



Hundreds Enjoy Seventh Annual GCS Auction

Grace Christian School families, alumni, and friends attended the annual Boots and Bandana Benefit Auction April 28 at the Activities Center. Over 900 items were sold in both the live and silent auctions.

"We sold over 1,100 tickets this year and kitchen staff served approximately 700 barbecue dinners. I think this is a record!" said Kim Weller, auction chairperson. "But more important than numbers is the fact that this event brings together so many people both from inside our school community and throughout the entire Augusta County area. It's more than a fundraiser - it's also a *fun* event!"

There was lively bidding on a number of items, including the class acts. "Anything with children's handprints and signatures is always very popular," added Kim. Also, a last minute donation of an eight week old AKC registered boxer puppy brought lots of attention. "There was something for everyone - from lawn mowers to vacation packages to Tupperware. We even had a bathtub this year!"

Even though many people "dug deep" for this fundraising event, several attendees commented that they'll be back next year to take advantage of some of the *great* deals in both the live and silent auctions.

Several dozen student "cowhands" in jeans and red bandanas spent the day serving soda, moving chairs, helping auctioneer Ben Howell and his sons on stage during the live

auction, and retrieving items after checkout. And, over 150 volunteers worked not only the day of the auction, but in the months leading up to the event selling advertisements, working on the catalog, and securing donations.

"We raised over \$71,000," said John Morrison, GCS administrator. "But the biggest blessing was seeing so many people pulling together to support Christian education."



Members of Heaven's Mountain Band - including GCS graduates Darrin and Barry Hevener - entertained during the dinner hour.

Elementary Students Honor Grandparents



Several hundred grandparents from all around the state and country attended the fourteenth annual Grandparent's Day Open House and program in early May. (Left) Kindergarten students don masks for their presentation of "All The Creatures of the Earth." (Right) Christine and Paul Knopp pose with their great grandsons Elijah and Isaiah Knopp.

It Takes Faith To Stay The Course

By John Morrison, GCS Administrator

After twenty-seven years of involvement in various capacities at Grace Christian School, I must honestly confess that I sometimes feel a bit weary, and I invariably question whether or not all the time and effort is worth it. As those who minister at Grace know, it requires a significant commitment of personal time and energy.

The same is certainly true for GCS parents. Those who enroll a single child from grade one through twelve could end up paying approximately \$50,000.00 over that time span (not including other fees and expenses) at today's tuition rates. Most of us already have tight budgets, and this money could certainly be used elsewhere in our family finances!

But each year, when I seem invariably to ask this fundamental question—"Is it worth it?"—The Lord brings me back again and again to the fundamentals of Scripture and educate our children. He seems also to hear from our graduates and current students that the value of teaching our youth to think that secular culture cannot be overestimated. As a parent, the investment we make in our children is "priceless!"

Perhaps there is no price too high for words, to "See to it that no one takes you

"...Christian education is never easy, either in terms of time and energy or the material sacrifices necessary. But perhaps God intended it to be this way."

and what it has to say about how we are to train our children. I need just the kind of encouragement I need from students in terms of their testimonies. Indeed, the "Christianly" and critically in the midst of our culture, the credit card ad on TV concludes, the invest-

ment we make in our children is "priceless!" Perhaps there is no price too high for words, to "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ" (Col 2:8). In this context, I was encouraged by one of this year's seniors who observed that he had been unaware how much he was being influenced by the media, but now realized that pop culture was bombarding him with various, non-Christian worldviews. Now, he says, he cannot listen to a song or view a movie without analyzing its content. This is really one of the primary fundamentals of Christian education, to train our students to think critically from a Christian perspective in the context of our culture.

The serious matter of spiritual warfare in our day begins largely with the mind. This, again, is what Paul meant when he stated, "We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ ..." (2 Cor 10:5). As James Dobson has pointed out, the real battle for our youth is being waged for control of their minds. As Christian parents, we must never be naïve about the fundamental nature of this life and death struggle.

Indeed, Christian education is never easy, either in terms of time and energy or the material sacrifices necessary. But perhaps God intended it to be this way. It requires faith to make the initial commitment, and it requires faith to stay the course, both for the ministry workers as well as the parents. For 27 years, God has been faithful in sustaining this ministry and impacting the lives of many youth. May we step boldly into the future, trusting Him to continue to bless and provide in the days ahead. And may we have the bold faith needed in order to persevere in this vision of Christian education as an eternal, priceless investment that will bear much fruit in this strategic generation of future Christian leaders.

