

# Friends of WCS



2016

GRADUATION

*Log-a-Thon*

CAMPUS CHANGES

alumni news

# WASC/ACSI ACCREDITATION

Every three years, accrediting team members from other WASC and ACSI accredited schools visit the accredited campus to follow up on progress to previous recommendations and assess program success and viability. WCS Administrator, Justin Smith submitted documentation ahead of the visit to guide the observation and the visiting team submitted a report with recommendations and commendations following the visit.

**“I am so impressed by your culture. You have the best school culture that I have ever seen anywhere in all of my 18 accreditation visits.”**

**-Al Hearn**  
Assistant Superintendent of Redwood Christian Schools

For this visit, the WCS administration was excited to add ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) accreditation to the existing WASC (Western Association

of Schools and Colleges) accreditation. The accreditation team members visited WCS, spoke with the Board, spent time with parents and staff, and visited the classrooms. At the end of the visit, all WCS parents and staff were invited to hear the reading of the visiting team’s findings (excerpts from the report are listed in the graphic at right). The team praised WCS parents, staff, administration, and Board for their efforts.

In May, WCS received a letter from ACSI, and we are pleased to announce that we received a six-year accreditation term with a one-day visit mid-term.



**“We commend the board** for its commitment to seeking, achieving and maintaining its status as a school that is accredited in every sense of what that word means.”

**“We commend the administrative leadership** for its operational skill in developing the faculty and staff, leading them through the rigors of self-study and preparation for our visit.”

**“We commend the faculty and staff** for the time that they have spent in above and beyond activities to evaluate every aspect of the school and develop a picture of what the school is today in order to prepare it for its tomorrow.”

**“We commend the students** for their participation in a process that has eternal implications for who each one of them is today and will be tomorrow.”

**“We commend the parents** who have committed themselves to supporting the school by entrusting it with their children and accepting the financial burden of support for this commitment.”





PRESSING ON

**2016 Theme Verse: Philippians 3:12**  
 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.



# Friends Of WCS

5

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 04 Administrator's Perspective
- 05 Tribute to JT Murillo
- 06 WCS At-A-Glance
- 08 Jog-, 5K, and Serve-A-Thon
- 10 Class of 2016
- 13 Retirement
- 14 Alumni Update

8



10



12

# A Reminder to Love and Serve Well

**I**t is hard to believe we have another school year under our belt. There were so many ways in which our theme "Better Together" was affirmed. Whether it was overseeing the graduation of our class of 2016, seeing families smile as their students moved on to the next grade level, or attending our many athletic and theatrical performances. We welcomed our elementary school families onto their new campus and rejoiced as many new students joined our ranks. We also celebrated the careers of two individuals who were instrumental to our ministry. Judy Bailard and Robyn McBurney will be retiring from WCS, but they will not be leaving our family.

No sooner than this school year is done, we are moving on to prepare for another great year. We started remodeling our HS/MS office. We will also make over a few classrooms this year and are in the process of interviewing new students who want to attend our school. We announced our theme for next year, which is "Pressing On." This comes from Philippians 3:12.

Press on we must after the tragic loss of a beloved student, JT Murillo. Please take some time to read the tribute to JT on the following page.

He will forever be a part of the WCS story and we look forward to seeing him again someday. We will let his life and passing be a reminder to love and serve well.



May God bless each of you,

Justin Smith

*Friends of*  
**WCS**

**Publisher: Woodland Christian School**

**Administrator: Justin Smith**

**School Board**

**President: Shiloh Sorbello**

**Vice-President: Debbie Simpson**

**Treasurer: Mark Werum**

**Secretary: Erin Richerson**

**Members At Large:**

**Dan King**

**Wendy Maszk**

**Jack Hamlin**

*Friends of WCS* is published by Woodland Christian School's Development Office and is sent to alumni, supporters, and friends of the school.

Our mission:  
Woodland Christian School exists by God's grace and for His glory to educate and prepare students for college and Christian life.

