

the Warrior Bulletin

A Newsletter for Parents, Alumni, Friends and Family

Grace Christian School - Winter 2016

Coram Deo - "Before the Face of God"

By John Morrison, Headmaster

In my recent blogs, our last newsletter, and our February Parents Meeting, we have talked about our participation in an exciting pilot program entitled *Worklife Restoration and Advancement Project (WRAP)* sponsored by *Worldview Matters*. We are unaware of a comparable program anywhere in the Christian school movement, and we are thrilled to be one of five U.S. schools invited to participate.

A primary reason for our enthusiasm is that this program equips us with practical tools to more effectively integrate our biblical worldview into the education of our students. Sadly, many Christian schools are merely copies of public schools, with Bible, scripture memory, prayer, etc., added authentic Christian education as it should be

In addition to helping us better impact a primary thrust of WRAP is to help them when approached out of a sense of obedience and uniquely gift one to be an electrician, pastor, missionary, etc. In this context, all is motivated by obedient faith in response to instructional emphasis in all grades at GCS, staff individually mentors our students to help them gain a sense of God's calling on their lives!



on as supplements to the "main event." But this is not at its most fundamental level.

our students with our basic Christian assumptions, understand that all vocations are equally sacred to God's calling. In other words, God may lead nurse, truck driver, teacher, housewife, accountant, vocations are equally sacred in God's eyes, when one his or her sense of God's calling. This is an on-going but especially at the high school level as our guidance

Thus, we have adopted a new school motto which you will be hearing about more frequently: *Coram Deo* -- "before the face of God." This largely forgotten Reformation emphasis on all vocations being equally "sacred" in God's eyes is a life-changing concept, and we trust that God will increasingly use Grace Christian School to prepare our students to live "before the face of God" in all they do and to be His salt and light throughout our culture.

Indeed, when the false dichotomy between the so-called "sacred/secular divide" is pulled down, we see that our lives have profound meaning and purpose in terms of serving where God sovereignly calls us. Our school vision, then, is to continually drill down to the roots of what Christian education should be about so that we may impact our students in mind and heart to live for Christ and the cause of His kingdom! **Coram Deo!**

Auction Events & Gospel Concert Set for April

We invite you to kick up your heels with us at this year's Boots & Bandana Auction and Gospel Concert. Our goal, with God's help, is to raise \$72,500 this year.

The expanded Online Auction will open on Friday, April 1 and close on Sunday, April 10. Our Silent & Live Auction will be held on Saturday, April 16, at our new location at Augusta Expo in Fishersville. Beginning at 3:30 pm, guests will participate in our Silent Auction and enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by *Up-N-Smoke BBQ*. At 5:30 pm guests will engage in an enhanced and interactive Live Auction.

That same evening, we are also hosting a separate ticketed event following the Live Auction. We are excited about adding a gospel concert to this year's auction line up. Dove Award Winning *Brian Free & Assurance*, a southern gospel group, will perform at 7:30 pm. Lead singer, Brian Free, is considered one of the most recognized southern gospel tenors touring today. "I am convinced that many individuals who do not follow southern gospel music closely will be "converted" after hearing this group," commented Janet Cleveland, Director of Development. "We look forward to sharing their music ministry with the larger community."



Southern gospel group, *Brian Free & Assurance*.

Tickets for both the auction and concert are on sale in the Grace Christian School offices. Auction tickets are \$20 per person (adults only) and concert tickets are \$15 for reserved/\$10 for general admission. For more information, visit our school website at www.gcswarriors.org.

Biblical Worldview Class for 8th Graders

In January, the eighth grade students began a semester-long course in biblical worldview taught by GCS teacher and guidance counselor, Cindy Mims and GCS high school principal, Brian Fitzgerald. This class introduces our students to world religions and demonstrates that Christianity is reasonable and defensible. By comparing other worldviews to Christianity, we hope to instill in our students a confidence that Christianity is the truth. We also hope to equip them to defend and articulate their faith to friends or acquaintances who hold different views of the world. Our students should be able to coherently talk about why they believe what they believe, and this class provides them an environment to think through some of those issues.