Gift-in-Kind Donations Appreciated

A number of individuals and businesses have donated to GCS in the form of gift-in-kind donations. From vehicles to computers, real estate property to furniture, these items are such a blessing to our school program. While we do not publish the names of individual donors, we would like to recognize the following businesses for their recent donations:

Flow Choice of Staunton - For teaching GCS students in the areas of web design and graphic design

Lowe's of Waynesboro - For discounted pricing on seasonal items

Shenandoah Valley Water Company of Staunton - For donation of water bottles for GCS end-of-year field day

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans of Staunton - For professional assistance with the GCS Endowment

Beth's Photography (Beth Trainum) of Staunton - For yearbook pictures

Fresh Wind Cleaning of Staunton - For donation of a vacuum cleaner

Lacey Real Estate Group of Fishersville - For use of box truck for transportation of supplies and equipment

PSI (Packaging Services Inc.) of Weyers Cave - For donation of cardboard for GCS Arts Festival

Kate Collins Middle School of Waynesboro - For donation of used lockers

CiCi's Pizza of Staunton - For monthly fundraising opportunities and donations to GCS

WalMart of Staunton - For donations for elementary and middle school end-of-year field day

Dunkin' Donuts of Staunton - For discounted pricing and donated items for GCS Grandparent's Day Program

Shenandoah Shakespeare and Blackfriars Playhouse of Staunton - For assistance with GCS High School Poetry Contest by providing workshops and voice coaching for participants, judging of contest, and providing prizes.

Faithfulness Is A Real Blessing

By Liz Middleton, Director of Development

God certainly has been faithful to the ministry of Grace Christian School over the past 27 years. We see His hand of provision each year as He equips us with qualified teachers, willing volunteers, eager students, and engaged families to His supplying for our growing financial needs. We also acknowledge our faithful donors for their generosity and continued support through the years. Your financial support helps to ensure that every student at Grace Christian School receives an excellent education grounded in a Christian worldview.

Each gift, large or small, plays an important role in helping us reach our financial goals. Our fundraising year runs from September 1 through August 31, which means that this fiscal year is drawing to a close. We are pleased to share the fruits of God's faithfulness and yours, through the following fundraising totals for the 2006-07 year to-date:

Annual Fund: We have met 96% of our \$132,000 goal, raising \$126,200 so far!

Financial Aid Fund: We have met 100% of our \$60,000 goal!

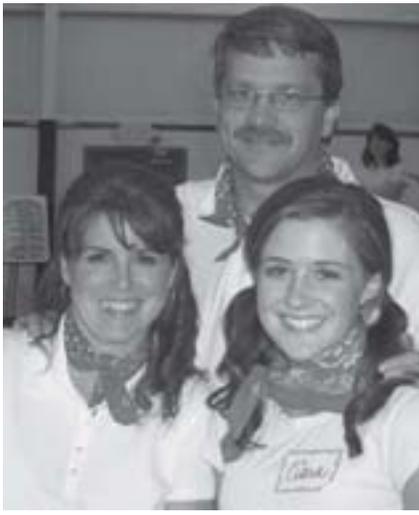
Endowment Fund: This ongoing fund has grown to \$42,300 and will eventually provide for future capital improvements or other major needs of the school.

We welcome your continued support of the mission and vision for Grace Christian School, knowing that each gift is an important part of God's provision. There are many ways in which you can donate, and all gifts made to Grace Christian School are tax deductible. For more information about contributing to Grace Christian School, please contact the Development Office at (540) 886-9109.

The *Warrior Bulletin* is published quarterly by Grace Christian School.
 Editor - Debbie Summers
 Director of Development - Liz Middleton
 Administrator - John Morrison
 High School Principal - Debbie Harper
 Elementary/Middle School Principal - Joanne Kinder

BUSINESS PARTNERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We appreciate the financial support of our Business Partners in Education. These 30 community business leaders have joined together to help provide the necessary funds to provide for this year's financial aid needs. What a blessing these partners have been to the many children who receive financial aid throughout the school year. We encourage everyone to support these businesses and when you do, make a point of thanking them for their generosity and commitment to Christian education and to their community. If you would like to learn more about the Business Partners in Education program, please contact Liz Middleton in the Development Office at (540) 886-9109.