By faith in Christ,  
our students, parents, and staff  
can change the world.

Send correspondence to:

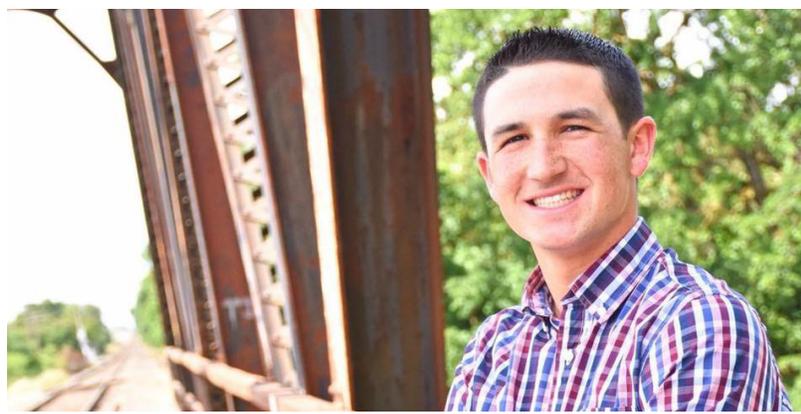
Friends of WCS

1787 Matmor Road

Woodland, CA 95776

E-mail:

[friendsofwcs@woodlandchristian.org](mailto:friendsofwcs@woodlandchristian.org)



A scholarship has been created in memory of JT. If you would like to donate to the JT Memorial Scholarship, go to <https://wcsevents.webconnex.com/JTScholarship> or scan the QR code at the bottom right.

On June 12, 2016, recent WCHS graduate, JT Murillo, was killed in a tragic car accident on his way to his summer job in Lake Almanor. A celebration of life was held at the WCS baseball field on Saturday, June 18th, with over 1,200 in attendance. On that day, JT's jersey number '3' was retired from WCS baseball. "Whenever an athlete asks for the number '3', we can say, 'Let me tell you about the amazing young man who wore the number '3'.'" said Dave Hargadon.

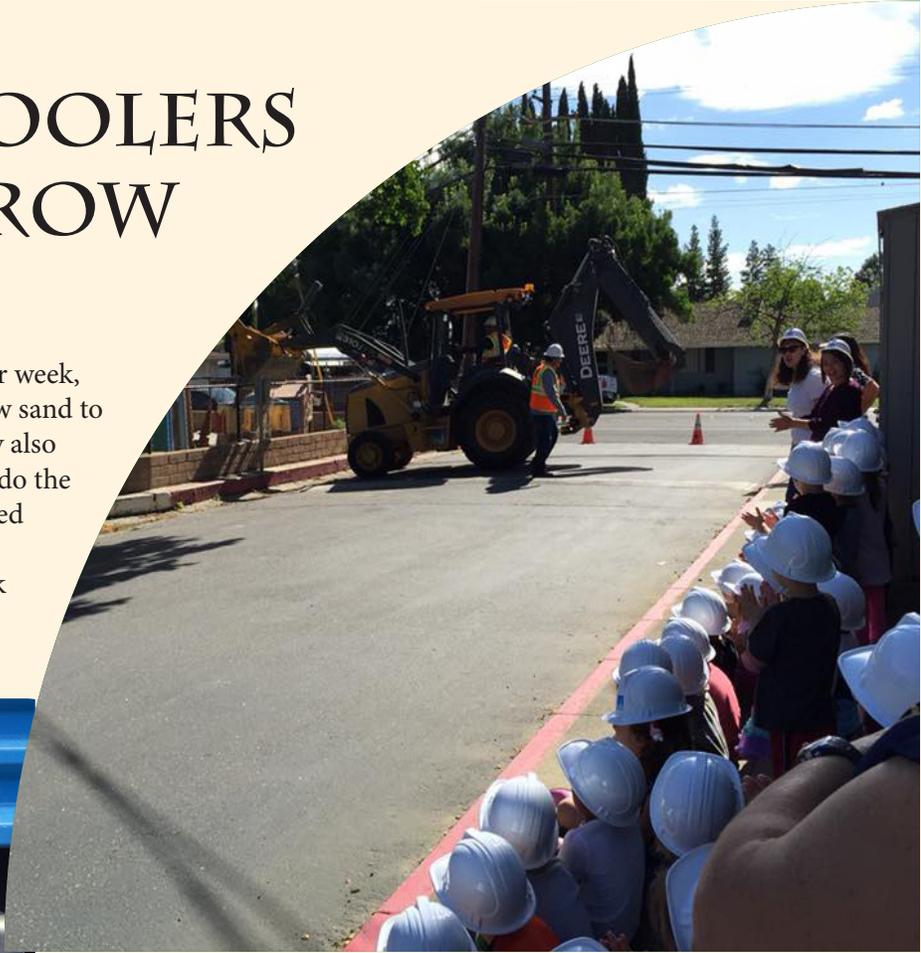
JT had a way of lighting up the campus, his classrooms, his workplace, the basketball court, and his beloved baseball field. JT was quick to flash his winsome smile, even quicker to ask how he might be of help to teachers and friends, and quickest to share his love for the Sacramento Kings, San Diego Chargers, and St. Louis Cardinals. We trust that he is rejoicing with the Lord in heaven right now, but we grieve knowing that our lives on earth are the poorer for his departure. He leaves behind loving parents, Jan and Jason, and two brothers who he loved fiercely, Brandon and Kyle.

