



BULLETIN

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*"How priceless is your unfailing love!
Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings."
Psalm 36:7*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the Headmaster
- 2 Opportunities to Grow
Updates & Announcements
- 3 From the Athletic Director
Mark Your Calendars
- 4 Writer's Corner

Dear Friends and Families of West Bay:

The Christmas season and associated school vacation provides a natural "break" from the daily routine, during which time, we often look back at the past year and forward to the next and try to make sense out of what we are doing. Although school life has been greatly enhanced by the completion of the new wing, for which we are all truly thankful, it is the daily focus on fulfilling our mission that is ultimately what we *want* to be about. I am reminded of the brief story of the boy Jesus who, after his family had traveled to Jerusalem for a religious holiday, "accidentally" stayed behind when the family began their journey home. Having discovered that Jesus was not with their group, Mary and Joseph immediately went back to Jerusalem where they found him sitting with teachers in the temple, listening and asking questions. The youthful Jesus seemed a little surprised by his parents anxious reaction to this situation, and asked them "Didn't you know that I would be about my Father's business?" His singular focus on being "about His Father's business" speaks volumes as it presents a perfect example for us to do the same.

Looking at the past year, I am humbly and sincerely grateful for what has been accomplished at West Bay—our new building, the expanded classes in grades K - 5, the talented new teachers, the diverse and interesting opportunities for extra-curricular activities, the commitment of our veteran faculty and staff, the leadership of the Board of Trustees, and the unwavering support of our families. We have been blessed in so many ways. And as I have said before, this growth is the result of a five-year plan that did not include dealing with the difficult economic times that we have all encountered.

Accordingly, West Bay understands that it must work even harder to execute its mission and to provide stability for the institution. I am pleased to announce that we have recently hired a new Director of Marketing, Mrs. Dana Altland, who will begin in January. Her focus will be to help us attract new students to West Bay as she seeks to implement the marketing plan. This will involve a number of grass roots activities, many of which will require the support of our broader, parent community, a.k.a., YOU! At the same time, we are seeking a Director of Development who will help us find additional resources to sustain the financial integrity of the Academy and keep costs affordable.

I am excited about the direction we are headed in 2010. As 2009 comes to an end, it is fitting that we celebrate Christmas and the New Year so close together. Christmas helps us put our focus where it should be—on what God has done for us through His special Gift, Jesus the Messiah. New Years offers us an opportunity to look forward to more activities, plans, and goals which will not only keep us very busy, but, hopefully, will keep us doing our Father's business. May you all have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Rick Clarkson
Headmaster

"For to us a child is
born, to us a son is
given, and the
government will be
on his shoulders.
And he will be
called Wonderful
Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Opportunities to Grow Your Faith

Moms In Touch

Moms In Touch is a group of moms that meet Thursday mornings at WBCA from 8:20-9:20 am to pray for the needs of the WBCA community. New members are always welcome! Come join us as we pray out loud and spend a peaceful hour in the presence of our Lord. We would love to pray for your needs! Please let us know how we can pray for you by contacting one of us, or putting your prayer request in the box near the front desk.

Deb Garneau (deb_garneau@msn.com)

Mary Morrison (wgarth123@aol.com)

Julie Rousseau (roussjk@yahoo.com)

Sara Worthington (sworthington420@aol.com)

Women's Bible Study at Christ Church

Come join us for Beth Moore's "Jesus the One and Only", an in-depth study of the life of Christ based on the book of Luke. The goal of the study is to get to know Jesus intimately - as though we had walked with Him during His days of earthly ministry. This is an interdenominational bible study, all are welcome. We will meet Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 am starting January 13. Fee of \$25 includes a workbook. Childcare is available. Contact Mary Morrison for more information at 884-5430 or wgarth123@aol.com.

Christ Church Women's Retreat

Join us for a time of laughter and reflection as Phyllis Harmony encourages us to develop the Fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control), and to avoid discouragement when our fruit's not in season. Retreat is January 29-30 (optional overnight) at the Airport Radisson in Warwick. Contact Terry at christchurchwomensministry@gmail.com for more information.

Updates and Announcements

Hot Lunch

The Hot Lunch order form for 1-4 through 2-26 was sent home with students and e-mail to parents earlier this week. Please return the form by Monday, December 21st. Sorry, orders cannot be accepted after then.