Boots and Bandana Benefit Auction

(Top left) Kelsey Keegan and mom April pose with their cowboy hats. (Above) The Rankin family sports red bandanas. (Right) Tayna Sprouse is one of the “kitchen hands.” (Left) Carly Kinder holds a boxer puppy to be auctioned off as auctioneer Matt Howell gets in a pet. (Right) Mark Wenger checks the auction “big board.” (Bottom left) Bill Renton holds up a lobster as he urges bidders to bid up his fishing package! (Bottom right) Joanne Hickin and her daughter Grace Schultz check out a silent auction bid.



Elementary and Middle School News

Students Give Troops Send-Off

A group of GCS elementary and middle school students had the privilege of participating in a special “send-off” ceremony recently for the 116th National Guard Brigade which was being commissioned for duty in Iraq.

With the soldiers in formation and their families nearby, students read scripture verses of encouragement and presented them with letters and hand-made cards from the Grace Christian School students and staff.

The day was especially poignant for seventh grader, Aaron Williams, whose father, SFC Michael Williams, was among the soldiers being deployed. Our prayers are with Aaron, his mother, Kelly, and their family, and especially with SFC Williams and his comrades.



Music teacher Marie Masincup directs students at the festival.

Fine Arts Festival A Real Hit

The Grace Christian School fine arts program took their show “on the road” this spring by hosting a Fine Arts Festival for private schools in the Staunton-Augusta County community. The event was held at the Staunton Colonial Mall, with events and displays lining the mall corridors.

“We were excited to bring several schools together under one roof and showcase their fine arts programs,” commented festival organizer and GCS staff member, Julie Peterson. “Our goal was to share Christ through our art, music and drama to a public audience,” she added.

Mall walkers meandered past artwork displays, while audiences enjoyed performances by the elementary, middle and high school choirs. The elementary school drama troupe put on several one-act mini-dramas that they wrote themselves and the high school drama team performed an excerpt from their spring musical “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown.” And, the middle school praise band led audience members in a time of worship.

Philippine Sister School Thriving

Over seven years ago, Alex and Eunice Malanday, a missionary couple from the Philippines, spoke to elementary students about the need for schools in their native country. Students responded to the call for help in amazing ways, raising \$2,000 for the purchase of a school building and they received the honor of naming the school! Today, GCS students are still involved in the ministry of Hope Christian Kinder School. This year, students raised \$1,000 through ice cream sales and presented a check to the Malandays in a recent chapel service. In addition to the initial purchase of the school building, the donations from Grace over the years have provided the students of Hope Christian Kinder School with furniture, indoor plumbing, electricity and school supplies.

Students Receive Awards

Eighth grader Holly Wenger is this year’s recipient of the DAR Award. Other students receiving Service Awards at the 8th grade graduation ceremony included Frankie Leo, Richard Cooper, Will Campbell, and Chris Knight.

First graders Lexi Have and Caitlin McLain don hats and bandanas for Cowboy Day. The class ate “campfire” s’mores and told cowboy stories.



Seventh graders Ashley Hanger and Weston Cline dissect a frog in a life science class.

High School News

Students Recognized At Assembly

Students in grades nine through twelve received awards at the annual awards assembly on June 1. Receiving recognition were the following:

Personal Growth Award - Jay Henderson, Ashley Colvin, Rachel West, Chloe Lins, Callie Middleton, and Evan Post.

Diligence Award - Michelle Stewart, Emily Masincup, Chase Smith, David Showker, Karla Martin, Jolene Miller, Laura Pullin, Kristen Beebe, Logan Combee, Chloe Lins, Sarah Cook, Mary Masincup, Ashley Sours, Lisa Mims, Tara Stoll, and Anna Betlej.

Servant's Heart Award - Emily Masincup, Katie Williams, Casey Knight, Kaylin King, Lyndsey Keegan, Jacob Kocka, Leslie Rada, Natalie Showalter, Carly Kinder, and John Reid Weller.

Spirit Award - Lisa Mims, Ciara Rankin, and John Reid Weller.

Physical Fitness Awards - Achievement - Emily Masincup, Matthew Cooper, Paul Stoneburner, Faith Marinelli; **Merit** - Ranita Shenk; **Principal's Fitness** - Lauren Lacey, Kali Flavin, and Jory Ringer.