Living in a high-tech society, our students are exposed every day to a wide variety of ideas and worldviews. Islam, for example, is constantly in the news. Our students should be informed about Islam, therefore we read Nabeel Qureshi's book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*. This account of Qureshi's conversion from Islam to Christianity will give our students insight into what Islam is about and why Muslims believe what they believe. However, it also demonstrates the power and love of the living Jesus to change lives today. After reading this, our students should be equipped to engage in discussions about the beliefs of both Islam and Christianity. Our goal in this class is to have similar discussions about a wide range of religions and cults to equip our students to filter the ideas coming at them from all kinds of sources and people.



Teacher, Cindy Mims working with 8th graders, Gus Pananas, Anna Burkholder, Ella Lucus and Kaidan Black.

This class especially focuses on Christianity. On the heels of learning about false teachers, we read C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* in which Lewis portrays the struggles of spiritual warfare in the Christian life. In our experience, students enjoy this book because it accurately reflects the false assumptions and ideas that we tend to default to in the Christian life. This book also provides a platform to discuss a wide range of issues within a biblical framework.

By the end of the year, students will have engaged and thought through issues about major world religions and cults, how the Bible was put together, how Old Testament prophecies have been fulfilled, evidence for Jesus' resurrection, archeological evidence supporting biblical accounts, the case for creation science, and how to practically defend the Christian faith in everyday conversations. After leaving this class, students should have a good idea about worldviews beyond Christianity and how to engage those ideas with grace and truth.

GCS Business Partner Corner

Our Business Partners for Education make it possible for us to offer tuition assistance to a number of our school families. When you frequent these businesses, please take a moment to express your appreciation for their support! To learn more about this program, please contact Janet Cleveland in our Development Office at 540-886-9109.



The Wizard of Oz Comes to Staunton Lions, tigers and bears, oh my!

On April 22 and 23, GCS middle and high school students will take you on a journey filled with excitement and suspense to places beyond the rainbow! We invite you to join us in this family-friendly adventure down the yellow brick road to visit *The Wizard of Oz*. Tickets are on sale now. To order your tickets, email theater@gcswarriors.org.

Show Times

Friday, April 22
7:00 pm
Saturday, April 23
1:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Performances held at
**the GCS Middle School
Gymnasium**
**511 Thornrose Avenue
Staunton, VA**



Graduates in the News

1997

Matthew Hochstetler, wife, Ingabeth, and son, Jacob (2), welcomed Matteo to the family in December. The Hochstetlers live in Ingabeth's hometown of Notodden, Norway, where Matthew works in the human resource and coordination department at an engineering inspection company in the subsea oil industry. Matthew also runs a local youth cafe on weekends.

1998

Kelly (McNair) Bierman and her husband, Nathan, are the proud parents of son, Bowen Denver, born in November. The Biermans live in Franklin, Tennessee where Kelly works as a marketing manager with Schneider Electric.

2000

Brandon Murray and his wife, Colleen, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Oliver John Francis, born in January. He joins siblings Constance Rose (7), Elizabeth Scarlett (5) and Henry (2). The family resides in Verona, Virginia. Brandon works as a solutions architect for an IT consulting company in Richmond, Virginia.

2003

Ashley (Barrett) Hunt, husband, Ray, and sons, Barrett (4) and Oakley (2) have relocated to Staunton,

Virginia. Ashley works as a nurse in the Pediatric Oncology Department at the University of Virginia Hospital.

2005

Philip Masincup and **Kristen (Kime) Masincup (2006)** have started a new business, *Revitalize Health & Fitness*, which educates individuals in living a healthy lifestyle through motivation and fitness coaching support. To learn more about their business, visit www.revitalize.fit. Philip is the chief graphic designer for Paul Montgomery Studio and Kristen is an operating room nurse at Augusta Health. The couple live in Stuarts Draft, Virginia.

2006

Kevin Murray is residing in Richmond, Virginia and is working in sales, marketing and promotion for Legend Brewing Company.

2007

Michael and **Ashley (Sours) Hogsett** have an addition to their family - Nathan Michael who was born in December. Michael works for Fisher Auto Parts and Ashley works at the University of Virginia Hospital in the Cytogenetics Laboratory. The family lives in Waynesboro, Virginia.

2010

Lindsay Shaw and Jared

White were married in November. Lindsay is a graduate of the Blue Ridge Community College Vet Technician Program and is employed as a vet tech at the Animal Healthcare Center in Waynesboro. The couple recently purchased a home in West Augusta, Virginia.