# REMEMBERING JT MURILLO



# WCS PRESCHOOLERS GET FRONT ROW SEATS

During the 3's-4's class Community Helper week, PG&E not only donated five yards of new sand to the WCS preschool playground, but they also brought in their dump truck and front loader to do the heavy lifting. Our "Construction Helpers" watched excitedly as WCS preschool parent and PG&E employee Mr. Ene and his crew made quick work of moving the sand. Thank you, PG&E and Mr. Ene, for giving to WCS!



# GRANDPARENTS DAY

Grandparents Day at the elementary school was a huge success this year. We had an estimated 600 grandparents and grand friends on campus to enjoy the program and support our amazing elementary students. Guests came from near and far — even from Switzerland! Several multigenerational Woodland families attended as well.



## 8TH GRADERS SERVE AT FOURTH AND HOPE

**V**olunteering their own time after school to meet the needs of some of the less fortunate in Woodland, a few WCMS 8th graders prepared a meal for 80 people and then served the food. Teacher Les Toland had wanted to give his 8th graders a service opportunity before heading off to high school (where 30 hours of community service is required each year). After a fun and successful evening serving, Mr. Toland is looking to make this a monthly service opportunity for the 8th-grade class from now on.



## WCHS PLAYERS PRESENT WAR OF THE WORLDS

**F**or a few evenings in late April, the WCS Players took audiences back to a time when radio was “king.” Directed by Gary Christopherson, the cast did a stellar job in performing a replica of Orson Welles’ October 30, 1938 radio broadcast of *War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells. The cast included seniors Vivan Knee, Emma Saylor, and Justin West, who were recognized on the last evening for participating in their final performance at WCHS. The rest of the cast members were Emma Daniels, Jordan Drefs, Samantha Griffin, Alyssa Minney, Emily Remy, and Joey Simpson.



# 2016 JOG- AND SERVE- A-THON

The rain did not deter WCS Elementary students from running the Jog-A-Thon this year. Just as every other year, the excitement was high as students warmed up to the music of WCS parent Becky Sullivan on the field. Right as the jog started, the sun peeked out of the clouds, and the rain went away, which made for a beautiful day to run.



Students in our middle school ran a 5K on a pre-determined route through the streets of Woodland. Parent volunteers manned water stations along the way and cheered the runners on.

Between the Jog-A-Thon and the 5K, students raised close to \$30,000 for Woodland Christian School. Way to go!



