

Fall 2018

Monroe Christian School
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Administrator
Elaine Obbink

You Are Invited

November 10, 2018

Holiday Bazaar

First Baptist Church
10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

December 6, 2018

Christmas Traditions

Wagner Performing Arts Center
7:00 p.m.

March 23, 2019

Annual School Auction

Location: First Baptist Church of Monroe
Watch for information in the Spring!

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

Praying with My Eyes Wide Open

Susan Jansons, PS/PK

I have a very big job with the smallest people at Monroe Christian School, one that requires me to



pray with my eyes wide open. Anything can happen when you ask three- and four-year-olds to fold their hands and close their eyes.

We've already covered a lot of ground in school this year. We've learned that God made everything and that everything He made is good. And then we learned that God made us. But it's not until the next Bible lesson, the one about Adam and Eve's fall into sin, that we learn about how much God loves us.

Our sin starkly juxtaposed with God's perfection highlights God's unconditional love.

Wow! This is a huge lesson for such small children. It's a challenge to make this vital concept real. So over the years I've found a simple, yet profound way

to teach this truth.

Day by day this truth is ground out in the nitty-gritty functioning of a preschool classroom. Learning to share, to use their words, to keep their hands to themselves, to respect their teachers, and to celebrate with others, are all areas where preschoolers miss the mark and need help to achieve success.

This is when I take a step back and remember that God made each of them. God loves them and has a plan for them. Here lies my chance to speak love into their lives. As I stoop down to a preschooler's level, as I lean in to guide and correct, I often imagine my Father God doing the exact same for me.



One spring, a friend and I were having lunch. She commented that her post-high school children were behaving terribly, then had the gall to ask if they would still receive an Easter basket from her. She said, "I'm so angry with them! They don't deserve an Easter basket!" I reminded her that none of us deserves what we celebrate at Easter.



My teaching is driven by this love; the love of the Father who sent his only Son to redeem me. Do I deserve this? No! But God's love makes me worthy. And now He has put his precious lambs in my care.

Last year a pre-kindergartener asked me how old I was. This often happens when the kids discuss birthdays. They are so excited to tell you how old they are that if I say, "One, two, three, four," they shout "I'm four!" So this time I answered, "I'm fifty." The child, with tears springing to her eyes, popped out of her chair and ran to hug me around the waist. She then looked up at me and exclaimed, "You're so close to heaven!" Indeed, I am. Teaching these little ones gives me glimpses of heaven almost every day. That might be the other reason I pray with my eyes wide open.



"I Want to Stay at School!"

Dorie Hughes, K/E-Care

Have you ever heard a student beg to stay at school just a little bit longer? Have you ever heard a child complain because their parents picked them up too early? I hear this all the time because I'm the E-Care teacher at MCS.

E-Care (Extended Care) runs from 3:15 – 6:00 P.M. We offer this program for parents who work late and are not able to pick up their children at regular dismissal time. Some students come every day, some a few times a week, and there's the occasional once-in-a-while student.

E-Care starts out with a recess time in the back playground followed by a snack. We then have 20-30 minutes of quiet homework time. Children who don't have homework can read or color or do another quiet activity. After homework time, we have a more flexible free time which includes table games, computer time, Legos, drawing, and other toys. Our students are varied in ages, and it's amazing to see how they get along so well!

I asked a few why they enjoy E-Care so much. Beau said, "I like that there's friends to play with." Ayelet enjoys recess, homework time,

and of course, her friends. Mateo commented, "You get to finish your homework and get free time outside."

MCS has offered E-Care for the past 13 years, and its popularity has not diminished! I've enjoyed interacting with students outside of my grade level and getting to know them as well as their families. My hope is that E-Care will continue to be a happy place for many students in the years ahead.



Volunteers

Amanda Brown, 3rd / 4th Grades

We are so thankful for our many volunteers! From helping with recess duty, to taking charge of library time, to teaching art class, and so many more. They say "it takes a village" to raise a child, that continues to be true at MCS. We are lucky to partner with such wonderful parents and volunteers to provide the best for each of our students. Thank you! Your help, love, and encouragement does not go unnoticed and is ever so appreciated around the school!



Sunflowers

Leanne Sytsma, 1st Grade

This fall, the first graders studied sunflowers and took a special look at Van Gogh's masterpiece "The Sunflowers."

We read the story Camille and the Sunflowers and learned the story behind the painting. Then the first graders created their own version of the famous painting. Are there some future artists in first grade? Most definitely!!