Poetry Awards - David Showker, David Hrovat, Emily Masincup, Kristen Beebe, Jaime Ballew, Laurel Rich, Jessah Hostetler, Jordan Culbertson.

Senior Elective Pins: Drama - Ethan Wall, Anna Betlej, Daniel Marinelli, and Tara Stoll; Chorus - Daniel Marinelli, Ashley Sours, Tara Stoll, Anna Betlej, Carly Kinder. Yearbook - Ben Miller, Ciara Rankin, Ryan Smith, Lisa Mims.

National Merit Commended Scholars - Stephen Marshall and Sarah Cook.

Senior Scholastic Achievement Award - Ashley Sours. Tara Stoll and Lisa Mims were also recognized for high achievement.



Rotary Code Of Ethics. Seniors Daniel Marinelli and Lisa Mims were voted by their peers to be the 2007 GCS recipients of the Rotary Code of Ethics Award. The two were honored at a Staunton Rotary Club banquet in May.

Student Senate Officers Elected

Elections were held for the high school Student Senate for the 2007-08 school year. Elected to serve include Betsy Barrett, president; David Hrovat, vice-president; Jessah Hostetler, secretary; and Rachel Hrovat, treasurer.

Class senators include the following: 9th Grade - Ryan Stiteler, Aaron Mallory, Holly Wenger, Holly Moses; 10th grade - Chase Smith, David Showker, Jory Ringer, Emily Masincup; 11th grade - Alex Moore, Cody Royals, Jesse Ingram, Jay Henderson, Casey Knight, Maddie Soriano; 12th grade - Natalie Showalter, Leslie Rada, Logan Combee, Dylan Grant, and Mary Masincup.

Students To Attend Girls/Boys State

Three juniors will be attending Virginia Boys/Girls State this summer. Betsy Barrett will represent Grace at Girls State, and Logan Combee and Dylan Grant



will be GCS delegates to Boys State. The programs, sponsored by the American Legion and Auxiliary, give juniors throughout Virginia an opportunity to learn about local and state government through "hands-on" participation. The programs will be held on the campuses of Liberty University and Longwood College. All three students are sponsored by the Staunton Post 13 American Legion.



Charles Shrewsbury gets ready to launch a baseball on his trebuchet as part of an experiment in physics class.

GCS Students Help Local Dentist “Get Connected”



Dr. White reviews website with his student designers.

and have designed and implemented the site.

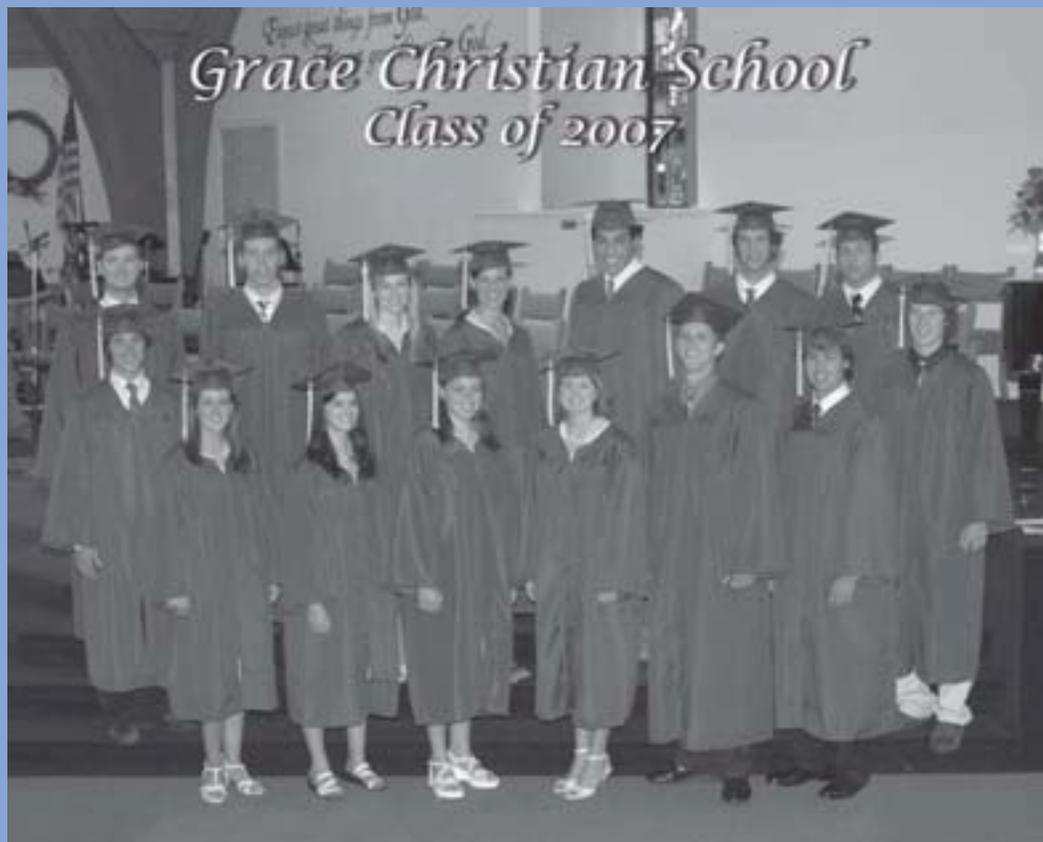
“Because of my web design class, I’ve learned a lot this year and have enjoyed working on this project with my friends,” commented freshman Jory Ringer. In addition to Jory, other students working on this website project include Meghan Fielding, Monica Fix, Jacob Kocka, Christa Malcolm, Charles Shrewsbury, and Shayna Simmons.