2011

Kelsey (Keegan) Sprouse and her husband, Josh, own and operate their own business, *Sprouse Lawn Care*. They specialize in landscaping, mowing, lawn and garden maintenance, mulching and snow removal. Visit www.sprouselawncare.com to check out their website. The couple recently purchased farm property in Verona, Virginia, where they plan to build their homestead.

2013

Sarah Hrovat spent last semester at St. Andrews University in Scotland, studying divinity and international relations. In addition to hiking and exploring Scotland, she enjoyed traveling throughout Europe. Sarah is now back at the University of Virginia majoring in kinesiology and plans to graduate next year.

Laura Ann Leaton is a junior at the University of Virginia studying cognitive science and is a member of

UVA's triathlon team. She is taking a break from classes to participate in *Bike & Build*, which coordinates service-oriented cycling trips across the country in which riders assist with building projects for affordable housing. She will be biking 4,029 miles from New Hampshire to Vancouver beginning in June. To support Laura Ann or learn more about *Bike & Build*, visit www.bikeandbuild.org/donate/ and search for Laura Leaton.

Molly Lilly is continuing her studies in the nursing program at Blue Ridge Community College. After receiving her RN, she plans to transfer to James Madison University's Nursing Program, with the goal of becoming a flight nurse. She has participated in "ride alongs" with Air Care 5 Medevac, a helicopter medical transport service and is also an EMT with the Grottoes Rescue Squad.

The Warrior Bulletin is a publication of
Grace Christian School

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High School Principal: Brian Fitzgerald
Elementary & Middle School Principal:
Joanne Kinder
Supervisor of Instruction:
Mary Ellen Barrett
Development Specialist: Janet Cleveland
Admissions Director & Editor:
Liz Middleton



Nathan, Kelly (McNair) & Bowen Bierman



Molly Lilly - preparing to board the Air Care 5 Medevac helicopter



David & Tiffany Sayre



Michael, Ashley (Sours) & Nathan Hogsett

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Grace Christian School's mission is to assist Christian parents by providing a sound academic education in a Christ-centered environment, designed to prepare our young people to know God and to live in obedience to His will for their lives.

Friendships from South Korea Continue

As has become a yearly tradition at Grace, students from Seoul, South Korea traveled nearly 7,000 miles to learn about America and become a part of the GCS family. This year, sisters Hyunjt (age 11) and Hyunjt Ahn (age 9) spent eight weeks living with Treacy and Mary Jones and their children, Richard (7th grade), Savannah (5th grade) and Christopher (PreK) and attended 5th and 2nd grade, respectively.

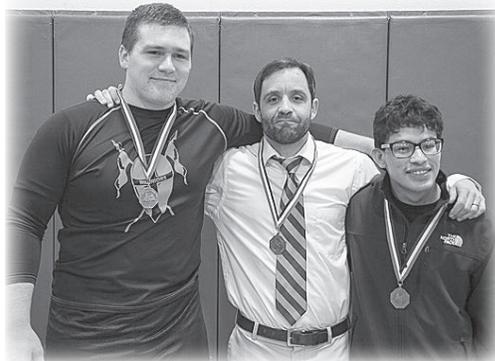


Hyunjt, Savannah and Hyunjt enjoy time at school together.

The visit proved to be a positive experience for both the Jones family and the Ahn sisters. "We explored their culture as much as they explored ours," shared Mary Jones. "It was fun learning about the similarities and differences in our family dynamics, cultures and day-to-day living." Hyunjt, who used the American name, Katie, said learning cursive and math were the most challenging subjects for her while at Grace. Hyunjt, known to her classmates as Victoria, said she would greatly miss ice cream and all of her new American friends upon returning home!

Wrestlers make it to State Championship

The Warrior Wrestling team placed three wrestlers in the 2016 VISAA (Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association) state championships. GCS junior, Nathaniel Grow and senior, Sam Skillman placed 4th, qualifying both wrestlers for the prestigious National Prep Wrestling Tournament. GCS senior, Jonathan Zodhiates finished his wrestling career with a 7th place finish. Sam Skillman completes his high school wrestling career as the all-time wins leader for the GCS wrestling program. **Way to go Warrior Wrestlers!**



Nathaniel Grow, Coach Josh Palumbo, Jonathan Zodhiates and Sam Skillman.