PVB Night at the P-Bruins

In the December 3rd edition of the *Bulletin*, there was an order form to purchase tickets for a Providence Bruins hockey game. The game is Friday, January 22nd at 7:05 pm versus the Lowell Devils. All students in our group will receive a free P-Bruins hat. Tickets are only \$13 and all West Bay families and their friends are welcome. For more information, contact Jaime Walden (mother of John, Grade 2) at jawalden@hotmail.com.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all those who brought in boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Thanks to you, we were able to contribute 79 boxes to the effort.

From the Athletic Director

Basketball team members and parents of players should regularly check the West Bay website (www.westbaychristianacademy.com) for practice times and locations. They can even print out a monthly calendar of events if they go under the Athletics section and then click on the "Sports Calendar".

Also, the Athletic Handbook was given to all Basketball players. Parents are asked to take the time to read through these new policies and procedures. The Athletic Handbook is also going to be posted to the website soon.

Mrs. Dennis is still looking for pictures from soccer season. She is hoping to get started soon on the slideshow for the end-of-the-year Athletic Banquet. Please forward any pictures you may have to her (adennis@wbca.info).

Mark Your Calendars

For more/updated information, visit www.westbaychristianacademy.com.

Thursday, December 17th

Girls and Boys A Basketball Game at Community Prep

Thursday, December 24th - Sunday, January 3rd
Christmas Break

Monday, January 4th

Classes Resume

Upcoming Dates

PVB is planning a **Movie Night** for Friday, January 8th. Showtime will be at 6:30 pm. There will be a rated G movie shown for the younger students, a PG movie shown for the Middle School students. It will be a free and fun night for families. Mark your calendars.

The ***Set Apart Girl Conference*** will be held February 19th and 20th at the Johnson & Wales Inn in Seekonk, MA. This weekend will be "the blueprint for world-altering femininity", helping woman to gain a vision for God's purpose in their lives. If you register before January 10th, the cost is \$40 (meals are additional), and after January 10th, the cost is \$50. Sponsored by House of Hope Rhode Island, visit their website at www.houseofhopei.org or contact Jane Stach (mother of MacKenzie, Grade 2) at 378-6050 for more information or to register.

WBCA Writers' Corner



Fifth Grade "Weather Reporter" Tyler Cole reminds us that winter is right around the corner!! Brrrrr.....

This is Tyler Cole reporting to you live from right outside WBCA-5 Wild Weather Studios in North Kingstown, RI. The area is under an extreme weather advisory. The Governor has issued a state of emergency due to a blizzard that has hit the area during the overnight hours. He is prohibiting all nonessential travel, as this storm is classified as an extreme blizzard.

The winds are reaching over 45 miles per hour causing white-out conditions. Temperatures are not expected to reach over 10 degrees Fahrenheit. It is strongly encouraged that everyone remains inside throughout the duration of the storm. Even the few minutes that I have been outside giving you the most up to date forecast is dangerous because that puts me at risk of hypothermia and possibly even frostbite. WOW! IT'S COLD! It is so loud from the wind whipping around that I can barely hear my own voice out here, bear with me as I go inside for safety.

This storm is living up to the intensity of the blizzards that are usually found to hit the upper mid-west and Great Plains of the United States. This early blizzard of 2009 will compare to the one that hit in 1888. That blizzard lasted 3 days resulting in 58 inches of snow with some snowdrifts over two stories high.

Let's take a look at our local traffic camera to see the current road conditions. As you may notice the roads are un-drivable; cars have been abandoned on many local roads. It is making it so the snow plows and emergency vehicles cannot get through. IT is recommended to have extra blankets available in case your heat goes out; prepare to store extra water in case your pipes freeze. It is important to be prepared for extreme weather emergencies.

For all you trivia lovers out there...who knows when and how the term blizzards came about? You guessed it! In the 1870s an Iowa newspaper first used the term blizzard to describe a snowstorm. By the 1880s the use of the word blizzard was used by many across the US and England.

The final information for you weather lovers is what causes a blizzard. "Storm systems powerful enough to cause blizzards usually form when the jet stream dips far to the south allowing cold air from the north to clash with warm air from the south. Blizzard conditions often develop on the northwest side of these storm systems."

Stay tuned for future updates on the blizzard of 2009. Now back to the news desk for more breaking stories. Stay warm. Stay safe and stay tuned.

West Bay Christian Academy is seeking a Director of Development to help bring resources to the Academy in order to support its mission. This is a 12 month, ½ time position to begin immediately. Resumes and letters of inquiry should be sent to Connie Cole at ccole@wbca.info.