When local dentist and GCS parent, Dr. Alan White, let it be known that he was in need of a website for his practice, GCS students responded. Under the direction of computer instructor, Mrs. Mary Beebe, the students have undertaken this challenge and have not only designed the website, but have learned a lot in the process.

Students toured the dental office, took photographs, interviewed Dr. White and his staff, wrote the script,



Curtain Call. Members of the high school drama team presented *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown* to Grace family and friends in April. The musical was directed by Ms. Ash White, GCS English and Theatre Arts teacher. Donna Kocka, GCS art teacher, designed the set and Sandy Carter donated costumes. Here, Evan Post (Charlie Brown) listens as Tara Stoll (Sally) gives him advice. Logan Combee (Linus) and Anna Betlej (Lucy) are ready to add their “two cents”.



Class of 2007. (Bottom) Ciara Rankin, Tara Stoll, Anna Betlej, Lisa Mims, John Reid Weller, Ryan Smith. (Middle and Top) Daniel Marinelli, Jordan Culbertson, Jason Flower, Ashley Sours, Carly Kinder, Ethan Wall, Chad Gery, Ben Miller and Michael Hogsett.

Sports News



2007 Baseball Team

(Front row) Coach Craig Smith, Chase Smith, Tony Mancini, Paul Stoneburner; (Top row) Dylan Grant, Michael Hogsett, Austin Rice, John Reid Weller, Jake Bailey, Matt Coffey, Aaron Mallory, Chad Gery, Lucas Rexrode, Ben Miller, Caleb Mallory. Not pictured: Assistant Coaches Mike Mallory and Sam Campbell.

2007 Track and Field Team

(Front) Stephen Marshall, Dell Sprouse, Natalie Showalter, Jacob Kocka, Daniel Shifflett, Albert Ullrich, Wes Knopp. (Back) Andrew Ullrich, Anna Montgomery, Holly Moses, Coach Allen Jervey, Jay Henderson, Jason Flower, Ian Kelliher, Weston Cline, Joscelyn Seaton, Mary Hrovat, Hannah Rich. Not pictured: David Hrovat, Coach Will Hrovat, Coach Brian Meyer, Coach Dave Middleton.



2007 Girls' Soccer Team

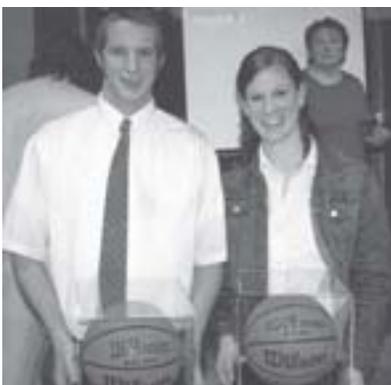
(Front) Jessah Hostetler, Ciara Rankin, Carly Kinder, Lyndsey Keegan. (Back row) Kelsey Keegan, Liz Gleaves (manager), Anna Kocka, Coach Greg Marshall, Ashley Showalter, Rachel Smith, Ranita Shenk, Rachel Hrovat, Michelle Stewart, Alyshia Zimmerman, Faith Marinelli, Lindsey Whitesell, Betsy Barrett, Liz Ullrich, Amy Modlin, Holly Wenger, Casey Knight, Coach Susan Wenger, Hope Kelliher, Asst. Caroline Rhodes, Emylee Protil

2007 Tennis Club

(Right) Ashley Colvin, Keenan Peterson, Mary Masincup, Anna Betlej, Christa Malcolm, and Lisa Mims. Not pictured: Coach Cindy Mims and Asst. John Spotts.