While the elementary and middle-school students were running, our high schoolers spent their morning giving back to our community through the annual Serve-a-Thon. Even in the rain, WCHS students worked, many of them outdoors, to help our local schools, non-profit organizations, and churches.



Pictured at left: the landscaping team working at 4th and Hope, the painting team in the WCHS Student Union, and the clothing donation sorting team at Church on the Rock.

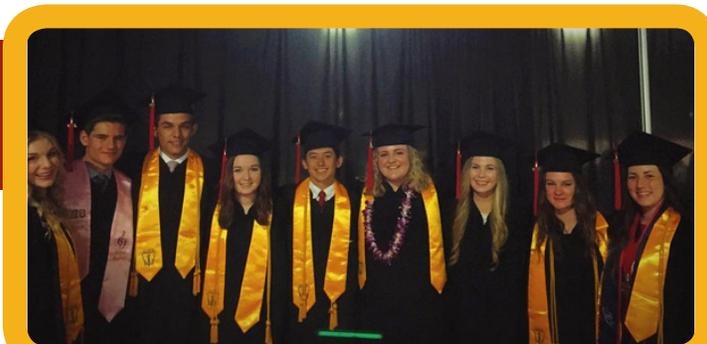


Pictured at right: the landscaping team at LifePointe Church, the team at Prairie Elementary, and the doorhanger team for the Pregnancy Support Group's Diaper Drive.



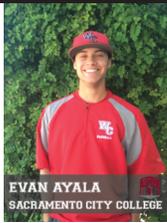


Valedictorian Katie Sakona speaks at graduation



Graduates who attended WCS Pre-K through 12th

**KIND  
OF A  
B16  
DEAL**



**EVAN AYALA**  
SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE



**KAWIKA BARRY**  
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY



**JACK BIGGS**  
CABRILLO COLLEGE



**TANNER BLUEMEL**  
AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE



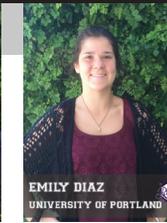
**ANNAROSE BRYANT**  
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO



**HANNAH CAPOZZIELLO**  
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



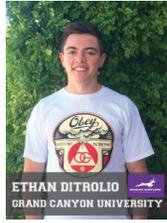
**ABBY DECKER**  
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



**EMILY DIAZ**  
UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND



**BRAXTON DIFUNTORUM**  
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY



**ETHAN DITROLO**  
GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY



**ANDY ENRIQUEZ**  
SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE



**COLLIN FULLER**  
WOODLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**TREVOR HARGADON**  
GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY



**NATHAN HAWLEY**  
US AIR FORCE



**PRISILA JAIME**  
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY



**VIVIAN KNEE**  
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



**ASHLEY MAHARAJ**  
UC DAVIS



**BRYCE MORROW**  
GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY



**JT MURILLO**  
CHICO STATE UNIVERSITY



**JACOB NASCHKE**  
CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO



**LAURISSA NERI**  
AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE



**DANICA NIELSEN**  
MULTNOMAH UNIVERSITY



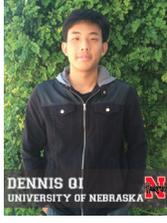
**TORRIE PARKHURST**  
SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE



**CHRISTIAN PAULSON**  
CABRILLO COLLEGE



**SKYLAR PICANSO**  
CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO



**DENNIS QI**  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA



**BRENDAN RODEGERDTS**  
POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY



**KATIE SAKONA**  
UCLA



**EMMA SAYLOR**  
AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



**JACK SIMPSON**  
UC BERKELEY



**RILEY SPENCER**  
SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE



**KARLIE TALBOT**  
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY



**JENA TASSONE**  
OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY



**ATHENA TRANFAGLIA**  
SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE



**JUSTIN WEST**  
SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE



**JACOB WIEKING**  
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY



**COLE WOFFORD**  
POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY



**HANNAH WYATT**  
US AIR FORCE ACADEMY



**JJ ZHANG**  
UC DAVIS



# 12 PROMOTIONS

## KINDERGARTEN



## 5TH GRADE

## 8TH GRADE



# RETIREMENT

Two longtime employees share their favorite thoughts and memories as they retire from WCS