We are wonderfully made because:

- Everyone is different and no one looks alike (except Katie and Ashley [because they are twins]), but even they are different. People have different skin colors. -**Olivia**
- You can survive with one kidney. -**Beau**
- Your brain controls your whole body. -**Kylie**
- Your lungs are like balloons. They fill up with air and you breathe. -**Waylon**
- You can survive with no gall bladder. -**Brayden**
- Muscles are interesting because they move your body so you wouldn't be just still. -**Ashley**
- Your stomach smashes food that you eat. -**Ethan**



Healthy Bodies

First graders also study the human body. Using a microscope to discover cells is always a highlight. Learning the organs and their function is impacting.

The first graders have some great advice on caring for the body that God gave each of us as well as insight on how we are so wonderfully made.



fearfully & wonderfully made

Advice to keep your body healthy:

- Eat good food instead of bad. -**Katie**
- Keep your heart healthy by exercising. -**Randi**
- Don't eat too much candy for your pancreas. -**Luke**
- Don't smoke so your heart and lungs will be healthy. -**Kaylin**
- Protect your brain and wear a helmet when you are riding a scooter, bike, skateboard, or hover board. -**Jay**
- Make your body healthy by running for a long time. -**Bethany**



Collaborative Learning

Deanna Bailly, 2nd Grade

It's a buzz phrase in schools, the subject of many continuing education courses, and a naturally occurring part of the MCS culture. It is referred to as collaborative learning with its long list of research-based evidence to support its efficacy.

As you peek into our classrooms, it is common to find multi-grade students working as they explore, create, and problem-solve together.

As you walk the halls, you see our Jr. High students lining up with their Preschool & Kindergarten "buddies" so they can help them cross the street to Chapel. The buddies also help complete projects and practice skills, all the while learning patience, leadership skills, and building sweet friendships.

As you observe our recess breaks, you'll find multi-grade students playing tag, ball, and swinging together as an extension of the collaborative culture inside of MCS.



Coincidence? You Decide.

Elaine Obbink, Administrator

Context:

- Spirit Week - Super Hero Day was planned for Thursday but switched to Wednesday.
- Guest speaker from Moody Aviation in Spokane presenting at Chapel.
- Guest speaker's planned presentation was not working.

Imagine a school full of students, PreSchool-8th grade, dressed as superheroes, crossing West Main Street and entering Chapel ready to listen to our special guest speaker.

After flying a pretend plane with the youngest students, this former missionary pilot, who currently trains missionary pilots introduces the video. It is about an everyday "superhero" who is working to become a pilot so that he can help others. This was not coordinated. In fact, this is the first time that Moody Aviation

has presented at MCS. Mr. Bigley didn't know that we were dressing up. He had planned a different presentation all together.

This encounter reminded me of Romans 8:28. "And we know that **in all things** God **works** for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

The events of the day made me wonder:

- How could a morning all a-buzz with dressing up as Super Heroes be so applicable to Chapel?
- Why does the Creator of the entire world care about even the smallest of details of Wednesday chapel in September 2018?
- How will God use small things like costumes, a servant pilot, and a chapel to inspire and impact His kingdom? . . . And not just someday, but today, by "Going Everywhere and Telling Everyone!"

Outdoor Education

Sydney Obbink, 5th Grade

The fifth graders attended Outdoor Education camp at Warm Beach Conference Center September 19-21. Here is just a snapshot of their time at camp.

- "I climbed 2½ rock walls! The Super Hero Wall was the easiest, then The Chimney Wall, and Burley Face was the most difficult." -**Sam**
- "I made it to the top of all three 40-feet rock walls!" -**Emily**
- "The rock climb was more difficult than I thought." -**Mercer**
- "Rock wall climbing!" -**Shaylee**
- "The food was super good!" -**Lili**
- "'The Game of Life' was fun! The game included carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores, poison plants, hunters, and searches for food and water." -**Madison**
- "Shaking and making butter took a long time. My classmates tell me it tasted good." -**Gabe**
- "The girls tried to prank the boys. It was fun, but it didn't work." -**Samantha**
- "Experiments!" -**Frank**
- "I enjoyed the nature walk where we saw cool animals or animal remnants: ducks flying up from the pond, horses, snakes, an owl feather, an owl roost, and a rabbit skull." -**Elizabeth**
- "We worked together to make skits about an object: Paw Print- Samantha, Madison, Lili. Baby Pack- Mercer, Frank, Delsin. Water Bowl- Eli, Sam, Gabe. Bug Protector- Emily, Elizabeth, Shaylee" -**Eli**
- "Our class worked as a team to walk on 'turtles' to get to the island across the green sea." -**Delsin**



We will always remember: how we cheered each other on during the rock wall climb (no one cheered harder than Hailey), the campfires, s'mores, and silly songs!



