities to build new and deeper relationships among the Cornerstone community. It is clear that “Winterim” means many new opportunities for students this year and in the years to come. We look forward to seeing how God will use Winterim to accomplish His purpose for Cornerstone Christian Academy and

“...your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

**Jesus -
Matthew 6:8**

Witnessing God’s Work Firsthand

Even though Cornerstone has grown, we have not forgotten that God is the One who provides for everything we need. We witnessed this firsthand within the last few weeks.

First of all, CCA received a large screen TV from a donor which now sits in our back hallway. We weren’t sure just how often we would use such a donation, but it didn’t take long to find out! With the coming of winter weather, students were soon gathered around it during recess, watching a Veggie Tales movie, and enjoying every minute of it.

Later, upper school classes used it during English to watch “A Light in the Forest,” to supplement a book they were reading. The TV now is reserved often.

We learned through this that God knows what we need (and what we don’t realize we need) before we even ask Him!

But He wasn’t done. The very week our one 25” TV went out because of a blown picture tube, a donor pulled up and unloaded a brand new 27” TV with a built-in VCR and DVD player. They had no idea we were in need of a new one at just that time! Our God is amazing!

We know that TVs are relatively small in the whole scheme of things, but when God moves this way, it reminds us that He is always at work among us. The God who provides is the God who never slumbers or sleeps. This is the God who provided 78 acres for our campus, who brought us from

3 different locations to being under one beautiful green roof, and who will take us to the next step—adding a high school addition complete with 17 large classrooms, including 2 science labs, a 2400 square foot “forum room,” and offices; an elementary addition with 13 classrooms, resource room, forum room, offices, and an indoor play area.

It sounds impossible. But then again, with God the impossible becomes possible. And certainly if He cares about small things like televisions, how much more a building for His glory? We can’t wait to see what He will do, and who He will use. But until then, each time we step around the over 100 students gathered in front of the big screen, we remember, and celebrate His work—firsthand.

Filling Up the Trophy Case!



CCA's Winning 8th Grade Team accepts their trophy at the 1st Annual Tip-off Tournament held November 5th at CCA

CCA sponsored the 1st annual Cornerstone Tip-off Invitational Tournament held Nov. 1, 3 & 5th. Five schools and ten teams came from Flanagan, Calvary Baptist-Normal, Chester East-Lincoln, Zion Lutheran-Lincoln and Cornerstone. Each school fielded a 7th and an 8th grade boys' team.

CCA's 7th grade team lost their championship game against Chester East-Lincoln, but finished 2nd in the tourney with a 2-1 record.

CCA's 8th grade team finished with a 3-0 record, defeating Chester East's team in the championship game by a score of 30-14.

Both teams are coached by John Schwartz and Bob Shames.

CCA Girls Finish Regular Season 18-0

CCA's 8th Grade Girl's Basketball Team finished their regular season with an undefeated record of 18-0! They went on to win the St. Mary's Tournament Nov. 12th, beating Peoria Academy by a score of 32-18. They were seeded 2nd behind Epiphany in the IESA 8th Grade regional held Nov. 28-30, but lost to Metcalf by a score of 31-19. Pictured with the team below is Coach Bob Clay and Assistant Coach John Schwartz. Congratulations to our girls!



CCA's 8th Grade Girl's Team after their St. Mary's Tournament Win

Want full athletic schedules? Find them on our website—
www.cornerstonechristian.com.
Look under the "Athletics" link on the page.

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.