## Robyn McBurney

**How did you come to work at WCS and how long ago was that?**

Almost didn't! I had accepted a job as an office manager for Dr. Johnson at the clinic but as my interview was progressing with Mr. Hamlin, I knew that I would be going to work at WCS!

**Earliest memory as a staff member:**

I had spent hours at the beginning of my first year getting my room set up and at the last moment realized that I hadn't even thought about the teaching part! Also, that year, during Parent teacher conferences I had pink eye - I wore sunglasses the entire time!

**A funny moment:**

Oh my goodness - when you are around children there are many but the one that comes to mind is after a spaghetti dinner. The staff had gotten up to do a skit and when it was finished one of my students came up to me and said, "I thought you were too old to move like that!" And this was about 20 years ago!

**What will you miss most about working at WCS?**

The children and the staff!

**What now?**

Being plain lazy for a while; enjoying and nesting in my new home - some day; trips - Arizona, China, Haiti, and Hawaii; walks with my dogs and more time with God



## Judy Bailard

**How did you come to work at WCS and how long ago was that?**

The summer of 1983, I was working Summer Safari kids camp at First Baptist Church's (now LifePointe Church) when Jack Hamlin asked if I would be interested in the office job at the school. He wanted someone full time and since my daughter was entering kindergarten I only was interested in part time. We agreed on 3/4 time or as needed. I started working at WCS on July 1st and not too many years later that so called 3/4 time job turned into a full time plus job. The rest is history! (Katie offered to quit kindergarten so I didn't have to work and we could both stay home).

**Earliest memory as a staff member:**

Typing newsletters and class lists on a IBM Selectric typewriter with whiteout and correction tape. It was a big deal when the Selectric II came out with the interchangeable font wheels and built in correction tape.

**A funny moment:**

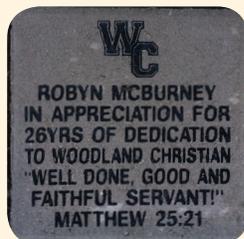
It was always comical when Jack Hamlin, Jim Lokkesmoe, Ted Ferguson and Rick Surls would start with their stories about their past, embellishing just a tad to trying to one up each other. Between the story telling and the body antics as they told their stories, it was hilarious. You'd laugh until you cried.

**What will you miss most about working at WCS?**

I will miss being present to watch how God continues to bless the ministry of WCS and I will miss the people that I work with. They are like family, each with their own unique personalities and strengths. The love and support have always been amazing.

**What now?**

Relax a little and get my house organized. It will be nice to go see family and not have to rush back home. I can stay until they suggest I should think about going home! Can't wait!!



Judy and Robyn were honored at the WCS Staff Appreciation Dinner. They were given a stepping stone

## ENGAGEMENT

## BIRTHS



Kurtis Wiens and Andrea King

**Andrea (Andee, '11) King** is excited to announce her engagement to Kurtis Wiens, of Sheridan, OR. They met while in school at Corban University in Oregon and were engaged in August of 2015. Their wedding is planned for September 30, 2016 and will be held at the Taber Ranch in Capay. After the wedding, Andee and Kurt plan to live in Woodland, where they attend Calvary Baptist Church.

Zack + Beky Northern California Wedding Photographers

Mark and **Kate Kootstra** (former WCS elementary teacher, 2009-2013) joyfully announce the birth of their second child, a daughter. Joining big brother Caleb (3), Anne Marie Kootstra was born on March 18, 2016, at 10:10 PM. At birth, Anne Marie weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long. The Kootstra family lives in Woodland, where Mark is an engineer for the CA State Energy commission in Sacramento and Kate is now a full time mom who also teaches piano lessons on the side.