Art in Jr. High

Rose Rodriguez, Jr. High



Across the room, I hear a student rip a page from their art notebook. They are grumbling about making mistakes and starting over. I comment across the room, "No, you don't rip out pages. You keep them so you can see your progress."

Beginning this fall, the junior high students have been learning the Elements of Art: Line, Form, Color, Shape, Value, Texture, and Space. Practicing, practicing, and practicing some more, as Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Every artist was first an amateur."

We are all works of art in progress, and God allows us to try different colors and textures; remaining ever faithful and lovingly guiding us on our path. May we allow His Word to help shape and form us. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Eph. 2:10) We are His handiwork; what is it that He has planned for us to do?

**December 6th, 2018; 7 p.m.
Wagner Performing Arts Center**



What traditions do you enjoy every year in December? Do you cut down a tree, sing Christmas carols, bake cookies, or make a gingerbread house? This year the students will be sharing where some of our favorite traditions originated.

Join us, invite family and friends, as we all get sprinkled with Christmas cheer and remember how we all enjoy celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Joining the MCS Team

Eric Warren, Jr. High

Hello Alumni, my name is Eric Warren. For those of you who have not met me, I am one of the new members of the MCS team. Although I would say that the term "team" doesn't fully capture this entity I have joined. Rather, I would say I've become a part of the MCS family.

Like joining any big, established family, everyone has their set roles and routines, and being the new guy, it can be a little difficult to find

where you fit, but before the students even walked through the doors, I felt like part of this community, and it feels like I've always been here. I'm no longer just the new guy, but I am now one of them. The MCS family has welcomed me in by genuinely getting to know me and my family. They have taken the time to understand who I am and have eagerly shared their own experiences.



Welcome to the family, Mr. Warren.

Additionally, I have the pleasure of being the only male on staff this year. While there are certainly some "burdens" that come with this position, like being the one that has to change light bulbs and lift the heavy stuff, there are also some real positives. I get told to eat the extra cake or finish the last donut. It's tough, but I can handle it.

Overall, the MCS family is exactly that, a family. I am constantly impressed by the willingness of others to step up and help. God has created a special place here, and I am truly blessed to be a part of that.

Scatter 2018

Heather Moses, Jr. High

Go everywhere, tell everyone, is the motto at MCS this year. The Great Commission instructs us that no matter where we are, no matter where we go, we are on a mission to share the good news about Jesus. This is as true in Monroe or Snohomish as it is in Monrovia or Samoa. This last week, the Junior High was given the opportunity to see some practical ways we can fulfill the Great Commission regardless of our age or location. Crossroads Church in Bellevue hosted the 2018 Missions Fest for students to attend.



The focus of the Missions Fest was "Scatter." Have you ever wondered what's happening in Mongolia these days, and how you can be a part of what God is doing there? We found out and it's amazing! We met and talked with a young Mongolian man who came to know Jesus through the YWAM (Youth With A Mission) ministries. Did you know that high school students are the primary vehicle used by YWAM to reach people all over the world on short-term mission trips?



Before we attended, we asked God to help us have open hearts and to hear what He was calling us to do here and now, as well as in the future. We found that opportunities abound for students to share the Good News by working with orphaned children in Asian countries, helping in summer soccer camps in South American countries, or even through internet gaming right from their own home. (There were also workshops that help to prepare students for future ministries.)

We were challenged to listen to whatever God is calling us to do, and to have the courage and endurance to follow Him, even with difficulties to endure; setbacks to press through. But God give us the ability to persevere through it all! We at MCS are challenged to say together with the Apostle Paul, that we press forward to that which God has called us in whatever we do and wherever we go!



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**Please enjoy this
Alumni & Friends Newsletter!
Thank you for your
continued support!**

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<https://www.facebook.com/monroechristianschool>

May God richly bless YOU in your faithfulness and support!

MAIL	Send your check to Monroe Christian School in the envelope provided.
PAYPAL	Go to http://monroechristian.com and click on the "Support MCS" button on the Home Page. (A donation receipt will be sent to you by PayPal.)

Two ways to give:

We hope you enjoyed the articles written by our MCS staff! To continue the work that takes place at MCS, our goal for this year's "Time to Give" campaign is to raise \$16,000.

Help keep our school going strong!