Athletes Reach 1000!

(Left) Seniors Chad Gery and Carly Kinder were both presented with game balls after reaching their 1000th career point in varsity basketball.



Ladies Finish With Top Seed

The Lady Warriors finished the spring soccer season with a record 10-1 Blue Ridge Conference finish, earning them a first seed in the end of season tournament. The girls beat Roanoke Valley Christian School in the first round, then battled Chatham Hall to a nail-biting finish (including a regular overtime, a sudden death overtime, a penalty kick-off, and finally a sudden death penalty kickoff) which ended with a Warrior victory. The team then lost to Eastern Mennonite High School in a hard fought championship game. This is the first time in Grace history that a girls' soccer team has made it this far. Congratulations to Coaches



Senior Ciara Rankin

Greg Marshall and Susan Wenger and to the entire team.

Lyndsey Keegan, Carly Kinder, Lindsey Whitesell, and Kelsey Keegan were named to the BRC All Conference Team. Lyndsey, Carly, and Lindsey also received All Tournament honors. Coach Marshall was named Coach of the Year.

Others receiving soccer awards were Lyndsey Keegan, Forward of the Year; Lindsey Whitesell, Midfielder of the Year; Ciara Rankin, Defender of the Year; Jessah Hostetler, Most Improved; Carly Kinder - MVP; Ashley Showalter; Coaches' Award; Casey Knight; Sportsmanship.

At the state level, the girls were seeded fifth and lost to fourth-seeded Atlantic Shores Christian School in the quarterfinals.

Athletes Receive Track and Field Awards

Track and field awards were presented to the following athletes by Allen Jervey: Wes Knopp, Athlete of the Year; Daniel Shifflett - Most Improved; Anna Montgomery - Sportsmanship Award; Kaiti Sprouse - Coaches' Award; Jason Flower - Coaches' Award.

Warriors Win VIC Title

The GCS varsity boys' basketball team won the Virginia Independent Conference Division II championship with a win over Eastern Mennonite High School 58-56. This is the first VIC title for GCS in the school's basketball history! The team ended the season with a 22-7 overall record. "In addition to our success on the floor, it was so rewarding to see these players progress as both players and individuals. Their work ethic and commitment was outstanding!" said Coach Verne Canfield.



Coach Verne Canfield talks about "commitment" at the winter sports banquet.

The Warriors also ended up with a second seed in the Virginia Independent State Boys Basketball Association state poll. They defeated Westover Christian in the first round, but lost to third-seeded Calvary Christian in the semifinals.

Chad Gery, Michael Hogsett, and Ben Miller were named to the VIC All Tournament Team. Chad and Ben were also named to the VIC All Conference Team and Chad received All State Honorable Mention. In addition, the following awards were presented at the basketball banquet: MVP - Chad and Ben; Defensive Player of the Year - John Reid Weller; Most Assists - Matt Coffey; Outstanding Contribution - Michael Hogsett; Warrior Award - Jason Flower, Best Shooter - John Luke Carter; Victor Mirzoyan - Most Improved.

Weller Named to City/County Team

Senior John Reid Weller was named by the Staunton *Newsleader* as a City/County Student Athlete of the Year. He is a three-season athlete, playing soccer, basketball, and baseball. John Reid was recognized in the April 20 issue of the newspaper.



Warrior Fever

School spirit "runneth over" this year as the Warrior fans sported orange and blue t-shirts, pom poms, and props to cheer the Warriors on to the Virginia Independent School basketball title. At left, Lisa Mims, Carly Kinder, Anna Betlej, Caleb Mallory, Ashley Sours, and Natalie Showalter show their support for the varsity boys at a playoff game at the GCS Activities Center in late February.

Graduates In The News

Class of 1993

Grace Morrison Guedet and her husband Jay welcomed Tyler William into the world on April 4. The couple have two other children - Natalie, who is eight years old, and JJ, who is six. They reside in Washington, Illinois.