**Nicole (Geiser, 1993-1996) and Nate Wilkinson** welcomed the blessing of their second child, Kaelee Joyce. Kaelee was born on March 3, 2016. At birth, she was 8 pounds, 3 ounces and 20 inches long. Kaelee joins proud big brother Trent (age 3). The Wilkinson family lives in Woodland, where Nate does HVAC at UC Davis and Nicole is an estimator at Gayle Manufacturing Co. in Woodland.

**Cody ('04) and Jamie (Taylor, '04) Cannon** welcomed with love, their third daughter, Jubilee Dawn. Jubilee was born on February 27, 2016. At birth, she weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces. Jubilee joins proud big sisters, Emissary (age 4) and Mercy (age 2). The Cannon family lives in Woodland, where Cody is the pastor of LifePointe Church and Jamie is a stay-at-home mom.



**Timothy ('94) and Melissa (Gumpy, '96) Herr** are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Ella Mae Herr on March 22, 2015. At birth, Ella was 7 pounds, 14 ounces. Ella joins proud big brother and current WCMS student, DJ (age 13). The Herr family lives in Woodland, where Timothy is a shop manager at Professional Fiberglass Repair in Knights Landing, and Melissa is a phlebotomist at Woodland Memorial Hospital.

## ENGAGEMENT



Ariel Ledezma and Lindsay Correa

WCS Administrative Assistant **Lindsay Correa** is thrilled to announce her engagement to Ariel Ledezma, both of Woodland. The couple met at Church on the Rock, where they attend. Their wedding is planned for September 3, 2016 at the Gibson Mansion in Woodland. Included in their wedding party will be WCHS teacher **Brandon Killion**.

## WEDDING



Ross and Corie Peacock

WCHS teacher **Ross Peacock** and Corie Gray were married on April 23, 2016 at a private residence in Vacaville, CA. Corie is a recent graduate of Sacramento State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Child Development. She will pursue a career in a related field once they return from their honeymoon to Kauai in June. After the wedding, the Peacocks took a brief weekend "pre-honeymoon" to Monterey. They now live in Vacaville, where they attend Crossroads Christian Church.

## BIRTHS



WCMS Principal **Dan Rowe** and his wife, Sophia, are excited to announce the birth of their

second son, Finley Ivan, on Monday, April 25th, 2016. At birth, he weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long. Finley joins the Rowes' first son Elan (2 years old), who is eager and proud to be a big brother. Residents of Woodland, Sophia will stay at home and care for the boys in their early years, while Dan continues as principal at Woodland Christian Middle School, where he has worked since 2011.



WCMS Teacher **Melissa Massey** and her husband, Jeff, welcomed with great joy, their first child, Everette

Tyberius Massey, on 11/5/15. At birth, Everette weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces and was 19 inches long. The Masseys live in Woodland, where Jeff is a youth pastor at New Testament Church and Melissa continues to teach middle-school science at WCS.

## Have news to share?

WCS wants to hear from you!

Send in your news, and we will publish it in the first available upcoming issue.

E-MAIL:

[friendsofwcs@woodlandchristian.org](mailto:friendsofwcs@woodlandchristian.org)

MAIL:

Alumni Notes, Friends of WCS,  
1787 Matmor Road, Woodland, CA 95776

Please limit your news to 60 words and include your graduation year or the last year you attended WCS.



Woodland Christian School  
1787 Matmor Road  
Woodland, CA 95776

Pressing On

SUMMER



**JULY-AUG  
CALENDAR**

July 18–22 Beach Party Week  
July 25–29 Adventure Week  
Fri. Field trip: Nor Cal Skate  
Aug. 1–5 Ninja Week  
Field Trips: Kuk Sool Won, Woodland  
Aug 8–18 - Turn Back the Clock Weeks

**SIGN UP TODAY!**  
530.666.6615



FUN