Darrin Hinkle is a project manager at Shenandoah Towers in Staunton. He has a two year old son, Jaiden.

Mandy Hockman Wells and her husband Andy are expecting twins this summer. Mandy stays busy keeping up with two year old Molly and one year old Lucy.

Class of 1994

Janla Hinkle and Travis Whitecotton were married June 2. The couple resides in Stuarts Draft. Janla works in banking at BB&T in Charlottesville.

Class of 1995

Grady Summers, his wife Cori, and two year old Maddie welcomed Amelia (Mia) Ivy into the world April 27. The family recently moved to a new home in neighboring Trumbull, Connecticut.

Samuel Knopp and his wife Brandy are also parents again. Esther Nicole was born March 9. She joins brothers Jonathan, three years old, and Ethan, who is two. They recently bought a home in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Sam Hickin has moved to Edinburg, Virginia where he is employed as the Senior Planning Analyst for ShenTel.

Jessica Anthony Baake and her husband have announced the birth of their daughter Camryn Grace. She was born in February. The family resides in Newport News.

Laura Lynch Weaver is moving to Las Vegas, where her husband will be stationed for four years.

Class of 1997

Nikki Brower Corey and her husband, Gabe, are living in Unity, Maine. Nikki graduated from Gordon College with a B.A. in History. She worked as a marketing representative for MBNA, a credit card company, for three years before "retiring" to stay home with two year old Nathan Gabriel. Nikki is expecting another child in September.

Chad Brown has announced his engagement to Rachel Reid. The couple are planning an October 12 wedding in Heath, Ohio. They plan to reside in Joplin, Missouri where Chad is working for Christ in Youth and Rachel is completing her studies.

Melissa Knopp Hankee was an award winner at the recent Mary Baldwin College Capstone Festival. She received first place for her paper entitled "Neuroendocrine Differentiation in a Cellular Model of Prostrate Cancer Progression." Melissa graduated from MBC in May and has been hired to teach biology at Waynesboro High in the fall.

Class of 1998

Joy Marinelli works for Samaritan's Purse at their Boone, North Carolina headquarters. She is an assistant to the International Director for Operation Christmas Child.

Class of 1999

Morgan Gardner received an academic award in Horticulture at a recent Piedmont Valley Community College presentation. She will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall.

Michael Gilbert and Marjorie Backer were married March 3 at Virginia Military Institute. The couple reside in Winchester, where Michael is an assistant project manager at Toll Brothers.

Jason Hostetler and his wife Jenny have a new baby. Abraham Lee was born May 16. The couple also have a five year old, Madeline. Jason works at Appalachian Woods in Staunton.

Ben Paulus plans to take a break this summer from his studies at Regency University in Vancouver, Canada, to fight forest fires out west.

Class of 2000

Brandon Murray and Colleen Karaffa were married May 26. After a 10 day honeymoon in Italy, the couple will reside in Lynchburg.

Ali Bell Bailey and husband **Jeremy** (Class of 2001) have moved from Pleasanton, CA to neighboring Dublin. The couple are expecting their first child in September.



Anne Paulus graduated in May from JMU with a degree in Theatre. She is currently working at Zynodoa Restaurant and the Tea Bazaar in downtown Staunton.

Janelle Miller Greenmun gave birth to daughter Aubrey Elizabeth in April. She and husband Jeff also have a two year old - Katie Jo.

Heather Combee Michaelis and husband Chris are also enjoying a new daughter. Vienne Joy was born March 13. The family resides in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Class of 2001

Emily Kirtz Hoffman is training to run in the Virginia Beach Rock "N Roll 1/2 Marathon" this September. She is representing a "Team in Training" group that raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She writes that if anyone wants to support her, check out her website at www.active.com/donate/tntva/emilyhoffman. Emily is currently a certified Health/Fitness Instructor and personal trainer at the Tuckahoe Family YMCA in Richmond. She started an intense 15-month accelerated nursing program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Timothy Lynch lives in Rockville, Maryland, and works for AMSEC, an engineering firm in Washington, D.C. Timothy received his engineering degree from Virginia Tech, and is currently doing design work on ships.

Mike Ingram and Caroline Baker are planning a July 28 wedding. The couple will live in Virginia Beach, where both Mike and Caroline are finishing their Masters in Psychology and Counseling at Regent University.



Class of 2002

Jodi Marinelli has announced her engagement to Chad Kanagy. The couple plan to marry October 20. Jodi is currently studying for her nursing boards and works at Creative Solutions.

Will Renton received a degree from the School of Media Arts and Designs at James Madison University in May. He is currently working for a video communications company in Harrisonburg and doing an internship in Washington, D.C. on documentaries.

Jacob Mapstone graduated in May from Johnson Bible College with a Bachelor of Science in Media Communications.

Class of 2003

Graduations and weddings are keeping the class of 2003 busy this summer!



Katie Quillen graduated from James Madison University summa cum laude in the College of Education with a middle school licensure. She and **Peter Santana** were married on May 26. The couple have purchased a home in Waynesboro. Peter is working for Wilson Trucking Company and

Katie will complete her Master of Arts in teaching next year.

Brian Fitzgerald graduated from Bryan College with a degree in General Studies. He and **Jenny Watson** (class of 2004) are planning a July 14 wedding. Brian plans to work with his dad in the construction industry, and Jenny is working at Augusta Medical Center.

Ashley Branch Fish graduated summa cum laude from Johnson Bible College with a Bachelor of Science in Bible/Elementary Education. She was chosen by the college staff to receive the "top future teacher" award. Ashley has started working on a Masters in Holistic Education.

Carianne Marinelli received her Bachelors in Spanish from Liberty University in May. She and **Derek Murray** plan to wed July 28. The couple will continue to reside in Lynchburg until Derek completes his studies in nursing.



Class of 2003 and friends catch up at a recent gathering. Shown above are **Derek Combee, Tom Paulus, Drew Shawver, Kelly Ashby, Derek Murray, Carianne Marinelli, Taylor Brown, Brian Fitzgerald, Jenny Watson, Ashley Barrett, Katie Quillen Santana, Josh and Ashley Branch Fish, and Ashley Johnston.**

Nathan Kinder also graduated summa cum laude from Liberty University in May with a major in Health Promotion and a minor in Chemistry. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force and is headed to Montgomery, Alabama for basic training. He will start his medical studies at VCOM in Blacksburg in August.

Drew Shawver received a college degree and got married - both in the same weekend! He earned a Bachelors of Science in Architecture from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on May 12 and was married the next day to Katie Gilbert. The newlyweds will continue to live in Lafayette as Drew starts working on his Masters.

Stephanie Miller received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications Studies from Bryan College in May. She is working at Augusta Medical Center.

Ashley Barrett graduated in May from Liberty University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She has accepted a position in the pediatric oncology unit at the King's Daughters Children's Hospital in Norfolk.

Tom Paulus graduated last month from Covenant College with a history degree. He is currently looking at several job options.



Class of 2004

Katherine Archer will spend the summer as an intern at WIS News in Columbia, SC. Her duties will include operating cameras and helping in the control room. She is working on a double major in Communications and Bible.

Johnny Miller starred as Cinderella's Prince in a Bryan College musical "Into the Woods" this spring. Johnny is spending the summer in Houston, Texas working at Kingwood Vision Source, an optometry practice.

Katie Brennehan graduated in May from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California with a major in Sociology and a minor in Spanish. She is weighing several options, including pursuing a Masters or missions work.

Ben Knopp recently received a National Science Foundation scholarship from Piedmont Valley Community College. He will be studying engineering at Virginia Tech in the fall.

Class of 2006

Sarah Showalter is taking classes at Blue Ridge Community College. She hopes to be accepted into the nursing program at Radford University in January. She is working at the city pool as a lifeguard this summer.

Kristen Kime is spending the summer working in her father's doctor's office in Harrisonburg. In addition, she will be taking a two week tour through Europe this summer with EF Tours. Kristen will be a sophomore at Taylor University in the fall, where she is studying psychology.

Lauren Whitesell is taking classes at Blue Ridge Community College and working as an assistant in an orthodontic office.

GCS Alumni - Please submit updated information, address changes, etc. and encourage your classmates to do the same, by logging onto our website - www.gcswarriors.org - and click on "Alumni and Development."

Grace Christian School

19 South Market Street
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone: 540-886-9109

FAX: 540-886-5958

www.gcswarriors.org

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Hokie Hope. High school students remember the Virginia Tech tragedy by wearing maroon and orange to school in late April.